

# Fire & Rescue

December 2014

# News



Fire &  
Rescue NSW

# The Minister writes



The incidents that appear throughout this issue highlight the outstanding work Fire & Rescue NSW has done over the last year, in conjunction with other emergency services, to protect our community under often very difficult conditions.

Whether it was a huge factory blaze, a house fire, a challenging rescue, a serious road accident with people trapped, or a hazardous materials incident, throughout 2014 FRNSW personnel responded around the clock to 127,000 emergency incidents across the State with professionalism and dedication.

Our emergency services in NSW have extensive experience and skill in emergency management including USAR, counter terrorism, bio emergencies, bush fire suppression, and when requested, we are always ready and willing to deploy resources to assist interstate and overseas. Most recently a multi-agency contingent of Australian firefighting personnel was deployed to the Canadian province of British Columbia which was experiencing severe bush fires. The Australian deployment included 16 personnel from our NSW firefighting agencies, including FRNSW Inspector Jeff Hogan who reports on his experience in Canada in this issue.

The NSW Government recognises the importance of continuing strong support for our State's emergency services to ensure that they are well resourced and equipped to face the challenges ahead. In November and early December, we continued to invest in vital infrastructure, opening new fire stations at Albion Park and Salamander Bay, and completing major renovations to Gordon and Cardiff Fire Stations.

On Monday 24 November, together with Commissioner Mullins, I announced the recruitment of an additional 40 permanent firefighters and placement of five new Class 1 water tankers in the Sydney Fire District. An additional \$1.375 million will also be provided to fund equipment enhancements for the Community Fire Unit program, helping the community to prepare for the threat of bush fire.

I thank all staff in FRNSW for their untiring efforts during 2014 and wish you and your families all the best for the coming year.

**Stuart Ayres MP**  
Minister for Police and Emergency Services

# The Commissioner writes



The articles in this issue summarise some of FRNSW's major achievements in 2014, and record how we are moving forward in a wide range of areas, innovating and continually improving our performance as one of the world's leading urban fire and rescue services.

This issue is a great read and will bring you up to speed with many of the exciting things happening around FRNSW at present. The recent Education and Training summit was a major step in developing our training roadmap for the future. The Commissioner's Participative Council is one of a number of strategies we are implementing to engage staff at all levels and enable them to have more of a say in the future of FRNSW. Safety remains all important for us as an organisation, with the numerous entries to the inaugural Commissioner's Safety Awards demonstrating the successful embedding of a strong safety culture in all we do. In the technology area, firefighters continue working collaboratively with our IT and Fleet staff to develop innovative leading edge solutions for the front line, and you can read about the latest of these projects inside.

In addition, our program of prevention activities continues to produce measurable improvements in community safety. This year we again ran a highly effective winter fire safety campaign (see report in this issue), and it is pleasing to note a 7% reduction in home fires, part of a longer term trend. This is partially due to our campaign, but also other initiatives such as reduced fire risk cigarettes, the SABRE and FireEd programs and smoke alarm campaigns.

I hope you all were able to watch Channel 10 on Saturday nights in October and November when our lifesaving work took centre stage in lounge rooms across Australia in the documentary series *Fireies*. The show followed 18 Glebe D Platoon and 8 Liverpool B Platoon over 20 weeks to give the public real insight into how a modern fire and rescue service operates.

I thank all staff for their dedication, professionalism and commitment during 2014, and I wish you season's greetings as we are about to embark on another year of service and protecting the community.

**Greg Mullins AFSM**  
Commissioner

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## Send in your stories and photos

*Fire & Rescue News* is the internal news magazine of Fire & Rescue NSW (FRNSW). FRNSW Media & Communications Unit (MCU) wants to publicise the incidents your crew attended, and the achievements of your unit.

**T: (02) 9265 2907 E: [media@fire.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@fire.nsw.gov.au)**

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# TAKING TABLETS FOR FIRST RESPONSE

Real-time access to the latest information could soon be a reality for front-line FRNSW crews.

**T**he Information Technology and Operational Capability directorates are working together on a program to develop and roll out ADASHI First Responder tablet computers in all fire appliances. The in-vehicle computers, which will be connected to the FRNSW computer-aided dispatch network on the Telstra 4G network, will provide automatic incident alerts and related incident details, to simplify and modernise the dispatch process.

**An in-vehicle rugged tablet computer of this nature is not only a leap forward for FRNSW but also for fire services in Australia**

The tablets will enable crews to access vital intelligence such as pre-incident plans, detailed maps and chemical databases, to name a few. In the future, firefighters will also be able to remove the device to capture pre-incident plans, take photos, conduct SIMS checks and gather other relevant information that is currently only able to be entered at a fire station.

"While there is so much that can be achieved with such technology, FRNSW is proposing to start with a few beneficial uses for in-vehicle computers and then look to continually improve and grow these capabilities," said Director IT Richard Host.

An in-vehicle rugged tablet computer of this nature is not only a leap forward for FRNSW but also for fire services in Australia.

For the few Australian fire services using in-vehicle computing capabilities, it is limited to dispatch purposes only. However, in-vehicle computers are currently used by other NSW emergency services, including the NSW Police Force and Ambulance Service of NSW.

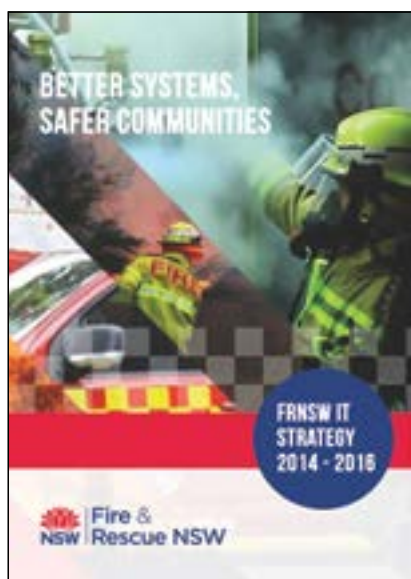
"For both Police and Ambulance, in-vehicle computing has created tremendous operational benefit and it is expected that we will also realise similar benefits in the long term," said Assistant Commissioner Mark Brown, Director Operational Capability.

Significant design work has already been undertaken by both directorates with the ADASHI First Responder pilot scheduled to commence in nominated Metro South Zone 3 appliances in March 2015. **END**



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY STRATEGY RELEASED

The Information Technology Directorate recently released its strategy for FRNSW for the next three years.



The strategy focuses on three main programs of work – operations (ESCAD), corporate systems (SAP/TRIM/ in-house applications) and technology (infrastructure and radio). Underpinning these programs are a number of projects that will deliver leading edge capabilities for FRNSW while providing best value for money by empowering staff and building partnerships.

The strategy includes case studies from external sources that highlight FRNSW's leading role in delivering new services to firefighters, administrative staff and other sector agencies.

The final section of the strategy introduces the 'Work Anywhere' concept which is based on the latest emerging

technologies and practices in IT. This will form a critical component of how IT is delivered to our staff in the coming years.

IT director Richard Host described his directorate's vision for providing innovative technology to enable the vital work of FRNSW and other emergency service agencies in today's rapidly-evolving IT environment.

"The desire for a safer community drives us to search out innovative solutions and push through barriers that try to slow us down," he said. "We focus on developing solutions, not discussing roadblocks. Our focus over the next few years will be to simplify our technology, remove duplication, improve mobility, increasingly move to as-a-service and exploit data analytics as nobody ever has." **END**

FRNSW IT Strategy 2014 – 2016: *Better Systems, Safer Communities*, can be accessed from the intranet.

## SETTING FRNSW'S TRAINING ROADMAP FOR THE FUTURE

The recent inaugural Education and Training Forum discussed learning and development priorities within FRNSW over the next three years.

On Wednesday 15 October, 110 staff from across FRNSW gathered in Sydney to discuss the future of education and training for all employees.

Commissioner Mullins' opening address reflected on the history of education and training within FRNSW and spoke about the wider cultural, social, economic and environmental trends – such as increasingly streamlined government services, climate change and an ageing population – that will shape the future by increasing risk and vulnerability in the community.

"We are here today setting a roadmap for the future. Our leaders need to know about that bigger picture. Every firefighter needs to know about what's going on in the world," Commissioner Mullins said. "Governments face a stark choice in cutting back agencies. We need to think ahead and to help government envision something different."

The Commissioner also emphasised how important it will be for FRNSW to continue to use its resources wisely in the next few years. "We need to be smarter and there's so much we can do to leverage the resources we already have more effectively," he said.

Working smarter to create more engaging and strategically aligned education and training opportunities for FRNSW employees was the focus of many discussions held throughout the day.

After reviewing some of the latest adult learning theories, including a short

**It's very encouraging to see how much education and training is valued by firefighters**

presentation on the neuroscience of learning, two facilitators from strategic advisory firm, Bendelta, guided attendees through a variety of activities designed to answer the key question: "Where would we like to be in 2017?"

Groups brainstormed FRNSW's short, medium and long term priorities for education and training and created a gallery of ideas that all attendees informally voted on at the end of the day.

Among the top 10 initiatives to emerge from the gallery was a call to update

FRNSW processes for recognising employee qualifications gained from both inside and outside the organisation. There was also strong support for decentralising training, particularly to better serve the needs of firefighters stationed in regional NSW.

Commissioner Mullins said, "It's very encouraging to see how much education and training is valued by firefighters.

They clearly understand the need for as much training as possible to deal with the increasingly complex roles of firefighters, and people in leadership roles are increasingly seeking out tertiary and post-graduate education. I'm confident that if we harness some of the good ideas, we will be able to transform this space."

"It's good to see that people have come here today with open minds and a willingness to listen and share their ideas," said FRNSW Director of Education and Training, Gail Wykes. "This has been a very timely forum to look at what the role of Education and Training will be in the future."

The priorities and strategies generated by the forum will now be reviewed by a working group and incorporated into a 2014–17 strategy document and project plan. The working group will provide regular communications regarding progress. **END**

# INTRODUCING THE COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATIVE COUNCIL



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A total of 25 staff from across the organisation have come together to form a new council to identify internal roadblocks and ensure good ideas reach the right people.

**T**he Commissioner's Participative Council aims to foster improved communication and innovation within FRNSW and to provide opportunities for all staff to have a say in current and future challenges. The council was formed following an EOI process in October which attracted an overwhelming response.

Commissioner Mullins said he was encouraged that so many staff were keen to help shape the future of FRNSW and he had personally considered all 126 applications.

"I chose the council members based on the quality of their applications and their demonstrated commitment to innovation and change," said the Commissioner. "The council is made up of a cross representation of staff, with those selected representing FRNSW's rank and grade structures, multiple locations and diversity of the workforce."

The new council members attended a training day in November facilitated by Dr Ilan Kogus, a leading expert in mentoring, business and executive coaching who has vast experience in addressing change, business improvement and team-building. Members will also attend bi-monthly meetings, with the first planned for late January.

"I encourage you to familiarise yourself with council members, and communicate your ideas to them," said Commissioner Mullins.

"Whether you have been part of FRNSW for 30 days or 30 years, you and your ideas are important in shaping our future directions."

Membership of the council will be for 12 months, with new members selected by the issuing of a new EOI. **END**

## 2015 COMMISSIONER'S PARTICIPATIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

- RFF Peter McGill (Terrigal)
- Dept Capt Terry Dryburgh (Kiama)
- RFF Beau Douglas (Cardiff)
- Dept Capt Mellissa Madden (Bangalow)
- SO Nick Beattie (Dubbo)
- Peta Cooper (Business Officer, Regional North)
- Capt David Farmer (Jindabyne)
- SF James Manuao (Doyalson)
- SO Kevin O'Reilly (Springwood)
- QF Sam Monaghan (Newtown)
- SF Daniel Pridham (Revesby)
- SO Mark Russell (St Andrews)
- Station Commander Don Peters (Bonnyrigg Heights)
- SF Melanie Rebane (Community Engagement Unit)
- Olivia Blackburn (Team Leader, FSA Unit)
- QF Lachlan Haar (FSA Unit)
- SF Greg Nottage (Randwick)
- QF Brett Carle (Chester Hill)
- SF Christor Van Schie (Chester Hill)
- SO Gregory Nolan (Riverwood)
- Olivia Eagle (Area Admin Officer, Metro East)
- QF Kylie Sharman (CoS)
- SF Sara Hutchison (Manly)
- SF Philip Agius (Busby)
- SO Tim Climo (BA/HAZMAT Training)



# COMMISSIONER'S SAFETY AWARDS WINNERS

Leadership in the Critical Incident Support Program, and management and support of an ill employee to return to work, are just two of the outstanding individual efforts recognised in the inaugural Commissioner's Safety Awards.

**T**he new program, which was launched in April 2014, invited all employees to nominate individuals or groups who have excelled in improving or promoting safety within FRNSW.

As a vocal champion for workplace safety, Commissioner Mullins was delighted to launch the awards after the concept was originally suggested at the 2011 Safety Workshop.

"Regardless of your position or rank, we all have a legal and moral obligation to keep ourselves and each other safe at work," said Commissioner Mullins. "All of us value the importance of safety as a priority within FRNSW, and these awards will honour, encourage and promote the actions of those who make an effort every day to make our jobs safer."

For the inaugural 2014 awards, nominations were permitted for recent initiatives and those from past years that continue to provide safety benefits today.

From a total of 34 nominations and a shortlist of 20 finalists, the judging panel selected seven winners in four categories: best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue, best individual contribution to workplace health and safety, best group contribution

**Maintaining a safe and healthy workforce begins with each one of us, so I encourage you to make decisions, lead by example and work together**

to workplace health and safety, and best management of a workplace injury.

