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I am both honoured and excited about leading the Emergency Service Volunteers team as Deputy Commissioner and continuing to work with volunteers.

I strongly believe that volunteers are passionate and committed to their work and their local community and it is important we respect and recognise the immense knowledge, skills and attributes volunteers bring to the service from their diverse backgrounds. Our people are truly our greatest asset.

By way of background, I served as a volunteer in Country Fire Authority in Victoria and have over 25 years in fire and emergency management. This has provided me with a strong understanding of the crucial role played by volunteers in emergency management and local community resilience.

As Deputy Commissioner, one of my key objectives is to further build the concept of teams and leadership and enhance how volunteer emergency services provide a foundation for Queensland’s resilience.

To assist and empower our frontline leaders, we will further build mutual understanding and trust across services, between state, region and brigade/groups and with community, continue to ensure we have well-trained and multi-disciplined teams and utilise all our capabilities.

In short, I am committed to enhancing volunteerism, strengthening our capabilities and promoting an inclusive and supportive culture that enriches our ability to support our local communities. Our people and effective communication are essential to moving forward, and I look forward to working with all emergency service volunteers in the future.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you, your families and fellow brigade members a very safe and happy Christmas and all the very best for the 2016 year.

Mike Wassing
Deputy Commissioner
Emergency Service Volunteers
As you are all aware, there have been significant changes in Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) throughout 2015, and one of the major steps forward has been the appointment of the three Deputy Commissioners.

We have been extremely pleased to welcome Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Service Volunteers Mike Wassing. As you have read in the message from Mike, he has extensive experience as a volunteer and over 25 years in fire and emergency management. I have no doubt the Service will benefit greatly from Mike’s leadership.

To continue to create stability within the organisation, the Commissioner is now moving to fill all outstanding Assistant Commissioner positions. Within the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) a number of permanent appointments have now been made, including of Area Directors, Area Training and Support Officers and the Manager of Air Operations. We will continue to stabilise our workforce, with vacant Brigade Training and Support Officer roles to be advertised in the coming months.

The Year Ahead

Looking ahead to next year I am extremely pleased to announce that in 2016 we will be holding two volunteer summits, one on the Gold Coast and one in Townsville. The introduction of the second summit creates an amazing opportunity to significantly increase the number of volunteers who attend, providing a valuable contribution to the direction of RFSQ.

More information on the Summits is included in this edition of the Bulletin however I’d like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider nominating for the event, particularly if you have never before attended a summit.

In the August edition of the Bulletin we were able to advise you that the new Gladstone Area Office and South Coast Area Office were now up and running. Work on the Kingaroy Area Office is now nearing completion, and we are anticipating that the office will be up and running early in the New Year.

Fire Season

The 2015 fire season has again seen our rural brigades busy protecting their local communities from the threat of bushfires. The strong El Nino, with the likelihood of below average rainfall and above average temperatures, set the scene for increased bushfire potential during operation Vector.

Fire activity varied across the state. Drought effected fuel loads across inland parts and above average moisture along the coast in South Eastern, Brisbane and the southern parts of North Coast region reduced the likelihood of major fire events. This contrasts with Northern Region where there was increased fire activity. The recent poor wet seasons have led to much drier than average soil moisture and this is likely to have been one of the main drivers of this increase.

Severe TC Marcia caused wide spread damage to the vegetation in parts of Central Region. The task force Marcia team was initiated in response to the heightened fire risk that resulted from this event. Local Government, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS), Rural Brigades, Fire and Rescue and RFSQ staff worked collaboratively to both reduce the hazard and to quantify the increased fire potential. The Predictive Services Unit used the latest tools and technologies to support the Regions. The work undertaken in Central Region meant that even more timely and accurate decision support could be provided to Central Region. This allowed fire managers to make more informed strategic and tactical fire ground decisions to effectively manage fires in the Region.

Volunteer Community Educator (VCE) Recognition

You would have all noticed the fantastic artwork on the cover of this edition of the Bulletin. This is the VCE poster developed for the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) poster competition at the 2015 AFAC Conference. This poster was awarded the 2015 people’s choice award, which is a testament to the fantastic VCE program, and in particular, the great work undertaken by all our VCEs.

On a final note, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry and Safe Christmas and a Happy New Year. Your ongoing dedication and commitment to your brigades and the safety of your communities is a demonstration of the long held values that underpin the Rural Fire Service. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Tom Dawson
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Fire Service Queensland

www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

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To the 400 plus VCEs across Queensland, I thank you sincerely for your efforts and your commitment to residents in need of our assistance.
Volunteer Community Educators
Supporting their Brigades

Five years have passed since the Volunteer Community Educator (VCE) program was first introduced into the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ).

In that time the role has been recognised with a Ministers Award for Excellence and a Highly Commended Award in the Queensland Safer Communities presentations. The role was originally based around bushfire preparedness and the Permit to Light Fire system and was seen to be an avenue for volunteers that no longer wanted to be on the end of the hose or those that simply could no longer take on operational duties. It has evolved into a role within our brigades that now encompasses community engagement before, during and after incidents.

With the growth of the role it is now more important than ever to ensure that First Officers are kept informed of all VCE activities. VCEs must be a member of their local brigade, as the support of the brigade in their mitigation and education activities is paramount. VCEs report directly to their First Officer and all activities must have First Officer support and approval. The VCE role is a specialist role and there is an expectation that volunteers will commit additional time outside their normal brigade duties.

The role is a position that volunteers apply to join, the same as they would for example, for a role with Air Operations or Volunteer Bushfire Investigators. Any volunteer can apply through their First Officer to undertake the role and its duties. Once the volunteer has consulted with their First Officer and has gained approval they then need to contact their Regional Bushfire Safety Officer (BSO) to make an application to join the program.

The Regional BSO contact details are listed below. The BSO provides training and support to the regional VCE team and assists with landholder engagement, mitigation and education activities.

The VCE program is helping to prepare Queensland residents to better understand their bushfire risk and, to put in place strategies to address that risk and this. This is helping make Queensland communities a safer place to be. To the 400 plus VCEs across Queensland, I thank you sincerely for your efforts and your commitment to residents in need of our assistance. I would also like to thank our First Officers within our brigades for supporting this vital role.

