



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

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

OCTOBER 2014

What a year this has been!

The constant pressure from the political arena has caused the CFSVA to continually focus its attentions in that direction placing considerable strain on CFSVA and Executive members, stretching our resources and finances to the limit.

It seems that just as we conclude one matter other matters appear on the radar.

It is good to see that finally after 8 years the 25kms past emergency vehicles Bill has been enacted into legislation and effected on the 1st of September 2014.

Well done to all involved, however we do hope that this is not an indication of the time frame necessary to resolve current matters.

The time and effort expended by many in preparing, producing and distributing the CFSVA 2014 Election policy booklet was time well spent as the booklet was well received by all political persuasion, with many commenting that it was the best they had seen, and whilst we appreciate the comments, a higher level of commitment by political parties to the document would have been welcomed.

The presumptive legislation continues to remain high on the agenda for the CFSVA, as the Government is taken to task over its pre-election commitment to commence a review within one month of entering into Government. So far the Government has honoured its commitment, however an outcome still remains to be found. The Minister is anxious to resolve this matter, however until an equitable resolution is found, the end of the matter is still not in sight.

Recently the CFSVA in partnership with MOGAS commenced distribution of the CFSVA Membership cards. This project while only in its infancy has great scope for expansion and once distribution is complete will provide a state wide network to link the CFSVA with CFS volunteers. Thank you to Jeff Clark and Kirsti Oliver for all their hard work and determination in getting this project off the ground.

At last year's AGM a preview was given of the CFSVA's new website. This site is fully functional and regularly updated, and our Facebook page provides up to date information and messages and has over the last 12 months provided volunteers with a forum through which to comment.

Finally the matter that has been consuming most of the CFSVA's time over the last 6 months – The Emergency Services Sector Reform.

We can't stress enough the potential ramifications of this sector reform and the critical need for the CFSVA to remain across all aspects of this matter. It is also just as important for CFS volunteers to be part of this journey, as the direction of this reform will determine the future of CFS. The Minister has held a comprehensive consultation process, which has encouraged CFS volunteer input and involvement and we urge volunteers to remain informed and involved as the reform unfolds.

It is also important for us to remember that the CFS is 10 times larger than any other agency encompassed by this reform, which means that any impact would be 10 times greater for CFS, so our voice must be 10 times louder and our direction clearly defined.

There have been many times recently when members of the Executive Committee have attend different meetings in different locations across the state on the same night. This hasn't been an easy task to manage given that the CFSVA operates with 1.5 full time staff to 13,500 volunteers, but thanks to the dedication of your Executive team, we have been able to fulfil all meeting requests.

I would personally like to thank Roger Flavell, Andy Wood and Jeff Clark, for their dedication, passion, and untiring efforts and Kirsti Oliver for her flexibility in providing much needed back up support.

CFSVA members, you are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated team carrying forward matters on your behalf, and I encourage you all to support your elected representatives and be part of the journey to ensure that your thoughts and opinions are truly represented at all levels.

Sonia St Alban
Executive Director
CFSVA