The winners were announced at an awards ceremony at Parramatta Fire Station on 31 October 2014, timed to coincide with the National Safe Work Australia Week. Category winners included Superintendent Adam Dewberry, Superintendent Greg Lewis and Area Business Manager Jane Lewis, who were selected for their excellent management of a firefighter throughout the rehabilitation process. Deputy Captain

Melissa Madden was also recognised for her exceptional leadership in the Critical Incident Support Program (CISP) peer team at both zone level and throughout the organisation.

All category winners were also considered for the inaugural Perpetual Commissioner's Safety Award Winner. The accolade was taken out in 2014 by Deputy Captain Madden, who has volunteered her own time to deliver mental health awareness presentations and develop an online tracking system for peer team members.

Deputy Captain Madden said she was very honoured and overwhelmed by the award. "In such an esteemed company I'm quite surprised that I won. But I truly believe in the peer support program."

Following its successful first year, the awards program will continue to promote safety risk management processes, innovations to address workplace safety issues and improved safety behaviour, including helping colleagues get back to work after a workplace injury, on an annual basis.

"Maintaining a safe and healthy workforce begins with each one of us, so I encourage you to make decisions, lead by example and work together to keep yourself and each other safe," said Commissioner Mullins.

Congratulations to all the 2014 finalists and award winners. **END**

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# 2014 COMMISSIONER'S SAFETY AWARDS FINALISTS AND WINNERS

## CATEGORY 1 Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue



Place	Name	Reason
Finalist	Qualified Firefighter Timothy Garret	Identification of audio issue with the digital capable GRN handheld transceivers.
Finalist	Station Officer Chris Sykes	Development of the Station Inventory Management System (SIMS).
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Station Officer Brett Farmer</b>	<b>Development of a digital display board for urban pumpers to provide greater awareness of traffic control around fire appliances.</b>

## CATEGORY 2 Best individual contribution to workplace health and safety



Place	Name	Reason
Finalist	Station Officer Ross Genders	Identification of electrical hazards at an interagency incident, advising other emergency service personnel unaware of the hazard. Following the incident, raised concerns with Health and Safety Branch, thereby allowing broader engagement with interagency electrical hazard awareness.
Finalist	Senior Firefighter Daniel Pridham	Identifying an area of risk associated with climbing the boom ladder on aerial appliances and proposing a solution of implementing a trial of a twin-tailed lanyard fall-arrest system.
Finalist	Captain Zlatco Nemec	Pursued increased awareness of loose fill asbestos insulation (Mr Fluffy) across the organisation.
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Deputy Captain Melissa Madden</b>	<b>Demonstrated exceptional leadership in the Critical Incident Support Program, both at zone level and throughout the organisation.</b>

## CATEGORY 3 Best group contribution to workplace health and safety



Place	Name	Reason
Finalist	Inspector Mick Gibson and Senior Firefighter Richard Spiteri	Identification and analysis of hazards associated with solar power systems, and subsequent development of operational doctrine and training to manage this risk.
Finalist	Lutz Fecht, Neil Leishman, Ray Berger and Craig Armstrong	Design, development and implementation of a safe work at height platform and railing system, allowing multiple fleet staff to undertake maintenance on top of fire appliances.
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Deputy Captain David Mayer Retained Firefighter Rodney Limm</b>	<b>Extensive ICAM investigation into an electrical near miss incident.</b>

## CATEGORY 4 Best management of a workplace injury



Place	Name	Reason
Finalist	Superintendent Philip Lindsay	Consistently offering meaningful, structured suitable duties.
Finalist	Superintendent Brett Davies	Outstanding management and support of an ill firefighter, assisting with their recovery and return to work.
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Superintendent Adam Dewberry, Superintendent Greg Lewis and Jane Lewis</b>	<b>Excellent management of a firefighter throughout the rehabilitation process.</b>

## PERPETUAL COMMISSIONER'S SAFETY AWARD



Place	Name	Reason
<b>Winner</b>	<b>Deputy Captain Melissa Madden</b>	<b>Demonstrated exceptional leadership in the Critical Incident Support Program, both at zone level throughout the organisation.</b>

# DUTY COMMANDERS DRIVE UTE SOLUTION



When the Nissan Pathfinder dual cab ute was updated in 2013, it was no longer the best vehicle for the on-road requirements of duty commanders. Faced with a lack of suitable factory-built vehicles, a FRNSW team came together to find a customised solution.

**D**uty commanders require access to work-friendly vehicles with clearly defined capabilities and features. This specification includes diesel power, 4WD, a spacious rear work area and capacity to carry five people. The vehicles must be comfortable as regional/rural duty commanders can cover 50,000kms per year, and be the right colour to comply with FRNSW branding.

"Suggestions were put forward from Operations that other services were building specialised bodies on the rear of dual cab utes for use in special applications," said Assistant Director Fleet, Peter Fanning. "So we decided to do some trials of this concept."

A team representing metropolitan/rural duty commanders consisting of Inspectors Brett Ryan, Steven Hayes, Tony Lenthall, Dave Polson and Jeremy Hood came together to develop concepts for FRNSW.

The team selected the Isuzu D-Max dual cab ute as the most suitable chassis for the project and worked

with a specialised body fabricator who developed the initial concept. During the development phase, the Fire Investigation and Research Unit also took on the specialised body concept for replacement fire investigation vehicles, with Inspector Graeme Moore and Station Officers Jock Gilmour and Michael Forbes representing the unit.

The first customised duty commander vehicles were commissioned in May 2014, with the fire investigation vehicle commissioned in August 2014.

"Feedback on the vehicles has been very good with requests for future replacements to use this concept," said Mr Fanning. "Not only do these vehicles improve the work environment for duty commanders, but over a period of several replacements they are also cost-effective solutions for niche roles."

The project owes its success to the efforts of the Duty Commander team, Rowan McMullen and Jason Crocker from IT Communications, and John Rouen and Craig Archer from Fleet. **END**



# Truck collides with line of cars at **Dee Why**

Northern beaches fire crews were called to a serious car accident at Pittwater Road, Dee Why at 0608 hours on Tuesday 21 October.

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**T**he intersection of Warringah Rd and Pittwater Rd at Dee Why is a notorious accident black spot with many severe accidents occurring at the location over the years. On this occasion, a truck lost control on its descent down Warringah Rd and careered across the intersection of Pittwater Rd colliding with 12 other vehicles. The truck turned on its side and finally came to rest on top of a sedan containing two passengers, which had been stationary at the lights. 69 Dee Why was quickly on scene with 68 Narrabeen pumper and heavy rescue arriving just a few minutes behind.

Crews were confronted with a fully laden truck containing flour and food produce on its side and resting on top of a crushed vehicle with persons trapped inside. The seriousness of the incident was compounded by diesel leaking from the truck fuel tank. Ambulance crews conducted a large scale triage operation of six other victims in several vehicles. Fortunately a doctor was on scene and was in communication with the entrapped victims under the truck. Firefighters established fire protection and stabilised the truck, then quickly released one of the trapped victims. Both were police officers on their way to work.

51 Forestville and 24 Manly arrived to assist however the release of the second victim took a lot longer with firefighters first having to unload the truck manually. Firefighters worked inside the toppled truck by cutting through the floor to access the roof of the crushed vehicle, finally releasing the trapped victim at around 0750 hours. Northern beaches traffic was brought to a standstill throughout the protracted incident as busy Warringah Road was closed to all traffic. 13 hazmat pumper and heavy hazmat also responded to assist in the clean-up of a large diesel spill.

**END**





From left: Sowerby Smith, Paul Hollier, Robbie Pesiwarissa, Warwick Boyling, Minister Stuart Ayres, Commissioner Greg Mullins, Barry Poole, Ron Fredericks and Betty Fredericks



Station Officer Terry Munsey with CFU volunteer

## Pioneered by FRNSW in 1994, the State's Community Fire Unit (CFU) program marked a milestone 20-year anniversary in 2014, with an event held in August to celebrate this achievement.

**L**aunched after the devastating Sydney bushfires in 1994, CFU's now 7,000 strong team of volunteers give up their time to support FRNSW by enhancing community safety and resilience to bushfires.

The CFU program trains volunteers for property protection and extinguishment of embers post-bushfire. Volunteers also help their neighbours develop bushfire survival plans; prepare their homes for the threat of bushfires; and are on hand in the traumatic days, weeks and months following a bushfire.

### Almost two decades after its launch, CFU members were out in force during the Blue Mountains bushfires in October 2013

The 20th anniversary was marked with a family field day, attended by Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres, FRNSW Commissioner Greg Mullins, FRNSW Assistant Commissioner Mark Brown, Mrs Roza Sage MP, Member for Blue Mountains, emergency services representatives and other senior officers, at Penrith's Museum of Fire on 31 August.

The anniversary event included CFU team competitions set up by Assistant Director, Champions Garry Tant and the Championships team, a rescue display and community safety displays by the NSW Rural Fire Service, NSW State Emergency Service and St John

Ambulance. The FRNSW Band also performed on the day.

Former CFU Manager Station Officer Terry Munsey AFSM presented a showcase of the program's 20-year history and was personally acknowledged by Commissioner Greg Mullins for his many years of dedication to the CFU program.

"The volunteers who worked with Mr Munsey always speak very highly of the passion he injected into developing the program that has seen so much growth," said Commissioner Mullins.

Almost two decades after its launch, CFU members were out in force during the Blue Mountains bushfires in October 2013 with Commissioner Mullins describing their actions as integral to the overall bushfire effort. The fires claimed 200 homes, including many belonging to CFU members.

"CFU volunteers stoically carried on putting out hot spots and supporting their neighbours throughout the ordeal," Commissioner Mullins said.

The event also included an awards ceremony with two CFU volunteers – Julie Willis and Ian Palmer (see profile on next page) – presented with Commissioner's Commendations for their exceptional leadership during the October 2013 Blue Mountains bushfires.

Despite losing her own home, Ms Willis selflessly supported her neighbours through the bushfire crisis while leading her unit in carrying out follow-up firefighting operations in her suburb. Mr Palmer's actions helped prevent the loss of more homes in his street, Emma Parade in Winmalee. He also tirelessly supported his community during the recovery.

Following the Blue Mountains bushfires, the CFU program has implemented several recommendations made in a review by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre, including revamping skills training, reviewing areas of activity and providing more equipment.

The hugely successful anniversary event was made possible thanks to Museum of Fire Executive Chairman Mark White and the CFU Program team.

■ END

### CFU AWARD WINNERS

#### Commissioner's Commendations

Julie Willis  
Ian Palmer

#### Significant contribution over the past 20 years

Barry Poole – Forestville  
Betty Fredericks – Chatswood West  
Ron Fredericks – Chatswood West  
Frank Fitzpatrick – Warrimoo  
Ian Eastman – South Turrumurra  
Paul Hollier – Winmalee  
Robbie Pesiwarissa – Wahroonga  
Sowerby Smith – Chatswood West  
Warwick Boyling – Wahroonga

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Ian Palmer and Commissioner Mullins



“IT ALL PAID OFF MASSIVELY IN THAT ONE EVENT”

For CFU volunteer and Commissioner’s Commendation winner Ian Palmer, never had his CFU training been more important than on 17 October 2013 when the Blue Mountains bushfires ravaged his home town of Winmalee.

**A**s CEO of Schools Industry Partnership, an organisation dedicated to transitioning young people from school to work, Ian Palmer already has his hands full. Despite this, he says bushfires and their aftermath are everyone’s responsibility in the mountains and he is committed to his CFU role.

For Palmer, the CFU program he has been part of for nine years is not just about supporting FRNSW and protecting life and property, but also about bringing together his community.

“Knowing each other really helped us get through,” says Palmer of the 2013 bushfires. “And then the training kicked in. Everything we’ve been taught is so true. Although CFU training is very light compared to that provided to FRNSW firefighters, it’s enough to feel confident and prepared.”

Palmer believes FRNSW was confident in the abilities of his unit and crews were able to move on to fight the fire front, while the CFU took responsibility for blacking out and reassuring local people.

In the days that followed, Palmer says the CFU uniform allowed his unit to work efficiently with the NSW Police Force, the Salvation Army and the local council, to get help to people quickly.

“The CFU program has had a profound effect on our community. We pulled together when people needed help in a time of crisis, and it aided the grieving and rebuilding process. I’ve been very humbled by the thanks, not just for what we did to fight the fires but also for the support CFU provided post-fire.”

Palmer knows that return on investment in CFUs may not happen for a year or a decade, but says that when it does, “it happens big time”. **END**



# FRNSW

## ASSISTS WITH BATTLING CANADIAN BUSHFIRES

REPORT BY: INSPECTOR JEFF HOGAN



The Canadian province of British Columbia has experienced a particularly severe bushfire season in 2014. The fires have so far burnt over 350,000 hectares, and as at 1 September the estimated cost exceeded \$254 million.

**B**ritish Columbia (BC) formally requested firefighting assistance from Australia on 5 August through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Forests, British Columbia, and the Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), Victoria. At that time, the British Columbia Wildfire Management Branch had responded to almost 1,000 separate bushfires since the start of their 2014 fire season.

DEPI shared the assistance request among participating Australian states through the Forest Fire Management Group Arrangement. I had the privilege of representing FRNSW, as part of a multi-agency international deployment of firefighting personnel from around Australia. The NSW contingent consisted of 16 personnel from Fire & Rescue NSW (myself), NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

In total, 76 personnel from various Australian state agencies deployed in a staged response. The first stage of the deployment consisted of two complete Type 1 Incident Management Teams of 10 personnel each. The second stage saw the rest of the deployed personnel departing Australia a couple of days later, as individual resources for deployment to various locations across British Columbia.

