

RESPONSE

QUEENSLAND'S OFFICIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE EDITION 14



CHERBOURG FIRE AND RESCUE STATION CELEBRATING A SIGNIFICANT PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL

FRESH STRUCTURE:
FIRE INVESTIGATION:
LIFE SUPPORT:

BRINGING TO LIFE OUR NEW GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK
14 OFFICERS NEWLY QUALIFIED AND READY
QFES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SICK CHILDREN

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ON THE COVER

Firefighters and Wakka Wakka dance troupe celebrate official opening of Cherbourg Fire and Rescue Station during NAIDOC Week in July.

Photo: Lori Crofts



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FOREWORDS



Mike Wassing

Acting Commissioner QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

QFES has started the new financial year well-positioned to work towards our goals as One QFES. The QFES 2017-21 Strategic Plan has been released, our organisational structure has been realigned to priority areas, and our new governance committees have begun work to support the QFES Board of Management in making informed decisions about key opportunities and issues.

We have made significant progress in our journey to establish ourselves as One QFES with the right capabilities to meet the changing needs of the communities we work together with now, and into the future. I feel confident we are well-placed to meet our objectives.

At the August Executive Leadership Team meeting, the Commissioner led a discussion about the department's high-level strategic direction and how planning decisions will need to be made within budgetary constraints.

This year Queensland introduced life-saving smoke alarm legislation that will make our homes the safest in Australia in relation to house fires, and we are proud to have played a key role in bringing about these changes. We are now helping to educate communities about the legislation and encouraging them to make these changes as soon as they can. Read more about this on page 19.

Minister Mark Ryan recently announced QFES' new partnership with the Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF) to raise funds for the purchase of life-saving equipment for critically ill children. It is the first time QFES has initiated a focused and state-wide approach to raising funds for the CHF and we are excited to support such a worthy initiative. I have no doubt our people will get on board and make a real difference to the lives of critically ill children and their families. Read more about this on page 18.



Mark Roche

Deputy Commissioner READINESS AND RESPONSE SERVICES

I recently travelled to New Zealand with the Brisbane and Cairns Road Crash Rescue (RCR) teams for the Australasian Rescue Challenge 2017 (ARC17). Congratulations to Brisbane's Trauma Challenge Team, Simon Johnstone (QFES) and Jaye Newton (QAS), who placed first in their category.

In 2016, the Cairns RCR Team placed as 'runners up' in ARC16 and in recognition of their outstanding effort, they will compete in the World Rescue Challenge 2017 in Romania next month. We wish them the best of luck on the world stage.

With the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games (CG2018) only eight months away, the QFES CG2018 team is busy planning and recruiting operational staff and volunteers as part of QFES' Operation Paratus — Latin for 'to be prepared and ready'. I encourage all staff to submit an Expression of Interest for deployments and get involved in this exciting event.

After recent issues with Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF), QFES has implemented a management strategy in consultation with the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. This includes human perfluorochemical testing, disposal of existing fluorinated foam and environmental management of QFES sites. In-ground Case 4 training tanks at Cairns and Gladstone stations have been filled and capped with other stations across the state to follow.

For more information, visit the QFES website at www.qfes.qld.gov.au/afff/Pages/default.aspx.

On a final note, a special thanks to those involved in the QFES Estimates preparation. Your hard work did not go unnoticed and was greatly appreciated.



Mark Ryan

Minister POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

It is now just eight months until the start of the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games and preparations to ensure a safe and successful event are ramping up.

Central to every arrangement being made for this exciting event is the safety and security of the competitors, spectators and locals.

Whether it is ensuring there are enough lifesavers on our beaches to watch over the influx of tourists or conducting a hazard mitigation burn in bushland near venues, members of QFES are at the forefront of a massive operation to safeguard all.

In preparation for the event, QFES has established a Commonwealth Games Office to work closely with all Games partners, both government and non-government.

Members of QFES will be on the deployment roster in case of fire, natural disasters or threats, as well as providing support for counter-terrorism activities and to local government disaster management groups.

A key role in the run up to the Games has been ensuring all competition venues and other notifiable sites achieve building fire safety compliance. This important work will ensure a safe Games and cannot be understated.

Whether you are going along as a spectator or on duty, the Commonwealth Games will be a world class event that is set to provide us all with many great memories.

Thank you for being part of this important event for our State.



Bringing to life our new Governance Framework



QFES People and Culture Committee.

QFES' new committees have begun work to support the Board of Management (BoM) to make informed decisions. Under the new QFES Governance Framework, eight committees provide information and advice to the BoM, improving oversight and consideration of key opportunities and issues.

Committees are an important part of QFES' decision-making process.

Eight committees ensure proposals have received the appropriate level of consultation and evaluation before they are submitted to the BoM for consideration.

The new committee structure is a key element of the QFES Governance Framework, which makes certain the proper processes are in place to support well-informed decision-making.

Chaired by the Deputy Commissioners, the committees monitor the performance of QFES in designated areas and have clear purposes that align with the Strategic Plan.

“ We can have as many buildings, trucks and boats as we like, but none of that would matter without people who are well-trained, appropriately resourced and have the right support mechanisms,

– DC Mike Wassing.



Strategic Projects Committee members from left: Deputy Commissioner Chief Strategy Officer, Doug Smith Anita Sandeman and Kylin Wang.

- » **Audit and Risk Committee** - oversight of risk management practices, internal controls, governance processes and compliance monitoring.
- » **Health and Safety Committee** - determines key departmental priorities on health, safety and wellness; it connects regional health and safety committees and QFES executive management.
- » **Finance and Budget Committee** - fosters a culture of fiscal responsibility and provides advice on the strategic development and coordination of the financial management and budget policy, and prioritisation of QFES expenditure.
- » **Information and Communication Technology Committee** - provides stewardship of ICT matters, overseeing strategy, policy, prioritisation and assurance.
- » **Workplace Representatives Committee** - is a consultation mechanism and direct conduit to the frontline.
- » **People and Culture Committee** - oversees the development, implementation and evaluation of strategies and activities to promote a positive organisational culture, aligns human resource capacity and capabilities to achieve the strategic plan and provides stewardship of industrial relations matters.
- » **Operations Management Committee** - provides strategic advice and reports to the Board of Management on operational matters including organisational posture and position; capability direction; strategic operations management policy advice; improving service delivery; and operational efficiency and interoperability.
- » **Strategic Projects Committee** - drives accountability within major projects, including transformation and innovation, which deliver QFES' strategic direction and investment priorities.

We take a closer look at the role of the People and Culture Committee.

Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Deputy Commissioner Mike Wassing chairs the People and Culture Committee, which met for the first time in July.

Mr Wassing said the committee reflected how valuable the workforce was to QFES.

“We can have as many buildings, trucks and boats as we like, but none of that would matter without people who are well-trained, appropriately resourced and have the right support mechanisms,” he said.

Mr Wassing said one of the committee’s main tasks would be to drive cultural reform across the whole of QFES.

“At our inaugural meeting, we dealt with items relating to enterprise bargaining agreements, and workplace conduct, all of which have an element of cultural reform,” Mr Wassing said.

“We endorsed the Workplace Conduct Branch’s statement of intent that will inform what the new branch does and its strategy.

“Over the next 12 months, we will be working to embed the cultural reform program for the department, and provide updates on progress.”

Mr Wassing said the committee was not ‘bureaucracy’, but a strategic policymaking body for the whole of the department.

“Our committee relies on our frontline people continuing to resolve problems locally but where there are systemic issues or policy decisions, then we can address those through this committee or other parts of governance,” Mr Wassing said.

The QFES Corporate Governance Branch has been working to inform the workforce about the new Governance Framework, and socialising the content throughout the business.

