



September 2009

NSW Fire Brigades Firefighter Championships Association Inc

# Newsletter

*Fostering: Operational Training - Championships - Community Safety - Displays*



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## President's Report

There have now been three championships conducted in this current series. I would like to congratulate, and on behalf of all who attended, thank Deputy Captain Vince Davy and team from Glen Innes, Captain Ray McTiernan and crew from Delroy and Captain Paul Dawson with the Unanderra committee. Without the voluntary efforts of these Host Committees there would not be Championships. All hosted great weekends. The next Championship will be at Cootamundra on September 12-13.

The current program of events is working well, teams are now getting some very good times with minimal penalties. The new events on the Class two Pumper are looking good. The rescue event, with all four team members starting together and competitors becoming more skilled at operating the Combi and RIK tools has resulted in safety stops and penalties being uncommon these days. This event is now being run up to 45 minutes faster, which helps keep the program rolling.

Penalties in events have been updated. Infringements related to safety and or OH&S issues have been maintained or increased and penalties for other problems reduced in an effort to encourage new teams. Thanks to Eric Woolley for his input.

Rules Governing Events is now available in text only form by return email. The document can be printed for all to have a hard copy of events and penalties. Amendments will be emailed as replacement pages as they occur, this will allow currency of rules to be available for all. To assist us in the distribution of this document and other communications could all teams and officials make sure their contact details are kept updated. We are working toward having all documentation available in future on the FCA website. - [www.firefighterchampionships.com.au/](http://www.firefighterchampionships.com.au/)

Procedures and Guidelines has been updated. This document is also available for distribution .

I would like to acknowledge the contribution by people who we are fortunate to have with us. Thanks to the small group of retired and honorary members who come to Championships and carry out Marshalling and Examining roles. The commitment and experience of these people continues to assist running events. Accreditation of all officials is progressing well with the efforts of Sheree White - this is ongoing as rules and events are updated and new officials come onboard.

Two teams from NSW competed at the Queensland State Championships at Ipswich in August. South Grafton and Tweed River Brigades (pictured) had the job ahead of them, coming to grips with the Qld. events and penalties. Peter and Steve from Hattonvale-Summerholm Rurals ran with and mentored Jarrod

and Mark from Tweed River who had two of their team withdraw with other commitments. South Grafton showed a lot of innovation and creative thinking in the events which kept the Judges busy. Both teams enjoyed themselves and will likely get a chance in the future to turn the tables when Qld. Teams head south of the border.

The new event development weekend and FCA meeting is set down for November 21-22 at Dubbo. The New Event subcommittee will look at ideas for events in the future. Any ideas for future events are welcome and should be drawn up and submitted to an association official for evaluation and trial at this weekend.

*RFF Greg Fredericks.  
President*



*President Greg Fredericks, Mark Dinham, Ian Williamson, Shannon Tough, Dave Wilkes, Councillor Jarrod Mohr, Tony Blackadder, Peter Williams and Steve Gardiner*

## 2009/2010 Championships dates

### 2009

National Championship                      16 to 18 October 2009                      Rotorua (NZ)

### 2010

Region WEST	27 & 28 March 2010	Condobolin
Metropolitan	22 & 23 May 2010	Telarah
Region NORTH	24 & 25 July 2010	Port Macquarie
Region SOUTH	11 & 12 September 2010	Berry
State Championship	24 to 29 October 2010	Tweed River

# Championships in Review

## Director of Championships

## Director

*Since the last newsletter the Championship family have gathered, away from the track for the sad duty of farewelling two of our great friends, Captain Vince Oliver AFSM and Bobbie Hibberd left our family in May and June respectively. Both Vince and Bob were passionate about the NSW Fire Brigades and were great advocates for the Championships. Their generous and inspiring natures have touched us all and both are greatly missed.*

As you would all be aware the winners of the Rescue Event from the last State Championship, Nowra were selected to represent the NSWFB at the Australasian Road Rescue Challenge. Nowra proved to be fierce competitors and up held the finest traditions of the Brigade whilst at the same time placing extremely well in every section of the event. A great result, leaving us all feeling very pleased and proud at the presentation dinner.

On a more positive note Regional Championships are growing with a range of new and reconstituted teams attending. The new series of events have proven popular and by utilising only Class 2 appliances it means that for the first time all retained brigades across the State can sample every event. I have recently attended a range of conferences with the staff from Operational Training and all Country Senior Instructors and we have reviewed each event, sought input from the Instructors and have received some excellent feedback. Senior Instructors will now attend championship weekends to not only assist in the facilitation of the events but to provide welcome support to their local brigades.