Our contingent's role was to assist and support more than 1,600 provincial BC government staff, over 800 BC contractors and over 350 out-of-province personnel already actively engaged in fire suppression in British Columbia.

Soon after arriving, four other Australians and I were deployed to the Nadina Fire Zone in a village called Burns Lake. We were tasked to assist in establishing a Ministry Zone Operations Centre (MZOC) under the supervision of MZOC Director Rod Allen of the Coastal Fire Centre Office, BC Wildfire Management Branch. My role was that of Logistics Support Branch Director.

**Many staff at the centre had been working continuously for over a month without any time off, creating fatigue management issues**

An MZOC has the structure of an IMT and its role is providing support to the Zone Fire Centre, and coordinating response and resources for a defined area where there are heavy wildfire demands. It is effectively a strategic IMT operating over a number of incident or fire IMTs.

The MZOC concept is not often used by the BC Wildfire Management Branch, however the Nadina MZOC proved to be valuable in reducing the workload of the Northwest Zone Fire Centre located in Smithers.

Many staff at the centre had been working continuously for over a month without any time off, creating fatigue management issues.

Working in the Logistics team, the initial challenge was to familiarise ourselves with the different work procedures and local terminology. We were lucky enough to have a few local BC staff acting as "translators" between us and the local Canadians. This local link allowed us to fill a significant number of operational resource requests locally before escalating to the Northwest Zone Fire Centre at Smithers.

The BC Wildfire Management Branch work only day shift on both the fire line and IMTs. However, the 14-hour day shifts become pretty challenging after nine or 10 days straight. We were originally scheduled to work 14 days on, followed by three days of stand down time and another block of 14 days on.

Because of the long work hours and number of days on shift, safety and fatigue management are critical considerations when developing the incident management strategies.

Due to a significant change in predicted weather conditions, we commenced our demobilisation back to Australia at the end of our three days stand down.

The highlight of the deployment for me was working with some really great local people who we all found to be welcoming and extremely friendly. The locals we worked with are normally employed in various administration roles in the Burns Lake BC government office, or as firefighters in the BC Wildfire Management Branch.

I was also exceptionally proud of the professional approach, and level of expertise demonstrated by the entire Australian contingent for the duration of the international deployment. **END**

# PLANNING TO COMBAT THE THREAT OF BUSHFIRES



VIEW VIDEO AT  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)



OR  
SCAN CODE TO  
WATCH NOW



*The Major Incident Management Plan 2014/15 Bushfire Season* is the overarching reference for current FRNSW bushfire operations. It is available on the intranet, look under Toolkits → Operational → Emergency Planning.



**T**he purpose of this plan is to guide FRNSW staff on arrangements to maximise operational readiness in order to deal with outbreaks of major bush and grass fires.

The focus of the plan is mainly on Sydney and the Blue Mountains. However it can also be adapted to major bushfires in other parts of the State requiring a significant and coordinated response. The plan complements the *NSW State Emergency Management Plan* and the *NSW State Bushfire Sub-plan*.

### Meeting the challenge

When bushfires threaten, FRNSW's main roles are to protect life and property from the impact of bush and grass fires, particularly at the urban bushland interface, and to support RFS operations outside Fire Districts when required.

Prior to each bushfire season, local crews and Community Fire Unit (CFU) volunteers assist residents in high-risk areas to prepare their properties. During bushfire impact, "structural triage" may be necessary and some properties may not be saveable. If necessary, NSW Police may forcibly evacuate residents from such properties where it is safe to do so.

If bushfires escalate and need more resources, FRNSW firefighters, commanders and appliances may be redeployed from anywhere in NSW. This may involve FRNSW fleet reserves being crewed and dispatched and off-duty firefighters recalled. Interstate assistance may be necessary to assist in maintaining response coverage, as occurred in 2013 when Melbourne appliances and crews backfilled Sydney fire stations, Brisbane appliances and crews worked with FRNSW in the Blue Mountains and ACT crews helped cover Yass and Queanbeyan.

### Matching resources to risks

Research shows that property losses in Australia consistently occur when the Fire Danger Rating (FDR) exceeds 50 (severe). In these conditions, even small benign fires can develop rapidly into uncontrollable fires and therefore sufficient weight of attack with appropriate resources is absolutely critical.

When weather forecasts indicate a  $FDR > 50$ , all reported bush and grass fires within FRNSW Fire Districts attract an increased weight of attack assigned wherever possible given other resource commitments (e.g. a minimum of two pumpers, or one pumper and a tanker). This may include an RFS resource. The FireCom will implement standard move-ups of pumpers to fire stations at the urban fringe. To free up further resources, FireCom will implement single pumper response to automatic fire alarms except for high-risk premises. Strike Teams can also be formed to provide an increased weight of attack capability. **END**



**A vital component in any major firefighting operation, FRNSW's Strike Teams are now even better prepared for the 2014/15 bushfire season.**

**F**ollowing a review of FRNSW's operational performance during the 2013 bushfire season, Operational Capability identified the Strike Team Leader role as essential for effective response to significant bushfire incidents.

Strike Teams are groups of resources deployed as tactical units to significant incidents, such as major bushfires or floods. A Strike Team usually comprises four appliances and a Strike Team Leader (usually an inspector) with a vehicle.

As a direct response to the 2013 review, a new Strike Team Leader Capability project was undertaken to use feedback from firefighters, officers and FNRSW support staff through end of season debriefs. The project consulted with key stakeholders from the bushfire campaign throughout the State with particular interest paid to lessons

learned from the devastating fires in the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Lake Macquarie.

The project included the creation of a toolkit and Strike Team Leader training workshops. The training has been delivered to 118 inspectors, superintendents and chief superintendents from Metropolitan and Regional Commands. A collaboration between Operational Capability, Operational Command and the Bushfire Section, the one-day training included a presentation of the Strike Team Leader toolkit and a tabletop discussion. The training day was held in several locations including Lane Cove, Newcastle, Dubbo, Queanbeyan and Coffs Harbour.

The toolkit is available on the intranet under the Incident Management and Bushfire sections. It will also become an e-learning package for all potential Strike Team Leaders in 2015. **END**

Category 1 tanker built by Kuipers from RFS contract



Class 1, 'six locker type tanker' on Mercedes Atego chassis



# BUSHFIRE TANKERS READY FOR ANYTHING



Cabin protection system on Category 1 tanker



Over the 2014/15 summer period, a number of different appliances will be introduced to FRNSW's 4x4 bushfire fleet to better align tankers with local operational requirements.



**T**he existing 4x4 fleet is predominantly made up of Isuzu vehicles with Hatz pump combinations and Venturi Class A foam systems, e.g. Quenchmasters. In addition to large tankers, FRNSW also has two Mitsubishi Category 7 tankers which were purchased from RFS contracts in 2007.

The single cab (two crew) Category 7 tankers have 1,480 litre water tanks and 600 litre per minute pumps. The tankers have been used extensively in bushfire work and for hazard reduction and, due to their smaller size, are very effective in accessing hard-to-reach properties.

In 2014, six Category 1 tankers were acquired from the RFS contract and built by Kuipers in Windsor, with the first already sent to Jerilderie in the southern Riverina. These tankers have a water capacity of 3,500 litres, an Isuzu chassis and full automatic transmissions. There have been a number of upgrades to the RFS Category 1 specification including a larger pump, electronic foam system, additional lockers and breathing apparatus and revised cabin seating.

In addition to the Category 1s from Kuipers, FRNSW will be commissioning two Category 1s and two Category 6s (8,500 litre 6x4 tankers) with compressed air foam systems (CAFS) built by Varley. These tankers will target bushfire operations with a State-wide role depending on operational requirements.

Varley is also in the process of building five automatic transmission Class 1 '6 locker type tankers' on Mercedes Atego chassis. These tankers will have a 3,200 litre water tank capacity, electronic foam systems and CAFS. Following the CAFS tanker build, 14 rescue tankers will be built to replace the existing 14 Class 1 rescue '6 locker trucks' located in regional rural areas. Water tanks on the rescue tankers will be reduced to approximately 2,500 litres to accommodate the additional weight requirements.

Detailed specifications of the new vehicles will be published in future issues of Fire & Rescue News. **END**

# DON'T KNOW YOUR MICC FROM YOUR BICC?



The Major Incident Coordination Centre (MICC) team acts as an operational logistics cell, and helps to manage FRNSW resources including additional appliances, Strike Teams, Command and support staff that may be required to support major bushfire operations. The MICC team liaises closely with FRNSW's Bushfire Incident Coordination Centre (BICC) to pre-plan resource requirements. The MICC is located adjacent to the Sydney ComCen at Alexandria.

## THE MICC:

- liaises closely with the Directors of Metropolitan and Regional Operations, Area and Zone Commanders on resource needs, incident management and support requirements
- assists the Response Coordinator to maintain FRNSW response capability and coverage at all times
- marshals additional resources such as SEV appliances, Training College resources, reserve fleet and bulk water tankers
- arranges with Human Resources to recall off-duty personnel when required
- assigns senior officers to Incident Management Teams and Strike Teams
- provides regular situation reports to key stakeholders and distributes regular internal updates in consultation with the BICC.



The Bushfire Incident Coordination Centre (BICC) provides intelligence to assist in coordinating FRNSW resources. The BICC is co-located at the RFS State Operations Centre, Homebush, enabling close coordination with the RFS and other key agencies.

# THE BICC:

collects, collates and distributes operational intelligence to assist decision making and the wider dissemination of information relating to FRNSW operations

provides updates to the Commissioner, Executive and other senior personnel

directs the ComCen and MICC to deploy additional FRNSW resources to Class 2 and 3 fires

resolves competing resource requests based on available intelligence and predictions

liaises closely with RFS State Operations and the RFS Air Desk

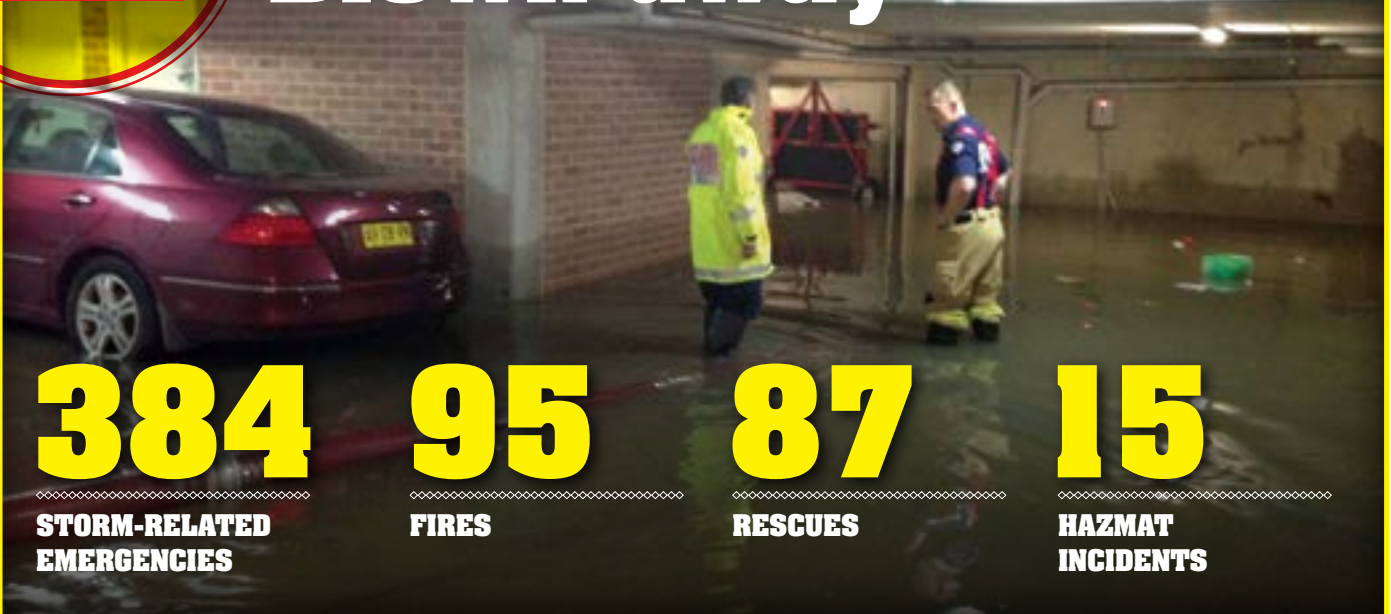
monitors status and occurrence of incidents, and assess their effects on FRNSW resources and readiness

liaises with RFS and the Media and Communications Unit to ensure clear media messages and warnings are directed to communities in FRNSW Fire Districts.

NSW

**STORM  
AND FLOOD**

# Blown away



**384**

**STORM-RELATED  
EMERGENCIES**

**95**

**FIRES**

**87**

**RESCUES**

**15**

**HAZMAT  
INCIDENTS**

Unlike a year ago when NSW was battling some of the worst bushfires in its history, on 14 October an east coast low formed off Wollongong and moved north during the night.

**VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

**OR**

**SCAN CODE TO  
WATCH NOW**

**15 & 27 OCT**

Between 1800 on 14 October and 0800 hours on 15 October, FRNSW received more than 1,000 triple zero calls and responded to 970 incidents, including:

- 95 fires (including at least two house fires started by lightning strikes at Kellyville and Normanhurst, and a 2nd Alarm at Granville)
- 384 storm-related emergencies, including wires down, trees down and flooding
- 87 rescues including people trapped in MVAs, on a train, in flooded homes and cars
- 15 hazmat incidents
- 27 medical assist calls
- 12 bush and grass fires (most likely started by lightning)
- 350 other calls including AFAs and power outages.