Corporate Governance Director Gen Wilcox said the new Framework and Committee Structure is injecting great governance into the organisation.

“QFES staff are supported by a rigorous and robust framework that elevates the business acumen of how they conduct themselves in the workplace,” Ms Wilcox said.

“A number of products have been developed to assist our workforce, including templates for making submissions to the committees, to ensure consistency across the organisation.

“These are available on the QFES Gateway, including information about each element of the new Governance Framework.”



Strategic Projects Committee members from left: Dallas Stower, Assistant Commissioner Neil Gallant and Deputy Commissioner Mike Wassing.



Collaboration builds capability

Deputy Commissioner Readiness and Response Services Mark Roche and Deputy Commissioner Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Mike Wassing.

Deputy Commissioner Readiness and Response Services Mark Roche and Deputy Commissioner Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Mike Wassing recently hit the road, attending Regional Integrated Planning Executive (RIPE) meetings across the state.

DC Roche and DC Wassing attended RIPE meetings in Rockhampton, Cairns, Brisbane and Dalby to embed the concepts of collaboration in planning, preparedness and capability building across QFES' three services and with our partners. They will soon be visiting Townsville and the Gold Coast to continue reinforcing the One QFES approach with regional management.

DC Wassing said the RIPE approach was introduced last year to improve how Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) regional leadership teams work together to deliver the best possible outcomes for the three services, and their staff, volunteers and local communities.

"The high performing teams and services within QFES come from environments of trust, mutual understanding, competence and pride," Mr Wassing said.

"Under the RIPE, these strengths within the three services, are combined to form a strong team-based culture.

"We are committed to working together to deliver integrated and interoperable emergency services in all our regions.

"QFES is focused on the future needs of communities and regional staff have been working better together than ever before," he said.

DC Roche said the RIPE approach was created so regional staff would share information and planning, learn more about the whole business and work together as One QFES.

"I am proud to see the way Regional Leadership teams are embracing the opportunities to collaborate across the services and build QFES' capability in each region," Mr Roche said.

"The RIPE is giving all of our staff and volunteers a better understanding of what each service can do and is opening up discussion around how we can better work together to meet the changing needs of our local communities."

Assistant Commissioner State Emergency Service Peter Jeffrey said that working closely within the RIPE was helping QFES' collective partnerships, especially with local councils given their responsibilities in disaster management.



RIPE is delivering results in Far Northern Region

“How we work with all our partners at regional and local level is integral to successfully building resilient communities,” Mr Jeffrey said.

Assistant Commissioner Rural Fire Service Tom Dawson said we must all collaborate and communicate to help communities not just respond to emergencies, but also prepare for and recover from them.

“When our regional leadership teams work together to identify problems and find solutions, we can help build more resilient communities and deliver efficient and effective services,” Mr Dawson said.

“That’s what the community expects of us.”

Mr Dawson said he’d seen RIPE deliver impressive results in the South Western Region.

Assistant Commissioner South Western Region Steve Smith said they were now witnessing a different approach to information sharing in the region.

“Regional staff are gaining a better understanding of the whole business.”

He said they were asking, “what is the best decision for One QFES and how can we progress as One QFES and achieve the best outcomes in our communities?”

“As they gain a greater awareness of the capabilities available to them at a local level, we are starting to see each of the services call on the others to support them.

“The next step is for us to plan as One QFES and see even greater benefits.”

Community

QFES services

Councils and other local stakeholders

Regional Integrated Planning Executive

Assistant Commissioner and FRS, RFS, SES and functional regional representatives

Executive Leadership Team



EVERYDAY *Heroes* AWARDS

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QFES members recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours

In June, five QFES members were presented with medals as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2017.

Congratulations to Raymond Bott, Adam Gwin and Ian Shepherd, who received the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), alongside Janet Scott and Elizabeth Suhr, who received the Emergency Services Medal (ESM).

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said the medals are awarded to Australian fire and emergency services personnel who demonstrate the highest standard of devotion to their duties and to serving the community.

"The recipients of these most prestigious of awards have been recognised for their commitment to protecting fellow

Queenslanders and have represented QFES with honour and excellence," Ms Carroll said.

"I am delighted these dedicated QFES members have been honoured for their valuable contributions to building a safer, more resilient state. I thank them for their exceptional service to their communities and to Queensland."

Queen's Birthday Honours List 2017

Inspector Raymond Bott

QFES Research and Scientific Branch's Raymond Bott received the AFSM for his outstanding service and expertise to the QFES Volunteer Scientific Advisor network. Inspector Bott's extensive knowledge and field experience at international and national hazardous materials emergencies is widely acknowledged across the industry and has been instrumental in the development of analytical techniques and resources.

Chief Superintendent Adam Gwin

Far Northern Region Director of Regional Operations Adam Gwin was recognised for his passion and commitment to firefighting and the community. He is an exemplary role model for current and future firefighters, is proactive in building community resilience through engagement with landholders, accommodation providers and the broader community, and was a driving force behind the development of the North Burnett Emergency Coordination Centre.

Acting Chief Superintendent Ian Shepherd

Community Infrastructure Branch Director Ian Shepherd has led a number of key community safety initiatives in the area of building fire safety regulation. He has represented QFES on several state and national bodies to drive the development of essential building fire safety legislation, codes and standards.

SES Sunshine Coast Local Controller Janet Scott

Janet Scott was awarded the Emergency Services medal for leadership and service to her community. She is a proactive and engaging educator who has worked tirelessly to boost the capability of the eight SES groups in the Sunshine Coast SES Unit. Ms Scott has also built strong networks to promote seamless interoperability between local emergency service agencies.

SES Marburg Group Leader Elizabeth Suhr

Beth Suhr has shown extraordinary commitment and leadership to her community for more than 30 years. Ms Suhr is a well-respected volunteer, trainer and administration officer who continues to make a significant contribution to the Ipswich City SES Unit, Marburg SES Group and the Emergency Services Cadets.





Strong partnerships during Operation Cool Burn help Queensland prepare for bushfire



QFES' annual bushfire mitigation program Operation Cool Burn is well underway around the state, and strong partnerships and local engagement are helping this year's operation thrive.

Each year in the lead up to bushfire season the RFS and FRS conduct Operation Cool Burn, working with key partners to plan and conduct mitigation activities in priority areas. These activities include community education, hazard reduction burns, fire line maintenance, slashing and track development.

Acting Executive Manager Bushfire Mitigation Peta Miller-Rose said 190 bushfire prone localities around Queensland

have been identified as high risk and more than 400 mitigation activities will target these areas to ensure Queensland communities are well-prepared for the coming bushfire season.

"We've conducted around 150 of these activities, and expect to complete the remaining activities over the next two months should conditions allow," Ms Miller-Rose said.

"Working with and building strong relationships with stakeholders, such as land management agencies, landholders and local government is crucial to the success of the operation.

"Regional staff and volunteers are doing this very well, using their knowledge and relationships to ensure messages and activities are relevant for each area.

"This has resulted in the community and our partners having a strong understanding of the importance of Operation Cool Burn and being ready and willing to support and work with us to prepare for bushfire season.

"There are a number of factors which can increase an area's risk of bushfire," Ms Miller-Rose said.

"Some areas in Queensland had heavy rain during the wet season, like those affected by

Cyclone Debbie, and if there's an abundant fuel load on the ground, this can lead to an increased fire potential.

"Through Operation Cool Burn we are able to target these areas and work with communities to prepare them for the coming bushfire season.

"This includes helping them ready themselves, their families, and their properties, and encouraging them to have a Bushfire Survival Plan in place before bushfire strikes."

To find out more about bushfire preparedness and create a Bushfire Survival Plan visit the Rural Fire Service's website by searching 'bushfire safety Qld'.