For more information regarding the VCE role please contact your local BSO.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Katie Mann</td>
<td>Far Northern Region</td>
<td>4032 8740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gordon Yorke</td>
<td>Northern Region</td>
<td>4796 9080</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig Adams</td>
<td>Central Region</td>
<td>4938 4897</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Spencer</td>
<td>North Coast Region</td>
<td>4190 4865</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Marnie</td>
<td>Kingaroy Area</td>
<td>0428 156 433</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Welsh</td>
<td>South West Region</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peta Miller-Rose</td>
<td>South East Region</td>
<td>3287 8732</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matt Harris</td>
<td>West Moreton Area</td>
<td>3294 4944</td>
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<tr>
<td>Liane Henderson</td>
<td>Brisbane Region</td>
<td>5420 1333</td>
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</tbody>
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Peta L Miller-Rose
Manager Bushfire Safety

www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au

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I am extremely pleased to advise that in 2016 Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) will be holding two Volunteers Summits, one in Townsville and one on the Gold Coast.

In previous years attendees of the Summit held on the Sunshine Coast have taken the time to provide feedback on the event, and many of you have commented that it would be beneficial to see the event take place in other areas of the state.

In addition to responding to this feedback, I wanted to increase the opportunity for volunteers and staff to attend these important events. As such the decision to hold two events was made. Places for 200 volunteers will be available at each event, as well as attendance by a range of staff and guests.

The Summits will provide the opportunity to review and discuss a range of topics within the RFSQ and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), but also look more broadly at priorities for emergency services nationally and for the first time, have a focus on leadership within our organisation.

A nomination form for the Summits is included in this edition of the Bulletin and also available on the Volunteer Portal. Nominations for the Summits are open to volunteers from all brigades excluding Primary Producer Brigades (PPBs), as RFSQ would like to continue to hold PPB Summits in the alternate years.

As I’ve mentioned, there will be limited spaces available, so when selecting attendees we will endeavour to ensure as many brigades as possible are represented. I would like to encourage volunteers who have never attended a summit to nominate, and for brigades to be supportive of these nominations. The Volunteers Summits are a fantastic experience and they offer you the opportunity to engage with fellow volunteers, QFES staff and a range of industry experts. It’s also an invaluable opportunity to put forward your thoughts, needs and experiences and contribute to the way forward for RFSQ.

Tom Dawson
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Fire Service Queensland
Rural Fire Service Week

RURAL FIRE SERVICE WEEK
BIGGER AND BETTER IN 2016

Preparations for Rural Fire Service (RFS) Week are already underway and 2016 will be bigger and better than ever before.

RFS Week 2016 will be taking place from Sunday 5 June to Saturday 11 June and now is your chance to register and get your brigade involved.

RFS Week gives brigades the opportunity to promote the important work they do to their local communities. It also an opportunity for both staff and volunteers to engage with their communities, providing community safety messages and even recruiting new members.

I encourage all brigades to register their RFS Week event using the registration form, as it allows us to assist you to promote your activities on our website, through media, social media and local councils.

Brigades can order RFS Week postcards, flyers, badges and a range of other resources to help promote RFS Week locally.

Included in this edition of the Bulletin you will find your registration and order form for RFS Week 2016, they are also available on the Volunteer Portal. Please complete these forms and forward them to the email or address provided by 31 March 2016.

Tom Dawson
Assistant Commissioner
Rural Fire Service Queensland

RFS Week
MY VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Although RFS Week is a chance to promote the work of brigades, it is also an opportunity for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) to say thank you to RFSQ volunteers for the outstanding work they undertake in support of all Queensland communities.

As part of RFS Week 2016, we would like to say thank you by introducing the RFS Week My Volunteer Awards.

The My Volunteer Awards give you the opportunity to nominate a fellow volunteer who you feel has been outstanding in their work.

This is your opportunity to see your peers recognised for their hard work and dedication. Nominations will be received from across the state, with a winner from each region being announced.

Nomination forms for the 2016 My Volunteer Awards are included in this edition of the Bulletin, and available on the Volunteer Portal. If you feel you know an outstanding volunteer, please take the time to complete the nomination form and return it to the email or address provided by 31 March 2016.

Thank you to all our volunteers.
Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) has worked with our suppliers to expand the range of service items that are available to rural fire brigades. As many of you are aware information about Service Kits or ‘Tune Up Kits’ has been previously circulated. Whilst these kits are not new, we now have finalised our position on these along with the contents and how to obtain them.

The Kits include:
- Spark plug
- Spark plug spanner
- Air filter
- 2 x 25mm storz fitting seals

Service kits are for RFSQ slip on and trailer units ONLY. Any Primary Producer Brigade who has slip on or trailer units is eligible to receive the Service Kits, as well as any ‘Rural’ classification brigade who has slip on or trailer units, and is not in receipt of a levy or any other state or local government funded maintenance arrangement.

Brigades requiring the service kit are to complete a ‘Special’ brigade requisition for consideration and approval of the respective Area Director. QuikCorp has developed an ordering guide so we can ensure the right type of kit is sent for the respective unit. The information that will be used to determine the appropriate kit will be:
- motor make and model
- motor serial number
- year of manufacture of the unit and
- a photo of the unit.

The installation guide and additional information is available from your Area Office.

John Welke
A/Manager Operational Support
Rural Fire Service Queensland
Brigade Debit Cards

To assist brigades in the day-to-day management of their finances, approval has been given for brigades that hold a bank account with a financial institution, to now attach a debit card to the operating account, for the purposes of purchasing brigade equipment and services.

A new Business Rule and a Debit Card Agreement Form (OBM 114) are now being finalised, and will provide guidance around the use of Debit Cards by brigades.

Debit Cards could be utilised for the day-to-day payment of operational expenditure, and should significantly decrease the need for petty cash and cheques, however please be aware that capital and extraordinary expenditure should continue to be paid by direct funds transfer from the brigades bank account.

Debit Cards can be issued to brigade members that have been approved by the Brigade Committee. Cardholders would undergo training about debit card procedures which includes information about their obligations, responsibilities, reconciliation processes, purchasing and restrictions. Nominated members must complete an OBM 114 Debit Card Agreement Form.

