

RESPONSE

RESILIENT AND READY FOR THE PEOPLE OF QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND'S OFFICIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE EDITION 22



BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY

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IMPRESSIVE RESCUE

A YEAR OF GREAT PROGRESS

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ON THE COVER

This photo was taken at the Deepwater fires on 28 November 2018.

Photo: Sarah Ebsworth

RESPONSE is a bi-monthly magazine produced by the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' Media, Communication and Engagement Unit. Contributions and feedback are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity and clarity.

Let the Editor know what you think about this edition of Response by providing your feedback to QFESMagazine. Editor@qfes.qld.gov.au

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FOREWORDS



KATARINA CARROLL
Commissioner
QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

I extend my sincerest thanks to the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) workforce for the incredible work and support provided throughout the year.

Like always, it has been a huge year for the organisation, where we have faced many challenges and seen many successes.

From emergency incidents to organisational change, you have all continued to deliver world-class services to our communities no matter how big the challenge.

Most recently, we witnessed Queensland's biggest bushfire emergency which saw more than 3000 Rural Fire Service (RFS), Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and State Emergency Service (SES) personnel working around the clock to protect Queensland lives and properties.

We also saw 1200 interstate firefighting colleagues and 55 aircraft support us in responding to these unprecedented bushfires.

Damage assessments revealed 17 dwellings were damaged, nine of which were destroyed. To keep the figures for damage and loss to such a low number is nothing short of outstanding and that is the result of your actions.

Critical incidents like this highlight the importance of our work in the Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery phases – as this is where we lay the foundations for working with the community to build a more resilient Queensland. Visit pages 10 – 15 which feature a snapshot of this emergency event.

Again, I would like to thank you for helping QFES meet the ever-evolving needs and expectations of government and the community.

Our organisation has been working hard to align our workforce capabilities, structures and systems to appropriately reflect that of the rapidly changing world we live in.

This year we have launched many new corporate initiatives. As we move into next year, we will start to see the implementation phases ramp up and I look forward to watching these initiatives help QFES keep pace with change. You can read more about our year of great progress on page 4.

I wish you and your families a safe and happy festive season and I look forward to working with you all in 2019.

Katarina Carroll
Commissioner
Queensland Fire and Emergency Services



MIKE WASSING
Deputy Commissioner
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE DIVISION

Recently, we witnessed Queensland's largest bushfire emergency event which saw QFES volunteers and staff put the needs of the community before themselves to protect lives and property. I extend my sincere thanks to all of you and especially volunteers, your families and your employers who allowed you the flexibility to drop everything when Queensland needed you the most. I'd also like to thank you for all that you do not only during critical incidents, but also during prevention, preparedness and recovery phases too. You should all be incredibly proud of your resilience, professionalism and courage – I know that I am extremely humbled to work with you all.

This year we've seen an increased level of activity and engagement in the Command, Control, Coordination, Communications and Intelligence structure. This has allowed our workforce to meet contemporary needs and expectations of the government and the community. Some of the projects currently underway include the Volunteerism Strategy implementation workshops, State Emergency Service (SES) Taskforce Catalyst, Disaster Management arrangements and risk-based planning.

Assistant Commissioner Peter Jeffrey departed the QFES family, leaving his role on 23 November. Throughout his time with QFES, Assistant Commissioner Jeffrey's focus has been on enabling and supporting our volunteers in the great work that they do. He takes with him a wealth of experience and knowledge and I know you will join me in wishing him all the very best for his future. The SES and local council's partnership is an integral part of our disaster management capability. The development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between QFES and each local government is a way to clarify this relationship. I'm pleased to report that as at mid-December 54 out of 75 MOUs have been signed across the seven regions. Commencement of Government Wireless Network (GWN) onboarding for SES in South East is in full swing. The project is in the early stages of consultation and investigation to identify associated organisational improvements, and to determine the best approach to deliver associated training. Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their contributions this past year.

On behalf of the EMVCR team, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Mike Wassing
Deputy Commissioner
Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience Division



HON CRAIG CRAWFORD
Minister
MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

As I write this, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) personnel and their communities are dealing with the aftermath of the most extensive bushfire emergency in our state's recorded history.

Fortunately – and hopefully – we are at the tail end of the crisis as residents head home, firefighters and support personnel take time out to breathe, and some much-welcome rain falls.

The one message that has been repeated time and again during this event is to watch out for each other and help keep each other safe.

And the people we ask to provide that security?

It's you – our people working for QFES and the family, friends and employers who help you do it.

You excel at what you do and lead the nation in disaster prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Queensland is no stranger to wild weather – cyclones, storms, floods, king tides and bushfires are a very real threat every year.

Coupled with that is the very real response from you and for that, I thank you.

These bushfires flourished during an unprecedented, protracted heatwave – a heatwave during which temperatures hit the high 30s and ploughed into the 40s.

And – again – we watched as you saved our homes, our properties and our lives.

The social media pictures of you giving water to a puppy and a wallaby, of you making sandwiches at community centres, of you giving your neighbours a place to stay and a shoulder to cry on and the signs in your front yards saying thank-you are reminders of how you kept us safe.

When QFES stands up, the rest of the nation takes notice and I can't thank enough our counterparts who came from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and the ACT to help out.

Technology played its role in keeping us all safe. The SABRE and Phoenix systems coupled with the emergency alert system sent simultaneous notifications to more than 700,000 people and at least a million devices.

Lives, property and townships have been saved because Queensland was prepared, despite our bushfire season starting many weeks earlier than in the past.

We asked for your help and you answered with your service.

Again, thank you.

Hon Craig Crawford
Minister for Fire and Emergency Services

A year of great progress

As the year draws to a close, it is important we all stop for a moment and recognise the outstanding efforts of our Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) workforce for 2018 and acknowledge our successes, challenges and everything in between.

QFES had a busy start to the year that saw us welcome a new Fire and Emergency Services Minister, the Honourable Craig Crawford MP, who hit the ground running by visiting as many QFES sites as possible right across the state.

In January, the Queen's Baton paid a visit to Kedron as a thank you to QFES and Queensland Ambulance Service for their involvement and commitment in the lead up to the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games (the Games).

In March, Cyclone Nora tracked along the eastern shore of the Gulf of Carpentaria bringing severe flooding to the state's north.

