

RESPONSE

RESILIENT AND READY FOR THE PEOPLE OF QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND'S OFFICIAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES MAGAZINE EDITION 27

September fires ravage south-east Queensland

Full wrap-up
inside

CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS

QUEENSLAND BUSHFIRES
A united front

4



R U OK? DAY
Mental health

10



NEW HUMAN RIGHTS ACT
What it means for QFES

12

Human Rights
Respect · protect · promote




ON THE COVER

A bushfire threatens a property at Sarabah on 6 September 2019.

Photo: Craig Reeves, Air Operations Unit.

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

Address: Response magazine, Communications, Engagement and Online Branch, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, GPO Box 1425, Brisbane, QLD, 4001
Editor: Jarryd Luke
 Phone: 07 3635 3314
 Email: Magazine.Editor@qfes.qld.gov.au
Advertising: Martyn Hewett
 Email: mkhewett@bigpond.com
Graphic Design: Dexart Graphic Design
 Email: dexartgraphicdesign@gmail.com

» Bushfire wrap-up	4
» R U OK? Day check-in	10
» QFES' new recruits	11
» Human Rights Act 2019	12
» Taking action on climate change	13
» SES Local Controllers Conference	14
» Grow ya mo for Movember	15
» Blue card deadline fast approaching	17
» Rural Fire Service celebrates 70 years	18
» QFES Open Day	19

AROUND THE STATE

» South Western Region	20
» Far Northern Region	21
» Northern Region	22
» Central Region	23
» North Coast Region	25
» Brisbane Region	26
» South Eastern Region	27

COMMEMORATE

» QFES remembers lives lost on 9/11	28
-------------------------------------	----

REVIEW

» SES Review underway	29
-----------------------	----

SAFETY

» Road safety program saves lives	31
-----------------------------------	----

GALLERY

	32
--	----

SPOTLIGHT

» Get to know A/DC John Bolger	34
--------------------------------	----

FOREWORDS



MIKE WASSING
Acting Commissioner

QUEENSLAND FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), and its partners, united during the **early and devastating start to the bushfire season**. From Stanthorpe to Sarabah and Peregian, firefighters came to battle significant blazes in challenging conditions. Unfortunately, several houses were lost, but we are grateful that there was no loss of life during these very serious incidents.

To all the staff and volunteers who were involved in these fires, and to your family, friends and employers, thank you. I am unbelievably proud of the commitment, teamwork and spirit you showed during these weeks.

Our partners at the Bureau of Meteorology have forecast ongoing dry weather into the summer season, which reinforces the need for continued community engagement and preparedness for potentially more fires to come. This also means we need to be prepared for the risks that brings.

During the bushfires, many staff and volunteers participated in **RU OK? Day** events on 12 September, and there could not be a more apt time to check in with co-workers. Part of what makes QFES a great organisation is the connectedness of staff and volunteers. I encourage you to keep checking in with those around you and follow up with those who need support.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work of everyone involved in organising the **Rural Fire Service's (RFS) 70th anniversary** celebrations around the state. From Far Northern Region to the South West Region, Rural Fire Brigades welcomed community members and past volunteers to mark this special milestone. The RFS is vital to everyone in Queensland, helping to deliver more connected and capable communities.

The Premier recently announced Gregory Leach as the new Commissioner. Mr Leach plans to start in December and brings a wealth of experience to the role. I extend my sincere thanks to all staff and volunteers for your support in my time as Acting Commissioner. I have been honoured to lead such a dedicated and committed organisation. I would also like to thank Acting Deputy Commissioner John Bolger for his outstanding work and leadership through this time.



ADAM STEVENSON
Acting Deputy Commissioner

STRATEGY AND CORPORATE SERVICES

Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES) has once again hit the ground running with a challenging commencement to bushfire season. Fortunately, conditions improved towards the end of last month with reprieve for those responding to incidents. As always, the hard work and dedication displayed by QFES personnel, both on the front line and behind the scenes, is truly commendable. My Executive Leadership Team colleagues and I extend a sincere thanks for the efforts put in by all of our people.

The QFES bushfire safety state-wide advertising campaign 'Are you in the line of fire?' will run to the end of October. The campaign helps to raise awareness of and educate communities on the threat of bushfire and drive action to prepare for the season. This year, we also launched a new bushfire postcode checker, which highlights the areas that have an increased potential for bushfires to take hold, spread and do damage.

The Strategic Content Services team produced the four-part series *Fire Country* for the Rural Fire Service (RFS), which follows the 70-year story of Rural Fire Brigades in Queensland. It is a poignant and reflective review of how the RFS has become a stalwart of Queensland communities. You can view the series on the QFES Facebook page.

The Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Annual Report 2018–19 was tabled in Parliament on 27 September 2019 and is available on the QFES website and Gateway. It highlights the department's significant achievements and outlines the benefits we've delivered to Queensland communities.

And finally, October is Safe Work Month and this year's message is anyone can 'Be a Safety Champion' for work, health and safety. Why not be the safety champion at your workplace? Remember that by working together, we can create a workplace where all QFES members return home safely.



HON CRAIG CRAWFORD
Minister

MINISTER FOR FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

September delivered unprecedented and catastrophic fires across the state.

The response from our staff and volunteers was quite simply remarkable and contributed to the fact there was no loss of life.

As we faced some of the worst bushfires in 130 years, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services (QFES), our partners, and everyday Queenslanders worked together to respond.

Once again, the Queensland spirit shone through and we showed the grit and determination we are known for.

It's important to recognise we didn't do it alone. I extend my sincere thanks to our cousins from New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and New Zealand who came to help in our time of need.

Queenslanders are a resilient bunch and we've learnt to plan for the unexpected. However, we need to educate communities so they are prepared.

We recently did this with the QFES Open Day where over 60 Fire and Rescue stations and Rural Fire stations across the state invited their local communities to come and learn about bushfire preparedness. More than 4500 people attended and this important engagement may just save lives.

As we prepare for the challenges the cyclone, storm and bushfire seasons will present, we know resilience is the key. Our job is to help communities prepare for, respond to and recover from any event.

New Commissioner, Gregory Leach, will lead QFES to do this when he starts the position in December. Mr Leach brings 32 years of emergency response experience and a strong commitment to serving communities. I'd like to extend my thanks to Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing for his leadership and guidance as he's lead QFES through this time.

I know that no matter what the weather throws at us, QFES staff and volunteers will continue to show their dedication and professionalism by working together to protect their communities when they need it most.

Queensland bushfire

During September, historic weather conditions sparked severe bushfires across the state. In the face of adversity, our people, partners and communities rallied together.

When Operation Redux was launched in early August this year, Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing outlined his intentions for the 2019 bushfire season.

QFES' goal would be to support the health and wellbeing of its people and communities, while minimising the impacts and consequences of bushfire.

Just one month after the bushfire season began, the Commissioner's intent would be tested as Queensland experienced historic fire conditions.

A combination of dry vegetation, above-average temperatures and gusty wind led to more than 1800 bushfires threatening communities around the state, particularly in southern Queensland.

Well-populated residential areas, including the Scenic Rim, Stanthorpe and Peregian Springs, experienced severe fire activity.

Conditions were dangerous for firefighters – they battled unpredictable winds, inaccessible terrain and embers travelling up to 2km, often with no reprieve.

In some cases, access to the fires was limited, so aircraft were vital in mapping, waterbombing and protecting properties.

In the face of challenging conditions, our people, partner agencies, councils and communities banded together.

The response to this bushfire event has been an effort of teamwork, resilience and determination.

Throughout operations, staff and volunteers worked on the frontline and in support roles around the clock.

A total of 358 firefighters from interstate and New Zealand were deployed to assist with the fires.

Community warnings were timely and informative, and local residents heeded the advice of QFES and councils – preserving the Operation Redux priority of protecting people.

Commissioner Wassing praised the tremendous efforts of staff and volunteers who worked courageously to protect their communities.

"I am extremely proud of QFES' response in the face of extraordinary fire conditions," Mr Wassing said.

