

VOLUNTEER FIRE and RESCUE SERVICES ASSOCIATION of WA (Inc)



2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes

The 126th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the
Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association of WA (Inc) conducted
Sunday 8 September 2024 at Crown Perth Studio Room at 1000 hours.

Special Guests

Minister for Emergency Services WA, Stephen Dawson MLC was an apology.

Deputy Commissioner Craig Waters AFSM present.

1. Welcome by VFRSAWA President Paul du Boulay.

Have a read of the annual report, the relationship with FESA was strained, had to fight hard for what we needed, wins on captains dinner and AGM, approached FESA to have WAFES. Intention of the conference was to include volunteers in incoming technologies- initially for just fire and rescue. Conference has evolved and will continue to evolve. Enjoyed my time on the Association, loved working with the people and executive members, wouldn't have been able to do this role without them. Competition has evolved, although a lot of brigades are no longer involved. Brigades are invited to come and see what it's all about. It's a great organisation, the work volleys do without complaining and without help. Tim has been fantastic and a shining light for the Association. He has done fantastic things, please use his expertise and support. Thank you for support me and the Association, please continue to support the Association.

2. Roll call, apologies, and advice of proxies by Executive Officer Tim Sonsee.

There are 96 current brigade members. Brigades who were in attendance or proxied:

Albany	Armada	Bridgetown	Brunswick Junction	Bunbury	Busselton
Carnarvon	Collie	Coolgardie	Eaton-Australind	Dampier	Denmark
Dongara/ Denison		Donnybrook	Esperance	Geraldton	Gingin
Kalamunda	Kalbarri	Kalgoorlie	Kambalda	Karratha	Katanning
Kellerberrin	Kojonup	Kulin	Kwinana	Lancelin	Mandurah
Manjimup	Metropolitan	Mullewa	Mount Barker	Newman	Northam
Northampton	Northcliffe	Pingelly	Port Hedland	South Hedland	
Roebourne	Pinjarra	Toodyay	Ravensthorpe	Wagin	Williams
Witchcliffe	Wundowie	York			

Executive Members in attendance:

Tim Sonsee	Tony Dodd	Rob Papalia	Tony Moiler AFSM	Neil Hatt
Vaughan Price	Fran McAllen	Paul du Bolay	Raymond Bonner AFSM	

Apologies received from:

Broome Pemberton Kununurra Beverley

Executive Officer Tim Sonsee listed the documents distributed to all in attendance:

3. Presidents Address by Tony Dodd.

Thank you all for coming after a late night. Thank you to those who had to travel especially far. We are working on a number of concerns as an Association and I look forward to working together with Tim and the Executive to get positive results for our volunteer firefighters.

4. Adoption of the MINUTES of the 2022 Association Annual General Meeting by

Executive Officer Tim Sonsee.

Conducted 9 September 2023. A copy was emailed out to all brigades.

Motion to adopt the minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting.

Moved: Busselton Seconded: Newman

Motion carried.

5. Adoption of the BALANCE SHEET, STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS and AUDITOR'S

REPORT for financial year ending 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024. Presented by Vice President Rob Papalia AFSM.

Motion to adopt the BALANCE SHEET, STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS and

AUDITOR'S REPORT for the financial year ending 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024.

Moved: Geraldton Seconded: Gingin

Motion carried.

Motion to appoint PKF Perth as Auditors for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Moved: Newman Seconded: Toodyay

Motion carried.

6. Declaration of elections of zone delegates to the Executive Committee for the period 2024 – 2026 by Executive Officer Tim Sonsee.

Elected in 2024 for a period of 2 years were:

- Central Wheatbelt Zone – Stephen King
- Goldfields Zone – Paul Munro
- Great Southern Zone – Paul Williamson
- Metropolitan Zone – Kim Glass (Now vacant)
- North West Zone – Raymond Bonner AFSM
- Northern Zone – Neil Hatt
- South West Zone – Robert Papalia AFSM

7. Venue for 2025 Annual State Easter Championships by Executive Officer Tim Sonsee.

The venue for the 2025 State Championships will be Gilbert Fraser Reserve.

Moved: Northam Seconded: Toodyay

Motion carried.

Renovations continue at GF, building foundations needed work as have the waterworks.

Choice between Mandurah and Bunbury. Kwinana came down, first time since 1980s. had a great time. Only need 4 people don't have to run the hose and cart, come down and try it out. As most bridges here aren't involved, we will leave the determination to the Exec and competition committee

Moved: Northam Seconded: Manjimup

Carried.

8. Notices of Motion

Affiliation fees to increase to \$400/+ GST year per Brigade. Rationale provided in notice of motion.

Moved: Toodyay Seconded: Northam

For: 48 Against: 1

Carried.