Once finalised, the Business Rule D3.1.5 and OBM 114 form will be available on the Volunteer Portal or via your local Area Office.

Deborah Baumann
Finance Officer
Rural Fire Service Queensland

RADAR
Ideas Management System

RADAR is an ideas management system designed by Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and developed in conjunction with the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA). RADAR provides you with an opportunity to submit new and innovative ideas for our organisation as well as feedback that will see our services transformed and more efficient as a result.

Your innovative ideas and feedback are valued and you can submit them by accessing the Submission Form from the Volunteer Portal Homepage.

After completing and submitting the form, you will receive an email explaining the next step of the process. All ideas will be explored by the Innovation and Transformation Unit and you will be informed of the outcomes.

You will have direct access into to the RADAR system once the new Volunteer Portal is completed however included in this edition of the Bulletin is a hard copy RADAR Idea/Feedback Submission Form, to allow you to share your ideas and help QFES achieve its vision, objectives and goals.

If you would like to contact the Innovation and Transformation Unit, email innovation@qfes.qld.gov.au or call (07) 3635 3335.
Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS) Evaluation Project

In the last decade our water reserves have reached critical levels and this has challenged the notion that water is “readily available and inexpensive”. The consequences of climate change in relation to rainfall patterns, has caused a focus on sustainable solutions for the management of vital water resources.

Over the last two decades, the use of Class A additives have played a role in reducing water usage in a wide range of situations. Another technology that has shown to further increase the efficiency of water as an extinguishing agent is Compressed Air Foam Systems (CAFS). The major difference between normally nozzle aspirated foam and CAFS is that CAFS uses a source of air under pressure to aerate the solution at the pump discharge. This greatly improves the quality and durability of the foam and allows for a wider range of foam consistency to be created with less concentrate.

First Urban Design

In late 2008, the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service (QFRS) commissioned two new Type 4 Scania Pumpers fitted with Waterous 140-P Platinum Series CAFS.

Plain water can be supplied to:
- 5 x 64 mm outlets
- 1 x 90 m 25 mm ID hose reel at HP
- 1 x 60 m 25 mm ID hose reel at HP
- 1 x fixed monitor with remote controls in the cabin and at the near side pump panel

In addition, CAFS is available to:
- The near side hose reels
- Delivery No 3
- Roof mounted monitor

This configuration is similar to many other appliances in the fleet. The CAFS pumpers basically include two additional components, an air compressor and an ‘autosync’ that automatically balances the air pressure with the water pressure. Operation in CAFS mode is as simple as flicking a switch to engage the compressor and a switch to engage the Autosync. The rotary compressor then supplies air to the foam solution that is available to the selected delivery. When the near side hose reel is in CAF mode, it is possible to use the other hose reel in the high pressure mode with Class A.

During the evaluation phase CAFS has been successfully used on a wide range of fires and the experience over the last six years indicates that CAFS technology is mature and reliable. There are significant benefits to the community, the environment, and firefighters.

PRACTICING THE APPLICATION OF DRY FOAM ON AN OLD TIMBER STRUCTURE.

THE DRY FOAM BLANKET (LIKE SHAVING CREAM) INCREASES THE MOISTURE OF THE TIMBER AND PROVIDES A THERMAL BARRIER TO RADIANT HEAT.

THIS HASTILY CONSTRUCTED CAFS FIRE BREAK WAS EASILY ABLE TO STOP THE PROGRESSION OF THE GROUND FIRE APPROXIMATELY 1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTES AFTER IT WAS CREATED.
Advantages of CAFS

In addition to the significant reduction in water usage, CAFS offers a number of extra benefits to firefighters and those they serve including:

• increases the extinguishing efficiency of water four to seven times
• halves knockdown time
• faster overhaul
• less chance of re-ignition due to better penetration into the fuel mass
• reduces firefighter fatigue – lighter hose lines, less time at scene
• enhances mobility during fire attack and rescue operations
• rapidly reduces toxic smoke emissions (+ for FF and environment)
• reduces toxic fire water runoff providing significant health and environmental benefits
• only needs 50% of the concentrate when compared to a standard Class A induction system
• better projection
• more durable bubble
• can create “Dry CAFS” for structural protection (it sticks to walls).

Disadvantages include:

• additional cost at the build stage ($25,000 to $40,000)
• additional moving parts
• additional training required
• tendency of the hose to kink if run below 700 kPa
• can make surfaces more slippery
• nozzle needs to be opened slowly to avoid initial high jet reaction caused by the accumulated air in the hose.

Research has continued at the Live Fire Campus on a wide range of fires including flammable liquids and compartment fires. The data from these tests is helping us to understand the capabilities of CAFS and to formulate the safest and most effective fire attack tactics.

Experience from Fire Incidents

Feedback from a range of actual fire incidents indicates a number of positive trends. The most common experience is rapid fire knockdown and reduction in smoke output. Overhaul time is reduced and there is less likelihood of reignition. There was some initial hesitation in committing to the use of CAFS. However, following a number of very successful interventions confidence has increased in the technology.

In particular CAFS has proven to be very effective in dealing with deep seated fires in large piles of combustible materials. As CAF is applied the smoke discharge rapidly decreases. The foam blanket gradually releases the water which penetrates into the heap to the fire base. There is a significant reduction in the volume of water required and there is very little fire water runoff.

Future Direction

At this stage Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) is taking on board the feedback and lessons learnt from within Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and also other such trials and units that have been developed with partner AFAC agencies. Tasmania Fire Service has built a CAFS unit on a rural fire appliance that has just been commissioned with results of this unit being closely monitored by RFSQ for possible capability enhancement of the RFSQ appliance fleet.

CAFS technology offers many benefits in a wide variety of situations. This is particularly evident in any situation where water supplies are limited. It is critical however to realise that the design must be matched to the particular risk profile. Training on the most effective use of CAFS is also a critical success factor. For these reasons any move to incorporating CAFS must be considered carefully, based on extensive consultation with experienced users, and supported by accurate training and doctrine.

John Welke
A/Manager Operational Support
Rural Fire Service Queensland
Investing in Youth

Shaylee Doubleday from Hazeldean Rural Fire Brigade and Skye McRae from Delaneys Creek Rural Fire Brigade were the proud Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) representatives at the Reward and Recognition Week, held on the Gold Coast in the September 2015 School holidays.

