

Country Fire Service Volunteer Association

Mt Lofty Branch

Representing the interest of CFS Members



Minutes of Meeting				
Date	Tue 21 Sept 2021	Time: 19.36 pm	Closed 21:40 pm	
Meeting	Ordinary Meeting, Mount Lofty Ranges Branch C.F.S.V.A. – Region 1, Mt Barker			
1. Welcome & Attendees	President Richard Hirstle opened the meeting at 1936 hrs, welcomed representatives (as per attendance sheet) and also welcomed Guests Sonia St Alban and Andy Wood (State Representative)			
Apologies	Apologies as for preceding AGM.			
No	Actions and Agreements		Who	When
2.	Minutes of previous meeting	Moved: Wally Bolt, Seconded- by Ivan Hosking, Accepted by consensus		
3.	Business Arising	<p>a) Masks: Still with AFAC for ruling. Richard requested that copies of any relevant HIRMS reports be sent to him or Sonia.</p> <p>Some present asked “is there a better way?”, some preferred the old Balaclava-Qld F/Fs use a Bandana with filter inserts- apparently working well.</p> <p>b) Boundary Changes: a work in progress with MFS, CFS, SES: needs to be a reason, a purpose & an outcome for the local community. Chris Turner commented that there needs to be respect shown for local knowledge. COAC advice needs to be sought.</p> <p>c) Engine Bay Ventilation: Ivan Hosking reported that information from United F/F Union is and has been available since this issue was first raised. Diesel particulate matter samples are being gathered for analysis to provide a base for real measurable data. This will indicate the way ahead for station ventilation.</p>		
4	Changes to the FES act	Richard stated that he had been approached by a number of members regarding the total lack of consultation with volunteers regarding changes to the act. Namely: new voting procedures within brigades; WHS brigade rep is no longer		

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		<p>a prescribed position; brigades can be closed without consultation with members or the local community.</p> <p>It seems the first anyone new of the changes was when CFS circulated a list of the changes that had already been included in the act. No one appears to know who added them or why. It was thought they may date back to the previous chief. Sonia has been given assurances that this will not happen again.</p> <p>Clarification was given on the WHS position - a group rep is mandatory, brigades can appoint a Co-ordinator (if they able to fill the position).</p>		
5	Brigade Issues	<p>Mawson Group: (Vicki Littler)</p> <p>Reported an issue with someone borrowing another member's helmet. It was agreed that not only should this not be allowed but Brigades should also not be issuing used helmets to new members.</p> <p>Vicki also reported from Todd Harris that they had realised Region one had no replacement vehicles when the M'Vale Pumper was away being retrofitted & their 34P Radiator blew- Nathan Watts had been informed.</p> <p>Macclesfield: Wally Bolt reported that they were without a 14Dual, a 34 Dual and a BWC- all with chassis issues & their 34 had a gearbox problem.</p> <p>This promoted further discussion on the ISUZU gearbox problems. The meeting was divided on this- should more be spent on other vehicles or is it a case of poor driver training? Andy wood commented that a bigger issue raised was that of assigning appropriate vehicles to each Brigade but that both these were issues that should be raised with RVMC via captains and group officers.</p>		

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6.	GUESTS	<p>Andy Wood (State President) & Sonia St Alban (Director) outlined the future directions of CFSVA: previously the VA had been reactionary, now has gained credibility and a level of respect due to our integrity in seeking results. There are now good relations with HQCFS under a very professional Chief Officer who now takes the views of the association. As an organisation we are now doing an excellent job planning strategically and influencing State Government decisions.</p> <p>Now we are heading toward State elections, Sonia is briefing the Minister on targets for Station maintenance funding based on statistics from our Station Survey. Funding has been allocated for a total review of CFS to improve overall effectiveness. We are now lobbying on a whole range of issues and whereas previous Ministers have pursued their own agendas this one is prepared to listen. We have proposed a 10 year plan for a stocktake of CFS by the CFSVA- not by politicians.</p> <p>The Mt Lofty rep asked if the Government had implemented the Keelty Review yet and Sonia replied that insufficient funding was the issue.</p> <p>Conflict management was an ongoing issue: early leadership training for in preventative management would be introduced for all Brigade captains.</p> <p>It was encouraging that all Service Agreements were being renewed and SAFECOM would now provide real services to their customer, the CFS.</p> <p>Sonia was hoping for two new Support officers soon.</p>		
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MEETING CLOSED:	President Richard Hirstle	2140 hrs.
NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 15th March at 1930 hrs. Venue: Region-1 HQ Mt Barker	Minutes Secretary Garth Morgan CLDN	