**I**nitially, on 14 and 15 October, Illawarra crews were stretched to the limit by dozens of incidents, including a man trapped under a tree at Warrawong, and the flooding of three floors of surgical wards at Wollongong Hospital. Four pumpers from Sydney were sent to assist when all Illawarra crews became committed.

The storm then moved north resulting in flash flooding and numerous rescues in the southern and southwestern suburbs of Sydney. At one stage there were 230 simultaneous active incidents. Crews were recalled for seven additional pumpers, three were brought up from the Illawarra, four down from the Central Coast, and 10 RFS tankers were called in to assist. The NSWSES was also fully committed.

On 27 October, another severe storm hit Sydney and the Blue Mountains. FRNSW processed several hundred calls for assistance.

Firefighters responded to more than 70 wind-related incidents across Sydney and the Blue Mountains, in most cases these were trees or wires down. Numerous calls were referred to the NSWSES.

Some of the incidents firefighters responded to included:

- **Eastern Creek:** Roof off a building on Wallgrove Road. Firefighters removed the roof and stabilised the structure, before covering the roof in plastic.
- **Concord:** Tree on to a house causing a ceiling collapse and injuring one person.
- **Glenbrook:** Trees down on three cars at Glenbrook Railway Station. The trees were removed and the area made safe.
- **Medlow Bath:** Tree down across the Great Western Highway and one across the railway line. The tree on the highway was removed by firefighters. A crane was organised to remove the tree from the rail line. **END**



MECHANICAL MARVEL:

# INSIDE THE WORKSHOP

With a total of 646 appliances and 237 'minor' vehicles to keep on the road, FRNSW's Fleet operation never sleeps.

# 615

SERVICES PER ANNUM

# 2,500+

MAINTENANCE JOBS PER ANNUM

**A**t the Greenacre workshop, trade staff and contractors look after approximately 250 appliances 24/7. In addition, four regional maintenance staff manage 380 appliances from 211 regional fire stations and six transport assistants carry out approximately 250 fire appliance movements every month.

The facility manages all FRNSW's fleet replacement programs and fleet maintenance. Major appliances are kept for 15 to 20 years as frontline firefighting equipment and minor vehicles are targeted for replacement at five years or 100,000kms.

"The major fleet replacement programs focus on maintaining the average age of the front-line fleet at mid-life, i.e. approximately eight to 10 years," explained Assistant Director Fleet Peter Fanning. "Within Fleet there is a project unit which specifically looks after all facets of the replacement programs, from development of technical specifications to managing the new appliance build and recycle projects."

As for maintenance, Greenacre's specialised heavy vehicle mechanics, auto electricians and body repairers predominantly look after fire appliances from the busy metropolitan area which require frequent servicing and maintenance. The Greenacre workshop is also responsible for the servicing requirements of regional/rural based Class 3 fleet and appliances with difficult maintenance issues.

"In addition, the workshop staff operate mobile lube trucks to service appliances 'in station' within greater Sydney and as far south as Nowra. They also operate mobile on-call trucks for electrical, mechanical and body repairs," said Mr Fanning.

"Together it amounts to 315 major services in the workshops, 300 minor services with the lube truck, 300 RMS roadworthy inspections and more than 2,500 on-call maintenance jobs performed in fire stations per annum."

END



### THE WORD ON THE TWEET

**Tania Poletti** @PTme\_PT Oct 21  
Hooked on #firies #tenplay...#FRNSW #uniform

**Emma Kate** @emmakatemoezel Oct 18  
Tv show #firies makes me want to join fire & rescue. :)

**Belinda Demy-Geroe** @bdemy Oct 18  
I am watching #Firies on @channelten looks great so far. :)

# FIRIES

## IN THE NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

 **VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

**OR**

 **SCAN CODE TO WATCH NOW**



In October and November, FRNSW's lifesaving work took centre stage in lounge rooms across Australia in the observational documentary series *Firies*.





Liverpool B Platoon

## **FIRIES CAST**

### **8 LIVERPOOL B PLATOON**

SO Chris Andrews  
 SF Peter Watson  
 SF Mark Williams  
 SF Mark Ecob  
 QF Irene Lowe  
 QF Daniel Austin  
 QF Mark Gordon

### **18 GLEBE D PLATOON**

SO Dean Broadwood  
 SF Matthew Julienne  
 SF Jason Hardy  
 QF Patrick Thompson  
 QF David (George) Wilkie  
 QF David Baber  
 QF Dimitrios (Jim) Taousanis

### **FIRE INVESTIGATION AND RESEARCH UNIT**

SO Steve Apps  
 SO Michael Forbes



**C**ameras were given full access to two crews – 18 Glebe D Platoon and 8 Liverpool B Platoon – over a 20-week period to provide a real look into the inner workings of FRNSW.

Over eight weeks the public were treated to a weekly 'behind the scenes' look at the highly skilled and varied work of FRNSW at 6pm on Saturday nights on Channel Ten.

"Despite minimal pre-launch promotion by Channel Ten, the show was very popular," said Community Safety Special Projects Manager, Superintendent Tom Cooper. "It generated a lot of activity on social media and gained growth in ratings over the first three episodes. It just goes to show how genuinely interested people are in firefighters and how grateful they are when FRNSW's crews provide assistance to them when they need it."

After the first episode achieved an audience of around 645,000 (excluding online viewings on Tenplay), ratings jumped to 1.07 million people on week two, with 1.421 million tuning in on week three.

*Furies* depicted crews responding to the many incidents that are all in a day's work – including factory fires, floods, AFAs and MVAs and participating in hot cell and high-rise training – while also highlighting some of the dangers of common household habits and the importance of fire safety education.

FRNSW's Media and Communications Unit promoted the series heavily on social media and through internal channels. The 'Ask the Furies' competition on Facebook encouraged the public to put forward their burning questions with training and callouts proving to be popular subjects.

The Duracell-sponsored series included eight 30-minute episodes which aired from Saturday 11 October to Saturday 29 November. **END**



It took just three posts about *Furies* on the FRNSW Facebook page between 14 and 23 October to attract more than 1,100 likes and 200 shares.

 **1,100**

 **200**



## WHAT ARE YOU YAMMERING ON ABOUT?

If the thought of Yammer gives you a headache, try these quick hints to make the most of your Yammer-time.

**T**he first rule of Yammer? Don't be afraid to just have a go. However you feel about mainstream social media, the corporate version of Facebook (i.e. Yammer) is an easy way to find out what's going on, discover what other people think, chat about hot topics and make connections with colleagues you may otherwise never meet or have the confidence to approach.

Yammer is safe and secure, has no advertising and the content always remains the property of FRNSW.

- Once you've signed up, make sure you upload a picture (otherwise just your initials are shown and you don't look like a real human being).
- Start slowly by 'liking' your co-workers' posts and comments because everyone likes to be liked.

- Check out the existing groups and join any that interest you. If the group you'd really like to be part of doesn't exist, create it.
- When you're ready to post, keep it short and conversational and think about which groups your message is relevant to.
- Tag individual people if you want them to read your posts.
- Use hashtags to create topics (which are then searchable) in your posts.
- You can link to URLs, documents, images and videos, the latter of which are visible at the bottom of your post and make it stand out.
- Download the Yammer app for your phone so you can stay in touch.
- Experiment! **END**

Access to Yammer is optional. If you choose to use Yammer, it can be easily accessed via your desktop PC or anywhere from your mobile device. To sign-on for the first time, visit: <https://www.yammer.com/fire.nsw.gov.au>. Once you're registered, you can easily access Yammer via the FRNSW Office Outlook application from your internet browser in the top menu or from the intranet homepage under web applications. If you've previously used Facebook, you'll find Yammer easy. When logging on to Yammer for the first time, you will be asked to accept the terms of use.

### SKILLSROAD AND BEYOND...

## RECRUITING FOR FREE



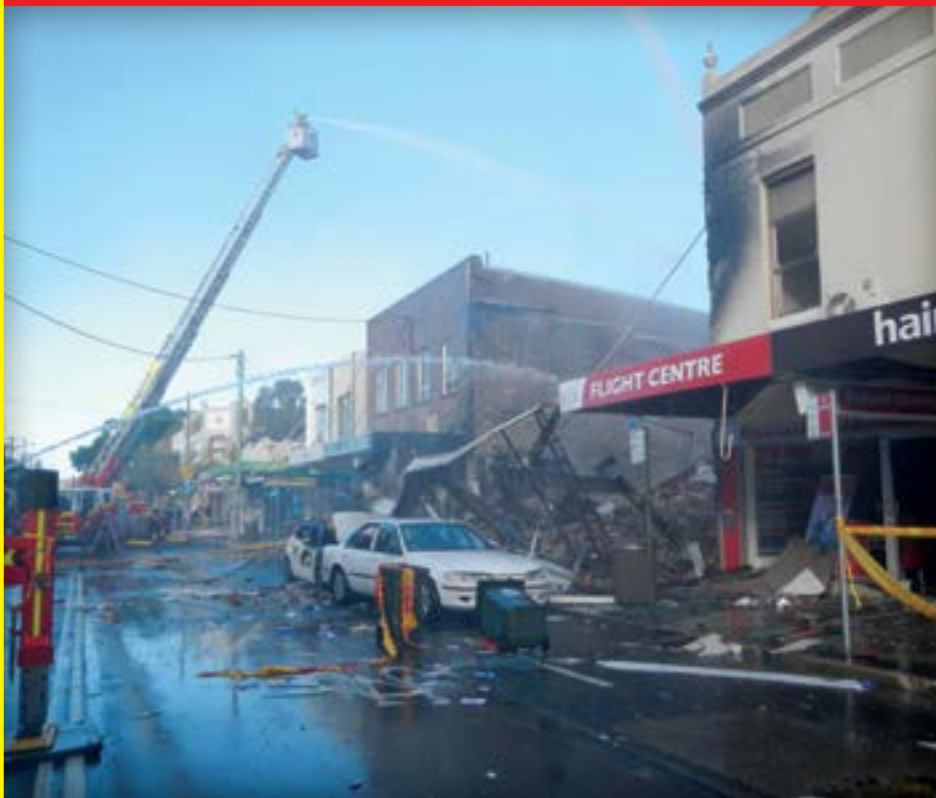
Recently, the NSW Business Chamber government-funded careers website Skillsroad partnered with FRNSW to make and broadcast quality online careers videos about firefighting.



**T**he production was entirely funded by Skillsroad and FRNSW negotiated the rights to share and use any footage shot in its own projects as well as upcoming recruitment drives.

The three firefighters featured were chosen as representative of target groups for FRNSW recruiting, including firefighters of both genders and from culturally diverse backgrounds. The three recounted their personal and diverse experiences of working within FRNSW, describing engagingly some of the many different career choices there are in a large and complex organisation like FRNSW. Film shoots were based around Alexandria, taking in Operational Communications and Initial Skills Training, and then moved to city for a visit to one of our busiest operational fire stations.

The resulting videos do FRNSW proud and will be essential materials in upcoming firefighter recruitment campaigns, take a look. **END**



## Explosion and fire rips apart Rozelle shop

Early on Thursday 4 September FRNSW received numerous triple zero calls to an explosion and fire in shops at Darling Street at Rozelle.

 **VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews)

**OR**

 **SCAN CODE TO WATCH NOW**



 **SEP**  04:05

**F**irst arriving crews were confronted with a complex and difficult operation. The shop which was alight was located in a long row of two-level premises with shops on the ground floor and residences above. Concerned bystanders were frantically calling to firefighters that people lived in the premises over the shops.

Crews at the rear of the premises located a man (subsequently identified as the shop owner) trapped underneath a large commercial freezer unit which had been blown out of the building among a pile of bricks and rubble. Firefighters cleared away the rubble and pulled the man

out where he was treated by paramedics and taken to hospital. Two other men in an upstairs unit clambered to safety across a shop awning and down to the ground where they were also assessed by paramedics and transported to hospital.

By later that morning, three other occupants were still unaccounted for but collapsing walls and roofing materials prevented any further search by firefighters. All two floors of the structure soon collapsed in on themselves, weakening adjoining premises on either side which further hampered firefighting and search operations. Once the fire was extinguished, USAR crews were deployed to assess and stabilise surrounding walls to enable search of the collapsed structure.

The incident then moved from firefighting to search-and-rescue mode as it was hoped the missing occupants may have survived in cavity spaces among the rubble. However, over the next day and a half the missing occupants, a man, woman and a small child, were found deceased by firefighters and the bodies removed.

The incident attracted enormous media interest. FRNSW fire investigators, aided by the accelerant detector dogs, worked with Police in conducting an exhaustive search of the site. Following further investigation by Police, the shop owner has since been charged over the incident. **END**



# 7%

## REDUCTION IN HOME FIRES

In the 2013 winter period, FRNSW attended 1,916 accidental home fires in NSW. In 2014, incidents still peaked in the winter months, however the number of house fires decreased to 1,792, representing a 12% reduction in comparison to the six year average and a 7.4% reduction from 2013.

**R**unning from 17 May to 15 September, the 2014 campaign combined the message 'Don't leave your home fire safety to chance' with a call to action for the online Home Fire Safety Audit to raise awareness, educate and ultimately reduce the number of preventable residential structure fires in NSW.

The campaign, which was funded by principal partner GIO and managed by the Community Engagement Unit (CEU), was promoted through fire stations, media releases, social media activities, targeted communications to at-risk groups and the SABRE program.

Community Safety Partnership and Marketing Manager Chris Fish said the overall reduction was incredibly positive; however, post-campaign research indicates there is still plenty of work to do.