"Whether our people worked on the frontline, behind the scenes, on the other end of a radio, in FireCom, refilling aircraft or anywhere else, they made a difference to the lives of Queenslanders.

"A big thank you also goes out to the families and friends of our people, who supported staff and volunteers through this challenging time."

Community messaging will continue now as the state enters recovery mode and QFES helps those affected by the fires.

This severe fire activity, occurring so early in the bushfire season, is an ominous sign for seasons and years to come.

QFES will continue to plan for more fire activity into the season, and make sure local communities are involved in planning for emergencies.



Fires: a united front

“ I was standing on Woodlands Drive looking to left and right. There were rows of firefighters and Rural Fire Service trucks waiting for the fire to come, the roar of fire, aircraft and choppers overhead.

We were running on adrenaline, but this is what we do. There was this feeling of being part of a strong team, set up and ready.”

- Doonan RFB First Officer Mark Smith at the Peregian fire

“ The air was filled with smoke as the hills glowed with flames. Our SES teams assisted QPS with evacuations. It’s a scary thought for people that they could lose everything, but our teams were there for them.

Through the devastation we showed how resilient our community is. It doesn’t matter which agency you work or volunteer for – when it comes down to helping our communities, everyone pulls together to get the job done. During events like these we show how strong, determined and compassionate our community and emergency services are.”

- Local Controller Scenic Rim SES Unit Danni Bull at the Canungra fire

“ At 10pm the 50km wind change kicked in and the fire turned to chaos. If anyone says they weren’t scared, I’d have to say they’re lying. The fire just roared and seeing how fast it moved was incredible.

We tried to protect as many buildings as we could. We staged ourselves in front of a service station – the last thing Stanthorpe needed was a big explosion.

This was one of the biggest fires I’ve seen in my career – it was like the perfect storm of drought, fuel load and wind. Fire season seems to be arriving earlier every year.”

- South Western Region Izone Officer Shane Brown at the Stanthorpe fire

How it unfolded

» Tuesday 3 September

- Severe fire conditions are forecast for the South East Coast, Darling Downs and Granite Belt districts.
- Fresh south-westerly winds bring a warm and dry airmass to the southeast of Queensland, with fire dangers increasing during the morning.
- The bushfire at Canungra/Sarabah has already been burning since Saturday 31 August.

» Wednesday 4 September

- The severe Fire Weather Warning extends to Maranoa and Warrego and looks set to increase to extreme later in the week.
- The Sarabah fire flares up and residents are told to prepare to leave.

» Thursday 5 September

- The State Operations Centre is at *Heightened Staffing Levels* due to Operation Redux.
- The State Disaster Coordination Centre (SDCC) is activated to *Lean Forward*.
- The severe Fire Weather Warning spreads to further parts of the state.
- QFES Media issues nearly 40 warnings for fires across the state.
- Some properties and structures are damaged and a house at Biboohra is lost.

» Friday 6 September

- The first fire at Stanthorpe is reported to QFES at 2.35pm.
- Fire bans are put in place across the state.
- Air operations begin, with 22 aircraft on standby for immediate response.

» Saturday 7 September

- The highest-level bushfire warning – Emergency Warning Catastrophic – is issued for the Stanthorpe fire. Residents are advised to “seek shelter immediately” as of 3am.



Backburning on Rowe Road at the start of the Sarabah fire. Photo by Cam Neville / Cavan Images.



Binna Burra Lodge before and after the fire.



Smoke carried over large areas of Queensland.



A koala narrowly escaped the fires in the Gold Coast Hinterland. Photo by Lee James.



Binna Burra Road on the morning of 8 September.

- QFES Media issues nearly 100 warnings for fires around the state.
- Several local and district disaster management groups are activated in response to dangerous fires around southern Queensland.
- The SDCC is activated to *Stand Up*.

» Sunday 8 September

- The Sarabah fire is formally declared a disaster.
- The iconic Binna Burra Lodge is destroyed.
- More than 3600 hectares are burnt in the Sarabah incident, and around 2000 hectares are burnt in the Stanthorpe fire.
- Twenty-seven aircraft are available for tasking, including water bombing and mapping.
- Three evacuation centres open at Warwick, Stanthorpe and Canungra.
- State schools in bushfire-affected areas are declared closed.

» Monday 9 September

- Around 80 fires continue to burn across Queensland.
- The Bushfire Current Incidents page receives more than 350 000 views in 24 hours.
- The Stanthorpe-Applethorpe fire is contained.
- The first fire at Peregian Springs is reported to QFES at 4.21pm.
- Nearly 50 structures are confirmed as damaged or destroyed across the state.

» Tuesday 10 September

- Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing emails all staff to confirm support of operational activity is the priority for all business areas.
- More than 200 vehicles, 29 aircraft and 500 firefighters continue to fight fires in difficult conditions.
- In Sarabah alone, aircraft drop 500 000 litres of water and suppressant to stop the spread of fire.
- The Queensland Police Service establishes Taskforce Overcross to investigate suspiciously lit bushfires.

» Wednesday 11 September

- Nearly 80 fires continue to burn around the state.
- Around 400 damage assessments have been completed.
- Peregian Springs residents are allowed to return to their homes.
- The SDCC is scaled back to *Lean Forward*.

» Thurs 12 – Sat 14 September

- All state schools and early childhood education centres are re-opened.
- All warnings drop to Advice level or below.



The fire raged at Peregian.



Waterbombing at the Peregian fire.



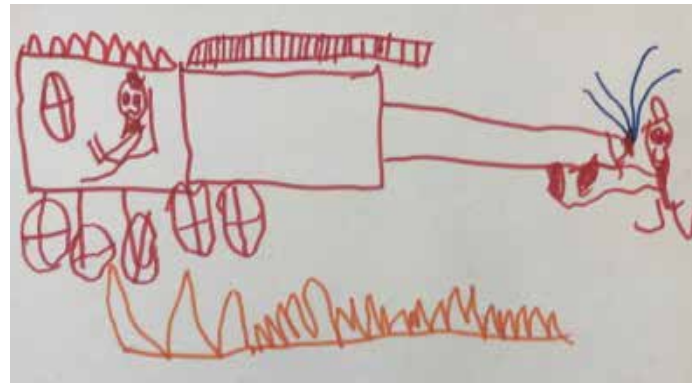
FRS at the Binna Burra fire.



Assistant Commissioner North Coast Region Gary McCormack delivers a briefing at Peregian.

» Sun 15 – Mon 16 September

- The number of active bushfires drops below 50.
- Bushfires have scorched an estimated 55 000 hectares state-wide.
- More than 30 fire trucks and aircraft continue to battle the Sarabah bushfire, alongside an additional strike team of 57 personnel from South Australia.
- There are still more than 150 interstate personnel working across the state.



Children from across the state wrote messages of support to firefighters.



RFS trucks lined up at Peregian.



On the frontline at Binna Burra.



RFS volunteers at Sarabah.

» **Tues 17 – Wed 18 September**

- The number of active fires drops to below 40.
- The Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford announces an Inspector-General Emergency Management (IGEM) review into bushfires.
- Dry lightning ignites some fires.
- During the bushfire event, there have been 30 Emergency Alerts and more than 130 requests for support from SES.

Figures based on daily operational updates.



SES volunteers from Beaudesert beefed up Sarabah farmers' hay supplies after their paddocks were burnt.



QFES staff and volunteers in Cairns shared the love on R U OK? Day.

Checking in on mental health

This year's R U OK? Day at QFES was our biggest yet, with about 20 events held across the state even as major bushfire responses were underway.

QFES members not only managed significant challenges this bushfire season, but took the time to look after themselves and their mates.

The R U OK? events on 12 September gave people the chance to connect with others by asking each other "Are you OK?"

QFES Manager Clinical Services and Organisational Development Dr Bernie Scully said the workforce were increasingly breaking down the stigma around mental health.

"The resilience of our people is one of our top priorities, particularly at this time of year when we're battling disasters," Dr Scully said.

"As first responders, our workforce are prepared for stressful experiences to be a normal part of their roles, but it's important for them to remember that it's also normal to experience depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions from time to time.