Cherbourg Fire and Rescue Station ready to respond

Cherbourg Fire and Rescue Station was officially opened during NAIDOC Week in July, with a full complement of auxiliary firefighters trained through a partnership between Cherbourg Aboriginal Shire Council (CASC) and QFES.

The station was constructed in 2012, but has been supported by auxiliary crews from Murgon FRS until a full crew could be trained. Thanks to the commitment and dedication of the CASC and QFES, staffing at the station has increased from a crew of two to 11 auxiliary firefighters led by Captain Cameron Bond.

The official opening of the station during NAIDOC Week was an important milestone for Cherbourg residents.



Lieutenant Jack Combo holding plaque in honour of Jack Combo Snr at the official opening of Cherbourg Fire and Rescue Station.

QFES Indigenous Leaders Forum opens dialogue

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and volunteers representing all QFES regions came together during NAIDOC Week for the QFES Indigenous Leaders Forum held at Kedron.

The forum was an opportunity for the group to provide their ideas, input and feedback into the development of QFES plans and activities including how, as One QFES, we respect Indigenous cultures and how to best create and maintain relationships within the community. Representatives also focused on strategies to attract and recruit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to all roles within QFES and how the department can develop and support existing staff and volunteers.

Anyone from QFES who would like to be involved in future opportunities and activities either at a local regional level or state level please email your interest to QFES.Inclusion@qfes.qld.gov.au



QFES NAIDOC Garden unveiled

On 6 July, QFES celebrated NAIDOC Week with a flag raising ceremony and the opening of the new QFES NAIDOC Garden at the Emergency Services Complex at Kedron. The garden's theme — 'Meeting Place' — is reflected in its central location outside the café on the grounds of the complex and in the design of a specially commissioned rock-art piece.

The garden, commissioned by QFES, was developed in collaboration with PSBA, Wolter Consulting Group's Landscape Architecture, and Gilimbaa Creative Agency artists Rachael Sarra and David Williams. The design was inspired by the colours and patterns of the desert, Australia's beautiful native plants and Indigenous language, in keeping with this year's NAIDOC Week theme 'Our Languages Matter'.

More photographs on page 33.



Aboriginal Elder Uncle Norm Clarke, Commissioner Katarina Carroll and Uncle Adrian Padmore, Aunty Lesley Williams and Member for Kallangur Shane King MP.

SES primed for Gold Coast Commonwealth Games



SES flood boats were out in force on the Gold Coast's waterways recently in preparation for operations to support the Commonwealth Games in April.

In June, 48 South Eastern Region SES members along with Acting Regional Manager Mark Kelly, Acting Area Controller Colin Neil, Acting Operations Support Officer Tracy Ciardi and Project Manager Volunteering and Emergency Management Ayla Curtis undertook the first Commonwealth Games waterway transportation workshop on the Gold Coast.

The aim of the workshop was for the 13 participating SES flood boat crews to develop local knowledge of Gold Coast waterways, identify

waterway accessibility to event locations or accommodation and determine timings between collection and drop off points. It was also an opportunity for crews to build practical experience operating SES flood boats in areas and situations of high vessel traffic.

South Eastern Region Acting Regional Manager Mark Kelly said although the weather conditions on the day were far from ideal, all participants enjoyed their day out on the water.

“Feedback from the exercise also confirmed these SES members are all looking forward to volunteering for flood boat operations during the Commonwealth Games,” Mr Kelly said.

Knowledge gained from this workshop will enable the QFES Commonwealth Games team to further consider the proposal to transport QFES personnel and caches of equipment by SES flood boats during the 2018 Commonwealth Games.





Queensland set to benefit from new Fire Investigators

QFES welcomes 14 fully qualified Fire Investigators after nine months of challenging education and training.

A recent internal recruitment drive run by the QFES Fire Investigation Unit (FIU) has produced 14 new Fire Investigation Officers (FIOs) to keep pace with the increased demand on QFES services and enable greater capacity for rostering across the state.

The officers range from stations officers, senior firefighters and auxiliary firefighters and will be performing fire investigations across all regions.

The Fire Investigation Program is recognised as one of the most challenging training and education programs run by QFES with a focus on meticulously recording photographic and written evidence. The intensive program is made up of distance education units and face-to-face mentoring. It also includes a residential course at Queensland Combined Emergency

Services Academy and mock court room sessions at Brisbane Magistrates Court to prepare officers for giving evidence from investigations in the judicial system.

Manager State Fire Investigation Unit Gordon Hemphrey said graduating officers had worked incredibly hard to successfully complete the program and become qualified. They are now fully equipped to attend a number of specific incidents across the state supporting QFES.”

“It is an exciting time for QFES with a much larger compliment of FIOs to provide necessary coverage to support growing demand for Fire Investigation services across Queensland.” Mr Hemphrey said.

“These fully qualified FIOs will support community safety operations at small to large scale incidents alongside partner investigative agencies, producing detailed reports and appearing as subject matter experts in court proceedings.”

Increased remuneration for FIOs – recognising their newly acquired skills - is being endorsed as part of QFES enterprise bargaining arrangements.



USAR technicians put to the test



A month-long Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) course has culminated in a major, night-time earthquake drill at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy (QCESA) at Whyte Island.

In June, 28 Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) technicians comprising QFES firefighters and QAS paramedics were put through their paces during a gruelling training exercise in a mock-earthquake scenario.

The participants, from south-east Queensland, Townsville and Rockhampton, were being assessed as part of the final stages of an intensive four-week program of theory and practical instruction.

Supporting the exercise were 30 SES members from the Brisbane and Moreton Bay Region SES units, playing the role of the injured on scene.

USAR technicians were required to navigate the QCESA's purpose-built rubble pile to find, treat and extricate the injured. All lights on site were switched off during the exercise, forcing rescuers to work only with their helmet lights.

SES members regularly stand-in as mock casualties for exercises at QCESA, with moulage experts engaged to apply fake injuries — some of them gruesome — to the volunteers to test rescuers' triage skills.

The USAR taskforce is a unit within the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). Technicians hold international accreditation and are deployed to respond not only within Australia but also across the Pacific.

This year sees all teams within USAR commence the rigorous recertification process, required to be completed every five years to maintain the capability.

Recertification is assessed in two parts. The first requires USAR to present documentary evidence of members' qualifications and training records, equipment manifests, protocols and procedures at a meeting with representatives of the Commonwealth Government, Queensland Government and QFES senior executives.

The second part is a 36–48 hour field exercise with each team required to demonstrate all capabilities as required within established guidelines. This includes mobilisation of the team at the State Deployment Centre (SDC); deployment; transport; base of operations; living in the field; team management; working with other teams; rescue operations; patient care; consideration of security issues; demobilisation and the return of the team to the SDC.

The recertification field exercise is scheduled to take place in August 2018.





QFES Brisbane team performing an extraction



QFES success at ARC17

QFES battled teams from New Zealand, Australia and Hong Kong with our Brisbane team taking out top honours in one of the challenges at ARC17.

The 2017 Australasian Rescue Challenge was hosted by the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) in Hamilton, New Zealand between 20 and 23 July. Twenty teams representing three countries competed across the three rescue events of 'Time Critical', 'Controlled' and 'Entrapped' scenarios, two Trauma Challenges as well as attending a very informative and hands on practical ARRO Learning Symposium and workshop.

Two QFES teams from Cairns and Brisbane attended the learning symposium and participated in extrication and trauma challenges over the four days. The competition was fierce, however, the QFES

Brisbane Trauma challenge duo, Simon Johnstone (QFES) and Jaye Newton (QAS) rose to the challenge, taking out the honours and placing first in the Trauma Challenge.

Deputy Commissioner Readiness and Response Services Mark Roche, who is ARRO President, attended the four day event and said the win in the Trauma Challenge was well deserved with Jaye and Simon demonstrating the highest level of skills in scene assessment, triage, diagnosis, initial stabilisation and treatment, and handover to a medical professional.

