



**The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association**
"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

Working together with CFS REGIONAL COMMITTEES

BULLETIN

6th May 2015

INAUGURAL NATIONAL MEMORIAL SERVICE HELD FOR FALLEN FIREFIGHTERS

Two South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers were recently honoured at the inaugural National Memorial Service for Fire and Emergency Services Personnel.

The service, held in Canberra, was attended by the families of Andrew Harrison and Brian Johnston who tragically lost their lives this season whilst fighting fires for the CFS.

"It was with great sadness that two of our dedicated volunteers lost their lives at the beginning of this year's Fire Danger Season," said CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton who attended the service.

Mr Harrison's wife Kellie and two sons, Thomas and Henry, and Mr Johnston's sons, Daniel and Jeremy, were presented with Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Memorial Medallions by His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

CFSVA President Mr Roger Flavell represented the association at the memorial service.



Photo: L to R Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Kellie Harrison with Thomas and Henry, Daniel and Jeremy Johnston, CFSVA President Roger Flavell at the National Memorial Service in Canberra.

VOLUNTEER WEEK – 11th – 17th May 2015

More than 6 million Australian volunteers give to others each year, with research showing that those who volunteer are happier as a result. The theme of this year's National Volunteer Week is let's make Australia the happiest place on earth, by giving as much of your time as you can - Give Happy. Live Happy.

Volunteer Week will be marked by a number of events across Australia including a National Volunteer Week parade. The parade will be held on Monday 11th May 2015 commencing at 10:30am from the Torrens Parade Ground. If you are interested in participating in the parade, please register with Volunteering SA/NT either through the link on the CFSVA Facebook page or directly with Volunteering SA/NT.

SA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM REUNION – OCTOBER LONG WEEKEND



SA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM Inc

SACFS volunteers are invited to the South Australian Fire Fighters Museum (SAVFFM) Reunion on the October long weekend.

The three day reunion to be held in Naracoorte will commence with a dinner on Saturday the 3rd October, with a parade of fire trucks ranging from horse drawn to newly delivered appliances, as well as trade displays, blessing of the fleet and other entertainment. SAVFFM Chairman Rex Hall ASFM has said that the last reunion held 5 years ago attracted around 300 people who gathered to reminisce and share CFS stories.

This is a good opportunity to see how the CFS has evolved over the years and to catch up with other volunteers. Hope to see you there.

To register your interest for the event please email Rex Hall at gadang@rbm.com.au

EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR REFORM – UPDATE

The Minister continues to indicate that the aim of sector reform is to reduce duplication and re-invest resources into frontline services, and although he states that he understands that the emergency service agencies operate on a very lean budget, is asking the sector to do things better. Although the Minister is asking the sector to do things better, he has failed to respond to a number of serious concerns raised by the CFSVA and others in relation to the future of CFS under sector reform.

The Minister also fails to justify the appointment of a Commissioner although the Holloway Review refers to a Chief Executive Officer, and whilst the Minister suggests that the title is irrelevant, has conceded that it was his decision to have a Commissioner. If the title is as irrelevant as the Minister implies then why not accept the recommendations of the Holloway Review and appoint a Chief Executive Officer. The Minister advertised for a Commissioner in February however to date no announcements in relation to an appointment have been made.

The CFSVA remains adamant that as 'SAFER' is an administrative agency it would be more appropriate to appoint a Chief Executive Officer as opposed to a Commissioner and avoid the creation of a fourth uniformed agency.

The CFSVA is concerned that the Minister continues on the path of sector reform without due regard for serious issues which have been raised throughout this process; and prior to establishing a business plan and cost analysis on which to base sector reform. The Minister's methodology of 'try and see' is seriously flawed making the emergency sector exposed and vulnerable. The CFSVA has asked the Minister to commit that there will be no changes to CFS administration, no staff transfers and that no other changes or appointments will be made until the working groups have delivered their recommendations. The Minister has not responded to the CFSVA request.

The CFSVA has called on the Minister to halt the reform process so that clarity, transparency and definable outcomes are identified and achieved, as CFS volunteers have indicated that sector reform is having a destabilising influence on volunteers with potential consequences for community safety.

The CFSVA's priority is to keep our volunteers safe and ensure that after serving your community that you return safely to your families. The Minister has not been able to demonstrate that sector reform will deliver safe outcomes for volunteers and regional communities, nor has he proven efficiencies, or shown how current CFS operations will be advantaged, enhanced or improved.

The CFSVA does not oppose sector reform, but is seeking that any reform be conducted in an open and transparent manner with clear direction and defined outcomes. To date too many questions remain unanswered which fuels speculation and discontent amongst volunteers, leading many volunteers to question the true intent of this sector reform.

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