"The kitchen remains by far the most likely area of origin for a home fire incident, with 40% of the total fires in the 2014 winter period starting in the kitchen," said Mr Fish.

The 2014 figures indicate that the total reduction in house fires has been predominantly seen in the reduction of kitchens as the area of origin. Despite this, "unattended kitchen fires" remains the statistically most likely cause of house fires.

**The kitchen remains by far the most likely area of origin for a home fire incident, with 40% of the total fires in the 2014 winter period starting in the kitchen**

In post-campaign research, around three in five respondents recalled seeing or hearing some kind of home fire safety messaging and around four in five respondents said they would do something differently after seeing the

specific 'Don't leave your home fire safety to chance' advertisement. Of the respondents who completed the Home Fire Safety Checklist, more than half made some form of change at home.

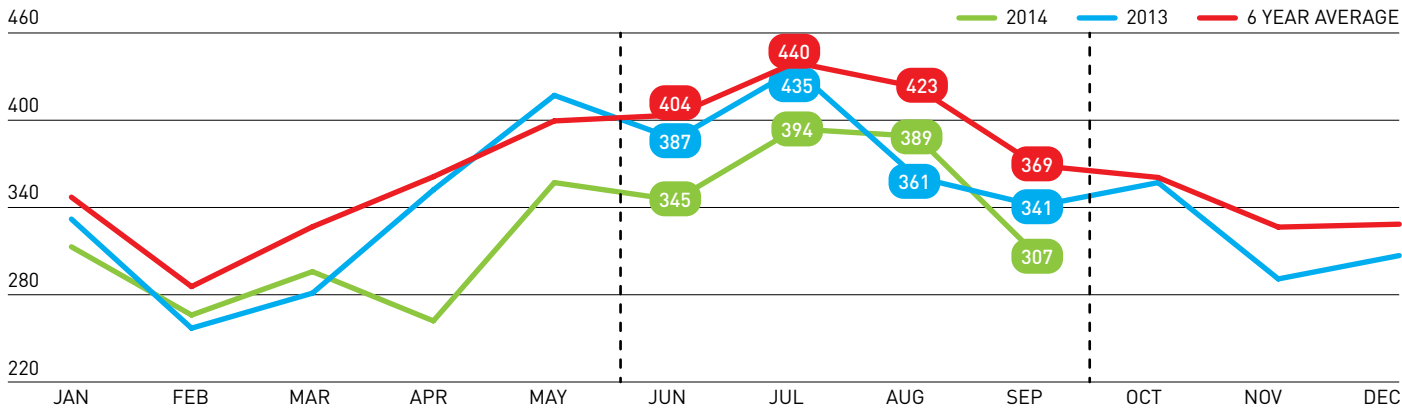
Despite 76% of respondents indicating that the kitchen is the room with the highest fire risk, 38% didn't know what to do if a fire occurred.

The research also highlighted the significance of targeting key at-risk audiences, as identified through CEU's Fire Injury Risk Model. When exposed to the campaign, the group reported increased knowledge of some home fire risks, particularly in the kitchen – and the potential for the risks to apply to them – increased concern of smoke inhalation and improved awareness of the Home Fire Safety Audit.

"Despite positive results, the campaign also highlighted the need to educate the public on the prevalence of house fires and the actions they should take if a fire occurs," said Mr Fish. "Only one in 10 respondents were aware of how many home fires occur in NSW each week. It means that the call to action needs to be even better articulated in future campaigns." **END**



### AVERAGE NUMBER OF RESIDENTIAL FIRES OVER SIX YEARS 2007-13 AGAINST 2013 AND 2014



AREA OF FIRE ORIGIN	MAY 2014	JUN 2014	JUL 2014	AUG 2014	SEP 2014	OVERALL RESULT
Kitchen, cooking area	176	160	152	141	148	777
Sleeping room	32	31	38	44	24	169
Lounge area	21	26	37	38	21	143
Area of fire origin undetermined	15	12	13	19	11	70
Laundry room	7	17	16	16	12	68
Garage, car-port, vehicle storage area	8	15	14	16	15	68
Other	98	84	124	115	76	497
<b>Overall result</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>1,792</b>



## Collaroy gas leak turns into **driveway collapse**

On Tuesday 19 August, FRNSW crews were called to a gas leak at a construction site in Collaroy.

 **VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

**OR**

 **SCAN CODE TO WATCH NOW**



 19 **AUG**  05:04

**H**eavy overnight rainfall had caused the side of a major excavation site to collapse, rupturing a 20mm gas main and filling the site with water, trapping a digging machine. The driveway of a 3-storey block of units adjacent to the site also partially collapsed, hindering resident access. 68 Narrabeen initially responded and immediately conducted a safety assessment. There were fears that further collapse of the site could impact surrounding properties and firefighters assisted several residents

to move to safety. The gas company was called but due to further threats of collapse were unable to isolate the appropriate gas valves.

Firefighters continued to monitor the atmosphere for dangerous gas levels until gas supplies were finally isolated around 0820 hours and the construction company erected fencing to block off the area. With the adjoining apartment building also threatened, FRNSW USAR specialists set up lasers to monitor any risk of building collapse and engineers attended to assess the apartment building's stability.

Continuing heavy rain hampered operations throughout the incident and caused further erosion at the site.

Residents in nearby properties were evacuated, and large quantities of rubble and soil were sourced to fill the pit. Site control was handed over to the Police in the afternoon, however FRNSW continued to provide logistic support with USAR specialists and equipment remaining on site for a further two days. The incident attracted a lot of media coverage.

**END**

From left: SF Conrad Walsh, Abbey Williamson and SF Scott Bradshaw



# TRIUMPH FROM FIRE TRAUMA

**After a fire incident in her home, 10-year-old Sydneysider Abbey Williamson suffered ongoing panic attacks. Mum Samantha sought psychological help for her daughter but it wasn't enough to get through the trauma.**

**T**hrough the after-school care service she runs, Samantha met Senior Firefighter Scott Bradshaw. SF Bradshaw, together with his colleague Firefighter Sarah Green, offered to run a fire safety education session at Samantha's after-school service. The session was very well received but also brought to light the bigger issue the Williamson family was facing.

SF Bradshaw knew that FRNSW could help, he just wasn't sure how. But, as a parent himself, he knew he had to find the answer.

"I know how it is when your child needs help and you feel like there's nothing you can do," said SF Bradshaw. "If you ask any firefighter (especially parents), it's the incidents involving kids that get to you the most because they are helpless and you would do anything you could to help them."

After asking several different people for guidance, SF Bradshaw sought the advice of the Commissioner. Within a week, Abbey's mother Samantha received a call from Community Safety Coordinator Youth, Senior Firefighter Conrad Walsh, who organised a special training day for the Williamson family at Dee Why Fire Station on 8 July.

At the station, Abbey and her family were dressed in PPC and learnt about firefighting procedures, including how to use a fire blanket and extinguishers. They were also talked through an evacuation procedure.

**Firefighters like Scott Bradshaw and Conrad Walsh are a credit to Fire & Rescue NSW and the great job you all do to keep us safe**

Samantha was surprised and delighted to see Abbey empowered to open up and ask questions. She was also inspired by SF Walsh's skill at engaging with her daughter.

But for SF Walsh, it was simply about fire safety. "It is important to help all young people and their families to understand fire safety," he explained. "It is particularly important in and around the home, in order to prevent damage and injury from fire."

After the visit to 69 Dee Why, Abbey drew her own home evacuation plan which she sent to SF Walsh for approval.

Although Abbey continues to see her psychologist, Samantha says the visits are less frequent and, most importantly, she hasn't had a panic attack since visiting Dee Why Fire Station.

"I will be forever grateful to Scott Bradshaw for pursuing help for Abbey, not giving up and finding some sort of training and support to help her," said Samantha. "He is a great dad and an amazing firefighter with a passion to help children become fire aware. Firefighters like Scott Bradshaw and Conrad Walsh are a credit to Fire & Rescue NSW and the great job you all do to keep us safe."

It's a sentiment echoed by Commissioner Mullins, who told Samantha he was inspired by SF Bradshaw's determination and the enthusiasm of others, including FF Green and SF Walsh, to get involved. "I am immensely proud of their efforts, and even prouder to say that this typifies the calibre of the men and women I am so privileged to lead. They just love helping people."

SF Bradshaw has two simple pieces of advice for firefighters who want to help someone but don't know how: don't be afraid to ask; and if it is something you truly believe in, never take "no" or "not sure" for an answer. **END**



VIEW VIDEO AT  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews)



OR  
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SPECIAL REPORT:

# HOARDING HOUSEHOLD FIRES

Since 2009, 12% of all fire fatalities in NSW were persons reportedly living in hoarding and squalor conditions.

Of these, more than 70% were aged 50 years or over. Of the 12 fire fatalities in NSW this year to date, three victims were identified as living in hoarding conditions.

Fires in hoarding households pose significant hazards to occupants, responding firefighters and surrounding properties, including:

- abnormally high fuel loads which are easier to ignite and require more firefighting resources to extinguish
- blocked exits and narrow internal pathways which impede escape and make access extremely difficult
- disconnected or misused utilities resulting in unsafe work practices (including risk of electric shock) when cooking and heating
- unorthodox items presenting dangerous and unexpected hazards, including higher smoke toxicity, explosive conditions (e.g. from pressure vessels), injuries from sharp objects and collapse hazards from piled debris or overloaded structures.

## Fires in hoarding households pose significant hazards to occupants, responding firefighters and surrounding properties

A study by the Metropolitan Fire and Emergency Services Board, Melbourne found that most hoarding fires start from either cooking or heating where accumulated materials are within close proximity or make contact with an open flame or heat source. The Melbourne study also found 60% of hoarding households involved in a fire did not have a working smoke alarm.

FRNSW's Community Safety Coordinator for Ageing and Disabilities, Senior Firefighter Melanie Rebane, said capturing information on hoarding fire incidents is limited because there is no data field in AIRS related to hoarding.

"Response statistics also don't tell us about the proactive work undertaken by fire stations contacted by residents concerned by their neighbour's fire risks or the discovery of hoarding households through SABRE visits," said SF Rebane. "Nor do they tell us about local level partnerships with agencies such as Housing NSW.

"Hoarding is a complex social issue requiring intervention and support from appropriate agencies. We report premises where significant hoarding and squalor is present but there is currently no State-wide protocol for addressing the situation."

It is therefore important that families, social workers and service providers of people living in hoarding and squalor conditions undertake prevention and early intervention to reduce the risks of fires in their homes. FRNSW is committed to improving the operational response to these incidents, providing risk reduction advice and directing people affected by hoarding to appropriate treatment programs and services.

END



## HOARDING FIRE INCIDENTS

29 JUN 2014

### DACEYVILLE HOUSE FIRE

Single level brick house with hoarded materials in front yard totally destroyed by fire. Owner was overcome by smoke and fire and was pronounced dead at the scene.

14 JUL 2014

### LAKEMBA UNIT FIRE

Large amounts of hoarded materials, including hanging clothes, hampered the firefighting effort at a first floor unit. The level of hoarding and the amount of smoke made locating the owner very difficult.

29 JUL 2013

### MARRICKVILLE HOUSE FIRE

The blaze became a 3rd Alarm structure fire due to the excessive level of hoarded materials. Firefighters had to use ladders to climb over the materials and spent 12 hours putting the fire out.

## CSIRO HOARDING TEST BURNS

In July, FRNSW's Community Engagement and Fire Investigation units conducted a series of test burns at the CSIRO fire research laboratory in North Ryde to determine the fire risks and hazards associated with hoarding and high fuel loads, and to test if hoarding increased fire risk.

**T**wo full scale bedrooms were constructed and filled with materials measuring a level 5 and level 8 on Dr Frost's Clutter Image Rating Scale to compare the risks of varying fuel loads. The test burns involved

full scale fire testing to observe fire behaviour, and measure temperature and rate of heat rise while monitoring atmospheric hazards.

The impact on responding firefighters was also monitored as Beecroft, Lane Cove, Ryde, and Eastwood fire crews extinguished the burns. The heavy hazmat crew from Chester Hill monitored the atmosphere within the burn gallery.

Key findings/conclusions were as follows:

- Fire growth and flashover time is determined by the ignition, type of fuel and fuel arrangement rather than fuel load
- Fire risk dramatically increases with open flame ignition sources such as unconventional cooking and heating practices (as often occurs when utilities are disconnected)
- Depending on fuel, maximum temperatures reached are similar irrespective of fuel load, however, higher fuel loads will burn longer as there are more materials to combust

- Hoarded materials can provide good thermal insulation against hot gases. In the second test a maximum temperature of 17°C was recorded under a pile of clothing despite ceiling temperatures being 1020°C

**It is the type of items, how they are being stored and their exposure to ignition sources, such as open flame, that increases fire risk**

- Greater effort was required to extinguish and overhaul the fire
- Working smoke alarms are critical in hoarding households to provide early warning to occupants. Escape time may be significantly reduced because of the hoarded materials, thus occupants must not delay their escape when an alarm activates.

SF Melanie Rebane said the research showed fire growth is not determined by fuel load and therefore it cannot be assumed that all hoarding households may be an increased fire risk.

"Rather it is the type of items, how they are being stored and their exposure to ignition sources, such as open flame, that increases fire risk."

A summary of the findings was presented at the National Hoarding and Squalor Conference in Sydney in September and will also be used to support FRNSW prevention strategies and hoarding risk reduction advice. **END**





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[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

OR



SCAN CODE TO  
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# MOVE WELL, STAY WELL WITH FUNCTIONAL MOVEMENT SCREENING

SF Marc Favero demonstrating  
a trunk stability pushup

The functional movement screen (FMS) is an effective tool which can reduce a firefighter's risk of injury.