"Suicide is a major challenge for Australians. We are doing everything we can for our people, from prevention to active support for those who are struggling."

At the R U OK? Day morning tea at the Kedron Emergency Services Complex, Queensland Police Service (QPS) Acting Deputy Commissioner Brian Codd spoke about how the stresses of being a first responder had affected him and his colleagues.

His passionate address highlighted how simple conversations can change someone's life.

"In a lot of cases our people don't get the support they need because of stigma. They



QPS Acting Deputy Commissioner Brian Codd encouraged QFES members to look out for one another.

worry what others might think or even what they might think of themselves," Dr Scully said.

R U OK's mission is to inspire and empower everyone to meaningfully connect with people.

"People often choose to work with QFES because they want to help the community in tough times. R U OK? Day reminds us that it's important to help each other too.

"By asking R U OK? we not only break down stigma but strengthen the bond between us."

If you or someone you know needs support, all QFES members and their families can contact professional counsellors or a Peer Support Officer through the Fire & Emergency Services Support Network (FESSN).

Where to get help

Visit the FESSN website (qfes.qld.gov.au/FESSN) for counselling, peer support or resources or call 1300 309 508

Call Lifeline for crisis support on 13 11 14, or if life is in danger call 000

ruok.org.au/how-to-ask

blackdoginstitute.org.au

beyondblue.org.au



New firefighters welcomed into the QFES ranks

Following three months of intensive training, QFES' new recruits will be a fresh boost to frontline firefighting services.

Twenty-nine new firefighters from Recruit Course 106 earned their helmets last month as they graduated at the Queensland Combined Emergency Services Academy.

As part of their training, they completed several specialist units, including live fire behaviour training, wildfire training, road crash rescue, technical rescue and training in hazardous materials management.

Firefighters were presented with a Public Safety Certificate II in Firefighting and Emergency Operations.

Recruit Samuel Dwyer said he enjoyed the teamwork aspect of the course.

“One of the best experiences was the team atmosphere – all recruits coming together, as well as the instructors, who are very dedicated to ensuring we have the necessary skills to graduate,” Mr Dwyer said.

“It’s a very proud achievement and something we’ve worked through together as a team, to ensure we’re all well equipped to serve the community.

“I’ve previously worked in emergency management, and I was a primary school teacher before that, but I’m looking forward to assisting the community when they are impacted by fire and other emergency events.”

Assistant Commissioner Stephen Smith said the course prepared recruits to work hand-in-hand with the community during disasters.

“As firefighters, they will be called on for a wide range of jobs, including road crash rescue, structure fires, community education and management of hazardous materials,” Mr Smith said.

“With their extensive training they will be well-equipped to handle the varied roles of a modern firefighter.

“We are extremely proud of their efforts and know they will do a fantastic job growing connected and capable communities.”

QFES’ graduates will continue their studies over the next two years, completing a Public Safety Certificate III in Firefighting and Emergency Operations and a Public Safety Certificate III in Community Safety.



QFES Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing congratulated the new recruits.



Getting familiar with the new *Human Rights Act 2019*

From 1 January 2020, Queensland's Human Rights Act will come into effect. We spoke with Chief Superintendent Megan Stiffler, chair of QFES' Human Rights Working Group, about the Act and what it means for QFES.

Response Magazine (RM): Can you tell us a bit about what human rights are and why we need a Human Rights Act?

Megan Stiffler (MS): Human rights protect your fundamental freedoms, equality and human dignity.

Human rights belong to everyone regardless of your background, what you look like, what you think, what you believe or any other status or characteristic.

Basically, everyone has the same human rights and is entitled to have their human rights protected, without discrimination.

At the moment in Queensland some human rights are reflected in legislation and others are recognised common law rights. The *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) (the Act) provides more complete protection for all Queenslanders by consolidating and establishing statutory protections for human rights recognised under international law.

Under the Act all public entities, including government agencies and public service employees, must consider human rights when they are making decisions that affect individuals in Queensland.

RM: What does the Act mean for QFES paid staff and volunteers? How will it affect the way they work?

MS: All decision makers (operational and administrative) must make good decisions with consideration to the 23 human rights under the Act. Those decisions must consider the impact on human rights and ensure decisions are reasonable and proportionate (with as little impact as possible).

There are a few common scenarios that we might face in operations. Say, for example, we've blocked access to a road when there is a fire in the area. This action could be seen as limiting someone's *Freedom of movement* (section 19). Or we direct people who may have been exposed to a toxic substance to go through decontamination. This may also affect their *Freedom of movement* as well as potentially their *Cultural rights* (section 27) if they're being asked to remove a culturally significant piece of clothing or their right to *Privacy and reputation* (section 25). It depends on the action required for decontamination.

But it's important to remember that one human right – such as the *Right to life* (section 16) which requires us to take steps to protect individuals' lives – may need to be balanced against other rights, for example *Freedom of movement*.

You should consider whether the benefits of limiting a person's human rights outweigh the harm caused to other human rights. And if there is another way to achieve your purpose without limiting a person's human rights as much. For example, the benefit of restricting a person from entering a fire zone (protecting their life and possibly the lives of QFES staff and volunteers) may outweigh the harm done to their *Freedom of movement*.



RM: What should our staff and volunteers do to get ready for the 1 January introduction of the Act?

MS: The most important thing to do is to get familiar with the human rights in the Act and how they apply to your work. Once you know more about the human rights you, or your team, can create a list of times in your work when you'll need to consider human rights.

I'd also recommend everyone read about human rights at the Queensland Government website for employees: forgov.qld.gov.au/humanrights

You can also find out more through the QFES Gateway.

QFES is preparing to Respect, Protect and Promote human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019.

Human rights can only be limited if a law or regulation allows it. When human rights are limited, those limitations must be justified and reasonable. Section 13(2) of the Act shows us how to decide if a limitation is reasonable in the circumstances.

The modern idea of human rights is based on the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. The UDHR was the first time countries, including Australia, agreed on a comprehensive statement of human rights to be enjoyed by all people. Since the UDHR, Australia has ratified many human rights treaties, accepting legal obligations under international law.

Climate change action

QFES is rising to the challenge of climate change and getting involved in action with state and interstate partners.

With lengthening bushfire seasons and more extreme weather events, QFES is taking steps to tackle these impacts of climate change.

Following the establishment of a working group on climate change in April 2018, QFES developed the Climate Change Position Paper to guide action to transition and adapt to a changing climate. The position paper is available on the QFES website and Gateway.

QFES has contributed to the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Climate Change Group and the development of an AFAC position paper, alongside jurisdictional fire and emergency services and key national agencies such as the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), CSIRO and Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC). QFES recently presented on a number of climate change related topics at the AFAC19 Conference.

The QFES Predictive Services Unit is continuing to monitor the changing climate and Inspector Andrew Sturgess said recent bushfires were examples of what to expect.

“The year to 31 August 2019 saw the highest on-record maximum temperatures and very much below average rainfall for some parts of the state,” Mr Sturgess said.

“September has seen below average rainfall for almost the entire state with very much below average rainfall in southern parts and, consequently, soil moisture in South Eastern parts are very much below average, and for large areas are the lowest on record.”

QFES led the development of an Emergency Management Sector Adaptation Plan for

climate change and is now progressing its implementation with the sector.

Acting Deputy Commissioner Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience John Bolger said consistent with QFES Strategy 2030, the department is working with its partners to build and share knowledge such as the development of the 2019 State Heatwave Risk Assessment, and a Severe Winds Hazard Assessment which is underway.

“We need to accept the climate is changing and Queenslanders could now be faced with earlier and more widespread emergencies each year,” Mr Bolger said.