Finally, another one of our dedicated slaves has decided to hang up the yellow shirt and take on the retirement lifestyle so to Chris & Cheryl Fraser a big thank you for your support and friendship over the years and on behalf of all of the championship family, best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Assistant Commissioner Graham Dewsnap AFSM  
Director of Championships

## Assistant Director of Championships

## Assistant Director

### ARRO Harbour Challenge July 2009

Congratulations to the championship team from Nowra Brigade and the assistance from Clayton Allison and Tony Waller, for a great job of coaching mentoring and also competing. You were very much a part of the team and helped to make their excellent result possible by achieving an outstanding result at the Harbour challenge, hosted by the NSWFB and ARRO, by coming second overall. Achieving this result against the best on offer from the Australasian region is an accomplishment to be proud of.

A result the Commissioner and Graham Dewsnap were extremely impressed with.

### New Events

The introduction of new events and a few changes to older events to suit the class 2 pumper for the 2009 – 2010 series of championships, as we no longer use the International and Bedford appliances, has been very pleasing. With the combining of 2 events, the existing Booster Valve and the remote access bag event Kelso Brigade had put forward last November, along with a few other events by other brigades to trial, we had a training weekend at Bathurst and by combining these 2 events we were able to achieve an event better suited to today's training and skill requirements with a few small changes being made over the last few championships. The new disable pump event has also been accepted very well with a few minor changes.

# Assistant Director Cont..

## New Events Continued...

This also takes us into the 21st century with our events giving us a 98% current day practice and 2% historical, this being the ladder practice.

The changes to the rescue event has made a sufficient time saving in the event. This has reduced the time to run the event by starting all competitors at the same time making it more exciting for spectators to watch as all members of the team are doing some part of the event from start to finish.

Championships played a big part in Nowra representing the NSWFB at this years Harbour Challenge. With the introduction of the rescue event at championships in March 2008 and Nowra winning this event at the 2008 state championships at Tamworth, allowed them entry into the Australasian ARRO event this year. An outstanding result.

## Slave's Report

We said farewell to Robert Hibberd who lost his battle with cancer on 8 June 2009. He will be missed around championships but has left an everlasting impression on all who ever came into contact with him.

On another farewell this time to the retiring Chris Fraser who has called it a day. Chris would like to say thank you to all at championships who made it so enjoyable to be a part of and to work with. He will miss all your smiling faces.

Garry Tant  
Assistant Director of Championships

# Secretary

## **2009 Australasian Firefighter Championships - Rotorua NZ**

Arrangements for NSWFB Teams and FCA Officials participation in the next Australasian Firefighter Championships to be held in Rotorua New Zealand from 16-18 October are now completed. NSWFB will have 5 Teams, Nowra, Kelso, Dorrigo, Glen Innes and Coffs Harbour representing NSW in the Championships. Sadly Scarborough had to withdraw as Registrations closed.

The Association has registered 12 Track Officials for the NSW based events to be contested at the Championships.

At the invitation of the QFRS, President Greg Fredericks and myself attended the QFRS Firefighter Championships at Ipswich on 6-8 August 2009. All three branches of the QFRS, permanent, auxiliary (retained) and rural fire service personnel compete together at Regional Championships to gain entry to the State Championships which are held annually. The Championships are run differently to NSW with the focus more on accurate replication of drill procedures rather than speed of execution. Twenty one QFRS teams competed with three invitation teams. Two teams entered from NSWFB, Tweed River and South Grafton.

The two NSW teams competing performed very well with competitive running times. Congratulations should go to Tweed River and South Grafton teams for their efforts and their sportsmanship on the competition track.

- I recorded some good points about the QFRS Championships for us to consider;
- Competition track was laid out to use 3 tracks and identical pumpers to run event.
- 25mm flat bush fire hose was used in one event with a Davey Pump.
- A foam generation event was run with no apparent effect on the track or timing gear.
- Competition track was cleared and set up for the next event very efficiently by nominated teams.
- The Community fire safety expo was very well set up with lots of interesting displays by sponsors and emergency services and attractions for the kids.

Trevor Jones  
Secretary FCA

## Report on ARRO Championships

Recently, five members from Nowra's NSWFB Championships competition team competed in the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation (ARRO) Championships at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney. The Championships this year pitted the top 14 teams from throughout the Australasian Region to compete for the right to represent the region at the World Rescue Championships in 2010.

The NSWFB's Nowra Team consisted of, John Dun, Chris Ison, Gary Gilbert, Matt Allan and Shane Woodhouse with the sixth member of the team being Clayton Allison a Station Officer at Hurstville in Sydney.