"ARC provides an opportunity for agencies involved in road rescue to come together and learn new techniques, gain new skills

and test their abilities. Teams are exposed to a wealth of new information, methods and experiences."

"QFES attends around 14,000 road crashes every year. The highest levels of competency and expertise in Road Crash Rescue are required when responding to these emergencies. ARC17 attendees went away with valuable new skills that will mean better outcomes when lives are on the line," Mr Roche said.

As the runner up team from ARC16, Cairns will now compete in the World Rescue Challenge to be held between the 30 August and 3 September in the city of Targu Mures, Transylvania, Romania.



QFES Cairns team



QFES Brisbane team Jaye and Simon during the trauma challenge

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Ready for turnout

Around the state, 32 mechanics look after more than 600 fire trucks and thousands of pieces of equipment, keeping the wheels turning for the QFES Fire and Rescue Service.

In an industrial suburb of Brisbane, a team of mechanics are carrying out work that will help firefighters save lives.

The Eagle Farm site is one of eight workshops run by the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) across Queensland to ensure the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) fleet is operationally ready.

PSBA Fleet Operations Executive Manager Andrew Moloney said because the appliances were highly specialised, almost all of the maintenance of the FRS fleet was done in-house.

“Our mechanics have a wide range of skills, covering hydraulics, pneumatics, electrics (lights) and electronics (on-board computers),” Mr Moloney said.

“They work on more than 40 types of appliances and have to be prepared for potentially thousands of variations in parts and equipment.”

The workshops have a proud history of maintaining Queensland’s firefighting

vehicles, from the days of horse-drawn carriages to today’s state-of-the-art fire appliances.

QFES Corporate Governance Branch Executive Manager Kerry Tupper said modern fire appliances were very complex and highly technical pieces of equipment.

“The servicing and maintenance of these vehicles is mandatory, not only to ensure they comply with regulations, but for reliability,” Mr Tupper said.

“It is paramount that the vehicles are readily available for emergencies and that firefighters are confident the vehicles are safe.

“The mechanical technicians are an integral part of the team, both in our workshops and as members of QFES Strike Teams and USAR deployments.”

The mechanics are on call for QFES 24/7 and provide support for the FRS, as well as the RFS and SES, during major incidents.

Mechanical Services Manager David Lloyd said it was rewarding having a role in protecting the community.

“We repair the firefighter’s toolbox — a big red toolbox — so they can take their toolbox to work,” Mr Lloyd said.

“Without the mechanics, firefighters couldn’t do their job.”



Keith Middleton is a member of the mechanical team for FRS appliances based at Eagle Farm and now a qualified heavy commercial mechanic after recently completing an adult apprenticeship.

Keith joined the mechanical crew in 1977, working until 1979 before returning in 2006. Fleet Asset Services engaged TAFE Queensland to assess Keith’s eligibility for the apprenticeship program. Through recognition of prior learning, Keith had already met the requirements for a significant part of the four-year course. Working one-on-one with TAFE instructors, Keith studied engine assembly and high-end electronics, completing his apprenticeship in six months.

Congratulations Keith!



QFES pumped to announce life-saving fundraiser for sick kids



The major fundraising initiative was announced in July by Fire and Emergency Services Minister Mark Ryan and Commissioner Carroll at the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and will raise money to purchase life-saving equipment for critically ill children across Queensland.

Launched at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, the state-wide fundraising effort will pay for the purchase of essential extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) pump life-support machines that are used while transporting children via ambulance or aircraft. These machines allow the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital's retrieval team to start urgent treatment in the air or on the road to stabilise patients before they arrive at the hospital.

Every year, hundreds of children are transported to Lady Cilento Children's Hospital from across Queensland for life-saving medical treatment. At a cost of \$132,000 for each ECMO pump, this fundraising is an essential contribution that will make a real difference to young Queenslanders.

Fire and Emergency Services Minister Mark Ryan said the partnership between QFES and the Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF) would follow a focused approach to workplace fundraising through a regional fundraising challenge and payroll giving.

"For a number of years, QFES personnel have supported CHF through fundraising activities including Bike for Burns, Bridge to Brisbane and Roma Street Station staff hospital visits for burns research," Mr Ryan said.

"These activities have delivered excellent outcomes for the Burns Unit and those participating have been very passionate about their involvement."

Children's Hospital Foundation CEO, Rosie Simpson, said the fundraising campaign would ensure the Foundation could continue to support the care of critically-ill and injured kids at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.

"The ECMO equipment supports many children each year by taking over the function of their heart and lungs, which gives their bodies time to recover from illness or injury," Ms Simpson said.

Ms Simpson said the three-year partnership with QFES would ensure sick kids in Queensland, regardless of where they live, had access to the most advanced medical equipment now and into the future.

"Every sick child deserves a chance at a happy and healthy life and with the help of QFES, we can continue to support children from right across Queensland to get better faster and go home sooner with their families," Ms Simpson said.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said she was extraordinarily proud of QFES' partnership with the CHF and urged everyone to get on board and support the worthy cause.



For information about the QFES Regional Challenge check out <http://qfes-challenge.everydayhero.do/>

To get involved and create your QFES fundraising team see inside back cover of this issue of Response.



State-wide campaign for safer Queensland homes

A QFES public safety campaign has been launched to explain what the new smoke alarm legislation means for Queensland households.

This year, new smoke alarm legislation came into effect in Queensland that will save lives.

To help the community better-understand what is required under the new legislation, QFES has launched a public safety

campaign encompassing television, search engine marketing and social media advertising state-wide.

Every Queensland home will be required to be fitted with interconnected photoelectric smoke alarms — making them the safest in the country when it comes to house fires.

Depending on the type of dwelling, the legislation comes into effect in three stages over 10 years, allowing ample time for households to have their smoke alarms installed correctly. Initially, any smoke alarm due for replacement after 1 January

2017 must be replaced with a photoelectric model. While some households may have up to 10 years before they need to comply with the legislation, it is recommended that every Queensland home make these changes as soon as practical.

Working with our Queensland Government partners, QFES will continue to take a lead role in educating the community about the changes. To get up to speed on the new smoke alarm legislation, photoelectric smoke alarms and important dates visit qld.gov.au/smokealarms

Linked photoelectric smoke alarms can see smoke and alert everyone when it is still just a smoulder. The extra time that gives you can make all the difference.

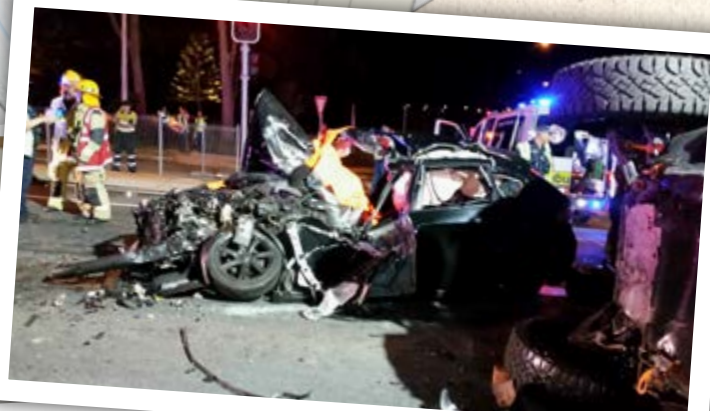
Housefires.
Give yourself more time.



Most Queensland homes still have traditional ionisation smoke alarms that need to smell smoke before they alert you — by the time you hear it, it could be too late. But there's another option.



Brisbane Region



After a road crash nearly claimed his life, Elliott Biggs reunited with the firefighters who cut him out of the wreckage.