Soon to follow was the Games in April where about 800 QFES personnel across firefighting, scientific, urban search and rescue, State Emergency Service (SES), volunteer streams, administration, communications and others, helped to ensure a safe and successful games for Queenslanders, athletes and visitors.

Fast-forward to June where the QFES Commonwealth Games Project Team was officially recognised at the Premier's Awards for Excellence and in November were named winners in the Performance category for their exceptional contribution to public safety during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast.

As darkness fell on 2 May, many of us gathered to pay tribute to those who have lost their lives to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) at a candle-lighting vigil, which marked the beginning of DFV Prevention Month.

On the night of 22 June thousands of families across the state jumped online to play their role in Queensland's biggest fire drill to develop and practise a fire escape plan at home.

Operation Cool Burn saw Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteers, supported by paid colleagues, help land owners reduce hazards and educate communities to prepare for the bushfire season.

This year's bushfire season saw QFES crews battle trying conditions, with some bushfires requiring high level warnings including 'leave immediately' and 'seek shelter'. While the QFES workforce battled more than 3200 bushfires at home during August and September alone, QFES crews also assisted with wildfires in both Canada and the United States to lend a helping hand to our international counterparts.

Towards the end of the traditional bushfire period some parts of the state experienced severe storms, which cut a swathe of

destruction. While bushfires, storms and cyclones can truly be devastating for Queensland communities, it also highlights the strengths of QFES and the outstanding service delivery our organisation offers during critical times.

Other achievements for 2018 include the successful reclassification of our AUS-1 DART team, which saw a team of 75 specialists prove their capabilities in responding to a range of international disasters.

QFES boosted their fleet of Compressed Air Foam System Type 2 appliances to 30 state-wide, 31 RFS appliances were delivered state-wide and new Motorised Swiftwater Rescue Crafts were made available in each region.

We also launched the Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan to prepare for the effects of climate change by creating a plan to support the emergency management sector to be more innovative and resilient in handling climate change.

Taskforce Catalyst has been created to strengthen SES frontline capability and integration with the wider QFES, through the development of a leadership framework and a review of training delivery.



Commissioner Katarina Carroll and Premier Anastasia Palaszczuk working in the State Operations Centre in November.



This year, we have worked with communities to build their resilience while meeting their current needs and future-proofing QFES with the launch of some new initiatives. Three important frameworks – Strategy 2030, the Digital Transformation Strategy and the Volunteerism Strategy – will give valuable insight, direction and help prepare and support QFES and Queenslanders for whatever the future holds.

Strategy 2030 is the cornerstone of QFES' response to the rapidly changing environment. QFES has worked with communities, our partners and our people to undertake strategic planning through Strategy 2030 activities, which will ensure QFES can keep pace with change.

The Volunteerism Strategy was launched in October and sets out our strategic priorities and guiding principles for the development of a contemporary and robust volunteerism model.

The Digital Transformation Strategy is looking at ways of shifting the organisation from a legacy approach to a new way of working and thinking using emerging technologies. One way we are now working smarter is with Office 365, allowing the organisation to develop greater capability and work mobility into the future. In November volunteers were able to access the Gateway online anywhere, anytime bringing all the QFES workforce into the one conversation.

We are a resilient and world class organisation – no matter what the challenge, we always rise to it. I would like to thank and congratulate all our workforce for an amazing year and I look forward to seeing what 2019 brings.

– Katarina Carroll.

A record investment has been announced into the replacement of appliances, including the development of a comprehensive fleet replacement plan and a funding plan to ensure the FRS and RFS fleets are updated, adequate and sustainable into the future.

Most recently, in late November and early December we faced the worst fire conditions in Queensland's recorded history with just over one million hectares of land burnt. I extend my sincere gratitude to you all for what you sacrificed during what was an incredibly challenging time. Thank you to your families, friends and employers who allowed you to be there when Queensland needed you. Your efforts were nothing short of outstanding.

To sum it up, 2018 has been a year of great progress.

We are a resilient and world class organisation – no matter what the challenge, we always rise to it. I would like to thank

and congratulate all our workforce for an amazing year and I look forward to seeing what 2019 brings.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll – on behalf of the Executive Leadership Team



AUS-1 DART during the reclassification exercise.



RFS during Operation Cool Burn.



FRS showing athletes the ropes at The Games.



SES volunteers take to the streets to help educate the community.



Joint Fire and Rescue Fleet Management and Maintenance Taskforce

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and the Public Safety Business Agency (PSBA) have recently established a Joint Fire and Rescue Fleet Management and Maintenance Taskforce to manage the effects of an ageing fleet.

While record replacement appliances are in the pipeline, a comprehensive fleet replacement plan and funding plan have been developed to ensure the QFES fleet, both Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Rural Fire Service (RFS), are updated, adequate and sustainable into the future.

The Taskforce will ensure enough operational and safe appliances are on the road and in service. Where possible, the Taskforce will predict potential issues and deal with them in advance.

Commissioner Carroll said multiple initiatives are underway.

“Key initiatives include a new facility to replace the Eagle Farm workshop which will come on line some-time in 2021 and is being designed to offer decades of service,” Commissioner Carroll said.

“We are also working to administer progress of the QFES fleet build, planning and maintenance and prioritise all work across QFES and PSBA.

“The initial phase will focus on addressing maintenance and repair demands in the Brisbane Region and South Eastern Regions, which will ensure a review of specialist appliance locations to mitigate risks across regional boundaries.

“Our workforce performs crucial roles in keeping Queensland communities safe and it is top priority to ensure they are equipped with all they need to perform their roles.

“This Taskforce will help to ensure fleets are managed appropriately and are future-proofed to keep pace with the growing needs of the community,” Commissioner Carroll said.

The Taskforce had its inaugural meeting on 1 November 2018 and will report directly to the Commissioner, the PSBA Board of Management and Minister Crawford’s Office. Additional updates will also be provided to the Operations Management Committee and QFES Board of Management monthly.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Barb Zandona-Gehan
Barbara.Zandona-Gehan@qfes.qld.gov.au





The latest Office 365 update

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has recently made significant upgrades in the tech space – including consolidating three intranets into one and providing all volunteers access to Office 365 (O365).

QFES intranet has moved to the cloud

In November, QFES consolidated three intranets into one online, cloud-based home for all its organisational content.