The team gained selection to compete in the Championships by winning the Rescue Event at the last State Championships that were held in Tamworth. Since this time, the team has spent many hours training in preparation for their first attempt at this elite level.

The Championship format is run over a period of four days which includes mandatory attendance at a One Day Training Symposium and a Training Workshop. Both the Symposium and the Workshop consisted of "Hands On" training and instruction from World Renowned Experts in the Fields of Rescue and also Emergency Medical Care. The competition as such, consists of competing in three separate Rescue Scenarios; the Entrapped Rescue, Controlled Rescue and the Immediate Rescue. The Entrapped and the Controlled Rescues have Thirty minute time limits with the Immediate Rescue event run over a Twenty minute period. These scenarios use late model cars and live patients with the damage to the vehicles and the simulated injuries to the patients being consistent with the type of accident they had been involved in. The aim of each scenario is to achieve the safe and correct extrication of the patient(s) and provide correct

emergency care. Each scenario is adjudicated by three separate judges in the areas of Command, Technical and also Medical Care with the winner determined by the team finishing with the highest accumulated points. The overall winner is determined by the accumulated score from all three scenarios.

The Nowra team finished the three scenarios with a second and two fourth places. The team also finished with the number one ranked Team Leader, a Second placing in the Technical Section and a Fifth placing in the Medic Section. The Fifth placing in the Medic Section was an outstanding effort considering that the team was up against Qualified Paramedics and other Medical Specialists.

Overall, the team finished in Second place on 1323 points only a mere 5 points behind the eventual winners. This was an extremely pleasing result for the team considering the quality of the other teams attending.

The next step for the team has yet to be confirmed, though there appears to be a possibility that we may be eligible to compete next year at the World Championships as the second placed Australasian Team.

The team has received an enormous amount of invaluable training and experience in recent months and would like to thank the Director of Championships Assistant Commissioner Graham Dewsnap, Assistant Director of Championships Garry Tant and also the support and well wishes from the Association. Also, a special thank you goes to the Senior Instructor at the Rescue Section Tony Waller and Station Officer Clayton Allison. These two guys have spent countless hours assisting the team to prepare for the Championships and were instrumental in the team's success.

Deputy Captain John Dun  
Councillor Region South



**Nowra Team Members**

Clayton Allison Team Captain, R/F Shane Woodhouse, R/F Gary Gilbert, Deputy Captain John Dun, Gary Gilbert, R/F Chris Ison, R/F Matt Allan

# 2009 Championships Review

## COMPETITION EVEN HEADING TO 2010

The best performed teams over the last four State Championships – Nowra, Kelso and Casino showed the key to success is regular attendance around the state, with Glen Innes and Dorrigo proving the formula with excellent results at Glen Innes, Delroy and Unanderra.

Glen Innes have finished in the three fastest times in six of the nine team events, winning the Booster Valve Event at Unanderra and Rescue Event at Delroy and Unanderra.

Dorrigo have top three times in five events, including wins in Disable Pump Event (Glen Innes) and Hose & Hydrant 4 Competitor (Unanderra), Hose & Hydrant 2 Competitor (Glen Innes), Suction (Unanderra) and BA Event (Unanderra)

Nowra with wins at Delroy (2) and Unanderra have top three times in five events proving they are still in the mix for October 2010. Kelso, Port Macquarie and South Grafton make up a group of teams that will vie for medal contention also.

Kootingal RFS won Hose, Hydrant & Extinguisher at Glen Innes and Hose & Hydrant 2 Competitor at Unanderra and Delroy, with a second in the Suction at Unanderra to reward them for their hard work and travelling.

Competitive times by new team Tenterfield along with Trangie, Mudgee and Morisset suggest a more even competition as we look forward to Tweed in 2010.

Mark Waters of Morisset has the only time under 8 seconds in the Ladder Practice winning the event at Unanderra ahead of Coffs' Craig Mayled and Phil Moore of Kootingal RFS, whilst Veteran Tony Terry of Trangie proved there was still some run in the legs winning the event at Delroy ahead of Phil Moore.

Captain John Hand AFSM  
Treasurer FCA

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## The Championship Chronicle

The Regional Championship conducted at Glen Innes provided some discussion between the Senior Officials in attendance as to the names various Brigades used to identify themselves and their supporters. There were Teams in attendance there from Barraba, Narrabri, Wyong and Tenterfield who had not competed for some years. The discussion was centered around what the Barraba Team was called, was it the "Barrels" or the "Butchers"? In the past all Brigades had their own identity which was proudly displayed on their tee shirts. This practice has been a little lost of recent times as all teams now wear firefighting uniform in events and around the track.