It was a chance for this young man to thank those who extricated him from his vehicle the night he was involved in a serious motor vehicle crash on 21 April 2017 on Anzac Avenue, Mango Hill.

The specially trained crew from D Shift Kippa-Ring and Petrie fire stations performed the extrication with dedicated tools and equipment allowing him to be transported to hospital for treatment. The meeting with Elliott and his mother Margot was a rare opportunity for firefighters involved to see the positive outcome of their work and receive genuine recognition of life saving techniques and skills they use every day to help people involved in crashes.



RFS and SES volunteers came from across the state for the Volunteer Community Educators day held at QCESA on 15 July.

Deputy Commissioner Mike Wassing opened the day by discussing the importance of learning new skills and networking and the key role of interoperability between agencies focussing on preparedness, prevention, response and recovery.

Activities included virtual reality burns, evacuation drills and live fire demonstrations in addition to Rediportal awareness sessions. A big shout out to Chief Superintendent Mike Dwyer and QCESA for their support of this event. The feedback from all participants was extremely positive and Brisbane Region looks forward to the 2018 event.





South Eastern Region

South Eastern Region Bilinga FRS D Shift and Fire and Rescue NSW enhanced their Cross Border Memorandum of Understanding with a joint management exercise in July.

Senior firefighters from each state described the features of their appliances with a focus on the vehicle capabilities, rescue and communications equipment and how they could best work together on scene when required. Fire and rescue NSW brought along their Hazardous Materials Unit which was of great interest to QFES crews.

The day of training gave both crews a better understanding of each services capabilities and greatly enhanced their future working relationships. All shifts at Bilinga FRS will be involved in future training programs with Fire and Rescue NSW to enhance interoperability at cross border incidents.



The first 'Emergency Services Tour' was held at Surfers Paradise Fire and Rescue Station on 11 July in conjunction with SER Community Safety Operations Command and the Department of Human Services.

Initiated by the Department of Human Services, the project educates newly settled migrants and refugees with the knowledge and skills they need to integrate into the community.

Crews from B Shift led a tour through their station and facilitated training on the use of fire extinguishers, fire blankets and fire alarms by using interpreters to communicate instructions and vital community safety messages.



Woodridge FRS kicked off NAIDOC Week celebrations with a didgeridoo player and Indigenous dance ceremony at the station, later joining celebrations at a community football game in Firth Park Mudgeeraba.

It was wonderful to see our services come together and get involved in celebrating this year's NAIDOC Week. There was a focus on the theme 'Our languages matter' and the role languages play in cultural identity, linking people to their land and water and the importance of preserving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, spirituality and song.





South Western Region



RFS Cadets from Inglewood and Tara travelled to Brisbane in July and battled it out in this year's Emergency Services Cadet Games.

The teams of six got involved in survivor based scenarios challenging them to draw on knowledge developed during their cadet training using innovative thinking and teamwork to complete their tasks.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said QFES has long understood the value of programs to mentor young people and provide positive experiences and opportunities for them to develop their skills and abilities, and build on leadership potential in a safe structured environment.



RFS Roma Area Office represented QFES sharing knowledge and learning ways to improve land health at Toolloombilla Fire and Biodiversity field day hosted by Queensland Murray Darling Committee (QMDC) on 16 June.

The event, a culmination of two major projects by QDMC in the Maranoa Region covered the use of fire and biodiversity against production and landscape health under holistic grazer land management practices. Fire scientists and visitors came from as far away as Brisbane and Darwin to exchange ideas, get hands on experience and gain an insight into ways to protect and enhance the environment.

The RFS display focussed on engaging with local stakeholders in community education with an interactive presentation using fire to demonstrate fire behaviour in the landscape. It was a fantastic turn out in this remote location with Rural Fire officers sharing knowledge and fire management and planning to improve land health, adding value to remote communities.



Year 10 students got involved in work experience at Kitchener Street Fire and Rescue Station. Alanna Rummel from Fairholme College and Zane Servin from Highfields State Secondary College were introduced to the world of firefighting.

The students were outfitted in turnout gear, getting firsthand experience in hose drills, equipment checking and familiarising themselves with the inner workings of the station and equipment on the trucks. They also had the opportunity to observe the functions of Firecom, State Emergency Service and Rural Fire service and visited community safety and professional development units for an overview of interoperability between services. Both students were eager to learn more after getting an inside look into the workings of the fire station and might just pursue a career with QFES after they finish school.



Far Northern Region

Far Northern Region emergency management capabilities combined for a challenging vertical recovery at Davies Creek.

Teams from Mareeba and Atherton FRS, EM, SES, QAS and QPS combined to respond to the call for assistance at the popular day use area of Davies Creek, west of Cairns.

Putting their vertical skills rescue training into action, crews from FRS and SES mobilised for the vertical retrieval with QGAir Rescue 510 completing the recovery. Over 40 officers were involved in this impressive show of interoperability between agencies.



Port Douglas Fire and Rescue Station celebrated their recent refurbishments with a visit from the Minister and Commissioner Carroll

Assistant Commissioner Far Northern Region John Bolger hosted the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan and Commissioner Katarina Carroll at the official handover of the newly renovated Port Douglas Fire and Rescue Station on 11 July.

Minister Ryan said the 140m², \$1 million upgrade was a significant win for the local community and included a personal protective equipment room, breathing apparatus cleaning facility, locker room and additional amenities.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll said Firefighters based at this station had been protecting local residents for more than 40 years and now have the room and resources they need to serve this growing community well into the future.



QFES services were out in full force in support of NAIDOC Week where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander flags were flying at a public engagement event in Far Northern Region.

SES, RFS and FRS got involved in the Cairns event bringing along a fire appliance, setting up displays and taking part in activities to celebrate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage. There was a strong focus on this year's theme 'Our languages matter' and AC John Bolger was there with SES Indigenous capability officer Arama Samuel and SES Volunteer Ackland Chilman enjoying events with Cairns and Far Northern Indigenous community members.





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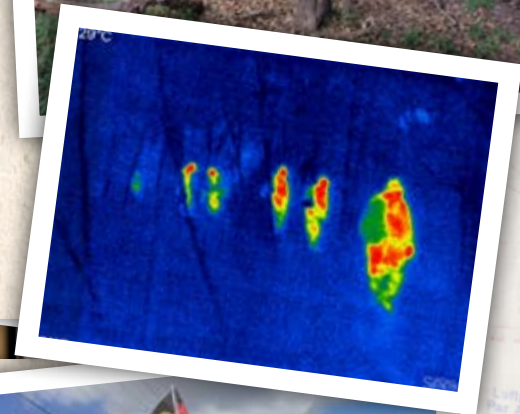


Northern Region

Newly acquired thermal imaging technology increases capability and efficiency in the field for SES forensic search teams.

Representatives from Northern Region SES recently took part in a forensic search with QPS using a thermal imaging camera to assist with locating items involved in an incident and identifying several specific areas of interest.

Acting Area Controller SES John Ford said the QPS SARMAC team appreciated the professionalism of the SES members involved in the search. "We are always looking at ways to improve our search techniques, the hand held thermal imaging cameras mean our members have the latest in technology and this makes them more effective in the field during searches," Mr Ford said.



Smoking ceremony and NAIDOC march to fly the Aboriginal Flag held in Northern Region to celebrate NAIDOC Week with the focus on Indigenous languages.

Local Indigenous Elder Virginia Wyles from the Wulgurukaba peoples came to Townsville FRS on Wednesday 5 July and spoke about her connection to country and the great importance of preserving Indigenous languages for future generations. She and the crew also took part in a smoking ceremony with BSO Gordon Yorke getting the fire started for the ceremony.