Content from the Rural Fire Service (RFS) volunteer portal and the State Emergency Service (SES) volunteer portal was incorporated into the QFES Gateway. The updated QFES Gateway was then moved to the cloud and hosted on O365.

This means, all QFES staff and volunteers can now access the same information, anywhere, anytime and on any internet-connected device, including any:

- corporate PC, laptop or mobile device
- personal PC or laptop
- personal mobile device.

This is a huge win for the QFES workforce and means that all staff and volunteers can now access information and resources on everything from strategy and major projects to policy documents and reference material – anywhere, anytime.

Something to note is that all QFES staff and volunteers require their O365 email and password to access the QFES Gateway (when not on the corporate network). As such, volunteers currently not registered with O365 are strongly encouraged to activate their account.

O365 for volunteers

All SES and RFS volunteers have the opportunity to register for a free O365 account. An email was also recently sent from Deputy Commissioner Wassing to all volunteers with instructions on how to get on board.

For those who don't already know, O365 is the cloud-based suite of Microsoft Office applications, including email, that is available to you anywhere, anytime and on any internet-connected device.

Think of the cloud as a central, single storage location that can always be accessed via the internet.

Once a volunteer has registered for their O365 account, they will be able to:

- Access their SES, RFS or Scientific email on any internet-connected device, including personal PC or mobile device.
- Access the QFES Gateway (which is an Intranet site) and stay up-to-date with all QFES news from the comfort of their own home.
- Use online versions of Microsoft applications such as Word, Excel and One Note.
- Access Nexus – the QFES online learning hub.

For volunteers who want to get started today, go to www.volunteers.emergency.qld.gov.au, select 'Register' and complete the application registration fields. On the next screen, you will be provided your O365 email address and password. Write down your details as this will now be your username and password access for your o365 account, the QFES Gateway and Nexus.



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Scott Edwards with two of the boys he rescued, Felix Hall (L) and Tyler Reid (R) - photo courtesy of Kylie Bartholomew ABC Sunshine Coast.

“Something you just do.”

A country boy who grew up in Central Victoria, Scott Edwards said community values and spirit was drummed into him from a young age. His dedication and commitment to helping the community was recently demonstrated when he rescued five swimmers on the Sunshine Coast.

Scott Edwards, Senior Firefighter Logan Command, Surf Lifesaver, and long-serving member of the Kawana Surf Club was recently patrolling Sunshine Coast beaches when he spotted a group of five swimmers who were caught in an extremely dangerous rip.

With waves crashing from every direction, Mr Edwards had no time to hesitate and swiftly made his way over to the swimmers before piling all five of them onto his wave runner jet ski.

Mr Edwards said conditions on the day were like a washing machine and instead of heading north towards Maroochydore on jet ski patrol, he decided to check to the south.

“Before performing the rescue, I had warned many other swimmers to only swim between the flags and to follow any dangerous surf warnings,” Mr Edwards said.

“When I spotted one group of swimmers, I knew they were in serious strife.

“One of the boys went under twice before I got to him. I had to reach down half an arm’s length into the water before I could lift him onto the wave runner.

“I distinctly remember the look on one boys face as I was pulling him out of the water. It was a look of pure exhaustion and relief all at once,” Mr Edwards said.

Mr Edwards who has been both a firefighter and surf lifesaver for more than 20 years said the rescue was “something you just do”.

“Having worked and trained for more than two decades in emergency services I’ve been exposed to a range of different situations.

“I’m not sure what type of training comes first in situations like that day, I guess the skills cross over from being a firefighter and surf lifesaver all of these years.

“To me, helping the swimmers wasn’t a big deal and I’d do it again in a heartbeat,” Mr Edwards said.

Four out of the five swimmers needed oxygen before paramedics arrived at the beach. Two boys were sent to hospital and two adults later went to hospital for further observation.

The swimmers have since reunited with Mr Edwards and expressed how grateful they were for his life saving response.



Queensland's bushfire emergency

After unfavourable weather conditions led to unprecedented fire activity, communities faced an intense and challenging 12 days before the protracted bushfire emergency finally came under control. Now, it's time for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) crews to reflect on the gravity of the event.

Queenslanders have faced the most severe fire conditions in the state's recorded history, which resulted in just over one million hectares of land burnt.

People have suffered. Some have lost their homes, their livelihood, livestock and pets.

As Queensland transitions from response to recovery, QFES cannot underestimate the impact these circumstances have had on everyone – emotionally, physically and mentally.

Yet in the midst of this bushfire event, Queensland has witnessed the true definition of community spirit where people from across the country have banded together to support one another.

First and foremost, this includes our QFES crews who gave everything they had to help protect the lives and property of Queenslanders.

QFES' efforts in protecting the community during such a large-scale event would not have been possible without the assistance received from every state and territory in Australia.

Over the course of the event, 1200 interstate personnel, as well as 55 aircraft, supported QFES in responding to bushfires.

Partner agencies, local governments, councils, community groups and everyone in between rallied together and made a monumental effort under extremely challenging conditions.

Aerial assets were essential in providing a tactical response and, at peak activity, 38 aircraft were airborne simultaneously.

Invaluable insights were provided by QFES' Predictive Services Unit (PSU) on likely fire behaviour. The unit's analytical skills

and state-of-the-art software provided essential advice on fire behaviour – meaning crews and water bombers were able to target areas that posed the greatest risk to communities.

PSU insights enabled incident management teams and operations centres to better manage firefighting resources across multiple fires and informed decision making around public warnings.

During peak periods, up to 3000 QFES personnel worked day and night to protect Queensland lives and property. Five hundred and seventy-one bushfire community warnings were issued, and more than 50 emergency alerts reached over one million devices.

Following damage assessments of impacted areas, it was established that 17 dwellings were damaged, nine of which were destroyed.

While devastating for those families, given the sheer size of this critical event, it was a remarkable outcome thanks to the QFES workforce.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll extended her sincere thanks to everyone who assisted in the extraordinary bushfire emergency.

"Your contributions, no matter how big or small, made a huge difference to the safety of Queenslanders," Ms Carroll said.

"I am truly grateful for your courage, drive, integrity and professionalism – it is not only a credit to you, but also to QFES.

"My sincere thoughts are with all those who have been affected by the fires, especially as they begin the process of rebuilding and recovering," Ms Carroll said.