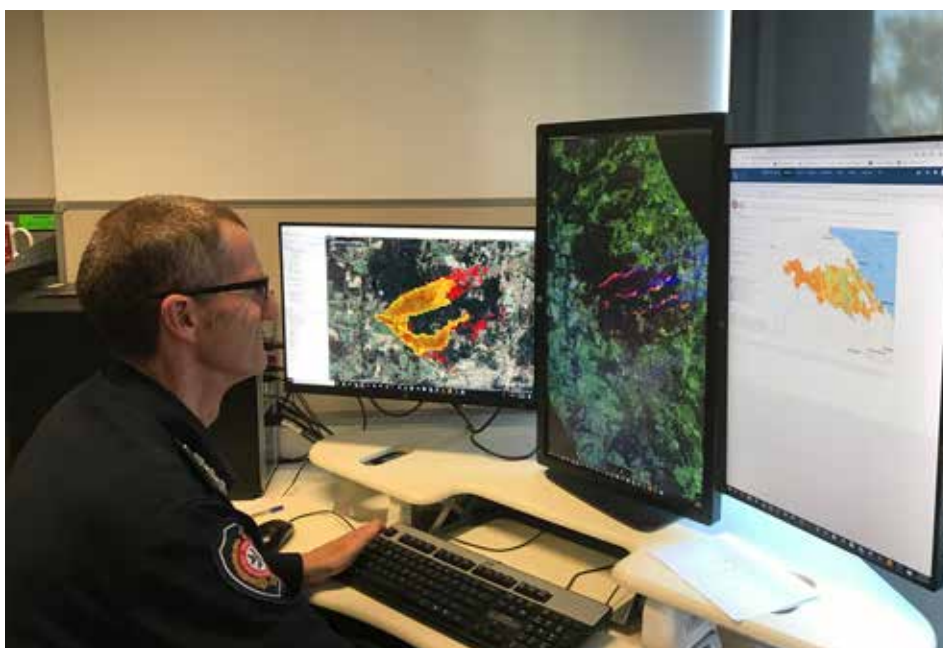
“QFES is also engaged in other state government initiatives including in its role as a core partner of the Queensland

Climate Ready Program facilitated by Griffith University.”

“During October 2019, QFES will present at the Queensland Government Climate Risk Symposium to share the work that the department has been doing to analyse the complexities of climate change related risks and in developing an action plan.

“QFES has also been invited to present to a Climate Change Symposium at the University of the Sunshine Coast in the same month.

“QFES will continue to lead climate change action, recognising that better decisions on climate change now, will improve its ability to deliver the right services in the right locations for Queenslanders well into the future,” Mr Bolger said.



Inspector Andrew Sturgess led the Predictive Services Unit that conducted analysis and provided critical intelligence during the September fires.



SES leaders discuss strategy

Last month, leaders of the State Emergency Service (SES) joined together to discuss projects and initiatives underway across Queensland.

The SES Local Controllers Conference is a biennial event that brings together all local controllers, along with other SES stakeholders.

This year, the conference theme was “Engaging with Purpose” and some of the key priorities for discussion included leadership, management and training of SES members state wide.

SES Assistant Commissioner Andrew Short said open discussion of key strategic issues that will affect the service into the future was important.

“Having our local controllers come together was a great chance to debate issues and challenges and put forward ideas on ways to improve our service,” Mr Short said.

“It was fantastic to see SES members from around the state all in the same room, sharing and learning from one another’s local perspectives and experiences.”

Some of the topics discussed at the conference included the SES

Review (read more on page 29), training, SES communications upgrade and lessons identified during the Townsville monsoon.

“Earlier this year, Townsville was at the centre of an extreme weather event,” Mr Short said.

“Our SES volunteers are instrumental in building community resilience and the monsoon was a perfect example of our volunteers being called on.

“It was a fitting occasion to be back in Townsville, where volunteers did such a fantastic job helping locals prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster.

“Having our local controllers come together was important for reflecting on what we did well and what we can do better.

“Each local controller does a fantastic job making sure our SES volunteers are ready and raring to go in an emergency.”

SES local controllers play a key role working with both state and local government to coordinate SES groups and volunteers.



Director State Coordination Brian Cox addressed SES members.



Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing tested out a drone simulation.



Get movin' this Movember

Sign up to become a Mo Bro or Mo Sista this Movember and help raise money and awareness for men's health.

Each November, the Movember Foundation is responsible for moustaches appearing on thousands of men's faces around the world, including on faces right across QFES resulting in moes ranging from spectacular to dubious.

More than a fashion statement or throw back to the 1980s, the aim of growing a moustache for Movember is to raise funds and awareness for men's health, specifically men's cancers and mental health.

QFES Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing said the Movember cause was fully supported by the department.

"We know that men experience worse longer-term health than women and die on average six years earlier," Mr Wassing said.

"Prostate cancer rates are expected to double in the next 15 years, testicular

cancer rates have already doubled in the past 50 years and poor mental health leads to many men taking their lives each year.

"QFES supports the mission and values of Movember and I encourage staff and volunteers to get involved in this great men's health campaign, whether you grow a moustache and have those conversations, or support someone who is."

QFES Health and Wellbeing Acting Executive Manager Tabatha Christie said men should take the opportunity during the month of November to be proactive about their health and make an appointment with their doctor for a check-up.

"Movember is a great time for the men at QFES to take charge of their health and wellbeing, and to encourage men around them to do the same," Ms Christie said.

"Your doctor may perform or request screening tests, which may help to detect many diseases such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes and some cancers in their early stages because early detection is the most important factor for the best health outcomes."

Fire and Emergency Services Support Network (FESSN) Clinical Services and Organisational Development Manager, Dr Bernie Scully, also encouraged the men of QFES to focus on stress management.

"Do more of the things that make you feel uplifted and help you to de-stress, and share how you are feeling with your family, friends and work colleagues, and consider professional assistance from the FESSN to discuss any concerns that you may have," Dr Scully said.



Deputy Commissioner Mark Roche and Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing modeling some ideal moes.

How to get involved:

- Register on the QFES Movember challenge page at monetwork.co/qfes
- Start 1 November clean-shaven
- For the rest of the month, groom, trim and wax your moustache
- Have conversations about men's health issues
- Sponsor a Mo Bro – or two
- And for the follicle challenged and Mo Sistas, you can buy gear from the Movember online shop.
- Send a picture of your moustache to corporate.comms@qfes.qld.gov.au

Operational personnel will need to consider the Standing Order SO-Q-OM 2.2 SCBA Safety – Facial Hair Standards V4 before participating.



Movember

Changing the Face of Men's Health

IT FEELS
GOOD
TO BE
ETHICAL



2019 | **WORLD'S MOST**™
ETHICAL
COMPANIES®
WWW.ETHISPHERE.COM

Globally, 128 companies were named as a 2019 World's Most Ethical Company¹, including 5 banks.

And we're one of them for the 2nd year in a row!

Find out more[^]
fmbank.com.au or call **1800 800 225**



Firefighters
Mutual Bank

Serving those who protect

[^]Membership is open to citizens or permanent residents of Australia who are current or retired employees of the Australian education sector or family members of members of the Bank. ¹The Ethisphere Institute is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practice. The World's Most Ethical Company assessment is based upon the Ethisphere Institute's Ethics Quotient (EQ) framework and honours superior achievements in transparency, integrity, ethics and compliance. World's Most Ethical Companies and 'Ethisphere' names and marks are registered trade marks of Ethisphere LLL. Firefighters Mutual Bank is a division of Teachers Mutual Bank Ltd, one of the 2019 World's Most Ethical Companies®. TMBL has been named a World's Most Ethical Company from 2014–2019 and includes Firefighters Mutual Bank 2018 and 2019. www.ethisphere.com Firefighters Mutual Bank is a division of Teachers Mutual Bank Limited ABN 30 087 650 459 AFSL/Australian Credit Licence 238981 00711P-CSR-FMB-0619-WME-A4-RES

QFES signs up to protect children

QFES staff and volunteers are confirming their dedication to protecting children by signing up for a blue card.

Contributing to a safer Queensland is at the heart of everything QFES does, which is why we are confirming our commitment to protecting children by implementing the Blue Card System requirements.

The *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* requires certain staff and volunteers, working in the 'health, counselling and support services' category of regulated employment, to hold a current blue card.

QFES Acting Commissioner Mike Wassing said protecting the most vulnerable members of our community was the priority.

"The Queensland public looks to us to protect them, no matter what their age," Mr Wassing said.