Fire and Rescue Service officers drove their appliance in the NAIDOC march held in Thuringowa on 7 July as a show of support and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Assistant Commissioner Steve Barber said the smoking ceremony and march were a great way for staff to contribute and connect with this year's NAIDOC celebrations.



Commissioner Carroll kitted up in climbing gear to take in a different perspective of Townsville when she took up an invitation to participate in vertical rescue training at local landmark Castle Hill.

Northern Region AC Steve Barber said it's a regular location where QFES' operational skills are used in real life vertical rescues and for training exercises. Commissioner Carroll used a top belay technique over the 30metre descent with two Level 2 Rescue Technicians supervising safety and monitoring her progress for the exercise.

Officer in Charge, SO Corrie Bensen said it was a great opportunity for the Commissioner to meet and interact with crews while they maintained their skills in a challenging environment.

"What an awesome experience, seeing these specially trained officers in action using their vertical rescue techniques and having the opportunity to hang out with them and take in the spectacular views above Townsville," said Commissioner Carroll.





Central Region



An Interagency training exercise was held at Gladstone Fire and Rescue Station recently with personnel representing QFES, QAS and QPS involved. The multi-casualty scenario was staged to enhance interoperability between agencies and give some oversight of roles and procedures during a large scale incident.

With multiple vehicles involved and a large number of entrapments, it was a test of the skills and professionalism of all involved to control the scene and to safely extricate and transport casualties.

The training was a great success with all agency representatives saying it gave them further insight into the important dynamic of working together cohesively to reach a positive outcome during multi-agency incidents. The high level of professionalism and skills on display gave a further boost to the already well established relationships between agencies.



SES members visited Rockhampton Fire Station on 2 July for a demonstration of the rescue equipment and resources firefighters use in vertical and swiftwater rescue operations.

During the visit, participants were able to inspect the rescue equipment on board the Bronto skylift and Sierra appliances, and take a tour of the smoke room and Firecom facility on site. It was a great opportunity to see how FRS and SES equipment is used and identify procedures for sharing resources and having oversight of roles and responsibilities in the event of a multi-agency exercise.



The 'Koala and Friends' team participated in the virtual Bike4Burns ride this year and raised a whopping \$1600 for the Children's Hospital Foundation coming 3rd in the virtual fundraising efforts.

Half the team completed their kilometres riding around Mackay and the coalfields and the other half gained their kilometres participating in the Cairns Half Ironman with plans to join the Bike4Burns charity ride on the road in the future.



North Coast Region

QFES worked closely with Noosa Council to increase disaster preparedness and promote community resilience during June.

Displays were set up at three community festivals and a number of community forums in the Noosa Council area, all were a great success and had a lot of support from local residents.

There is future planning for the region to get involved in the Red Cross Pillowcase project, an activity to educate school children on preparedness. This project will be run across a number of schools in the area from August to October this year.



FRS and SES joined forces at the 2017 Gympie Show for a Community Engagement display with a focus on new smoke alarm requirements, home fire safety, road safety, disaster preparedness and promoting the winter fire safety campaign.

The show had a great turn out with over 26 school groups engaging with the displays and over two hundred sample bags being handed out in addition to hundreds of preparedness brochures. Officers attended talking people through methods and tools used in road crash rescues and demonstrating how to control a kitchen fire.

Blazer the Bear made a special appearance with the beautiful old red vintage fire truck generously provided by the Gympie Museum. North Coast Region Gympie Fire and Rescue, has been a part of the Gympie Show for the past 14 years, with a number of partners, including the Gympie Show Society who provide our position in machinery alley free of charge and Gympie Auto Wreckers who provide the car bodies.



Emergency management Coordinators and NCR Community Engagement Officer Julie Bruynius were hard at work in early June, building community resilience with evacuation centre training held in Monto, Biggenden and Gayndah attracting people from local and surrounding areas.

The three weekends of training focussed on building capability to manage an evacuation centre in the event of an emergency, in particular local areas that are likely to be isolated for a number of reasons. Staff and community members also undertook Psychological First aid training with the Red Cross as an additional component of their learning.

Community members familiarised themselves with evacuation kits and were given the opportunity to discuss the most important aspects of managing of an evacuation.



“I enjoy never knowing what you’re going to get”

-Volunteer Scientific Officer Bob Dumma

Volunteer Scientific Officer and auxiliary firefighter Bob Dumma has been with QFES for 37 years. Despite the demands of two on-call roles, as well as a career outside the department as a senior chemist, he remains as committed today as the day he joined — something he attributes to the unfaltering support of his wife, Jenny, and very accommodating employers.

—By Saskia Tigchelaar

Bob Dumma has been turning out to fires and hazardous material (hazmat) incidents in the Mackay area for the best part of four decades.

He joined QFES as an auxiliary firefighter at Moranbah Fire Station in 1980, when he was just 24 years old. In 1993, while working as senior chemist for one of the larger Bowen Basin coal mines, he was approached to volunteer as a chemical specialist for what was then the Response Advice for Chemical Emergencies (RACE) Service — under the Chemical Hazards Emergency Management (CHEM) Unit of the then Counter Disaster and Rescue Service.

“The RACE Service had been established the year before and was looking at expanding throughout the state,” he said.

“I could see the benefits of the program; who better to attend chemical incidents than those already working in that field in the local area? As an auxiliary and a chemist I saw the need for it and I said yes without hesitation.”

“I enjoy never knowing what you’re going to get; some jobs are simple, but some are a real head-scratch. It’s a challenge — and it’s good fun.”

Next year, QFES will mark 25 years since the establishment of RACE, or QFES Research and Scientific Branch as it is now known, and there are now more than 50 Volunteer Scientific Officers around the state.

While much has changed over the years, the vision and purpose of the program has stayed the same.

“VSOs quickly analyse and identify the materials on scene so firefighters can manage the situation and safely make informed judgement calls,” he said.

“When I started, we used to go out with a pair of overalls, a hard hat and kit bag full of reference books and some litmus paper — basic equipment that you could use on the side of the road at hazmat incidents.

“These days we have access to far more sophisticated detection and sampling equipment with BA Hazmat Sierra units (mobile, state-of-the-art hazmat support trucks), infrared spectrometers, HazCat analytical test kits and so on.”

Bob is quick to point out though that advancements in technology go both ways.

“We’re having to increase our knowledge as the world is changing,” he said.



“It’s a challenge — and it’s good fun”



“With access to the internet now, the things that happen in the community are on a different scale — terrorism, white powder scares, backyard drug labs and or even kids experimenting with making explosives — we’re exposed to all sorts of weird and wonderful things so we’ve got to keep current and we do refresher training every year.”

For Bob, two main drivers have kept him on the end of a QFES pager all these years: his passion for helping the community and the feeling of family within his auxiliary crew and VSO network.

“I enjoy the camaraderie and the mateship — we work together, we all get on well and we look out for each other; it’s a big family,” he said.

“I’ve made a lot of good mates and no matter where you go you can drop into a station and say ‘I’m so and so from wherever’ and you’re accepted.

“It’s great to be able to exchange information and have that chance to learn; everyone does things a bit differently. It’s the same for VSOs, if you can discuss jobs and outcomes and learn from each other, it makes it easier.”

Behind the scenes however, it has been the support of his wife Jenny — who has been with him every step of the way — that has made it all possible.

“Jenny and I got married on the longest day of the year, the summer solstice on 22 December 1979,” he said.

“She wasn’t too worried about me becoming an auxiliary firefighter. These days I know she gets a lot more concerned if it is a chemical job, but — as I tell her — we don’t put ourselves in jeopardy. With the training, equipment and procedures we have in place it is very safe.”

“I’m always on-call but I manage because I enjoy it and my wife is very understanding. When the pager goes off she’s out getting the car sorted and the garage door up. Call-outs can last many hours and then that support when you get home can be taxing. Jenny knows when I need to talk and when to leave me alone.”