- November 22** • Weather teleconference with regions hosted by State Operations Centre (SOC) discusses expected heightened fire dangers, possible scenarios and level of preparedness.
- November 23** • Fire activity in the South Eastern Region triggers the first of more than 500 bushfire community warnings to be issued over the coming fortnight.
- November 24** • High level warnings issued for Undullah, Delaneys Creek, and Sheldon in Brisbane’s urbanised bayside.
- November 25** • Fires at Round Hill and nearby Deepwater in Central Region prove difficult to control.



QUEENSLAND'S BUS





BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY

November 26

- The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) now activated to ALERT.
- QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll announces “unprecedented fire activity across Queensland”.
- Non-essential QFES functions ceased until further notice.
- Staff assigned to support operational functions.
- QFES accepts offers of support from interstate.

November 27

- Top 8 fires of concern, many of which continued into December.
 1. Agnes Water (Deepwater and Round Hill)
 2. Undullah (south of Ipswich)
 3. Googa Creek (south of Blackbutt)
 4. Molangul (north west of Bundaberg)
 5. Stanwell (west of Rockhampton)
 6. Dalrymple Heights (west of Mackay)
 7. Finch Hatton (west of Mackay)
 8. Wiambilla
- 87 QFES personnel deployed to Central Region.
- First interstate deployment arrives in Gladstone.
- 80 bushfires state-wide.
- Fires reported as being 12 metres high.
- Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) announced for impacted communities.



November 28

- ‘Catastrophic’ Fire Danger Rating impacts parts of Queensland to an extent never seen before.
- Rockhampton reaches 43-degrees.
- 8000 Gracemere residents evacuated.

November 29

- 47 schools and 25 early childhood education centres closed state-wide.
- Bruce Highway, Mt Larcom closed.
- Fires have posed a threat to about 130,000 people and 54,000 dwellings.
- At 4.00pm there were 121 wildfire incidents, 310 vehicles and approximately 900 personnel on the ground state-wide.
- 100 State Emergency Service (SES) tasks actioned and completed in the last 24 hours.



- November 30**
 - Fire bans in place for 37 local government areas.
 - Disaster assistance extended to help cover the costs of fighting bushfires in Bundaberg, Central Highlands and Isaac, as well as extending recovery assistance to areas in Bundaberg, Gladstone and Rockhampton.
 - Fire Communications Officers process 1117 calls in a 24-hour period.
 - A donation drive announced for communities affected by bushfires with government donating \$125,000 to launch.

- December 1**
 - 49 aircraft have been working in the sky, at peak of activity 38 of those were airborne simultaneously.
 - 11 million litres of water and fire suppressant dropped over the fires – equivalent to almost five Olympic-sized swimming pools.

- December 2**
 - Area burnt to date reaches 5000 square kilometres.
 - Cyclone Owen forming off the far north coast.
 - New fires of interest include North Stradbroke and Karara.

- December 3**
 - 2300 hectares of land burnt on North Stradbroke Island.



QUEENSLAND'S BUS





- December 4**
- As severe fire weather conditions begin to abate, firefighters and residents begin to reflect on the fire event.
 - During peak periods, up to 3000 QFES personnel worked day and night to protect Queensland lives and property.
 - 1200 interstate firefighting colleagues helped.
 - 571 bushfire community warnings were issued.
 - 50 Emergency Alerts issued – reaching over one million devices.



- December 5**
- There are still 76 active QFES vehicles in the field.
 - Fires of interest: Angas Water, North Stradbroke and Curtis Island
 - More than 1 million hectares of land burnt.

- December 6**
- Most ROCs are at lean forward.

- December 7**
- SDCC officially stood down.

BUSHFIRE EMERGENCY





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QFES Chaplains Workshop

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) chaplains from every region gathered to support each other, share experiences and strategies and learn more about the QFES culture at the second biennial QFES Chaplains Workshop in Brisbane recently.

Among the guests were National General Manager of the Salvation Army Chaplaincy Major Rick Hoffman and his colleague Chaplaincy Operations Manager Major Heather Craig.

Speakers from Human Capital Management, Human Capital Operations Support and the Retired Firefighters Association Queensland gave insight into the changing world of QFES and its workforce.

The workshop focused on the theme 'Supporting people through trauma' and included sessions on behaviours styles – people under pressure, psychological support, spiritual support and chaplaincy response.

The QFES Chaplaincy Services Network now has 23 volunteer associate chaplains spread across the state, with two full-time state chaplains based in Brisbane.

Chaplaincy services are available to all active and retired members of QFES paid and volunteer workforce, as well as their immediate and extended families and victims or witnesses of incidents involving a QFES response. People outside the department who wish to access the QFES Chaplaincy Services can be referred by a QFES member.

QFES chaplains are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and may be contacted directly through commanders or incident controllers.

Details are available on the Gateway and in regional phonebooks, or by contacting the State Senior Chaplain Dennis Bryant on 0412 771 727 or dennis.bryant@qfes.qld.gov.au.



AC Andrew Short with Associate Chaplains David Pohlmann, Rod Ballard and Tom Dawson.



Volunteerism Strategy Implementation plan – the work begins

Developing culture, community connection and capability.

Since the launch of the QFES Volunteerism Strategy in October 2018, the Volunteer Capability and Sustainability Unit have been workshopping with volunteers what they see as priorities and gaining some valuable feedback. In addition, the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford has begun a series of state-wide visits to introduce the strategy to the regions.

Three visits have been completed at Redcliffe, Toowoomba and Rockhampton and are to be followed up with visits planned for Redlands, Townsville, Cairns, Gold Coast, Ipswich and Maryborough. Visits have been well received and are being followed up with the Volunteer Capability and Sustainability Unit workshopping implementation plan priorities with volunteers.

Feedback received through these workshops, as well as through the generic email below, is being collated for reporting to the Minister and senior executive and will influence the priority and implementation of initiatives

Volunteers and staff are encouraged to continue to engage with the Volunteer Capability and Sustainability team whether it be to provide additional feedback, make recommendations or propose future initiatives. The team can be contacted through VolunteerStrategy@qfes.qld.gov.au.



SES State Awards 2018

Every year State Emergency Service (SES) Week is an opportunity for us to recognise the hard work and selflessness of the 5600 active SES volunteers across the state. This year's theme was *enhance, train and excel* where the focus was on the work SES volunteers do in training, ensuring they are equipped to help the most vulnerable members of the community.

