

NOVEMBER
2009

CFSVA BULLETIN



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) is recognised as an association under the SA Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005. The association represents SA Country Fire Service (CFS) brigades and is empowered to take such steps as may be reasonably available to it to protect and progress the interests and welfare of CFS volunteers.

This newsletter provides an update on some of the news and current affairs affecting CFS members.

CFSVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The CFSVA held its Annual General Meeting on 13 October 2009. It was an election year for some positions and the following people were elected;

State Management Committee Executive

Ray Bryant	Lower North Branch
Roger Flavell	Mount Lofty Branch
Russell Branson	Eyre Peninsula Branch

CFS Foundation Board

Rob Styling (DGO Para Group) to join
Robin Holmes (Burnside Brigade)

SAFECOM Board

Wayne Thorley as member and Ken Schutz as proxy

It was not an election year for the positions of State President and Vice President.

The Association welcomes Ray Bryant as the new Branch President of the Lower North Branch. We also thank Glen Willson and Rex Hall for their hard work and dedication as serving members of the Executive.

Mr David McGowan AFSM has stepped down from his position as CFSVA nominee to the CFS Foundation Board, after many years of being one of the driving forces behind this initiative. David has helped put in place a new direction for the Foundation, and we are sure that it will be of great benefit to volunteers in the future. Well done David and thank you for all you have contributed.

The Outcomes paper from the AGM can be read in the Members Only section of the website under State CFSVA News. You will also find there the reports presented by CFSVA representatives on CFS and SAFECOM Boards and committees.

CFSVA CURRENT ISSUES

The following issues are currently being worked on by the Association

- ▶ Code of Conduct into Hours of Work (CFSVA representative on Working party is Phil Richards from Millicent)
- ▶ Free entry for CFS and SES Volunteers into SA National Parks
- ▶ 25 kph past red and blue lights at emergencies (Cabinet submission being forwarded by Minister Michael O'Brien, Minister for Road Safety)
- ▶ Driver fatigue legislation exemption
- ▶ SACAD and CRD issues (many thanks to CFSVA representative Jim Sandford)
- ▶ Triple 000 and SAAS issue.

CFS SERVICE MEDALS

The Association is very pleased to see that the presentation of CFS Service Medals has begun. This was a CFSVA initiative, first raised through the CFS Board some nine years ago, and pushed by the Association ever since. The long delay was due to funding, but our appreciation goes to Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager for Infrastructure and Logistics for sourcing the boxed medallion set, and to the CFS Training Department for the hours of work identifying eligibility and also in the distribution of the medals.

Congratulations to all CFS Service Medal recipients.



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DRIVER FATIGUE AND WORK DIARIES

The CFSVA is pleased with the progress being made on the issue of carrying work diaries to document hours of driving. The Association, along with the CFS, has been working hard to get a commonsense and practical solution on this issue for CFS volunteers.

We have been informed that the Hon Patrick Conlon has approved a Ministerial Exemption from this legislation for CFS volunteers. This exemption is currently being worded by Parliamentary Counsel and will soon be gazetted. In the meantime SAPOL has been informed that the exemption will soon be in place.

The Association would like to remind volunteers that they should not drive whilst fatigued. CFS has a new policy in place, which can be obtained through regional offices or on the CFS website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au

The Association would like to thank Minister Conlon for this exemption which will remove the disincentive to driving for CFS caused by this new regulation. We would also like to thank the Hon Tom Koutsantonis, Minister for Volunteers and the Hon Michael Wright, Minister for Emergency Services for their assistance in reaching this solution. We will continue to work on this issue at the national level so that a similar solution can be reached under National Road Rules, to ensure we don't have cross border problems.

FIRE EXPO AT NARACOORTE

The SE Branch of the CFSVA and the CFS Heritage Committee combined to conduct a most successful Fire Expo at Naracoorte on Sunday 25 October 2009.

The Expo was held at the Naracoorte Show Grounds and was followed by a joint dinner on the Sunday evening with approx 100 people attending.

The Expo programme included a display of CFS Heritage appliances, many heritage photographs and an early Beresford pump and motor; the Naracoorte Pipe Band; Smokey Bear; community fire safety education; farm fire units and a fire safety trade display. A highlight of the day was a Road Accident Rescue display provided by the Naracoorte CFS Brigade with fire protection being provided by the Victorian Apsley CFA Brigade and Naracoorte CFS. This display included the Rescue Helicopter and Medivac team flying in from Adelaide.

This fabulous exercise and display topped off a really well attended and successful weekend.



SACAD FAQ'S

There is now a document called 'SACAD Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)'.

This document has been prepared by the SACAD Project Group, in consultation with the CFS SACAD Business Review Group (BRG), which comprises representatives from all CFS Regions and the CFSVA.

The document is intended to provide, in a question and answer style, the back ground to why SACAD is being introduced and the principal method of operation of the new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system.

It also addresses how some of the current Call Receipt Dispatch (CRD) issues will be resolved in the future once SACAD is introduced and how we will move to an individual appliance response, as opposed to a current Brigade response.

The FAQ document will be the principal education tool for volunteers, although specific training in the use of SACAD will be provided to those who may use the actual system in the future, through I /Net Viewer in particular, as described in the FAQ's.

If there are any more questions that require answers, please forward them to Wendy Shirley and they can be included in an update to the FAQ document in the future.

If you would like to receive a copy of this document, please email the State CFSVA office at wendy.shirley@cfsva.org.au. It is also available on the CFSVA website at www.cfsva.org.au in the member's only section under CFS members / CFS operations information.

PRESENTATION TO CFS VOLUNTEER

A presentation was made to Peter Edgcumbe, member of Tantanoola Brigade at the Fire Expo. Peter has given many years of dedicated service to the Association as Vice President of the South East Branch and also as the SE Branch representative on the State Occupational Health and Safety Committee.

SE Branch President Mr Rex Hall presented Peter with a CFS watch. Peter is currently on leave from his brigade due to ill health and the Association wishes him the very best in fighting his illness.