"This is particularly important for children who cannot speak for themselves.

"QFES staff and volunteers work tirelessly to protect their community, and in doing so, have the opportunity to come into contact with children, whether it's in an emergency situation or community event.

"Parents, and the public, have the expectation their children are in safe hands, so holding a blue card provides them with that reassurance."

The QFES Blue Card Hub is processing hundreds of applications daily as the 1 December 2019 deadline approaches.

"Approximately 33,000 staff and volunteers require a current blue card so we have a huge undertaking to get everyone registered," Mr Wassing said.

"Affected staff and volunteers will require a current blue card to continue performing their role so this is something we are taking very seriously.



"The thing that unites us as QFES is our dedication to protecting and serving the community, so this requirement is a simply an extension of that.

"We do it, no matter what is expected of us, so it's great to see so many people recognise the importance of this and have already completed their application or received their blue cards.

"I encourage any staff or volunteers, yet to submit their application form, to do so before the 1 December 2019 deadline."

Application forms and information are available on the Gateway or contact QFES.Bluecard@qfes.qld.gov.au





An amazing 70 years of the RFS

Queensland’s volunteer firefighters have spent seven decades helping Queensland communities. This Rural Fire Service (RFS) Week, QFES celebrated some of the service’s hardest working volunteers.

As part of its annual RFS Week, this year the RFS also celebrated its 70th anniversary.

The significant milestone was an opportunity to recognise the important role RFS volunteers play in Queensland communities and look back on their achievements since 1949.

In a special ceremony at the Emergency Services Complex in Kedron, two inaugural awards were presented to volunteers, including the RFS Regional Volunteer of the Year and the Assistant Commissioner State Volunteer of the Year.

Meet some of Queensland’s RFS Week award recipients:

Assistant Commissioner State Volunteer of the Year: Cameron Young, Gladfield Maryvale Rural Fire Brigade

I really enjoy my time with the RFS. It gives me a great sense of value and feeling of achievement. What we do is important.

But I couldn’t do any of this without the fantastic people who make up my local brigade – past and present. It is these people, their commitment, enthusiasm and selflessness that allow the brigade to work so well.

Brisbane Region award winner: Noel Walker, Lamb Island Rural Fire Brigade

It’s really great to be part of something that has gone on for so long and helped so many rural communities.

As a volunteer, you know the community recognises how essential you are and that gives you the motivation to train as hard as you can and make sure you’ve got the best facilities.

South Eastern Region award winner: David Stephens, Coominya Rural Fire Brigade

It’s a reflection of the whole brigade. We all work as one and provide response to all kinds of jobs, including bushfires, structure fires and road crashes.

It’s a good feeling to know you’re doing your part and this award means the community recognises how well we work and respond to emergencies.





Community spirit shines at Open Day

With the theme of “Stronger Together”, the QFES Open Day was a chance to engage with the community and help them be more prepared this bushfire season.

On Saturday 28 September, more than 60 Fire and Rescue stations and Rural Fire Service stations across the state opened their doors to the public for the Open Day.

Many people took the opportunity to thank QFES members for their efforts fighting the recent bushfires.

Rockhampton Station Officer Ian Shuker said his crew enjoyed chatting with about 100 visitors.

“Community members had lots of questions for us, from smoke alarm information to

operational capabilities and response procedures,” Mr Shuker said.

“They expressed tremendous support for the work QFES does in responding to emergency events.

“People were even more appreciative after they saw the full range of equipment on our appliances and understood the variety of jobs we respond to.”

Mr Shuker said the region had a relatively low population within a large response area, so there was a strong need for

volunteers. Most people had a family member or friend within a brigade.

“Many people were interested in the interoperability between the services that compose QFES.

“Increased community capability is at the forefront of our organisation at present because of Strategy 2030 and the Community Insights Survey.

“At the Open Day, we provided our community with information and tools they can use to maintain awareness and preparedness into the future.”



Community members tried on Personal Protective Clothing at Beaudesert Fire and Rescue Station.



The crew at Jimboomba Fire and Rescue Station.



Trying out the firehose.



Roma Fire and Rescue Station welcomed their local community with open arms.



Touring the appliances at Brassall Fire and Rescue Station.



Jimboomba Fire and Rescue Station and Woodhill Rural Fire Brigade getting ready for the QFES Open Day.



SOUTH WESTERN REGION

Rescue on Mount Mitchell

Emergency services responded to a rescue near the 1174m peak of Mount Mitchell on Friday 16 August. Personnel from Warwick 321A, Bundamba 643L crew, SES Warwick, Ian Hodgson National Parks and Wildlife, Rescue 500 and RACQ Rescue attended the scene.

The rescuers hiked for more than an hour to reach a young man trapped on a ledge about 25 metres below the mountain's peak. The only thing that had stopped him from falling was a clump of trees and shrubs.

The rescuers originally considered an airlift, but the helicopters couldn't get close enough because of the trees. Senior Firefighter Brett Farrell, Station Officer Brad Wilson and Senior Firefighter Scott Heapy did an incredible job bringing the patient all the way to the top of the mountain so he could be airlifted.



A warm welcome

QFES and the Queensland Police Service welcomed 40 community members, originally from Iraq, to their quarterly morning tea on 16 August, co-hosted with the Multicultural Development Association (MDA). All three organisations share a vision in welcoming migrants and refugees to the region.

One family in attendance, the Khalaf family, had fled ISIS capture in Shingal, Iraq and temporary accommodation in a refugee camp in Turkey. Marwan Khalaf said he was excited to be in Toowoomba with his family after their long journey around the globe.



QFES has a proud record of breaking down barriers for migrants and educating them on how emergency services operate in their region. It can be a complex task as many of these people come from war-torn areas where authority figures are feared.

Inspector Eddie Lacko spoke about how the emergency services worked together to assist the community.

"It's about making connections and letting them know emergency services are here to help them," Mr Lacko said.



Green energy recognition

On Friday 8 August, members of the Rural Fire Service Toowoomba and Southern Downs Local Area Finance Committees (LAFCS) won the sustainability category in the 2019 Commissioner's Awards for Excellence.

The groups have worked hard over the past three years to install solar systems on every brigade station in their areas. The systems generate at least 80 per cent of their power and allow the brigades to monitor how much power they generate and consume and how much money they save each month.

At the awards ceremony in Brisbane, the groups were congratulated on their progressive thinking and ongoing commitment to sustainability.





FAR NORTHERN REGION

Cairns wears it purple

QFES and the Queensland Police Service held a free barbeque for the community of Cairns for Wear it Purple Day in late August.

Wear it Purple Day is all about celebrating and supporting LGBTIQ+ young people.

QFES provided a platform to raise community awareness and let young people know they are not alone and have the right to be proud of who they are.

From purple shirts and ties to hair ribbons, plenty of purple was on display in the Far Northern Regional Office.



New trailers for the Tablelands

Two Rural Fire Service Field Catering Trailers have been issued to the Clohesy Group and Tableland Lakes Group in Far Northern Region to support their crews' welfare.

The trailers are affectionally known as 'Cookie Vans' after their inventor, retired Group Officer Neil Cook. They provide initial crew welfare until a more sustainable alternative can be organised.

Developed by a Queensland supplier, the trailers are equipped with heavy-duty off-road tyres and suspension, drawer bar stone deflector, slide-out BBQ, car fridge, esky, internal and external lighting and side awnings. The units are fitted with solar panels and a 240v inlet and smart charger, along with a stainless-steel food preparation area and 70 litres of water storage.

Designed with off road capabilities, the trailers' cabs can be used for operational and training activities where crew welfare is required, including remote firefighting, search and rescue operations and protracted mitigation activities.

Students tour station

Cairns Fire Station gave Year 7 and 8 boys from Bentley Park College a glimpse into the life of a firefighter this August.

Firefighters of A Shift – Stephanie, Kevin and Byron – showed the boys around the station and demonstrated how they use trucks and equipment for search and rescue.

The boys took turns sitting in the fire trucks, wearing safety equipment and handling the firehoses. In the road crash training area, they watched training scenarios for vehicle accidents.