To celebrate, a number of award ceremonies were held across Queensland.

At a state awards ceremony held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 28 October, the Minister's Cup, the Commissioner's Cup and the Assistant Commissioner's Shield were announced.

Janette Lindbergs, member of the Mirani SES Group, was awarded the Minister's Cup.

Janette, who has been a member of the SES for 10 years, was recognised for her continued and dedicated support to fellow members of the Mackay Regional SES Unit and the surrounding community.

"When I heard my name called I was stunned and exhilarated all at once," Janette said.

"Our Unit had just been named the winners of the Commissioner's Cup for SES Unit of the Year and I thought how fantastic for our region to receive both awards.

"As Group Leader, I enjoy the challenge of developing and training new members – but perhaps the best part is that I then get to watch our members achieve their goals. It is my endeavour to maintain a well-trained group.

"Receiving this prestigious award makes me incredibly proud," Janette said.

SES Week Award Winners

Following are the award recipients from the Queensland State Awards Ceremony. These people have dedicated many years of service and have undertaken their roles in an exceptional way.

Minister's Cup for Queensland SES Member of the Year

Winner – Janette Lindbergs, Mirani SES Group

For distinguished service to the SES through providing continued and dedicated support to SES members of the Mackay Regional SES Unit and the community it serves.

Commissioner's Cup for Queensland SES Unit/ Group of the Year

Winner – Mackay SES Unit

For dedication and commitment demonstrated by the unit to their community and for significant enhancement in their emergency response capability.

Assistant Commissioner's Shield for Queensland SES Operational Response of the Year

Winner – Gold Coast City SES Unit

For providing outstanding and complete response to the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Winner – Brisbane City SES Unit

For outstanding response during Operation Paratus (Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games), the Queen's Baton Relay and Operation Fortis (Royal visit to Queensland).

Joyce Scorey Shield for Queensland SES Trainer of the Year

Winner – Alison Maclean, Townsville SES Unit

For displaying outstanding drive and dedication to training and mentoring of SES members and providing ongoing support to the Northern Region.

Congratulations to all the finalists and award recipients this year.



2018 QFES Commissioner's Awards for Excellence

The winners of the 2018 Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Commissioner's Awards for Excellence (CAFE) were announced at a presentation ceremony at Kedron, Brisbane on 16 October.

Award winners from various parts of the QFES workforce were acknowledged for achieving outstanding results and for the significant contributions they have made to our department's success in working with communities to build resilience.

This year five Commissioner's Awards for Excellence, five Highly Commended and one Commissioner's Outstanding Award were presented at the ceremony.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll said she is incredibly proud of this year's winners.

Commissioner's Award for Excellence

Cladding Support Unit

For their significant contribution to the Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce, ensuring safer communities through mitigating fire risks involving combustible cladding.

Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework Team

For embracing new and innovative ideas in the development of the Queensland Emergency Risk Management Framework.

Northern Region Operational Support Group

For delivering improved operational capability to the Northern Region by providing support in command and control, communications, crew welfare and logistics during activation periods.

Commonwealth Games Office Project Team

For the successful planning and delivery of QFES' response to support public safety at the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Tyson Loetzsch

For the development of the future-focused South Eastern Region Forward Capital Works Plan, identifying improvements to ensure fit-for-purpose seamless interoperability of QFES services.

Highly Commended Award

Emergency Management Training Command

For providing outstanding support and coordination that enables Emergency Management Coordinators to deliver quality training products.

Nexus Transition Team

For inspiring and coaching QFES in the adoption of Nexus as a single Human Capital Management solution for improved practices.

Rural Fire Service

For their innovation in partnering with organisations to enhance cultural engagement and community resilience through collaboration of cultural practice and traditions as transferred through the Jigija Indigenous Fire Training Program.

Pieter de Visser

For displaying leadership and empowering brigade members to build an inclusive culture and improve operational capability of the Allendale Rural Fire Brigade.

Maxwell Hubner

For providing outstanding and dedicated service to the Paddys Green Rural Fire Brigade that has positively impacted the community.

Commissioner's Outstanding Award

Commonwealth Games Office Project Team

For exceeding core expectations in the planning and delivery of QFES' response to support the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The 2018 Premier's Awards for Excellence

The QFES Commonwealth Games Project Team then went on to jointly win a Premier's Awards for Excellence (PAFE) in the category of Performance. This was awarded for their exceptional contribution to public safety during the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. The PAFE awards acknowledge the outstanding development and delivery of initiatives in communities across the state.

Commissioner Carroll said the CAFE awards was an opportunity each year to recognise those who work tirelessly for their communities.

"Congratulations to the 2018 award recipients who have gone above and beyond what is expected and have made a huge difference to the lives and safety of others," Commissioner Carroll said.

"I am incredibly proud of our workforce and the people that make our department what it is and I'm thankful that we can acknowledge the good work of our people."



BRISBANE REGION

Roma Street Station fire fighters participated in the third 42for42 Challenge at Suncorp Stadium in early November.

The challenge involved teams walking around Suncorp Stadium for 42 hours, carrying 42 kilograms. The 42 represents the number of Australian soldiers killed in Afghanistan and soldiers lost to suicide. Each hour represents and honours an individual soldier. Funds raised are going towards a memorial garden on the Suncorp Stadium grounds.



Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program

Auxiliary recruits for Minjerrabah, or North Stradbroke Island, recently attended an Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program (ARTEP) in Far Northern Region.

The program forms part of a range of joint activities enhancing fire preparedness and cooperation with the Quandamooka people on the island.



QFES engages with beach goers on Moreton Island

School holidays are a busy time on Moreton Island with holiday makers and day visitors. It is also an opportunity for emergency services to engage with residents and visitors to the island.

The Community Engagement Activity Project on Moreton Island ran for its second year and provided agencies, services and the community the chance to meet and learn about conditions and processes.

Like many communities that are isolated by distance, Moreton Island residents and the services on the island work together to support each other.

Program initiatives this year included an animated set of safety scenarios, which were programmed into the vehicle barge public screens for people to view while travelling to the island. These safety prompts provided an early opportunity to communicate messages around prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.