In this and future Championship Newsletters we will share with you some recollections from the past. Teams that have achieved, Individuals who have contributed and Comical Characters who have added a bit of fun and humour to our Championships. In this issue we feature a Brigade who was able to achieve it all.

### Station 511 the mighty YASS RAM'S.

Yass won their First State Demonstration in 1964 ending the reign of Narrandera who had won in 1960 and 1962. Yass followed up again winning in 1966. At both these Demo's Narrandera were runners up, however the great battle continued with Narrandera winning again in 1968 from Yass. Yass were runners up again to Finley in 1972 and 1974. They had to wait until 1978 to win again. On this occasion the Host location of Queanbeyan enabled them to travel back home on occasions to put in extra training on their own track, it certainly worked. They won their last State "Demo" at Coffs Harbour in 1984 with a team they called "Dad's Army". The Brigade members had at this time all aged a little but showed all and sundry that they were not a spent force. This win was a great achievement as new Champion teams had emerged such as Finley, Grafton, Port Macquarie, Balgownie and Canowindra. From the top 10 teams in NSW at this time 6 were from the North Coast and one of these was expected to win.

Yass Brigade, were one of the Brigades to compete at the first of our "Modern Era" of Demo/Championships in 1932, attended every State Demo/Championship as a Team until 1996.

They won every Event except 250gl Suction at State

Level. Their achievements and successes are too numerous to record in this story but their dedication included travelling to many parts of NSW and Victoria. One of the reasons they were so good was they always had at least 7 team members who were specialists in most positions. The majority of the team was also active sportsmen, they also spent a lot of time training, and this included times at night, in the frost, with equipment they had made or obtained.

### Captain Neil Brooker AFSM (Retired)

Neil Brooker and his wife Bobby were involved actively with Championships (past Demonstrations) during the 42 years Neil served with the Yass Brigade. His contribution to Championships included service on State and Zone Demonstration Committee's prior to the Association being formed in 1975. Neil was a foundation Councillor and served on the Committee for 26 years, 6 years as Vice Chairman and 6 years as Chairman. Since 2002 Neil has attended Championships as an Official. He was Awarded Life Membership in 1994.

Neil was a "Track Man" not all that fussed about making speeches but he knew the Events backwards. He assisted Brian Johnstone to formulate Events and the time it would take to run them. He was always on the Track with a stopwatch and recorded the times for each Event to be conducted. He would then go home to Yass and sit down to compile the Teams to Events formula.

Neil was an exceptional competitor. As an individual he won the 1 man hose and hydrant in 1970, however he was the coach and director of the Yass Rams during their years as a Champion Team. As a sportsman Neil played all sports with great skill, on one occasion he played a game of squash with the then Australian Champion, Jeff Hunt. He refereed Touch Football until well into his 60's and became a Life Member of this sport.

## The Championship Chronicle Cont...

In recent times Neil's health has restricted his attendance at Championships although he is still active in his other great love of growing and exhibiting dahlias. We wish Neil and Bobby all the best for the future and may we never forget their contribution. (Neil is now 77 yrs old and Bobby turned 70 earlier this year)

### Comical Characters

VFF Bobby Moore (Ret),  
511 Yass Brigade. (JACK FROM YASS)

Bobby earned his nickname because he called everyone Jack, male or female and regardless of age, everyone was a Jack. With his wrinkled face, hardened by his many encounters on the football field he was one of the best competitors Yass produced. But it was off the field he got up to his practical jokes. For those in attendance at the last State Championships in Tamworth there were enough new babies in attendance to have a "baby parade". Well, at a show like this Jack from Yass would have been in his element. His greatest trick was to "swap babies". He would go up to a lady with a new baby which (in the 70's), was in a large cane pram with a

big hood. He would say, 'I'll look after the baby for you ' then proceed to wheel it to the Yass tent where he had perhaps 1 or 2 other babies in prams. He would then switch the babies; this resulted in many mothers collecting the wrong baby to take home. Imagine trying to get away with it now! He also arrived at Port Macquarie once with a 'laughing machine', which he proceeded to play at the most inappropriate times.

This Newsletter article is produced on behalf of all of the Life and Honorary Members of the Association, who wish to acknowledge the Historian records by John Hand and the compile of individuals by Cheryl McKee who has been doing this work since the early 1990's. Without these records a lot of our History will disappear. If you have any story, photo's etc we would love to have a copy for future Newsletters.

Ross Hoy AFSM



A UTC Fire & Security Company

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To the right is an image of the Thermal Imaging Camera currently in use with the NSW Fire Brigades.