The Reward and Recognition Week was a collaborative partnership between emergency service agencies, and provided 16 volunteering Cadets the opportunity to spend a day with each different service. Participants had the opportunity to undergo training with Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Rural Fire Service Queensland, Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR), Queensland Police and Surf Life Saving Queensland, culminating with a medal ceremony at Parliament House.

Shaylee and Skye were selected for this week of fun, hard work and learning because of their outstanding efforts and contributions to their local brigades, and for their participation in the Certificate II Public Safety Firefighting Operations Program.

The program aims to invest in youth and build the next generation of emergency service volunteers. Shaylee and Skye have commenced on an amazing journey of volunteering and are great ambassadors for RFSQ.

Graham King
Area Training and Support Officer
Caboolture Area Office

www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au
Volunteer Training Matters!

The team from Volunteer Emergency Services Training Command (VESTC) has been busy developing options to improve communication with not only trainers across Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) and State Emergency Services (SES), but also the frontline volunteers who have an interest in the training products we develop. A new strategy for us to more effectively engage with RFSQ volunteers is the new Volunteer Training Matters! newsletter, the first of which was distributed recently to RFSQ and SES volunteers. It’s important that everyone gets an opportunity to be informed, so to be added to the email or post distribution lists contact Volunteer.Training@qfes.qld.gov.au

VLDF 2015

One of the articles featured in the first edition of Volunteer Training Matters! referred to a program to make some updates to the Volunteer Learning and Development Framework (VLDF) as a result of training package changes.

It is important to understand that the structural changes to the VLDF are minor and the process is really about simplifying and enhancing the existing product to meet changes in the organisation and industry as a whole. There will be no requirement to ‘redo’ any training that has been completed, and as part of the implementation, a recognition system will be used to allow skilled members to demonstrate competence.

The updated VLDF will also provide more options for Area Directors to work with brigades and provide the relevant training needed to deliver the appropriate services to the community. Further information about the updated VLDF will be released in the coming months.

First Aid Trainer/Assessor Project Rollout

October has seen the commencement of First Aid train the trainer courses for RFSQ staff and volunteers. This project has been the result of feedback from staff, volunteers and the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland (RFBAQ) about the need to implement a First Aid training capability within RFSQ. The initial rollout will see trainers available from the Torres Strait to Roma with around 30 trainers in the initial roll out. Further courses will be made available in the future and interested individuals should discuss their desire to be included with the relevant Area Office.

Many other projects have commenced in the Rural Fire State Training team. For information on some of these please look out for your copy of Volunteer Training Matters!, or contact your local Area Office.

John Moy
Executive Manager
Volunteer Emergency Services Training Command (VESTC)
Rural Road Traffic Crash awareness at Caloundra with 67 rural firefighters attending.
Now the fire season is upon us, the Roma Area Office has displayed a new message to the landholders of the Roma district as a timely reminder to prepare their property fire management plans, Now – Not When.

The memory jogger will be in place for a period of 12 weeks during October through December this year.

Phil Young
Area Director Roma
Rural Fire Service Queensland
Moments that Matter

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to take time to think about the “Moments that Matter”. Worksafe Queensland is running a safety campaign that is being championed by Shane Webcke titled “Moments that Matter”. Shane is the current Queensland Safety Ambassador having taken over the mantle from Mal Meninga. Please take the time to visit the Worksafe Queensland website and watch the Shane Webcke video. If possible do this as a group or as a brigade activity. You may be surprised by the personal reflection you engage in and by the group discussion generated after watching and listening to Shane’s story.

Shane speaks openly and frankly about a workplace incident that resulted in the death of his father and the impact that incident had on his own attitude towards safety. The theme is not much different to some of the previous articles I have written for the Rural Bulletin in relation to how our choices, attitudes and behaviours impact on our personal safety and the safety of those around us. The Shane Webcke video brings our role as individuals in working and behaving safely to the forefront and leaves us with a very strong message that I am sure we will all relate to and learn from. Visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au to view the video.

Cyrel Wright
Senior Workplace Health & Safety Officer
Public Safety Business Agency

Remember – “to enable us to protect the community we must first protect ourselves”
In 2015, two highly successful combined emergency services expos were held in the Brisbane Region. A range of emergency service agencies came together at Samford in September and on Bribie Island in October, to show the communities their capabilities and provide information on the assistance and support they offer during times of natural disaster.

Both expos were blessed with perfect Queensland weather, which was a great relief for the planning committees who had spent months preparing for the events.

The event at Samford attracted around 1500 visitors and was focused on life in rural areas. Moreton Bay Regional Council and the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) facilitated this event, and with the cooperation and input from community groups and emergency service providers, it was a highly successful day.

The day at Bribie Island was spectacular. Facilitated by Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR), this event is in its second year and was definitely bigger and better than 2014. The goal was to attract around 5000 people and we certainly achieved that. The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) helitac put on an amazing display showing the crowds its capability by dropping water along the Bribie passage. We also had Aviation Fire & Rescue showing off the water cannons on their appliance.

These expos are not only great events to be a part of, they are a fantastic way to provide the community with the information they need to be prepared and ready for adverse weather. Arming the public with this knowledge leads to more resilient communities and a greater awareness of the assistance provided emergency service agencies.

Thank you to all agencies involved including; Queensland Police, Queensland Ambulance Service, State Emergency Services, Moreton Bay Regional Council, RFSQ, Fire & Rescue, Military Cadets, VMR, Red Cross, Give it, South East Queensland Fire & Biodiversity Consortium, Surf Lifesaving Queensland, Queensland Parks & Wildlife and SEQ Water.

Liane Henderson
A/Bushfire Safety Officer
Brisbane Region

www.ruralfire.qld.gov.au
Understanding and Predicting Wildfire Behaviour

In early July 2004 I was asked to attend a Fire Behaviour Analysis (FBAN) course being run at Whyte Island by the Predictive Services Unit. As a rural volunteer, the opportunity to learn about Fire Bans was interesting however I was bemused by it taking a week. Still, free food, training and a holiday from my normal job appealed and so I went.