Escape Week

Escape Week was action-packed, with 28 of the most dedicated and aspiring cadets, young life savers and adult leaders in Queensland, being rewarded with a bevy of emergency services activities over a six-day camp. Jordan Reid and Lachlan Wright proudly represented the Rural Fire Service (RFS), Caboolture Area.

Each day cadets and mentors participated in a collaborative operational experience from QFES and partnering agencies. The training activities ranged from jumping onto a Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) boat covering radio communications, flare activations to live fire demonstrations and extinguisher training.

The RFS cadets were totally exhausted but thoroughly enjoyed the whole week. A big thank you goes to PCYC for the opportunity to include RFS cadets in this awe-inspiring week.





SOUTH EASTERN REGION

SES deployed to FNR

South Eastern Region recently deployed several firefighting and incident management teams to support Far Northern Region in battling wildfires in the Atherton area.

On 8 October, two combined strike teams consisting of 21 RFS personnel, with Team Leader BTSO Wayne Teece and 14 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) personnel with Team Leader Captain Trevor Meier, departed Ripley Fire Station bound for the Atherton fire ground.



Firefighter's Remembrance Day

On 10 October services were held around the state and flags were flown at half-mast to acknowledge the sacrifice of fallen firefighters.

At Mary Immaculate Church in Ashmore, firefighters, emergency services representatives, family members and local school children gathered to pay tribute to the 52 Queensland firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty since 1877.



Dreamworld Aerial Response Exercise

Recently, Technical Rescue Units from Nerang and Beenleigh teamed up with Brisbane Region Aerials and staff from Dreamworld Theme Park for a mock rescue of inverted and vertically trapped visitors on the Buzzsaw ride and Giant Drop and Sidewinder rollercoasters.

The exercise scenario allowed QFES staff to familiarise themselves with changes to ride configurations and rescue capabilities. Aerial appliances from Surfers Paradise and Durack Fire Stations worked side-by-side to ascertain best set up and access, to maximise rescue efforts efficiently.

Technical rescue teams climbed the 120-metre Giant Drop both internally and externally, and provided advice and recommendations to Dreamworld Engineering to enhance their current systems and to help them understand the intricacies of any future rescue from this attraction.

SER would like to thank Station Officer (SO) Michael Pearce and his aerial crews from Durack who participated in this important inter-region collaborative training exercise, as well the assistance from SO Matt Roser and the Technical Rescue teams in SER.





SOUTH WESTERN REGION

MDA Walk Together

On Saturday 20 October firefighters in Toowoomba attended the Multicultural Development Australia's 'Walk Together' march. Walk Together is an annual national celebration of Australia's diversity, and promotes and encourages a welcoming, fair and compassionate society for the hundreds of people who come from overseas each year to call Australia home. Walk Together celebrates diversity and is a loud declaration that thousands of Australians believe we can become a nation known for our compassion, generosity and welcome. Throughout the South Western Region, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) acknowledges our diversity and embraces and respects our differences.



Firefighter Remembrance Day 2018

On 10 October we stopped to honour the memories and acknowledge the sacrifices firefighters have made to keep Queensland communities safe. It was a day of reflection for firefighters across the state. South Western Region staff and volunteers gathered at the Empire Church Theatre in Toowoomba. Pastor Joel Pukallus officiated the service with Reverent John Case leading us in prayer.



SES training weekend

State Emergency Services (SES) volunteers from the Toowoomba Group were busy during a training weekend ensuring they are all up to speed and ready to deliver support to community when the need arises. The group held a weekend camp where they undertook training and skills maintenance, with a focus on land search and rescue, chainsaw operations and working safely at heights. The weekend allowed our volunteers to gain new skills and improve upon their current skill set in a safe environment. Building on the new skill set development was the final activity, which saw the local controller and senior operational capability officer deliver a session on the flood barrier. Members went hands-on in the scorching heat to construct a section of the flood barrier. This saw them undertaking the training in a very large group and pushed team building to the next level. With these new skills our volunteers could be deployed anywhere around the region or state to support a community at risk.





FAR NORTHERN REGION

QFES supporting Cairns LDCC open day

Recently, the local State Emergency Service (SES) and Rural Fire Service (RFS) Volunteer Community Educators (VCEs) attended the Local Disaster Coordination Centre (LDCC) open day to lend a helping hand. Together, they promoted preparedness information and advice for the continuing bushfire risk and upcoming storm and cyclone season.

The aim of the LDCC open day was to showcase what tasks emergency services perform in a specific-built facility. The Cairns LDCC operates 24-hours a day during extreme weather events and is staffed by council staff and members of the Cairns Local Disaster Management Group (LDMG). This includes representatives from Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), Queensland Police Service, Department of Transport and Main Roads and utility service providers. The LDMG work to support disaster response and recovery operations.



QFES partners with Cairns Migrant Services and welcomes new migrant families

New migrant families from Central Africa, Nepal and Myanmar were recently welcomed to the Cairns region and participated in an information session co-hosted by QFES and Migrant Services Far North Queensland (FNQ).

The partnership between QFES and Cairns Migrant Services FNQ often involves working with small family groups to interpret actions and illustrations about local knowledge of natural hazards, preparedness actions and understanding information and warnings issued by local and state governments.





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NORTHERN REGION

5th annual Guns and Hoses match

The fifth annual Guns and Hoses Emergency Services Annual Cricket fixture was held in Townsville on 20 October. This year the competition expanded to include Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service and Townsville Hospital and Australian Army.

Senior firefighter Scott Dewar said it was a fantastic day with the crowd really getting behind their teams.

“The event raised \$4,000, which has been pledged to the Townsville Hospital Dementia Ward to assist them in providing greater care and resources for patients and families,” Mr Dewar said.



Born to fight fires

Long-time Townsville firefighter Michael Quinlan is about to hand over his helmet after 44 years of service – but he'll still be fighting fires. The 64-year-old Wulguru Station Officer is planning to retire from the Fire and Rescue Service and get straight to work as a volunteer firefighter with the Rural Fire Service (RFS).



Mr Quinlan said, “As strange as it may seem, I’m also in the RFS as well and it’s my way of giving back to the community.”

Mr Quinlan began his career as a 19-year-old, landing a job at Southport Station on the Gold Coast in 1974.

He spent 11 years as a firefighter in the South Coast Brigade and during that time moved to Woodridge, Cleveland and Mt Isa before arriving in Townsville in 1990.