9. Agenda Items – Raised by Brigades

Nil

10. VFRS Volunteer Advisory Committee (VAC). Update provided by President Tony Dodd

Source of annoyance to the Association, one meeting in February, July meeting pushed to October. Have an enthusiastic group representing their zone- have gender balance. Has almost been a non-event- focus on strategic stuff, have provided feedback. Used to get property, services, and fleet appliance information- none this year. Hoping for a more detailed report next year.

Strategic Plan

Has been submitted to be ratified at next meeting. The plan ensures that the Association keeps to our core values, and to be relevant to the bridges, to be your voice to DFES, to work for you and your communities. Will be able to disseminate the plan after the November Executive meeting. Ensuring we have a plan for how to support volunteers, we want volunteering to enrich your lives not detract. Making sure brigades are supported and able to keep to their core business.

List of Achievements

- Sponsorship- PWR, Women's Religious Organisation- to assist with the welfare of volunteers. Thanks to Tim and Caitlin for their work securing this sponsorship.
- APX 8000 radios rolled out to all brigades, 6 to each brigade.
- 39 brigade visits from EO- 15-20 DFES meetings.
- Introduction of the Captains Forum.
- UPT2 Volvo- good replacement for country pumper though there are some supply issues.
- Height safety PAT- similar to SES with fire resistant rope.
- Chief sup meetings: operational issues and concerns= 4 per year, not all held due to extended high threat season. Usually, we're fairly successful in a 12-month period in getting issues resolved.
- Representation on PATS- great representation, feedback is that they feel they're not always listened to, great avenue to put forward our wants in the designs of things.
- VTAG- to go through and look at issues with training and course- important during covid years and UFU action. Very useful- let us know if you have any training issues.
- Captains' development forum- likely ongoing, please give feedback so we can tailor it to you.
- OEP review- ongoing- will completely change from what it is at present- operational budget to be discussed with captains by AO/ DO, provision for attendance at meetings and competitions. Will go into operational budget
- Female Firefighter Forum- Jamie's work. Getting good feedback through that. Would like to see more on the executive side of things.

11. AGM closed at 1053.

12. General Business / Questions without Notice-

Northam- PATS- volunteers need to be brought in at the start. We were brought in part way through the process when the PAT came together. It was brought up to the Supers meetings. PAT needs to be formed before they make purchases- feedback not being listen to, there to rubber stamp decisions already made.

D. C. Waters- fair feedback, put in measures to ensure that feedback is taken on from operational staff- will see change- it is frustrating for DFES as well.

Station maintenance- not a lot of thought put into/ no budget at DFES for this. Shark Bay getting pulled part after a refurb TD- government allocate funds, asking for \$ for brigades to maintain stations in the operational budget OEP- ongoing issue.

Dongara/Denison- where are PTSI and cancer screening at for volunteers- will take up with wellness again. Flagged with wellness PTSD/PTSI- met with policy advisor- putting into the new ACT- looking at what they can do with act being delayed. Keep pushing government- conform to DFES conduct. Minister aware that we are concerns with the presumptive nature that were pushing for. The other concern we've highlighted is most fatalities happen in country areas- trauma can be greater, turn out to people and situations with your people.

TS- We are working with the other emergency service volunteer organisations on this. Keep looking after your people- seek help from wellness if they need it, don't carry it as a brigade. Get help early, it also helps to build evidence.

Wagin- In regard to new extension- really happy with the build but have had multiple issues with trades. Some trades had to come back 6-8 times- smoke alarms put in showers, hot water system fell off the wall- should have been outside. Lots of change with AO/ DO- poor communication due to all the changes. People coming in doing a good job but because of change having to repeat issues.

TD- Tim will take it thru property services. Can go do regional super. Keep up communication with AO/ DO but escalate if you need.

PdB- the Association can help but we need to know what's happening. We can escalate through the Chief Supers Meeting-

D. C. Waters- follow up work needs to be completed and to a proper standard. DFES are going through a recruitment period, backfilling as quickly as possible if not substantive. If issues aren't being addressed at Chief Supers level escalate to D.C. Waters via Tim or Tony.

Northam- AO/ DO positions not being filled fast enough- lots of acting up then moving on.

Tim- escalate through the chain, give them a chance to rectify the issue, if no luck bring it up with Association

AO/DO- captain reported 43 changeovers in one year. Volunteers need to build relationship up. Problems don't get fixed because they don't have time- brigades have questions about AO/DOs- brigades don't have time for the admin. Is the Association willing to talk to DFES to create a role for training alongside the AO/DOs, it's a fulltime job in itself. Hard to get trainers to regional areas. Regions not putting out training calendar, courses not going ahead, have

members who have been members for 12 months but cannot turn out to fires because they're not endorsed.

D. C. Waters- DFES is doing a review on regional structures, also across the board in metropolitan- working with Bec Benson. DFES are frustrated by this as well.

TD- we've escalated this to Chief Supers and will continue to escalate. Tim and Tony are meeting with Stuart Wade from the Academy.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T Dodd', written in a cursive style.

T Dodd.

President

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association of WA