It turned out that FBAN is an acronym, not a simple abbreviation and the course had nothing to do with banning fires or issuing permits. What followed was an intense period of study, with a wide range of fire-fighting professionals, from not only the rural and urban sectors of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), but also fire management departments from several councils and other government land managers such as the Department of Environment and Resource Management (DERM).

We examined a range of major fires, how they had developed, and then applied our skills to predicting their progress throughout the exercises. We gave consideration to the usual suspects, fuel load, drought factor, fire danger rating and local weather. We were then able to compare our predictions with the actual progression of the fires and identify anomalies in our predictive process.

I had vague recollections of discussing stable and unstable weather when I completed Firefighter Minimum Skills however really didn’t understand the magnitude of the influence that this could have on a fire. I understood the effect topography had on fire, burning faster up slope and slower down, and how aspect affected fuel loading, type and the moisture, but applying these factors to predicting where a fire would be in the future brought new insights. During crew leader training we used the grassland and forest fire danger meters to calculate fire danger ratings, and to be honest, I can’t remember using them since.

Very quickly I recognised that despite completion of quite a few years as a firefighter, in Queensland and interstate, I really had very little practical understanding of fire behaviour, outside of what I could see right in front of me on the fire-ground, and FBAN training addressed this.

As a Volunteer Community Educator (VCE) and a Public Information Officer (PIO), I am passionate about providing timely and accurate information to the local community so as to afford them the greatest opportunity to enact the appropriate elements of their Bushfire Survival Plan, and key to this is having accurate information as early as possible to enable appropriate messages to be delivered.

We have a lot of tools at our disposal to help make informed decisions about what a fire will do, how it will behave, where it will head and how fast it will spread, but when working from an appliance on the fire ground, or even from a field ICC/Divisional Command, it is difficult to see the forest for the trees, or perhaps the fire for the smoke especially with the pressing demands of combatting the fire, and this is where Fire Behaviour Analysts come to the fore.

Analysing the plethora of data available, and drawing conclusions based upon all that is known about factors affecting the fire, predicting what the fire will look like in six hours or more, what communities will be impacted, how intense the fire will be at a potential control line and how effective control measures will be is what FBAN’s aim to deliver. This information can help an incident controller make strategic decisions that affect the way resources are deployed, and reduce the risk to firefighters like you and me.

Even though ongoing training, and skill development is recognised as an important part of every firefighters career, I was amazed when offered the opportunity to undertake training with world leaders in fire behaviour prediction in Canada. Matt Geiger, an urban station officer and myself, as a rural volunteer, were selected to represent QFES on the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Commission (CIFFCs) course on Advanced Wildland Fire Behaviour in September. Whilst there are many differences in fuel and the operational approach in Canada, it was reassuring to discover that the foundation principals of fire behaviour are the same.
It turned out that FBAN is an acronym, not a simple abbreviation and the course had nothing to do with banning fires or issuing permits...
On 30 September 2016, Innisfail Area Administration Officer Di Edwards, newly retired FireCom Operator Joan Curtin, and I set out on stage two of the Innisfail to the Bush trip, this time with the School of Distance Education.

Stage one had taken place in June, with Fire Ed, Bush Fire Ed and the simulator programmes being delivered to the small schools in the west of the Innisfail area, combined with an interactive rural fire display at the Georgetown Community Resilience Fair.

The Distant Ed students, aged prep to year 10, along with their mums and some dads, were in camp at Cobbold Gorge Resort, to participate in a range of activities that they are unable to enjoy on their isolated properties. We were able to meet up with them in their different activity groups, giving each group a session during the day.

At the beginning of each session, I handed out working smoke alarms to each student, reinforcing my mantra that correctly positioned, working smoke alarms are the most important fire safety devices in the home. Students were allowed to test-press the button, providing them with the knowledge of what a smoke alarm sounds like. This is an invaluable lesson to small children, meaning if the alarm should wake them in the middle of the night, they can recognise where the noise is coming from, what it is, react quickly and not hide from it. The older students promised to test their home smoke alarms monthly, and put the result on the fridge chart that their mothers would be receiving.

Smoke alarms led straight into the Fire Ed. programme for the Preps to Year 3s and then the years 4 to 6 groups. The older children also took part in a discussion with a basic Bush Fire Ed theme.

The high school students were briefly reminded of home fire evacuation strategies, we then went into a full Bush Fire Ed programme, where they learned how to use a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket. We provided training foam extinguishers that were refillable, with the pink food colouring making it more memorable while is lasted.

At home, these students, out of necessity, become young adults very quickly, and the ability to know how and when to use the extinguisher and blanket is well within their capabilities.

Joan, from her FireCom background, spoke to all the students about what happens at the other end of the phone when they call 000, the questions they will be asked, and the importance of knowing their correct address. Joan also morphed into Blazer on seven occasions, and was a red hot hit, especially from the inside. All the students received relevant activity and information bags after each session.

The scheduled session with the mums was cancelled, but we caught up with many of them at lunch time. Each mum took home an envelope containing a Bush Fire Survival Plan, an evacuation plan, a home information sheet, a self-check property protection advice booklet, and a smoke alarm check card, all of it to be discussed with their children. There were also operational instructions for a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket and an Information and Warnings card, together with a few goodies.

The day finished with a demonstration of the wild fire simulator. This is such a worthwhile teaching tool, the onlookers are fascinated to see if what they are told, and asked to predict, actually happens when the match drops.

The seven open air sessions, from 8.15am to 5.45pm were a delight to take. As with the small schools, the students listened attentively, asked sensible questions and joined in with enthusiasm. It is hoped that the School of Distance Ed will be added to next year’s Innisfail to the Bush trip.

Our trip finished as it had started, driving 500 km, this time back to the coast, while stopping to refill the ‘Going Bush?’ boxes with information bags, and talking to travellers and locals about life with RFSQ.

Frances Pelgrave
Volunteer Community Educator
Lake Eacham Rural Fire Brigade
Capricorn Coast Fire Management Guidelines Workshop

Andrew Houley from Fire and Landscape Strategies presented three workshops in Rockhampton Area on the Capricorn Coast Fire Management Guidelines booklet. This booklet has been produced as part of the research from the Tropical Cyclone Marcia that caused damage across the area on Friday 20 February 2015. These workshops have been a vital tool for brigade officers and Fire Wardens to utilise in assisting land managers in planning hazard reduction burning and in undertaking planned burns for improved production and conservation outcomes.