To cap things off, the boys climbed into the confined spaces tunnels and crawled through an obstacle course.





NORTHERN REGION

Smiles at South Townsville Station

Endeavour House Townsville thoroughly enjoyed a visit to their local Fire and Rescue Station in August.

C Shift South Townsville Station along with the QFES Northern Region Community Engagement Officer Paul Cannon provided a home fire safety presentation. The highlight of the visit for the clients was when they got to spray water from the firehose.



Multicultural month

The Townsville TAFE Adult Migrant English Program recently supported QFES to promote home fire safety during Multicultural Month.

More than 120 migrants from countries such as Rwanda, Somalia, Bhutan and the Congo visited Pimlico TAFE for a fire safety program.

Working with interpreters from the Townsville Multicultural Support Group (TMSG), firefighters delivered home fire safety information to help people improve their English language skills and learn how to keep themselves and their families safe.



Defence Force collaboration

In the spirit of collaboration, local Defence Force assets seized on a valuable training opportunity to support QFES during recent heightened fire conditions in the Northern Region.

Soldiers from 3rd Combat Engineer Regiment, 25 Support Squadron provided an appliance and crew to undertake joint training and work with QFES firefighters.

Station Officer Corrie Benson said the army crews were very receptive to the training on wildfire management and performed commendably when they put the training into action at one of the fires.





CENTRAL REGION

Preparing for emergencies together

Central Region ran a multi-agency Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) course recently in Rockhampton. The 16-hour course gave the Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), Rural Fire Service (RFS), Queensland Police Service and Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service the chance to learn alongside each other to enhance outcomes when they work together operationally during major events.

Co-presented by FRS and RFS trainers, the course helped the organisations form relationships and fill gaps when running an emergency or other multi-agency event. Further courses are planned for the region.



R U OK? Day breakfast

Mental health is vital for first responders' welfare, so the Mackay and Whitsunday Zone Office recently hosted a barbeque breakfast for QFES, Queensland Ambulance Service and Queensland Police Service staff at North Mackay Fire and Rescue Station on R U OK? Day.

The breakfast was a great opportunity for staff from all agencies to come together for an informal catch up with colleagues and ask the important question, "R U OK?"

A big thank you to Senior Firefighter Stephen Hughes who took the lead when the contract chef was tied up with the Mount Archer Fires in Rockhampton.



Photo credit: Carla Adams



Operation Water Rats

More than 68 State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers and Emergency Services personnel from across the state joined in the annual Operation Water Rats at Fairbairn Dam on August 9-11. The event ensures SES crews can take on anything thrown at them.

Acting Emerald Group Leader Sue Juett gave the official welcome, followed by the naming of the Gemfields flood boat in honour of Arthur Gorlick "Uncle Arthur", a valued SES member who passed away on 27 June 2019.

Activities on Saturday included flood boat operations combining water and land scenarios, and a team rescue challenge requiring teams to transport a stretcher around obstacles and rough terrain.

On Saturday night, Gladstone Water Police with permission from Maritime Safety Queensland ran an emergency flare demonstration. Flood boat operators were put through their paces on Sunday when they completed their annual re-accreditation.





MORE THAN *JUST* FIREFIGHTING GLOVES

TITAN PBI®
STRUCTURAL
FIREFIGHTING
GLOVES



STRUCTURAL
FIREFIGHTING



AS/NZS
2161.6:2014



GORE®
CROSSTECH®



OPTIMUM
DEXTERITY



SUPERIOR
WASH COUNT



QUICK
DRY

PACFIRE

☎ 1300 731 800 @ sales@pacfire.com.au

WWW.PACFIRE.COM.AU   



NORTH COAST REGION



Glass House Mountains Rural Fire Brigade turns 70

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the Rural Fire Service in Queensland. As the state's first registered brigade, Glass House Mountains celebrated their 70th anniversary on June 30, holding a celebration with a long list of dignitaries and invited guests.

The official ceremony included a brief history of the brigade, a cake cutting ceremony, medal presentations to local volunteers and some new appliance handovers. The cake was cut by the Member for Bancroft Chris Whiting representing the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford. He was assisted by two of the longest serving Glass House Mountains volunteers, Charles Pike and David Gower, who joined up during the disastrous 1994 fires.

Woolooga fire community meeting

A community meeting was held at the Woolooga hall in August to start a discussion with the community a year after a fire event that affected their local area and households. Participants received information about fire management, vegetation and bushfire preparedness.

The evening was conducted by SEQ Fire and Biodiversity Consortium. About 50 community members attended, along with Gympie Regional Council staff and Rural Fire Service A/Area Director Ross Stacey and Regional Community Engagement Officer Julie Bruynius.

www.qfes.qld.gov.au | 13 QGOV (13 74 68)

Hervey Bay SES and Torquay Fire Station share knowledge

On September 19, Hervey Bay State Emergency Service (SES) members had no idea what to expect when they arrived at the Torquay Fire Station for a familiarisation evening. But the knowledge and experience they left with was nothing short of eye opening.

Station Officer Scott Castree and his crew were very welcoming to the 15 SES members. The crew demonstrated how to use Personal Protective Equipment on the appliances and encouraged the SES members to use breathing apparatus tanks and thermal imaging cameras.

Both services asked some great questions and the SES group spent more than two hours looking, listening, trying out and discussing FRS duties and equipment. Station Officer Castree and his crew have invited the group back for a more practical evening. Planning for a casualty handling and extraction exercise is in the making.



Prescribed burning workshop

A Burning for Outcomes workshop was held in Bundaberg this July, in response to concerns about the disappearing knowledge on how to plan and conduct prescribed burning within Rural Fire Brigades in the peri-urban zones and growing rural residential areas of the North Coast Region.

Participants visited three sites in the bush to discuss the impact of fire, changes in the vegetation structure and dominant species. They then split into groups to develop prescriptions for a hazard reduction burn and an environmental management prescribed burn.

A series of workshops is in the works for North Coast Rural Fire Service volunteers and staff from the beginning of Operation Cool Burn in 2020.





BRISBANE REGION

Stradbroke rescue exercise

A multi-agency exercise was held on North Stradbroke Island (Minjeerabah) on 14 September. About 25 Fire and Rescue Service (FRS), State Emergency Service (SES), Queensland Ambulance Service and Surf Life Saving Australia staff tested their joint ability to rescue someone who has fallen down a cliff face in a busy public area.

The exercise was a great success with all agencies playing a part. It also supported recruiting activities for the FRS and SES, with assistance from a member of the QFES Talent Acquisition team. Several people submitted their interest to become auxiliary firefighters on the island.

Staff enjoyed a debrief after the event at a barbeque catered for by the Salvation Army. This is the second exercise of this type since the permanent Station Officer was placed on North Stradbroke and it will be continued as an annual event.



Connecting with the community at the Ekka

Staff and volunteers from across QFES connected with the Queensland community at Brisbane's Ekka in August.

The focus of the QFES stand in the Queensland Government Precinct was to help people prepare for their next emergency. Consistent with the precinct theme of Year of Outback Travel, QFES members also provided information on safe travel and holidays.

R U OK? comes to Wynnum

On 12 September, Wynnum Fire Station in the Southern Zone hosted an "R U OK?" barbeque catered by the Salvation Army.

The event was attended by more than 20 on-duty and off-duty staff, members of the peer support group and the Fire and Emergency Services Support Network. The event was viewed positively with key speakers such as QFES Manager Clinical Services and Organisational Development Dr Bernie Scully adding value to the casual atmosphere. The R U OK? message was shared enthusiastically by all.



QFES demonstration at World of Drones Congress

QFES joined the World of Drones Congress at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre on 27 September 2019, simulating a road crash rescue supported by Brisbane Region Fire and Rescue Service. Pilot, Inspector Leigh Campbell, was joined by Chief Superintendent Peter Varley from Brisbane Region, Regional Development Unit, for the demonstration that drew a large audience.