“Surprisingly, the highlights aren’t necessarily the fires, or the jobs that we attended, it’s the people on the job,” Mr Quinlan said.

“We had to rely on each other – the guy standing next to you might be saving you – you just don’t know.”

Through four decades of service, Mr Quinlan has watched firefighting technology and culture change, including a marked increase in the number of female colleagues. Mr Quinlan also said firefighters are today facing new challenges, as new combustible items like lithium ion batteries and solar panels are brought into homes.

Retired Station Officer Quinlan will join the Round Mountain Rural Fire Brigade, right after a trip to Europe with his wife.

Regional Rescue Competition

Northern Region State Emergency Service (SES) recently conducted their Regional Rescue Competition, which was followed by their annual SES Awards in the afternoon.

The rescue competition saw four teams from across the region compete in four events: storm damage, urban search, general rescue and a multiple rescue. The competition was strongly contested with the eventual winning team from Townsville (Team A) ably led by Group Leader Nicole Bradly, just beating Townsville’s second team (Team D) commanded by Senior Field Operator John Forde.

The awards ceremony was well attended with over 80 SES members, guests and families meeting at Pallarenda to recognise the dedication and commitment of the Northern Region SES.

Regional Manager Daryl Camp said, “It was a great day with the region’s members showcasing their skills and being formally recognised for the invaluable work they do on behalf of our communities.”



CENTRAL REGION

Central Queensland stands together at Multi-Faith Dinner

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) members recently attended a Multi-Faith Dinner hosted by Queensland Police Service where 17 different cultures came together in Rockhampton to share a meal and promote connectedness.

Guests were welcomed by the Darumbal people, entertained with African drumming, and listened to stories from four women who talked about their experiences of moving and settling into Central Queensland.



Central Region takes home Minister and Commissioner's Cup at SES Awards

Congratulations to Janette Lindbergs, the Group Leader of Mirani SES Group, who on Saturday 27 October was presented with the Minister's Cup and became the 2018 Member of the Year for Queensland.



In addition, the Mackay SES Unit was presented with the Commissioner's Cup and became the State Unit of the Year for 2018.

Congratulations also to Geoffrey Honnery of Rockhampton SES Group who was a state finalist for SES Trainer of the Year.

This is such a proud moment for Central Region and congratulations to everyone who received awards at the ceremony.



Rockhampton Emergency Services Complex official opening

Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford officially opened the Rockhampton Emergency Services Complex on Monday 19 November with over 80 people attending the ceremony. After the ceremony, a successful workshop was also held on the Volunteerism Strategy Implementation Plan.

The multi-purpose complex includes the Central Region Training Office, Rural Fire Service (RFS) Area Office and the State Emergency Service (SES) Area Office. The complex also houses both the Rockhampton Incident Control Centre which doubles as a training or briefing room, as well as the warehouse that can be used as a deployment centre.

The facility offers state-of-the-art command and control facilities and training, along with video conference capabilities – allowing remote access to meetings, trainings and briefings.



13 new AIIMS functional managers

In November, trainers from Central and Northern Region joined together in Rockhampton to conduct Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System (AIIMS) functional management role training to personnel from Fire and Rescue, RFS and SES in the Central Region.

All three services training together for this course is a first for Central Region. The combined training aimed to build relationships, capability and capacity. Participants were able to collaborate and draw on the wealth of different experiences within the room to run a successful exercise.

The course exercise was conducted in the Regional Operations Centre enabling participants to use firsthand the technology from a real scenario.





NORTH COAST REGION

NCR Get Ready

Get Ready Week (8-14 October) saw many North Coast Region Councils undertake a range of activities to promote community preparedness for the upcoming storm and flood season.

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) in partnership with the Sunshine Coast Councils held a Get Ready launch on 5 October.

A community preparedness event was also held at Alex Headland on 9 October, where council staff, State Emergency Service (SES), Fire and Rescue Service (FRS) and Emergency Management personnel were on hand to provide advice about how households can prepare for extreme weather ahead of the summer storm season.

Displays had example emergency kits and storm, flood and bushfire resources, as well as the chance to show the newly developed smoke alarm display case. The Salvation Army also attended and set up their disaster catering van for a free community sausage sizzle.



Kim Cavell, Sally Bloomfield, Cathy Buck, Chris White, Tom Jamieson.



Youth Leadership Award Nominee Brittany Lea Hewson gets runner up

Members of the North Coast Region Senior Leadership team recently nominated Maryborough Area Acting Brigade Training Support Officer (BTSO) Brittany Lea-Hewson for the Youth Leadership Award at the Women and Firefighting Australasian Conference held in Wellington.

This award recognises young women who have demonstrated strong and consistent leadership and commitment to community safety. Brittany was named the runner up in a highly contested award with nominations from across fire services in Australia and New Zealand.

Brittany's nomination came after years of dedicated commitment to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) across the region as a volunteer and as an acting BTSO at both Caloundra and Maryborough offices.

Brittany consistently approaches tasks with diligence and enthusiasm with a keen interest to develop and grow her skill set. This enthusiasm is very welcome among rural fire brigades when Brittany is working alongside them as a staff member. Congratulations!



Auxiliary Firefighter wins medals at Police and Emergency Services Games

Jimmy Wardell Auxiliary Firefighter Goomeri recently competed at the Police and Emergency Services Games in Western Australia, winning two silver and two gold medals for his shooting prowess - gold (prone and bench rest) and silver (three position and air rifle). Congratulations to Jimmy for the excellent representation for QFES, who was up against tough competition.





Building the next generation of emergency service volunteers

Helping the next generation achieve great things is top priority for Police Citizens Youth Club (PCYC) Queensland Emergency Services Cadets Program Manager Sally Dobromilsky.

Sally Dobromilsky worked an extensive career in youth development before being drawn to the PCYC Emergency Services Cadets program in 2015 due to the strong culture that emanates from the emergency services.

Fast forward three years, Sally is now leading the Emergency Services Cadets program on behalf of Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) and PCYC.

“The Emergency Services Cadets program offers an exceptional opportunity to meld youth development with resilience building, leadership development and volunteerism,” Sally said.

“Cadets learn a diverse range of skills that helps to develop their leadership potential, career pathway and volunteering interests.