Rebecca Flintham,
A/Area Training and Support Officer
Rockhampton Area Office

Negative Pressure Mask Trial

The P3 Negative Pressure (NP P3) Mask rollout and the initial iZone brigade trial is being conducted by Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) in conjunction with the Fire and Rescue, Special Operations Unit. RFSQ surveyed and collated data from iZone rural fire brigades as part of the initial trial with a total of 24 iZone brigades have agreeing to take part in the trial.

In order for this trial to be correctly managed ensuring all stakeholders are consulted and no safety issues are missed, an implementation committee comprising of staff from RFSQ, Fire and Rescue, Special Operations and the Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland (RFBAQ) has been established. The implementation group has met and started working through the potential issues and is providing feedback to the RFSQ Operations Strategic Working Group to ensure any potential flow on effects of this trial are captured.

Special Operations on behalf of RFSQ have acquired 4000 Multi-Purpose canisters, 500 Scott NP masks and 1000 bags for the initial iZone trial. Special Operations has purchased the required single (CO) gas detection diffusion devices. These devices are being held at the Special Operations office in Cannon Hill with a training package being developed in conjunction with the Volunteer Emergency Service Training Command (VESTC).

Special Operations have devised a short term drying solution for the trial brigades. The solution involves a plastic tub with ventilation holes. These will be provided to brigades undertaking the initial trial. RFSQ stations undertaking the initial trial will be provided with a two sink, camp table style set-up to undertake mask cleaning, as running clean water is a requirement of this process. For brigades that have previously purchased NP P3 masks, replacement masks will only be provided on a like for like basis up to the limit of allocated riding positions of the brigade appliances.

In order to provide a level of governance and safe use of these respiratory protection devices RFSQ is working in conjunction with Special Operations to ensure the correct use policy and procedures are documented. These policies and procedures are in addition to the RFSQ DUCOT and will focus on the reordering and logistical processes. Training of the first iZone brigades in the trial has commenced with a phased role out taking place to ensure that we are able to take feedback and lessons learnt on board allowing for continual improvement of the package.

This phased implementation of the trial is expected to take at least six months with the trial to extend throughout the next hazard reduction and fire seasons.

John Welke
A/Manager Operational Support
Rural Fire Service Queensland
A hazard reduction burn utilising resources from diverse sources was performed. This was a culminating activity for young volunteers participating in Certificate II Public Safety Firefighting Operations, however a huge number of other firefighters took advantage of this learning activity and worked together to upskill, learning more about air operations and the specific services provided. Members from the surrounding brigades Hazeldale, Mount Kilcoy, Villeneuve, Bellthorpe, Stoney Creek, Stanmore, Delaneys Creek, Wamuran, Rocksberg, Elimbah/Donnybrook, Mount Mee, Ocean View, Dayboro, Samsonvale, Closeburn, Mount Nebo and Brookfield all took part in this exercise.

Firebird 450 circled in the area detecting potential fire hazards and spot fires communicating with firefighters on the ground and Helitac 672, a water bombing helicopter. The young volunteers utilised their radio skills to speak with the pilot and direct the water bombing to extinguish the fire.

Firefighters both young and old worked together as a well-oiled machine making the training exercise a huge success. A comment from a rural volunteer firefighter summed up the day, “It is unbelievable how brigades from this community can all work together and achieve such wonderful outcomes.”

The training exercise was organised by Area Training and Support Officer, Graham King. This is the fourth event of this kind he has organised and Graham said it gets better every year.

As we approach dry conditions with a heavy vegetation load the real risk of bushfires is eminent. Members of the community should be bush fire ready and call 000 should a fire develop in the area. It is of utmost importance to give the FireCom operators specific and exact details on the location of the fire to enable efficient dispersion of resources.

Graham King
Area Training and Support Officer
Caboolture Area Office
Future New Area Office for Burnett

North Coast Region covers an expanse of 46,799 square kilometres of the coastal areas of Bundaberg, Hervey Bay, the Sunshine Coast, and inland to the Burnett Hinterland. North Coast Region currently operates with three Area Offices located at Bundaberg (Bundaberg Fire Station), Caloundra (Caloundra Fire Station), and Maryborough (co-located with the North Coast Region Regional Office).

North Coast Region has a range of vegetation communities including heath, paperbark and mangroves along the coast. The forested areas further inland range from woodlands and open forest, denser wet and dry sclerophyll, through to the closed canopies of the rainforests.

Grasslands, cropping and plantations also make up significant parts of the region’s vegetation. These fuels vary greatly over time depending on the season, grazing and harvesting regimes. They can certainly provide fuel for fires that are both fast moving and high intensity and some of the worst fires in the region were in the Beerburrum Pine forest in 1994.

As a result of these and other factors, it was announced in the April edition of the Rural Fire Bulletin that approval had been given for the creation of three new Rural Fire Service Queensland Area Offices.

Development of North Coast's newest area, “Burnett”, is well under way. The new Burnett Area will be responsible for managing and supporting 2334 volunteers, 181 Fire Wardens and 89 Brigades in the North Burnett and South Burnett Regional Council Areas.

The area has secured a lease for an office facility at 101 Youngman Street, Kingaroy, and the office will be staffed with an:
- Area Director
- Administrative Officer
- Area Training and Support Officer
- Bushfire Safety Officer
- Brigade Training and Support Officer

The Area Office facility is progressing, though phones and internet connection will take a few weeks to be established. A number of temporary staff will be located at Kingaroy to support operations during the fire session as well as arranging further consultation meetings with brigades during November and December. The meetings will be an opportunity for brigade members, fire wardens and staff, to establish how the new office will support them in the future. The staff will also be sending correspondence to all brigades affected by the change.

We hope to open the office and Area officially in January 2016. Until then, please continue to send your equipment requests to your current Area Office. Any operational concerns please call your current Area Director.