Technical Rescue crew from Roma St Station were on hand with their Unimog

and pushed back the impacting vehicle, cutting open the car to extract the trapped driver. The Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) recorded the scene from above and streamed footage to a viewing screen for the audience.

The crew used only battery-powered tools to remove risk of sparks, and the event was closely monitored by the venue's safety managers.

The use of RPAS has significantly changed how QFES views incidents, allowing us to survey the wider area and locate ejected passengers or monitor potential waterway contamination from fuel spillage.



SOUTH EASTERN REGION

Scenic Rim SES sharpen their skills

The Scenic Rim SES Unit tested their capability at an exercise held at Camp Laurence on Moogerah Dam in early September. Members practised skills in vertical rescue, flood boat and land search and rescues.

Their mission was to navigate around the dam searching for clues, before retrieving casualties and delivering them through an obstacle course. The teams used their skills in map and navigation, first aid, casualty handling and teamwork.

Everyone persevered though hot weather and lots of mud with enthusiasm and determination. As a result, the unit is better prepared, with greater understanding of their capabilities and areas for improvement.



Simulated bridge rescue in Ipswich

Crews from B Shift at Bundamba Fire Station conducted a joint-services major exercise between the Fire and Rescue Service, State Emergency Service (SES), Queensland Police Service and Queensland Ambulance Service over the Bremer River in Ipswich on 27 August.

The exercise simulated a maintenance worker stuck in rigging off the Bradfield Bridge. Rescuers descended down a line from the bridge to free the worker. From there, they lowered themselves closer to the river and landed smoothly on the front of a waiting SES flood boat.

The rescue went off without a hitch, strengthening working relationships between the four services.

Focus on road safety

Year 11 and 12 students from Merrimac State High School participated in SAVE – a one-day road safety event organised by the Queensland Police Service in conjunction with QFES and other emergency and local support services.

On Wednesday 24 July, the students watched a simulated car accident caused by a young driver distracted by their phone. Fire and Rescue responders gave them a glimpse of the impact this can have on family, friends, first responders and the wider community.

Students also learnt about the dangers of driving through floodwaters in a presentation by Pimpama SES and spoke with emergency services about employment and volunteer opportunities.



Narrow escape for Henni the Labrador

B Shift crews from Beenleigh and Loganlea stations were called to a house fire at Loganholme where they found the family pet hiding behind a lounge suite. Henni the female Labrador cross had taken in a lot of hot smoke and soot, so a visit to the local vet was in order.



QFES members honoured fallen firefighters in New York. From left: Senior firefighters Ben Wieczorek, Tom Eyles and David Seage, Deputy Commissioner Mark Roche, and senior firefighters Tautuana Tualaulelei and Cameron Mackenzie.

Honouring lives lost

A delegation of QFES members travelled to New York to commemorate the emergency services workers who lost their lives on September 11.

Deputy Commissioner Mark Roche was among the QFES personnel who attended this year's 9/11 commemorative services in New York.

"September 11 was a very emotional day which started with a memorial service at Rescue 1 Firehouse and then finished with the formalities at Rescue 10 Firehouse," said Mr Roche.

"What a proud day to see QFES firefighters standing side by side with the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) firefighters at Ground Zero.

"It was an honour to join the official march with bagpipes and drums playing and pay our respects on such a significant day for our profession.

"The comradery shown by the FDNY and the friendships built will have lasting memories for all those involved in the trip."

Since 2011, QFES and the Queensland Police Service (QPS) have held an annual rugby league match to commemorate September 11.

This year, the teams squared off in New York for the first time, before a crowd of FDNY firefighters. One of the event's chief organisers was Senior Firefighter Cameron Mackenzie.

"A hurricane was passing just off the coast, so we were battling 40km/h winds and rain," Mr Mackenzie said.

"The firefighters from FDNY welcomed us with open arms. The ceremonial march at Ground Zero was unbelievably moving.

"The whole experience was a highlight of my career. A lot of hard work went into the event but it was worth it to rub shoulders with the FDNY on a day that's so special to them."

Firefighters Remembrance Day

QFES members around the state paused for a minute's silence on 10 October to remember the bravery of firefighters killed in the line of duty.

Firefighters Remembrance Day is held annually at the tenth hour, on the tenth day, of the tenth month to honour the 53 firefighters who have lost their lives while protecting the community since 1877.

QFES commemorative services were held across Queensland while flags at fire stations were flown at half-mast to acknowledge the sacrifices that firefighters, their families and their communities have made.



QFES leaders and families of fallen firefighters attended a memorial service in Brisbane.



SES Review underway

A comprehensive review into SES funding and management gets underway with independent consultant, Campbell Darby.

Following a motion passed by the Local Government Association of Queensland (LGAQ) in October last year, a review of the Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) by an independent consultant, Campbell Darby DSC AM, is now underway.

The independent review will investigate options for future funding and management of the SES, including assessing the possible transition from the current shared arrangement between state and local government, to primary responsibility resting with the state government.

QFES Assistant Commissioner SES, Andrew Short, said all SES volunteers would have an opportunity to put their ideas forward.

“Our army of SES volunteers have an extraordinary wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to how operations work on the ground and these insights and ideas are what we’re excited to gather through this review,” Mr Short said.

Mr Short said a thorough information gathering process would be the first step to develop an informed picture of the current situation and form the basis of the review.

“This will include engagement across Queensland with SES members, local councils, associations and partner agencies and other disaster management stakeholders,” he said.

“While travelling around Queensland for this review, it is not possible for Mr Darby to speak with every SES volunteer so, for this reason, there will be a future opportunity for volunteers to provide online feedback.

“I encourage all volunteers to seize this opportunity and put their ideas forward.”

Former Director General of Emergency Management Australia and Retired Royal Australian Navy Commodore Campbell Darby DSC AM is scheduled to deliver the

review finding in the first quarter of 2020.

Mr Darby has extensive experience in emergency management at a national level and in volunteerism, having recently completed the Bluewater Review into Queensland marine rescue organisations.

“I am looking forward with genuine excitement but it’s also a large scale and complex task,” Mr Darby said.

“My long experience through many major disasters has left me with a deep respect for all SES so I will ensure that this review does nothing to disrupt the SES’ close community links or diminish the invaluable service that they provide.”

Mr Darby said SES volunteers would be kept up-to-date through QFES channels.

“We will provide regular updates throughout the review process,” he said.



All SES volunteers are encouraged to share their thoughts.



Looking after members' retirement savings since 1912.

Welcome to super without surprises

The logo for QSuper, featuring a stylized white 'Q' followed by the word 'Super' in a white sans-serif font.



RAAP presenters discuss road user attitudes and behaviours.

Road safety program saves lives

Firefighters are saving young lives through the QFES Road Attitudes Action Planning (RAAP) program.

Queensland highschool students are learning about driving and road safety, so they can make better decisions, thanks to the successful program. It uses real-life stories of young people who have died in road crashes to encourage safe driving.

Originally developed by Station Officer Bruce Barnes in 1996, the modernised RAAP aims to reduce the number of injuries and deaths from road crashes in the 17-24 age group. It is typically presented to year 11 students and is the only accessible and consistent state-wide road safety presentation for young drivers.

North Coast Regional RAAP Coordinator, Station Officer Tom Simpson, said first year drivers were five times more likely to die or be severely injured in a road accident.

“The program empowers young people to stay out of harm’s way through positive peer pressure and action planning,” Mr Simpson said.

“No first responder wants to go to a crash where teenagers have been injured or killed. This program is one way of preventing that.”

RAAP educates students on a range of risk factors including overconfidence,

inattention, speed and the impact of illicit substances.

Senior Firefighter Warren Tupper was one of the first regional RAAP coordinators.

“It’s a hard-hitting program – graphic at times – so it’s not unusual for students to leave the classroom,” Mr Tupper said.

“A student’s mother once called me to say thanks because I told her daughter if she was ever in a car and didn’t feel safe, she should get out.

“Her daughter followed my advice and her friend ended up losing control and hitting a concrete wall. That decision saved her life.”

Since the RAAP program was reinstated in June 2016, 150 firefighters have delivered

more than 950 presentations to 200,000 highschool students across the state.