Bob is also grateful for the generosity and understanding shown to him by his employers over the years.

“It’s not just time away from your family, a call can come at any time — if there is a major chemical incident I can be called

away from work for quite a few hours and my employer has always been very accommodating,” he said.

“To businesses that employ VSOs and auxiliary firefighters: big thumbs up for supporting people to do the role — it wouldn’t happen without that.”

The other great love of Bob’s life is motorbikes — specifically, Ducati motorbikes — and he has been heavily involved in riding, restoring and racing them for as long as he can remember. Even in this aspect of his life, he has found a way to interweave it with his role with QFES.

“I am a member of the Emergency Services Motorcycle Association Firefighters’ Chapter,” he said.

“It’s a national club that started in Western Australia with all emergency services involved — SES, Police, Ambulance and Fire.

“We’re not outlaws, we’re very respectful — we’re the good guys. It’s a bunch of retirees and serving firefighters, so if you’re a firefighter and you ride a motorbike, come join us!”



Bob, centre, with fellow members of the Emergency Services Motorcycle Association Firefighters’ Chapter

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Working together to strengthen communities

SES volunteers have been provided with valuable hydration equipment in the first of a series of benefits provided by partner organisation, NRMA Insurance.



SES volunteers across the state will be better equipped to support Queenslanders during emergencies thanks to a significant principal partnership with NRMA Insurance announced by Minister Ryan on WOW Day in May this year and mentioned in the June edition of *Response*.

Assistant Commissioner SES Peter Jeffrey said he was pleased to have now delivered the first of the direct benefits for volunteers through the rollout of hydration packs to SES volunteers ranked Field Operator or above.

“Volunteers have been excited with the initial deliveries and orders are starting to flow in that will see more than 1000 packs delivered in the coming weeks,” Mr Jeffrey said.

Backpacks supplied are made by Camelbak and include a 3L hydration reservoir that has been modified for the SES.

NRMA Insurance is working closely with the SES to gain an understanding of the service and consider how both partners can work together to develop resilient communities.

Working within the concept of ‘creating shared value’, NRMA Insurance and the SES are exploring opportunities to develop resilient communities through inclusion and innovation to benefit the community, Emergency Services volunteer organisations and industry.

NRMA Insurance, part of the Insurance Australia Group, is providing funding and in-kind support including highly-valuable equipment for volunteers and important storm preparedness education campaigns and resources.

Mr Jeffrey said the distribution of quality hydration packs was the first benefit of this direct and practical support.

“They are a valuable reward for the hard work volunteers put in to reach Field Operator level,” he said.

“Other benefits of the partnership include data and resource sharing around storms and flood events, and meaningful connections with community organisations with support functions - such as donations platform GIVIT, Australian Red Cross and Orange Sky Laundry.

“Under the partnership, kits will be available to support on the ground community engagement. They will include equipment such as shade shelters, banners and table cloths. SES members will also be offered insurance premium discounts,” Mr Jeffrey said.

NRMA Insurance will also provide valuable ongoing support with the promotion of SES events such as storm season, WOW Day, SES Week and other initiatives.





In June, QFES hosted a visit by the Welfare and Urban Planning Committee from Gangnam District in Seoul, South Korea. The group were met by Assistant Commissioner SES Peter Jeffrey who briefed them about the SES capability, followed by a tour of the SDCC with commentary from State Duty Officer Nathan Bolger.



SES and RFS Brisbane volunteers recently completed their Air Base Operator assessments which included how to marshal helicopters and fill fixed-wing bombers. These operators provide a valuable role in aviation response for QFES, assisting with evacuations and air base set up during disasters



The annual Bike 4 Burns Charity Ride was held this year on 8 June, with QFES riders teaming up with QPS and QAS to pedal 560km over six days, from Townsville to Cairns. Since Bike 4 Burns was launched in 2007 almost \$600,000 dollars has been raised for the Children's Hospital Foundation.



South Western Region FRS firefighters from Chinchilla, Pittsworth and Miles took part in a road crash rescue course at Dalby Fire and Rescue Station over two weekends in May and June.



QFES Northern Region members 'Hit the Hill' in July, taking part in a 24-hour Suicide Prevention Walk on Townsville's Castle Hill to help raise awareness and break down the stigma around mental health.






A QFES Indigenous Leaders Forum was held at Kedron during NAIDOC Week, focusing on QFES activities and how they align with broader Queensland Government strategies to provide greater opportunities and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



On 6 July, QFES celebrated NAIDOC Week with a flag raising ceremony and the opening of the new QFES NAIDOC Garden at the Emergency Services Complex at Kedron.

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Ravenshoe cafe tragedy two years on

Commissioner Katarina Carroll travelled to Ravenshoe in June to mark the second anniversary of the Ravenshoe cafe explosion and recognise the Far Northern Region firefighters and Firecom officers involved in the emergency response.



On 9 June 2015 a sudden and ill-fated chain of events led to a massive explosion in a Ravenshoe cafe that left 23 people badly injured. Many were airlifted to the Atherton, Innisfail and Cairns hospitals in the biggest aeromedical movement in Queensland's history. Sadly, despite the heroic efforts of members of the community at the scene and the emergency services personnel who coordinated the response, two people lost their lives.

On 14 June this year, a QFES ceremony was held at Ravenshoe Fire and Rescue

Station to commemorate the second anniversary of the tragedy and present FRS firefighters and Firecom officers with Commissioner's medals for outstanding work in extreme circumstances.

Commissioner Katarina Carroll said it was an opportunity to recognise QFES officers who demonstrated exceptional bravery and selflessness in the face of adversity.

"The high-level of skill and courage demonstrated was exemplary," Ms Carroll said.

"If not for the immediate attention of these officers — alongside QAS and QPS personnel as well as members of the community — many more would have lost their lives.

"It is a testament to the spirit of Ravenshoe's close-knit community that everyone rallied together to do what they could to treat those hurt in this tragic incident."

Commissioner's Commendation for Bravery

Auxiliary firefighter Nathaniel Stasse, Ravenshoe FRS Station

Commissioner's Meritorious Service Medal

Station Officer John Lindsay, Atherton FRS station

Commissioner's Commendation of Notable Action

Captain Robert Doyle, Ravenshoe FRS Station

Commissioner's Unit Citation

Ravenshoe, Atherton and Millaa Millaa FRS Station crews:

735 Alpha – Captain Robert Doyle, Lieutenant Peter de la Porte and auxiliary firefighters Nathaniel Stasse, Brogen Keune and Edwin Lee