Tony Johnstone
Area Director Burnett Area Office
Rural Fire Service Queensland
Miss Muddy Townsville

Miss Muddy Townsville
Mud – Obstacles – Colour – Foam – what a way to spend a lazy Sunday

Women from Rural Fire Service Queensland Townsville Area Office and various Rural Fire Brigades made up a team representing Women and Firefighting Australasia (WAFA) at the recent Miss Muddy Obstacle Course in Townsville.

WAFA is a not for profit organisation supporting women in, or considering a role in the firefighting industry.

WAFA have partnered with the organisers of Miss Muddy, the events giving us a chance to promote awareness of opportunities to work or volunteer in firefighting.

“Having a WAFA and Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) presence at the Townsville event was incredibly successful and we are looking forward to enhancing these opportunities at future Miss Muddy events, not only in Queensland, but across Australia” said WAFA Chairperson Station Officer Bronnie Mackintosh (FRNSW).

The team of six ladies competed in the event challenging their skills and fitness to complete the obstacle course which consisted of ice baths, mud holes, walls, monkey bars, cargo nets and a giant jumping castle. This event was a perfect opportunity to promote WAFA as well as the various roles that women hold within the emergency services. Not only did Townsville Area represent by competing, there were also great recruitment opportunities discussed to become a volunteer firefighter, Auxiliary Firefighter or Career Firefighter as well how to join the local State Emergency Services (SES) at our stall. Competitors were also lucky enough to be washed down by local firefighters from the Rangewood and Black River RFB’s.

Find out more about WAFA and Miss Muddy events and locations at:

World Wide Web address

www.wafa.asn
www.missmuddy.com.au

Helaine Clerk
Area Training and Support Officer
Rural Fire Service Queensland
New Business Rules:

• Nil.

Major Changes:

• A3.9 – Deployments – new information regarding deployment allowances and incidentals.
• D5.1 – Fire Stations – updates to existing content. This Business Rule now includes information on the appropriate use of stations, station maintenance, flags and flag poles and station signage.

Minor Changes:

• A3.5 – Compliance with Traffic Regulations – information relating to towbars on appliances transferred to D5.2 – Appliances.
• B1.3 – Coordinate and Conduct a Property Advice Visit.
• B1.4 – Providing Advice to the Community on Managing Bushfire Risk.
• C5.1 – Code of Conduct.
• D1.2 – Brigade Boundary Changes – updated to include more information about formations and now includes reference to reclassifications.
• D1.5 – Incident Reporting – Updates to FireCom administration phone numbers and Area Office email addresses.
• D2.1 – Brigade and Volunteer Records – updated in line with the Information Privacy Act 2009, in particular changes document retention requirements.
• D3.3 – Brigade Audits.
• D5.2 – Appliances – updated to include information relating to towbars on appliances.

Forms:

• CSO 182 – Permission to Conduct a Controlled Burn.
• OBM 101 – Rural Fire Brigade Station Inspection Checklist
• OBM 112 – Rural Fire Service Form of Indemnity (previously RF176).
• OBM 113 – Brigade Station Signage form (previously RF194).

Deletion:

• A3.7 – Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) – redundant business rule.
• D5.1.3 – Use of Fire Stations – information incorporated into D5.1 – Fire Stations.
• D5.1.4 – Flags and Flag Poles – information incorporated into D5.1 – Fire Stations.
• D5.1.5 – Station Signage – information incorporated into D5.1 – Fire Stations.
Ensuring that you safely reach the desired destination with no vehicle damage is a priority, but even more so if you are transporting six firefighters, 3,500 litres of water and a load of ancillary equipment to fight a bushfire in the back blocks of the Hinterland or along the very edge of the Sunshine Coast where land meets the sea.

It is with this thought in mind that nominated truck drivers from the Doonan Rural Fire Brigade along with vehicles and drivers from Black Mountain, Eumundi, Kenilworth, Yandina, North Arm, Belli, Bli Bli, Teewah, and Glass House Mountains brigades attend a one day 4 X 4 driving workshop on the Noosa North Shore, on the beach, tracks and outskirts of Teewah village.

There we were instructed in the skills to get our vehicles safely through a variety of situations to fight remote fires. It was especially prevalent for the Teewha Brigade as Teewah village is unique in only being accessible by a 10km drive along the beach up from Noosa North Shore or a 50km drive down the beach from Rainbow Beach. In any bushfire situation support crew may well have to reach Teewha on this long sandy access route (which incidentally if you did not know is designated a main road and is subject to the same road rules as any other in the district).

The training was about preparing crews to be able to drive in sandy conditions and to be able to recover vehicles safely if they become bogged. This is essential for most brigades along the Sunshine Coast, as crews regularly attend bushfire along the beach dunes and can be deployed as ‘Strike Teams’ to any of the sand islands in the South East of the State.

Members covered a number topics including concentration and attitude, risk taking behaviour, fatigue awareness and time management, effects of speed, vehicle loading, and much more. Drivers learnt to identify and avoid hazards on off road situations, understand the effects of fatigue when driving over rough terrain, understand correct tyre pressures and when to alter it, and to safely operate recovery equipment that each vehicle carries. The recovery training included both self and combined rescues. The course was very hands on and central to its success was the practical application of off-road driving techniques.

The Brigade would like to thank Ken Stockton from Area Office and Clay Stjernqvist, First Officer of Teewah Rural Fire Brigade for their time and effort in conducting the awareness training. All who attended came away with a sense of achievement and the skills to safely transport their crews to and from fires in our rural areas.

Andrew Bell
Doonan Rural Fire Brigade
Training and Emergency Management working with Rural Fire Brigades

Training and Emergency Management (TEM) Mt Gravatt has had a long history of interaction with rural brigades from all over South East Queensland. The partnership between rural brigade members has enabled TEM to utilise the existing skills and experiences of these volunteers. This has fostered a positive relationship between our Fire and Rescue staff and Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) volunteers, in hands on, real life fire ground situations, through working together on Hazard Mitigation Burns (HMB).

During the hazard mitigation season these burns can offer a revenue stream to rural brigades by hiring out one of their appliances with a crew. Most brigades are very willing to provide these crews, as not only is it a chance to raise funds for their brigade, it also provides invaluable experience for the crews fighting fires in a highly controlled environment.