**T**he FMS is widely accepted in a number of fire services and many top level sporting codes around the world (e.g. NRL, AFL, NFL and European soccer). It has also proven to be an essential tool for firefighters as "tactical athletes", who are defined as personnel required to safely and effectively prepare for and perform demanding operational tasks. As well, it allows firefighters to enjoy an active lifestyle away from work.

#### So what's it all about?

Imagine there are two firefighters of the same age, experience and level of fitness. Both do the exact same amount and type of fitness training and both do the exact same operations during their career. So why does one firefighter injure themselves before the other, or injure themselves more often during their career? This is the fundamental question that led to development of the FMS.

The FMS consists of seven movements, each an important guide as to how firefighters should execute efficient and safe movement. The movements create an environment that challenges flexibility, joint stability and overall strength, which forms the physical foundation of almost every firefighter activity. This means that if a firefighter can complete the FMS movements with minimal compensation (i.e. minimal loss of stability or mobility), they're less likely to injure themselves when completing

their operational skills and tasks. The seven movements are:

- deep squat
- hurdle step
- in-line lunge
- shoulder mobility
- straight leg raise
- trunk stability pushup
- rotational stability.

The FMS is not a diagnostic tool to say that one firefighter is fitter than another. Rather, its strength lies in its ability to allow a FRNSW health and fitness advisor to tailor an individual program for those volunteering to participate in the program.

**If a firefighter can complete the FMS movements with minimal compensation, they're less likely to injure themselves**

"Fitness is an integral part of our approach to developing the capability of all firefighters. With a program like the FMS, we are leading the way for fire services in Australia," said Commissioner Greg Mullins who has also put himself through the FMS. "I am proud to see FRNSW taking the lead in preventing musculoskeletal injuries and improving the longevity of our workforce."

The Health and Safety branch commenced rolling out the FMS in the Fitness Program this year. To date, they have received positive feedback from more than 250 firefighters.

Mark Gabriel, Team Leader Health and Fitness, said the FMS has more than 15 years of research behind it, making it a valid tool that will help protect firefighters from illness and injury.

"The overall FMS score and any specific movements that score low or show significant asymmetries (ie imbalances between the left and right side) provides a wealth of information for a health and fitness advisor to assist a firefighter to move better," said Mr Gabriel.

"We've been hearing from firefighters who want help with a tight or sore back, shoulders, hamstrings or general joint pain. Firefighters are also asking about the quality of their movement or if they're making any 'movement shortcuts' that could lead to injury in the long run. The exercises that follow the FMS may include stretching, treatment with foam rollers or tennis balls, or corrective exercises which reprogram how to move well. For firefighters entering the fitness room, this provides the foundations for safe and effective training," said Mr Gabriel.

Be sure to check out the FMS intranet toolkit or watch the FMS video on FireTube. Or simply contact the Health and Fitness Team for more information.

■ END




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[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)  
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# 43

## RECRUITS JOIN FIREFIGHTING RANKS

It's been a very busy time at the State Training College in recent months with two recruit classes graduating and a total of 43 new firefighters joining the ranks.

**A**fter a long selection process and 13 weeks of tough training, 24 firefighters graduated on 28 August followed by the graduation of another 19 firefighters on 2 October.

Among the recruits were six former Australian Defence Force members who have all previously served both in Australia and overseas in varying roles such as infantry, special forces and supply chain management.

Firefighter Joe Badran, who served in Sydney and Townsville and was deployed overseas as a soldier with British and US forces, said he was looking forward to

a long and rewarding career. "I wanted to be a firefighter to be involved in the community and to have a job where you can help people," he said.

Firefighter Conan Sinko was also a soldier. He completed numerous deployments with Australian and US forces in the Middle East and South East Asia. "Our community trusts and respects FRNSW's uniform; I want to be part of an organisation that is challenging and holds a reputation like that while helping people."

Also among the recruits was chef Kurt Fegebank, who's currently on B platoon at City of Sydney. Firefighter Fegebank has worked as an executive chef both in Australia and the United Kingdom. He's also a trained whisky expert and sommelier, and has received a number of awards, including a Chef's Hat. "I wanted to be a firefighter because it's a new challenge and it's the best job in the world," Firefighter Fegebank said.

Taking out the recruit Merit Award on 28 August was Firefighter Kaitlyn Matuschka and the winner of the award on 2 October was Firefighter Piers Craig. **END**



# ALL ROADS LEAD TO MANLY

Captain Robert Couchman

When FRNSW’s captains asked for a different style of learning, Area Commanders Chief Superintendent Ken Murphy and Chief Superintendent Gerry Byrne spearheaded a new Leadership Development Program.

**T**he three-day residential program, held at the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly, aims to develop leadership skills and increase awareness of how personalities influence behaviour. Moving away from traditional workshop methods, the program focuses on tactile experiential learning rather than information overload.

The program has already reached more than 100 captains, deputy captains and inspectors from Regional and Metropolitan Operations. To date, Regional South and Metropolitan South have facilitated two programs each, and in October, Metropolitan North Area Commander Chief Superintendent David Felton facilitated a program for captains and station officers within his command.

The next program, which is planned for March 2015, has gained so much interest that a further date may be scheduled to cope with demand. Planning and development for phase two is also now underway in consultation with AIPM, and will be driven by feedback from phase one.

Chief Supt Murphy said a holistic approach to learning is used on all programs with area, zone and duty commanders and relevant business managers all attending.

The courses delivered so far have focused on leadership issues and styles, strengthening personal effectiveness and

**It’s a terrific initiative and I took away a bundle of new skills to enhance how I lead my team**

workplace relationships, achieving work/life balance, succession planning and communication skills. Participants have also benefited from Manly’s fresh ocean air during a 5km walk from Collins Beach to Little Manly on the final day.

“I believe the weekend programs are a valuable experience for captains and deputy captains,” said Chief Supt Murphy.

“It provides a unique opportunity to develop the skills of our key staff and has clearly defined outcomes.”

Nambucca Heads Captain Robert Couchman (who has been a retained firefighter for eight years and a captain for three) described the course as the most useful management program he has attended.

“It was very different to anything I have attended during my employment with FRNSW, and has already helped me twice this week in dealing with workplace issues,” said Captain Couchman. “The course itself was very introspective, and required an open mind in regards to my own leadership style. The strongest value I took was that while each member of my staff has differing needs, the leadership style that I adopt can be successful across all staff.”

The feedback was echoed by many who attended the courses throughout 2014. 346 Kiama Deputy Captain Terry Dryburgh described the Metropolitan South Leadership Development Program as “a fantastic weekend of learning and development” and gave the new format his full support. While 341 Kariong Captain Mark Formston said of the Metro North program: “I thought it was a terrific initiative and I took away a bundle of new skills to enhance how I lead my team.”

**END**



# THE FITNESS TO BE FIRIES

**I**n August, 12 Aboriginal students commenced a pilot Certificate III Fitness training program as part of the FRNSW Indigenous Employment Strategy program (IFARES).

The initiative, championed by Superintendent Phil Lindsay, A/Area Commander Metro South, aims to prepare and assist Indigenous applicants of all ages and backgrounds in applying for employment as firefighters through FRNSW's standard recruitment process.

Superintendent Lindsay said the initiative came about following a firefighters' perspective exercise at Liverpool Fire Station in March. "We discovered that TAFE had successful Indigenous partnership programs with the NSW Police Force and the defence forces – and that there was interest from the Aboriginal community to do the same with FRNSW," said Supt Lindsay.

The IFARES program builds on FRNSW's 2011–13 Aboriginal Employment and Development Action Plan, in which Commissioner Mullins highlighted the State's diverse workforce profile and FRNSW's commitment to improved Aboriginal employment and development outcomes.

At the launch of the program in August, the Commissioner pledged his support for IFARES and for anyone with a passion to be part of the "best job in the world".

The program was delivered at Macquarie Fields TAFE, the State Training College, and via a one-day placement at 8 stn Liverpool between August and

**We realised Aboriginal people wanted to see more of their community getting involved in firefighting**

December 2014. The final block, a job application and interview skills workshop delivered by FRNSW, is scheduled for February.

During an intensive week at the State Training College, students were given an introduction to the role of firefighters, PPE, BA and hazmat, USAR, bushfires, FIRU, K9 and ComSafe. They also took part in a mock PAT, and gained an insight into aerial appliances at St Andrews Fire Station and rescue operations at Liverpool Fire Station.

Throughout the program, the students have been mentored by Aboriginal firefighters – Inspector Drew Wilson, Station Officer Bill Spek, and Firefighters Dean Dobson and Irene Lowe.

"We realised Aboriginal people wanted to see more of their community getting involved in firefighting," said SO Spek. "The resulting program has been awesome. The partnership with TAFE is excellent and the students love it."

With the pilot nearing completion, Supt Lindsay is excited about the outcome.

"We haven't guaranteed anyone a position of course, but I'm confident it will help students gain employment with FRNSW or another organisation. We hope the program becomes an ongoing partnership with TAFE right across NSW." **END**



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Dorrigo take first place in the hose, hydrant and breaching event



RFF Cassanda Dickson, Bega

# DORRIGO

DOMINATES BY 400 POINTS



Dorrigo in action



RFF Keven Verhoeven, Oberon

Following three days of fierce competition, Dorrigo was crowned 2014 champion team at the State Firefighter Championship in October.



**W**ith almost 400 more points on the board than second placed Tamworth, a jubilant Dorrigo team showed beyond doubt that this was their year.

Held at Learmonth Park, Kelso, the championship brought together hundreds of firefighters from FRNSW, NSWRFSS and CFA from 23 to 25 October. Over the three days, records not only continued to fall, but were broken multiple times in the one event. In total, nine new state records were set during the championship.

### By day three, Dorrigo and Tamworth were head to head in a final push to take the top honours

On day one, the booster valve and high rise bag event saw a new state record set by Tamworth with a time of 49.411 seconds – smashing the record held by Glen Innes since 2010 by 7.9 seconds.

By day three, Dorrigo and Tamworth were head to head in a final push to take the top honours, with Dorrigo eventually proving too good for runners up Tamworth and hosts Kelso.

Kelso Deputy Captain and Firefighter Championship Association Vice President Shane Kearney said the event went exceptionally well. “It was the first time we’ve hosted a State Championship but everybody seemed happy with the organisation and set-up of the track. Teams that came for the first time said they’d be back.”

The NSW Firefighter Championships have been held across the State for more than 70 years. The 2014 State Firefighter Championship was made possible thanks to the efforts of host brigade Kelso and the huge commitment shown by the 22 competing teams. **END**

### FINAL SCOREBOARD

<b>1</b>	Dorrigo	<b>1,451</b>
<b>2</b>	Tamworth	<b>1,047</b>
<b>3</b>	Kelso	<b>961</b>
<b>4</b>	Kootingal RFS	<b>845</b>
<b>5</b>	Wyong	<b>798</b>
<b>6</b>	Echuca	<b>720</b>
<b>7</b>	Tenterfield	<b>492</b>
<b>8</b>	Bega	<b>453</b>
<b>9</b>	Trangie	<b>363</b>
<b>10</b>	Port Macquarie	<b>349</b>
<b>11</b>	Bathurst	<b>348</b>
<b>12</b>	Forbes	<b>345</b>
<b>13</b>	Gunnedah	<b>312</b>
<b>14</b>	Mudgee	<b>290</b>
<b>15</b>	Coffs Harbour	<b>271</b>
<b>16</b>	Wellington	<b>264</b>
<b>17</b>	Nowra	<b>260</b>
<b>18</b>	Lakes Entrance	<b>211</b>
<b>19</b>	Budgewoi	<b>165</b>
<b>20</b>	Kurri Kurri	<b>159</b>
<b>21</b>	Oberon	<b>147</b>
<b>22</b>	Canowindra	<b>137</b>



## FRNSW has been in operation in the Snowy Mountains for three decades and it's a service that's vital to Perisher Valley.

**A** retained fire station was opened at Perisher Valley in 1984. In the late 1990s, permanent firefighters were rotated to Perisher due to a shortage of retained staff. In that time the station has provided many services to permanent residents, businesses and resort guests.

The station is staffed in winter by permanent firefighters from rescue stations all over Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, including Station Officer Jim Ballantyne, who switches 36 Crows Nest for 426 Perisher Valley.

"Crew members must apply for the position thereby guaranteeing dedicated, highly motivated members with a desire to do the best job possible for the community in which they reside only temporarily," explains SO Ballantyne.

From late May to early October permanent firefighters live at the station 24/7 in five-week rotations. During this time they are capably supported by retained firefighters who live

and work at their primary employment in the area. Perisher's retained firefighters are on call the rest of the year and respond to incidents backed up by Jindabyne Fire Station if needed, providing uninterrupted coverage for emergencies in the valley.

So given the amount of snow, why is FRNSW even needed? Air in the alpine region has very little moisture content meaning timber components of structures are very dry and will ignite more easily, and therefore can burn quicker than in sub-alpine regions.

"Another part of our brief is to minimise risks to the pristine alpine environment from incidents and spillages," says SO Ballantyne.

"Several times during my crew's rotations, Perisher station has had to deal with fuel and oil spills due to mechanical issues with all types of vehicles." In these types of incidents FRNSW works in conjunction with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and

Perisher Blue to minimise impact on the community, environment and wildlife.

"In 426 Perisher Valley we have to do things a little differently," says SO Ballantyne. "For starters, it's cold! We have cold climate uniforms ironically to keep us warm even at a fire."

**In the alpine region timber components of structures are very dry and will ignite more easily, and therefore can burn quicker than in sub-alpine regions**

At the snow, standard city fire trucks are replaced by a 4WD rescue tanker that can be fitted with chains, enabling it to respond as far as the park gates in snow/ice conditions.