“It is truly something special to use my role to advocate for positive, systematic change and celebrate strengths and achievements of the cadets, adult leaders and mentors.”

For Sally, there are so many aspects of her role and the program that provide a great sense of gratification.

“I need an encyclopedia sized book to list all of the things I love about the program,” Sally said.

“The magnificent diversity of the Queensland community and the impact that engagement and a strengths-based program can have on individuals, families and at times entire communities is wonderful.

"I love witnessing the development of cadets as they grasp opportunities with both hands, engage with mentors, develop leadership skills, build confidence, learn emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery skills.

"There is pleasure in supporting cadets to achieve their ambitions.

"And of course, there are plenty of high-five moments.

"I guess to sum it up, I love that the program supports communities and young people achieve great things," Sally said.

The program offers an exceptional opportunity to meld youth development with resilience building, leadership development and volunteerism.

– Sally Dobromilsky

Sally acknowledged the strong support of her two colleagues, program coordinators Nicole Doyle and Rochelle Jenno.

"If you enjoy your job you never work a day in your life and life balances itself so easily when you can see epic wins every day," Sally said.

"This is not to say there aren't challenges. But when they arise, as a team and with our broader team of amazing volunteers, PCYC and QFES executives, we can tackle anything.

"It is my hope that we can extend the program in areas of Queensland which are commonly affected by natural disasters and where opportunities for young people are often limited.

"I'm looking forward to seeing what next year brings," Sally said.



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Men's Health November

November marked a time when all the men who make up Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) were encouraged to celebrate their efforts and check in with their health.

On Monday 19 November we marked International Men's Day by acknowledging the fantastic men who make up our organisation.

QFES Commissioner Katarina Carroll said "Throughout my travels to the regions and in my daily interactions, I am constantly impressed with the men in our organisation.

"Queensland can experience unpredictable structural fires, hazard exposure, flooding, droughts, heatwaves and bushfires - all of which can lead to significant consequences for our communities.

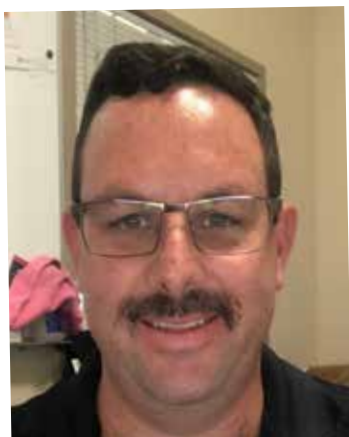
"Time and time again, our QFES men demonstrate - professionalism, hard work,

resilience, leadership and passion and this does not go unnoticed.

"November, which spanned all of November is a wonderful cause where QFES men also sported their best moustaches to raise awareness of prostate cancer, testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.

"I enjoyed seeing the vast array of moustaches around the department. Thank you for the good spirit you displayed in getting involved.

"I encourage all QFES men to be proactive about their health and wellbeing not just in November, but all year round," Ms Carroll said.





WHITE RIBBON DAY

A collage of images taken at a White Ribbon morning tea in Far Northern Region



PENTLAND

Seven SES and one FRS Auxiliary are now trained and qualified to perform road crash rescue following a training course in Pentland



AERIAL APPLIANCE AWARENESS

Leading Aircraftman Troy McDonald completing some Aerial Appliance Awareness training, going up in the bucket of appliance 518 India



PREMIER'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE

QFES Commonwealth Games Project Team at the Premier's Awards for Excellence ceremony



COMBINED EXERCISE

Station Officer Jed Crosby, Leading Aircraftman Conlon O'Donnell-Ritter and Fire Fighters Lathan Scott and Brenton Faggot recently worked shifts together to enhance and promote the interoperability between the two services



MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

On 26 October five QFES firefighters climbed 1504 stairs of the Sydney Tower Eye and helped raise \$4674.95 for Motor Neurone Disease



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Commissioner Carroll recently attended a Remembrance Day ceremony held at the Victoria Barracks



MOVEMBER

Members of Gilston Advancetown RFS showing off their mo's



DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND LOGISTICS.

On 8 November 80 QFES participants attended Exercise Pacwave on the Gold Coast - testing Disaster Management planning and logistics

Bike 4 Burns 2019 is gearing up

Preparations are well underway for Bike for Burns 2019.

The seven-day tour will begin next year on 15 May in Bundaberg and will travel southwards through Biggenden, Goomeri, Nanango, Crows Nest, Clifton and Ipswich, before finishing at the Queensland Children's Hospital in South Brisbane on 21 May.

Bike 4 Burns will be in its 13th year, with cyclists not only enjoying the camaraderie of like-minded pedal enthusiasts but also the satisfaction of raising much-needed funds for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

All money raised from Bike 4 Burns is funnelled directly into burns research and technology. To date, the event has raised \$663,000.

Bike 4 Burns has expanded in recent years, now incorporating Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, Queensland Police Service and Queensland Ambulance Service. If you are interested in joining this wonderful cycling crusade the Bike for Burns 2019 Rider Information and Registration Pack is now available. For further information you can contact Karen Perry on karen.perry@qfes.qld.gov.au

Whether you are an experienced rider, or new to the adventure, everyone is welcome. Registrations close Friday 15 February 2019.



QFES Regional Challenge round up

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) Regional Challenge is now complete, with a QFES donation of \$8,000 to the Children's Hospital Foundation (CHF).

2018 efforts drove a range of events from Kedron BBQs and cake stalls to regional morning teas and community events, and a Bunnings BBQ.

Our challenge winners, State Office, were clearly ahead and all efforts helped bring us closer to funding a vital Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) pump to help the sick children of Queensland.

Emergency Management and Community Capability, including Assistant Commissioner Kevin Walsh, were the highest achieving team within State Office – following a hot and busy day at Bunnings and a successful Albion Halloween cake stall.

Not only did QFES raise funds for the CHF, they were also called on during the Channel Nine Telethon to help fill a gap left by the Australian Army.

With several units on overseas deployment, the CHF were down on the number of soldiers available for the CityBlitz street appeal on Friday 16 November, the day before the telethon.

Our great Roma Street crew and State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers stepped in and helped cover the Brisbane city streets, helping raise \$23,315.

Look out for the 2019 CHF QFES Regional Challenge and let's see if we can beat all records to secure that ECMO pump for these very deserving sick kids.





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