We believe that this is a positive environment for all parties involved as the rural crews are putting their skills into practice as well as any operational Fire and Rescue firefighters who may attend and are able to experience a HMB, which is outside their normal scope of firefighting experiences.

The TEM Hazard Mitigation Team provides an opportunity for volunteers to complement their usual Rural Fire Brigade training whilst remunerating their efforts. TEM operates across the entire state providing opportunities for all brigades.

If you have any enquiries or would like to know more about TEM please contact telephone 1300 650 028 or email tem@qfes.qld.gov.au.

Christopher Beeston
A/Inspector - Manager, Queensland South Unit Training & Emergency Management
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services
Heavy Tanker Build

Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) has been able to secure funding for the construction of six bulk water tankers. These tankers will be going to Brisbane, South East, South West, Central, North Coast and Northern Regions. They are being built on a 2WD Isuzu cab chassis and will have 7000L of useable water complete with high volume transfer pump. The design purpose of these is purely for the purpose of bulk water transfer and not for direct firefighting. A drawing of the tankers is included. These tankers are expected to be arriving in the regions at the time of this Bulletin.

John Welke
A/Manger Operational Support
Rural Fire Service Queensland
After the 2013 Bundaberg floods, Bundaberg Distilling Company donated a large sum of money to Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) brigades in Bundaberg. A committee of brigade volunteers was formed to decide how best this donation could support local crews on the ground. The committee agreed that building two Operational Support Units (OSU) would be a huge asset to the area, providing assistance and support at incidents.

The first OSU, North Coast Region 82 (NCR82) was completed earlier this year and has been very active this bushfire season. The second OSU is expected to be operational prior to the end of the year. The Units are ex Queensland Ambulance Service Mercedes Sprinters which have been completely stripped out and rebuilt through local businesses. With a lot of fires being in remote areas these units provide firefighters a central operating point to manage incidents similar to the larger Regional Fire & Rescue Sierra appliances.

The NCR82 unit has already provided a new level of support to our volunteers, through technology that is not usually available on the front line. NCR82 has two VHF Radios, two UHF Radios, one Cross Band Radio, one Air Band Radio and a nine metre mast for UHF, VHF and Internet in remote locations.

It also has a computer with a 24” monitor linked to a 40” TV at the rear of the vehicle. The computer has TOM mapping capabilities and has its own departmental email and access. Fitted to the OSU is a VOIP phone with its own dedicated number, an A3/A4 colour printer to print maps for arriving crews, 3KW Generator to power all the equipment, an air conditioning unit and a large fridge, in addition to many other smaller features that make life a lot easier on the fire ground.

These units have been built to support our volunteers and are being operated by specially trained volunteers across the Bundaberg Area.

Special thanks must go to the members of the committee, as without their extraordinary efforts in managing this project, RFSQ volunteers would not have the additional support provided by these fantastic units.

Volunteers and the community should expect to see both of these units out and about assisting at operational incidents this coming fire season.

Daniel Schneider
Brigade Training and Support Officer
Bundaberg Area Office
With conditions proving hotter and fuel load in some areas being high after tropical cyclone Marcia and other rain events, we knew fires were going to be difficult to manage.

With the fire season starting earlier than normal many ground crews arrived at the peak of the season with tired bodies. In many situations the aircraft provided support to slow or reduce the intensity of a going fire, long enough to allow ground crews to build containment lines and suppress the fire.

From the border to the cape, this year QFES personnel have been supported by a wide range of aircraft performing a multitude of tasks (water bombing, observation, detection, transport, damage assessment etc). These aircraft have been supported by a large number of air and ground crews behind the scenes to ensure the job is always completed to the highest of standards.

Like firefighters on the fireground, air operations ground crews manning a busy airbase are working (many times) during the season in hot and trying conditions. Often in strong winds with loud aircraft noise surrounding them for most of the day.

The tireless mix of professional and volunteer air operations personnel continue about their duties with a smile and rarely ask for much more than a cold drink and laugh with the flight crew at the end of their shift as they reflect on the impact they have had on a fire many miles away.

Like the hard working personnel on the ground the aircrew are asked to fly under conditions that many general aviation personnel would avoid. Working closely as a team in the cramped aircraft cockpit, the Air Attack Supervisor and the Air Observer go about their tasks of directing bombing aircraft and gathering information for the ground crews below with minimal fuss or intrusion.

Spending long hours conducting low flying over going fires, few could understand the physical stress and continual discomfort the aircrew experience during their mission. Many describe the experience of fire observing as being similar to trying to thread a needle whilst riding a roller coaster on a hot day.

The coordination of ground and air working in seamless harmony has seen Air Operations emerge from a challenging fire season tired but with a huge gratitude towards its air and ground crews. In addition, the Air Operations Unit would like to thank all personnel for their continued support during a very busy fire season.

State Air Operations Unit

Support from Above

During the extended 2015 fires season, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) have seen the use of aerial support utilised like never before.
On Sunday 18 October 2015, South East Region officially turned on the GWN network and all vehicles were bought into the network, one vehicle at a time. This was the result of three years of hard work in installing radios, training staff and volunteers, delivering of 800 portable radios and undertaking exercises before the ‘Go Live’ date.

I would like to acknowledge all of the Rural Fire Service Queensland (RFSQ) team, both staff and volunteers, who have spent many hours bringing on board 211 vehicles (twice) and training and encouraging 2,300 volunteers. I cannot express in words the commitment and dedication of our staff and volunteers.

We have had many challenges to overcome and many people to encourage through this change.

As part of this process I witnessed one of the biggest radio exercises in our history, checking and testing some 755 radios, with staff and volunteers manning the radios. To the 85 rural fire brigades who went down to their station and tested the 200 operational vehicles, it was simply breathtaking to watch.

The work that our Firecom centre did has also been acknowledged as a super human effort, and I offer my sincere thanks to our communications teams.

The GWN team have been very supportive and again I am very appreciative of their work. I would like to single out Wayne Ford who has undertaken an incredible workload in getting our region prepared and has lead RFSQ in South East region through the change.

WELL DONE!

Corey Bock
A/Regional Manager
South East Region
Rural Fire Service Queensland
### Rural Fire Service Area Office Contacts

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