731 Alpha – Senior firefighters Cody Emberg, Michael Snell and Gordon Raw

734 Alpha – Auxiliary firefighter Robert Brathwaite

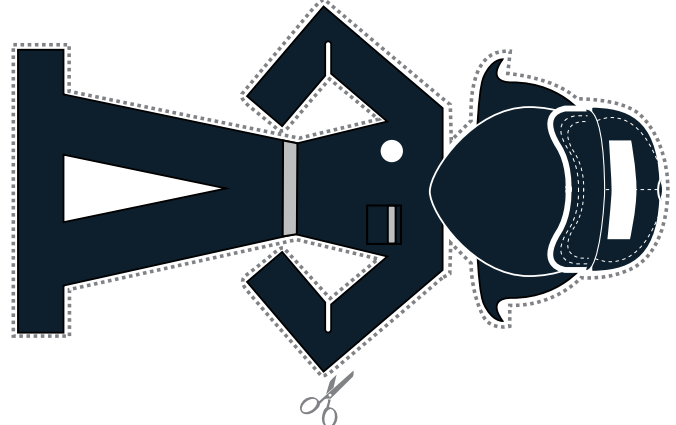
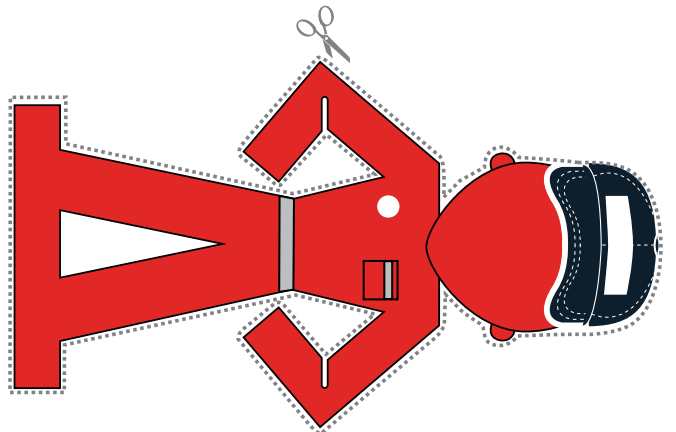
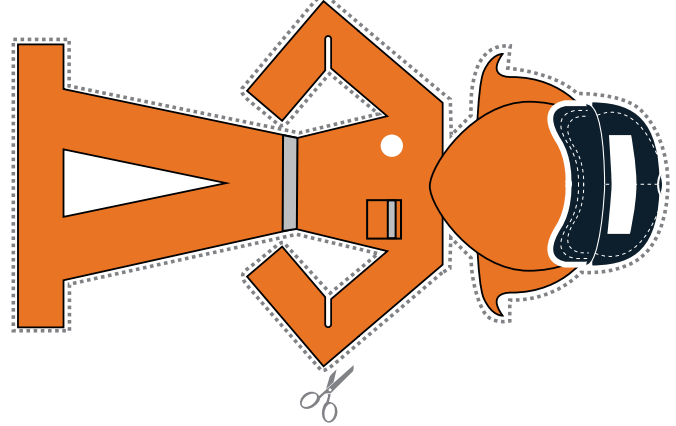
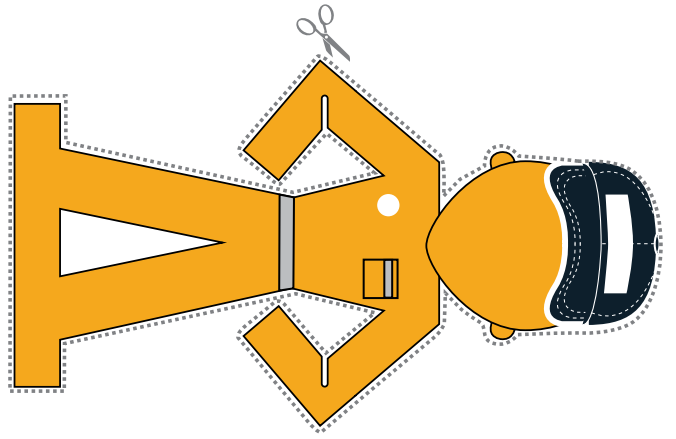
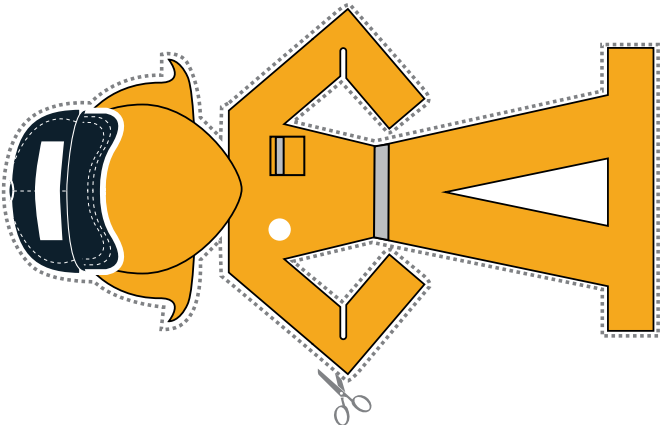
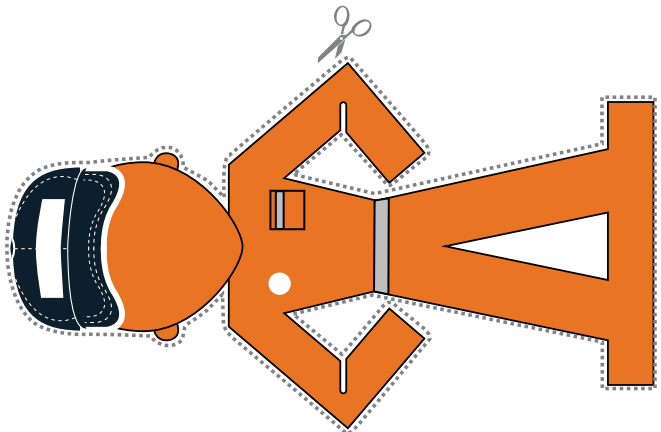
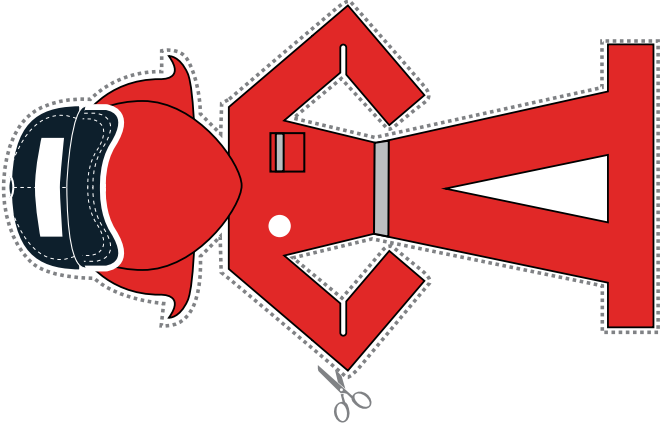
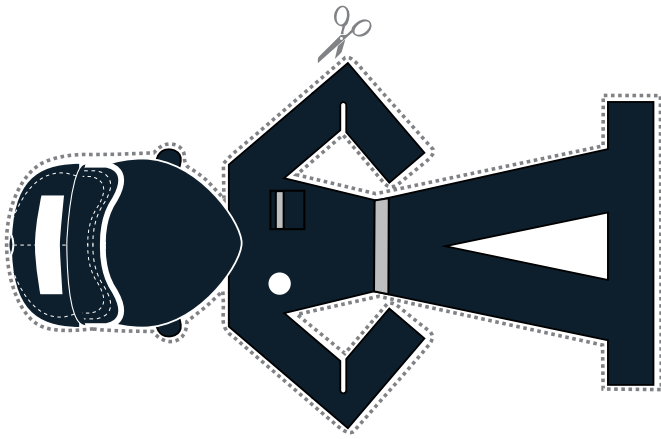
731 Bravo – Captain Jimmy Isabella, auxiliary firefighters Jamie Ryan, Dominik Jutzi, Marcus Lindsay, Ernest Raso and Gideon Herbohn

Far Northern Region Firecom Officers: Karen McIntyre, Katie Tartare, Alison L'Estrange and Manager Lynette Webb

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DISCLAIMER

The implications of salary packaging a motor vehicle through a novated leasing arrangement, including tax savings will depend on your individual circumstances. The information in this publication has been prepared by Statewide Novated Leasing for general information purposes only, without taking into consideration any individual circumstances. Before acting on any information or entering into a novated leasing arrangement, you should consider your objectives, financial situation and needs, and, take the appropriate legal, financial or other professional advice based upon your own particular circumstances. **The Queensland Government strongly recommends that you obtain independent financial advice prior to entering into, or changing the terms of, a salary packaging arrangement.**



Call for a no-obligation consultation to discuss your options.

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Statewide... the really smart choice!