The station also has two Hagglund BV206 all terrain vehicles which can be used year round. The appliance is designed to exert minimal ground pressure – as little as 10-15kPa – which is less than half that of a human foot.

“The Hagglands carry the same equipment as a fire engine, including a water tank and high pressure pump, and can go virtually anywhere,” says SO Ballantyne. “We also have five skidoos and two six-wheel all-terrain bikes with sirens and lights for rapid response to Charlottes Pass or Guthega.”

A common question for the crews at Perisher is how they access water from above ground fire hydrants in freezing conditions. When turned off, Perisher’s hydrants have a valve which drains the water to approximately 600mm below ground level – well below the permafrost line in the Snowy Mountains.

When not dealing with incidents, 426 Perisher is proactive in the community, offering advice on reducing false alarms, minimising risks for occupants of lodges, providing fire safety training and carrying out pre-incident plans for buildings.

■ END

## EXAMPLES OF 426 PERISHER VALLEY INCIDENTS

### MACHINERY FIRE

A Perisher snow groomer suffered hydraulic failure resulting in oil catching alight in the engine bay. The fire was substantially extinguished by staff with FRNSW completing extinguishment and ensuring no fire spread using a thermal imaging camera.

### CAR PARK HAZMAT INCIDENT

The sewer main backed up causing overflow above Perisher Creek. NPWS and FRNSW boomed the area and built up the snow bank to prevent flow into creek, stood by until the sullage truck cleared the blockage, and then decontaminated the area.

### NYLON CLOTHING FIRE DANGER

FRNSW responded to multiple incidences of nylon clothing being dried too close to heaters causing activation of fire alarms when the fabric began degrading.

### OVERLOADING OF OPEN FIRES

Overloading and incorrect use of open fires leading to smoke logging in lodges.

## SMIGGIN HOLES USAR DRILL

In September 2014, retained firefighters attached to 426 Perisher Valley and 338 Jindabyne carried out a drill at the Smiggin Holes storage site, to fulfil the practical component of USAR Category 1. To make the drill more realistic, firefighter Peter Watson engaged the services of Perisher Valley Ambulance Service of NSW and staff from Perisher Blue Operations. Numerous ‘casualties’ were located within the simulated structural collapse, identified, treated, and extricated in accordance with USAR Category 1 operations. This gave the retained (and permanent) firefighters a lifelike exercise to hone their skills. Input from paramedics also gave an insight into a USAR incident from their perspective.



# UMINA GETS 'ART' TRANSPLANT



The rear wall of Umina Fire Station had a long history of unwanted graffiti. For many years, firefighters put in a concerted effort to keep the wall clean and at one stage they were painting it weekly in an attempt to wear out the resolve of the graffiti artists.

**A**s the problem continued, an alternative approach was proposed. 340 Station formed a partnership with the Gosford Graffiti Art Project, a community program that facilitates artwork, themed graffiti and portrait art on places that have high incidence of graffiti. The art projects are created in conjunction with local youth, and styles can include anything from cartoon to classic portraiture.

The Project Coordinator and main artist, Charlie Trivers, discussed the concept with firefighters. It was agreed that the art should incorporate a

community fire safety theme as well as portraits of firefighters who had a long history of service to the community. Based on that brief, the artists, who were local high school students from Brisbane Water Secondary Campus, then got to work.

Superintendent David Turner, Metro North 2 Zone Commander, said, "The finished project was largely due to the proactive efforts of the firefighters at Umina and looks fantastic. It has transformed the station's rear wall with spectacular larger-than-life portraits, fire safety images, and even a station dog!" **END**



# \$400K+

## DONATIONS FROM HUNTER VALLEY FIRES TOP \$400,000

**H**unter Valley firefighters recently visited the John Hunter Children's Hospital to present a cheque for \$25,300. These funds were raised through payroll deductions and the annual Newcastle Firefighters Ball held in July this year. \$5,000 was also donated to KIDS Foundation who assist and support burns survivors in the recovery process with programs such as "turning scars into stars". Total donations since the inception of the Newcastle Ball in 2000 have now reached a whopping \$403,550. **END**



# Flames spark fears of **highrise** building fire

On Tuesday 2 September there were fears that Sydney was about to experience a major highrise building fire.

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[fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/fmnews)

**OR**

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 **2 SEP**  **15:50**

**D**ozens of 000 calls began flooding in at around 1550 hours reporting that flames were issuing from the roof of a 10-storey building on George Street, near Jamison Street. Members of the public began tweeting graphic photos of flames leaping from the rooftop utility area and attending Police crews also advised that the building was well alight. A 2nd Alarm response was immediately dispatched.

3 The Rocks was first on scene within seven minutes and confirmed that smoke was issuing from the roof area and 100 people were evacuating safely from the building. Some quick detective work by firefighters revealed that sprinklers had operated in a restaurant area located in the basement under the building. Apparently fire had taken hold in a kitchen area of the restaurant and had spread by way of an external stove flue to the full height of the building and set fire to utility equipment on the roof.

Crews attended from 3 The Rocks, 1 City of Sydney, 12 Balmain, 18 Glebe and 4 Darlinghurst. Responding crews split into two groups to tackle both the basement and rooftop fires. These were quickly brought under control, enabling evacuated occupants to return safely within an hour. City of Sydney's hydraulic platform assisted in the rooftop firefighting operation. The downstairs restaurant suffered major smoke and water damage, and rooftop utilities also suffered fire damage. **END**

## On Thursday 11 September more than 50 FRNSW Rugby Union Club players took to the field under a clear spring sky to compete against the NSW Police Force in the inaugural 9/11 Memorial Cup.

**T**he event, which was sanctioned by Australian Rugby Union, consisted of three games – men's over 35s, women's 10s and men's open – at Taplin Park, Drummoyne.

In the men's over 35s and men's open, the firies were just too good to beat, while in the women's 10s, the firies showed huge grit and determination in the face of injury and a lack of substitutes to go down by just three points.

Superintendent Mark Reilly, FRNSW Rugby Union Club Secretary, said he was delighted with how the tournament played out and, in particular, celebrated the women's team for their enormous heart.

"All the players put in 110%, however I can't praise our women enough for how they played," said Supt Reilly. "Thank you to everyone who played – on both sides – and for the fantastic support we received from FRNSW."

The tournament was a memorial to the thousands of people who lost their lives in the United States on 11 September 2001, including 343 firefighters. "In particular, we dedicate the cup to the emergency responders and Fire Department of New York, with whose rugby club we have very close ties," said Inspector Mick Wren, FRNSW Rugby Head Coach. "This is our first 9/11 Memorial Cup and we really hope it will grow in size and popularity."

The day included a minute's silence and a stirring rendition of Amazing Grace by FRNSW bagpiper Jim Braid. The winning teams were presented with trophies by Chief Superintendent Gerry Byrne, A/Director Metropolitan Operations.

Anyone wishing to join the FRNSW Rugby Club can do so by contacting Supt Mark Reilly or SF Mark Dobson. **END**



### 9/11 MEMORIAL CUP MATCH REPORTS BY SUPT PAUL JOHNSTONE

#### **MEN'S OVER 35s – FRNSW 35 DEFEATED NSW POLICE FORCE 0**

With no kicking allowed under golden oldies rules, both sides played an exciting, ball in hand game. FRNSW probed both edges, and were rewarded with two first half tries to lead 14-0. In the second half the defence continued to hold, with many bone-jarring tackles (Supt Tom Cooper on the receiving end of the tackle of the day, but got straight back up and played on). With the police starting to flag with no reserves, the firies were able to score three more second half tries to run out deserved five tries to nil victors. In the forwards Dave Williamson, Trent Brown and Mark Lynch led the way with some great charges, while Damien Bower and Dave Twomey kept the FRNSW backline moving forward.

#### **WOMEN'S 10s – NSW POLICE FORCE 25 DEFEATED FRNSW 22**

The firies were always going to be up against it in this game, with only 10 players in attendance. Against this, the police had an abundance of reserves, and had been training for the game. However, FRNSW showed the necessary commitment and skill to produce an excellent fighting performance. Behind 10-12 at halftime, the firies refused the offer of players from the opposition, and took the game to the police. After scoring first in the second half, FRNSW hit the lead 15-12, and were attacking strongly when two injuries set us back. The police responded with two tries and wrapped the game up. All members of the team played themselves to a standstill, with Bronnie Mackintosh leading from the front, and Alison Logue dominating the defence.

#### **MEN'S OPEN – FRNSW 33 DEFEATED NSW POLICE FORCE 14**

The police came out firing, dominating both possession and territory and scored to lead 7-0. FRNSW hit back when fullback Jarrod McGrouther scored out wide and not long after, Captain Nathan Goodwin spotted a gap and scored under the post. However, after another prolonged patch of ball retention and rolling mauls on the line, the police took a 14-12 lead. In the second half the firies scrum stood up and began to dominate and breakaway Kyle Mathieson continued to terrorise the opposition, as did prop Dave Williamson. Three second half tries, including two length of the field movements, were the reward for a great display of rugby. With the forwards starting to control their opponents, our backs led by Nathan Goodwin, were all superb, with special mention to the kamikaze running of Reece Linden from inside centre.





# FIRIES

## TAKE OUT 9/11 MEMORIAL CUP



# HOW IT ALL BEGAN AT STATION 37

The Gordon Brigade outside original fire station, c. 1916

Story and images courtesy of the Museum of Fire research team

Station No. 37 started as a Voluntary Brigade in 1907. From 1914, permanent firefighters were stationed in Gordon and as the region grew, so did the required level of fire protection.



**O**n 6 February 1907, Mr John Swan of Gordon NSW contacted the Metropolitan Fire Brigade to advise that a group of local citizens had decided to form a Volunteer Fire Brigade in the Shire of Ku-ring-gai. Mr Swan requested information about governing regulations and what assistance could be provided by the Fire Brigade Board.

On 8 February 1907, Superintendent Alfred Webb (Secretary of the Metropolitan Fire Brigade) responded to Mr Swan advising that applications for Voluntary Brigades could be made under the Local Government Act. Superintendent Webb also suggested that the Volunteer Fireman's Association be contacted as the Shire of Ku-ring-gai was not under the area protected by the Fire Brigade Board so no monetary assistance could be provided.

Superintendent Webb did however, recommend a comprehensive list of materials required to start a Volunteer Fire Brigade, including some supplier options, with one firm being T.J. Bown and Co. of Bathurst Street, Sydney. He also provided the following advice:

"A portion of the area to be protected by the proposed Volunteer Fire Brigade has not a regular water service under pressure. If this be so, a manual fire engine would be required to pick up water from wells, tanks etc."

Six years later, in August 1913, the Shire of Ku-ring-gai received notification from the Board of Fire Commissioners (BOFC) that they would be required to contribute £410 per annum

Letter to Fire Brigade Board from Mr John Swan

## GORDON INCIDENT FILES

### 1922-25

**Suspicious fires:** Between 1922 and 1925 the Gordon Fire Brigade attended five fires that were determined to be malicious incidents. These were traced to a troubled young lad who had set about burning down much of Gordon, including St John's School Hall, the Church of England Hall and Gordon Public School.

### 25 JANUARY 1934

**Fire in church:** Fire damage estimated at £200 (around \$18,000 today) was caused to the Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Pymble when a fire broke out near the pulpit. Brigades from Gordon, Hornsby and Crows Nest attended and managed to stop fire spreading to the wooden rafters. Water from one hydrant was used to quell the blaze.

### 3 FEBRUARY 1934

**Fire engine suspended above railway line:** The Gordon Brigade was called to a weatherboard cottage in Turramurra during a substantial storm where winds reached 60mph. When they approached the bridge near Pymble Railway Station, the engine skidded on the slippery road and struck a parapet. It was only a stone buttress that prevented the engine and brigade from falling onto the line below.

### 28 NOVEMBER 1935

**Garage fire:** The tank of a motorcycle was being filled with petrol at Newlands Garage on the Pacific Highway, Gordon, when some of the flammable liquid spilt on the hot exhaust pipe. The Gordon Brigade arrived at the call to find the motorcycle well alight with flames having spread to the petrol pumps. They were able to subdue the blaze with hand-operated chemical extinguishers.

## 21ST-CENTURY FACELIFT

As the facilities at Gordon no longer met with the needs of a modern fire station – with large appliances and a diverse workforce – works have been undertaken to improve the site including refurbishments to the:

- engine bay
- watch room
- station commander's office
- mess room and training room with kitchen facilities
- firefighter recline rooms
- PPE and equipment storage
- disabled access and ablution facility
- male / female ablutions
- male / female locker rooms
- gym.

The new Gordon Fire Station was officially opened on 26 November 2014.

## GORDON TIMELINE

06 FEB 1907

Volunteer Brigade enquiries commence in the Shire of Ku-ring-gai

12 NOV 1913

New Sydney Fire District of Ku-ring-gai Shire gazetted

08 JAN 1914

Station 37 Gordon officially opens in leased premises on Gordon Road, opposite to Park Avenue

26 JUL 1922

Gordon Road premises purchased

19 JUN 1928

New site purchased on corner Lane Cove Road (now Pacific Highway) and Bridge Street, Pymble

31 MAR 1936

New Gordon Fire Station opens on site

26 NOV 2014

Gordon Fire Station reopens after major refurbishments

(around \$45,750 today) for inclusion in the fire protection scheme. Ku-ring-gai Shire was officially incorporated into the Sydney Fire District on 12 November 1913 under Section 6 of the *Fire Brigade Act 1909* (*Fire Brigades Amendment Act 1910*).