RAAP works in partnership with the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Queensland Police Service to spread the “Fatal Five” message.

The Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety at the Queensland University of Technology is currently researching the outcomes of the program and testing the impact of it being delivered by firefighters to improve the program for future generations of young drivers.

If you’d like to become a RAAP presenter, contact your regional RAAP coordinator via RAAP@qfes.qld.gov.au or read more on the Gateway.



Engaging with students at the University of the Sunshine Coast Road Safety Market Day.



Many QFES members joined friends and family at the Brisbane Pride March.



Auxiliary Recruits from Scenic Rim and Lockyer Somerset Commands came together at Beaudesert Fire Station to complete the eight-day Auxiliary Recruit Training and Education Program. They were exposed to different fire situations at the Live Fire Campus at Port of Brisbane.



The launch of Road Safety Week at North Point in August. From left: Queensland Ambulance Service Superintendent Glen Maule, QFES Acting AC Darryl King, Toowoomba Deputy Mayor Carol Taylor and Queensland Police Service Superintendent Mark Kelly.



The QFES Executive Leadership Team visited the Enoggera Barracks to discuss how the Australian Defence Force approaches a common operating picture.



QFES members, joined by Paddy the Platypus and Senior Constable Clancy, gave demonstrations to a large crowd at an emergency services expo in the Bunnings Rothwell carpark in August.



On International Dog Day, QFES members took some time out to appreciate the hard work of our furry friends.



QFES members across the state showed their support this Yellow Ribbon Day for everyone in the Rural Fire Service who dons a yellow coat and rides in a yellow truck.



Steve Bunney, Operations Officer for Firefighters Cancer Foundation Australia, along with many QFES members, wore pink for Cancer Awareness Month this September.



SES Regional Manager Mark Dole's office was in full Tigers colours ahead of their spectacular AFL grand final against Greater Western Sydney last month. No sign of any Giants fans anywhere.



Despite all the wildfires in Far Northern Region on Thursday 12 September, more than 80 QFES staff and volunteers and the Queensland Police Service participated in the R U OK? Walk in Cairns.



The Caboolture Combined Services Club's annual awards night recognised local emergency services members for serving the community above and beyond normal duties.



The proud recipients of new Ford Ranger light attack vehicles met with AC Gary McCormack, Fraser Coast Regional Council Mayor George Seymour, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Craig Crawford, and DC Mark Roche.



USAR Volunteers received their pin at an Executive Leadership Team barbeque at the State Deployment Centre.



QFES staff chatted with people about home fire safety at the Brisbane Home Show this September.



Prime Minister Scott Morrison visited Scenic Rim communities affected by bushfires in September, stopping in at the Canungra Incident Control Centre to speak with emergency services and acknowledge their hard work.



A man for all seasons

After almost 16 years with QFES, Acting Deputy Commissioner John Bolger is proud to see our services working together to build community resilience.

Mr Bolger was only six years old when he first visited a fire station and from then decided he wanted to belong there one day. “When I sat on the concrete and watched the display in the backyard of the Eastern Hill Fire Station in Melbourne, those men were giants,” Mr Bolger said.

He realised his dream when he joined the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade. After 18 years with them, he moved to Mount Isa to join the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

Mr Bolger rose quickly through the ranks to become the Assistant Commissioner in Far Northern Region and honed his leadership skills responding to constant fires, floods and cyclones.

“Sometimes, you need to think outside the square to build a cohesive team,” Mr Bolger said.

“I’m welded to our values of Respect, Integrity, Courage, Loyalty and Trust and use that as my leadership ethos.”

Mr Bolger said last year’s cyclone season demonstrated how the three services

could work together for the good of the community. “We had five cyclones cross the east and west coast of Cape York, so as a team around the table, as representatives from each service, we worked together, to get everyone’s opinions and ideas on how to best respond.

“I admire how we can come together in times of crisis and deliver an exceptional level of service to the community. We sent staff and volunteers to remote places like Kowanyama or Lockhart River and asked them to wait until the cyclone hit and then send messages back. When asked, not once did anyone say no.”

Mr Bolger drew on his experiences in the Far Northern Region, when he became Assistant Commissioner for the Rural Fire Service in Brisbane. A few weeks later he became the Acting Deputy Commissioner, Emergency Management, Volunteerism and Community Resilience (EMVCR).

“I’m constantly impressed by the quality of our permanent firefighters, our auxiliary firefighters who drop their normal life in a heartbeat, and in awe of our volunteers

who sometimes even take annual leave to help out in crises,” he said.

“I am responsible for making sure our volunteers are trained, equipped and ready to respond, to ensure we support and build resilience across Queensland.

“Our recent operations in Operation Redux were a great opportunity for all of QFES to show our worth in helping communities prepare, react to and recover from bushfires.

“When I go into the State Operations Centre now, and see all of our services working together, I see a united QFES supporting all Queenslanders.”

Mr Bolger is the LGBTIQA+ champion for QFES and has participated in the Brisbane Pride March with his colleagues for the last five years, marching down Brunswick Street in Brisbane’s Fortitude Valley to celebrate diversity and inclusion.

“We’ve come a long way at QFES in welcoming people from diverse backgrounds. I’m passionate about making sure everybody has a role in QFES. We don’t turn good people away.”



NO SALES TALK, NO 1 ON 1 PRESSURE SELLING

DEAL WITH LICENSED, EXPERIENCED TAX ADVISERS WORKING IN YOUR BEST INTEREST



AT YOUR SERVICE

DIRECT ACCESS TO YOUR LICENSED RELATIONSHIP MANAGER FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR LEASE



WE DO IT ALL

FROM START TO FINISH, WE COVER ALL ASPECTS OF YOUR LEASE



NO HIDDEN CATCHES

WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET!



FAST SECURE CLAIM PROCESS

QUICK AND CONVENIENT



ON LINE, ANYTIME



It's Your Choice!

100% Queensland Owned
Local, Experienced, Licensed

1300 76 1114

www.statewideqld.net.au



Novated Leasing Pty Ltd

ABN 48101218731

AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL SERVICES LICENCE: 439732

AUSTRALIAN CREDIT LICENCE: 387111

TAX PRACTITIONERS BOARD REGISTRATION: 24792339

Please contact us for a free no-obligation consultation and quote.
mynewcar@statewideqld.net.au



SERVICING QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES FOR 18 YEARS

Statewide... the really smart choice!



APPROVED SUPPLIER

Statewide Novated Leasing Pty Ltd ("Statewide") is an approved supplier under the Queensland Government panel arrangement Novated Leasing Services QGP0026-16. From 7 November 2016, all Employees who wish to access a motor vehicle using a novated lease must use one of the approved Salary Packaging Novated Leasing Panel Suppliers to arrange, organise and manage the lease. The novated lease will continue to be administered through the Salary Packaging Administrator.

Queensland Government 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.**

A UNI THAT KNOWS YOU NEED TO BE READY

Mass casualty and terrorist attacks are on the increase in the current geopolitical climate as Australia grows its presence on the world stage. As a result, first responders need to be ready to manage and react to emergencies in high risk environments where their personal safety may be compromised.

Learn to plan and implement strategies and develop a range of clinical, critical-thinking, communication and leadership skills essential for the successful management of critical trauma with our **Graduate Certificate in Tactical Medicine**.

Our new **Graduate Diploma of Tactical Medicine** combines units from our existing Graduate Certificate in Tactical Medicine and Graduate Diploma of Paramedic Science (Critical Care) helping you to advance your knowledge and develop skills in dealing with acutely unwell patients in resource limited, dynamic and high threat environments. This course also introduces you to practical research skills, allowing you to contribute to the future of tactical medicine.

These innovative postgraduate courses are a first of their kind in Australia, and available to study online from March 2020*.

Find out more and apply now at cqu.edu.au.



*These courses contain units that require compulsory attendance at residential schools.



“It is imperative that first responders have the skills to deal with a mass casualty terrorist attack, and have the knowledge to keep themselves, their patients, partners and colleagues safe.”

– Aldon Delport, Lecturer in Tactical Medicine