The original Gordon Fire Station opened on the corner of Gordon Road (now the Pacific Highway) and Park Avenue in January 1914. The site consisted of a double fronted shop and dwelling leased from Mr. James Patrick Conley for £84-10-0 per annum (around \$9,420 today). Upon the opening of the new station, District Officer S.N. Lister of 36 Station Crows Nest submitted a report to the Chief Officer of the NSW Fire Brigade noting that Gordon "comprised of two men with First Class Fireman J. Mallard being placed in charge and the equipment consisted of a 1000 ft hand hose reel of 2½ inches, standpipes and branches".

Although the BOFC had an option to purchase the Gordon Road site for £775 before 30 June 1915, a decision was made not to proceed until 1922 when, the property was purchased for £1,150 (around \$87,050 today). This site however, proved to be insufficient in size after an 18 ft easement was resumed by the Department of Main Roads in 1929. In preparation for this, the BOFC purchased a parcel of land on the corner of Lane Cove Road (the Pacific Highway) and Bridge Street, Pymble in June 1928 for £653 (\$48,308 today).

The Gordon Brigade eventually received a new station on this site. The Sun reported on 1 April 1936 that the new facility [a two-storey brick construction with a central engine bay in the art deco style] was the most modern fire station in the State, costing approximately £4,000 (about \$350,085 today). ■■■ END

**FIRE  
INCIDENT**



# Firefighters battle factory inferno at Revesby

On Friday 17 October the first of multiple 000 calls were received at 1112 hours reporting smoke issuing from a large factory complex in Fitzpatrick Street, Revesby.

**17** OCT **11:12**

**D**ue to the number of calls being received, FireCom upgraded the response to a 2nd Alarm while appliances were enroute. Upon arrival of 47 Revesby, a Red message was transmitted requesting a 3rd Alarm. Almost simultaneously, 30 Lidcombe arrived on the other side of the complex and requested a 2nd Alarm to that location.

The factory on fire contained large quantities of highly flammable liquids including paints, lacquers and thinners used in the manufacture of timber decking. The large smoke plume was visible right across the Sydney metropolitan area and it was soon obvious that surrounding factories were also under significant threat.

A defensive strategy was immediately adopted to prevent fire spread to factories in Sectors B, C and D. The fire was already through the roof as aerial appliances, 70mm handlines and ground monitors were deployed. Several large explosions occurred and crews did an excellent job in minimising the damage to other exposures. Inspector Mick Wren was the Incident Controller, supported by an Incident Management Team and the ICV. It soon became evident that water supplies were insufficient and that a relay pumping operation from surrounding streets would be required. On arrival, the Commissioner raised the response to a 7th Alarm, and it was later increased to a 10th Alarm to enable rotation of crews throughout the lengthy operation. The fire spread into an adjoining factory containing

machinery parts however an offensive internal attack within that structure prevented major fire spread.

The fire was eventually contained to an area of about 100 x 150 metres and subdued by the deployment of numerous handlines, aerials and monitors. 31 Busby's compressed air foam pumper was used in conjunction with the City of Sydney ladder platform to deliver foam from above. Fortunately all workers were quickly evacuated from the factory and surrounding premises in the early stages, and only two people required assessment for possible smoke inhalation. A watching duty was maintained overnight and throughout the following day with the Stop message finally sent at 1049 hours on Saturday morning. **END**



**VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

**OR**



**SCAN CODE TO  
WATCH NOW**





Firefighters Lloyd Mulder and George Cheeke with the Governor of NSW



VIEW VIDEO AT  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)

OR



SCAN CODE TO  
 WATCH NOW



On 3 September three FRNSW officers were presented with **Australian Fire Service Medals** by the NSW Governor recognising outstanding effort and service. Those receiving AFSMs were Hay Captain Mick Edwards, Kempsey Captain Tony Hackenberg and recently retired Inspector Trevor Boshier. The medals were awarded as part of this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

At this year's AFAC Conference in New Zealand on 2-5 September, FRNSW Director of Information Technology Richard Host and Manager of CFUs Samantha Colwell both won awards. Richard won the **Motorola 2014 Knowledge Innovation for Individuals award** for his work in leading and managing major reforms in IT by communicating to, engaging with and motivating staff to excel in the introduction of IT systems. Samantha received the **People's Choice Award** for her poster presentation on the effectiveness of FRNSW community fire units.

Taree Retained Firefighter Mark Hardy, whose primary employment is as an electrician, was awarded **Apprentice of the Year** at the 2014 NSW Training Awards ceremony held on 9 September.

Station Officer Tony Gutteridge, Senior Firefighter Phil Holdsworth, and Qualified Firefighters Andrew Sarson and John Bugelli were presented with **Pride of Australia Awards** on 8 October. The four were finalists in the category for outstanding bravery. They were recognised for their life-saving role in rescuing 54 residents during the Blue Mountains bushfire emergency in October last year.

On 25 October, Qualified Firefighter George Cheeke and Senior Firefighter Lloyd Mulder, both from 25 Mosman, received a **Save A Life Award** at the St John Ambulance NSW Annual Awards Ceremony. This award was given in recognition for their efforts last year when they responded to a fuel tanker which overturned and caught fire in Mona Vale. Displaying tremendous bravery, they worked through extreme heat and smoke to provide life-supporting first aid to a casualty who had suffered 100% percent burns to his body and was suffering severe smoke inhalation. ■■■ END

## THE PUBLIC SAYS THANK YOU

### Kimberley Champ

Thank you so much Tingara Heights for helping me out on the 15th of February when I had my car accident. Went in today and said a huge thank you to the guys that saved me. Thank you again and hopefully I can join you guys one day.

### Renee Tesoriero

Just want to say a massive thank you to the two firefighters who were in their truck parked in Revesby when they spotted my son run up and admire the fire engine. Without hesitation, they opened the truck and let him have a look in it. They gave him a colouring-in book and some stickers. He has told everyone today about the fire engine and how nice the fireman where. Thank you for your generosity.

### Wilma Furlonger

I would like to thank the Coledale Fire Brigade for their wonderful service following the terrible water and wind damage of Tuesday evening. The Coledale unit removed a number of large tree branches that had fallen onto our house. Captain Chris Kubara and his team were polite and very efficient. I am so grateful.

### Michelle Hanley

The biggest thanks to Kellyville Brigade D Platoon for helping with our 39-year-old pony this morning who had been stuck in the stable all night and had collapsed exhausted. The firies who came were awesome and so caring and we can't thank you enough for coming to her rescue. Especially on her birthday!!

### Kristy Wilson

Just wanted to say thank you for saving the 7 year old Golden Retriever Monty in Arcadia today. It really is heartwarming to see people from other organisations commit to save the life of a beloved animal – especially a gentle golden retriever – they are just such loving creatures and treasured members of the family. Please pass on my congratulations and thanks to the FRNSW team who carried out this rescue in Arcadia today.

### The Mitchell/Fahey Family

I am writing to you today to say a quick thank you to Captain Chris Kubara and his crew from Coledale Fire Station who attended our SES callout in Berkeley yesterday.

All too often people aren't aware nor do they say thank you for the other jobs performed by the NSW Fire Service. The gentlemen that arrived to assist us with our storm damage are a credit to Fire & Rescue NSW not only because of the work that they did but their fantastic kind and light-hearted attitude towards my family, in particular, my autistic son.

To do a job is one thing, to do it and give a child who does not have a lot of joy nor cope well with strangers and have him smile at the end of a stressful situation for our family is another. Thank you again Captain Kubara and crew for the outstanding work you do for our community.

# TRAGIC DEATH IN THE LINE OF DUTY




**VIEW VIDEO AT**  
[fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews](http://fire.nsw.gov.au/frnews)  
**OR**  

**SCAN CODE TO WATCH NOW**


On 17 August, FRNSW was devastated by the death in the line of duty of Retained Firefighter Daniel Howard in Cobar. RFF Howard had been fighting a fire at the New Occidental Hotel when a wall collapsed trapping him and causing fatal injuries.

**B**oth the Cobar and wider firefighting communities were shocked and deeply saddened by the death, with more than 160 messages of support posted on a special condolence forum on the FRNSW intranet and around 600 public comments on Facebook.

RFF Howard, who had been a member of FRNSW for five years and fulfilled the role of engine keeper at 256 Cobar, was farewelled at a funeral on 27 August attended by Commissioner Mullins, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Stuart Ayres, commissioners and senior officers from NSW emergency services and interstate fire services, many FRNSW officers and firefighters, and hundreds of his family, friends and colleagues.

In his heartfelt eulogy, Cobar Captain Brad Lennon said he represented a fire brigade in grief, a town in mourning and a community in shock.

**Captain Lennon described RFF Howard as the very essence of a generous, friendly Aussie mate**

“... We are all united not only in our desire to pay our respects to Howie but rather in our need to do so. For such was his appeal that the people taking part in this service and those who have sent messages and posts who never actually met him, feel that

they too lost someone close to them on that fateful Sunday morning. It is a more remarkable tribute to Howie than I can ever hope to offer him today...”

Captain Lennon described RFF Howard as the very essence of a generous, friendly Aussie mate. **END**

# Deaths and retirements

## Vale: With gratitude for service to the people of NSW

NAME	DATE DECEASED
RetF Steven McGovern	26 Sep 14
Steve Schofield	26 Sep 14
John Parkinson	18 Sep 14
Roy Adams	16 Sep 14
Arthur Williams	13 Sep 14
Insp Christopher O'Brien	12 Sep 14
Capt Neville Simpson	11 Sep 14
SO Maxwell Moon	31 Aug 14
RetF Phillip Anderson	25 Aug 14
Arthur Secomb	30 Aug 14
SF Adam Parer	31 Aug 14
Richard Heelis	22 Aug 14
Motor Vehicle Officer John Leahy	21 Aug 14
SO Dennis Shepherd	16 Aug 14
SF Matthew Steanes	17 Aug 14
RetF Daniel Howard	17 Aug 14
Neville Tomlinson	9 Aug 14
Donald Keys	6 Aug 14
FF Kenneth Humbley	5 Aug 14
RetF Michael Dowell	28 Jul 14
George Morgan	17 Jul 14
SF Keith New	16 Jul 14
John Campbell	15 Jul 14
Colin Swift	11 Jul 14
RetF Roy Sheaves	20 Jun 14
SF James Donohue	20 Jun 14
Barrard Cunningham	15 Jun 14
SO Bryant Fowler	6 Jun 14

## Farewell and thanks to those retiring

NAME	FIRE STATION/ BUSINESS UNIT	DATE RETIRED
SF M Phelan	Bateau Bay	3 Jul 14
QF T Watkins	Rosemeadow	8 Jul 14
SO A Brander	Mayfield West	3 Jul 14
SO W Morris	Bondi	4 Jul 14
SO D Ross	Ryde	3 Jul 14
SF D Woods	Gosford	4 Jul 14
SF S Gilchrist	East Maitland	4 Jul 14
SF M Durrant	City of Sydney	4 Jul 14
SO G Watson AFSM	Equipment Logistics Greenacre	11 Jul 14
SF I Hastie	Newcastle Hazmat	10 Jul 14
SF M Goodenough	Belmont	11 Jul 14
SO P Newton	Holmesville	4 Jul 14
SF P Knight	Springwood	4 Jul 14
RetF P Sargent	Canowindra	12 Jun 14
RetF J Bosson	Kelso	30 Jun 14
Capt B Smith	Wauchope	1 Jul 14
RetF P Hyland	Maclean	4 Jul 14
SF G Stephenson	Berowra	15 Jul 14
SO J Collins	Regional & Retained Training Team	18 Jul 14
SF P Tinkler	Berkeley Vale	24 Jul 14
SF M Wilson	Bondi	25 Jul 14
RetF D P Maher AFSM	Deniliquin	30 Jun 14
Insp W Buxton AFSM	ME1 Zone Office	8 Aug 14
SO R Ferguson	Schofields	8 Aug 14
Insp T Boshier AFSM	Equipment Logistics Chullora	22 Aug 14
QF P Wright	Katoomba	8 Aug 14
RetF G Bradley	Coolamon	4 Jul 14
RetF P Fox	Branxton Greta	1 Aug 14
SO G Batty	East Maitland	31 Jul 14
SF G Overall	Command Alexandria	26 Aug 14
SF W Blade	Firefighting Operational Training	15 Aug 14
RetF B Haebich	Denman	25 Jul 14
SF C Church	Dunheved	30 Aug 14
QF J Bugden	Equipment Logistics Greenacre	5 Sep 14
SF B Riddell	Mayfield West	12 Sep 14
RetF K Hopwood	Port Macquarie	12 Sep 14
SO S Woodger	Mayfield West	29 Sep 14
SF W Kovalik	Narellan	9 Oct 14
SO M McNamara	Schofields	28 Sep 14
SF J Doran	Dee Why	3 Oct 14

# FRNSW BUSHFIRE READINESS



**8,294**

**BUSH AND GRASS FIRES**

ATTENDED BY FRNSW IN 2013/14



**117**

**BUSHFIRE APPLIANCES**

(4WD CLASS 1)



**3**

**INTERSTATE AND OVERSEAS BUSHFIRE DEPLOYMENTS**

DURING 2014



**42**

**STRIKE TEAMS DEPLOYED**

DURING 2014  
(INCLUDES STORM DEPLOYMENTS)



**1,977**

**FRNSW HAZARD REDUCTIONS**

CARRIED OUT DURING 2014



**118**

**SENIOR OFFICERS TRAINED AS STRIKE TEAM LEADERS**



**592**

**CFU UNITS**



**10**

**CFU ACTIVATIONS DURING 2014**



**6,911**

**CFU MEMBERS**