



Queensland Auxiliary Firefighters Association Inc.

Web: www.qafa.asn.au e-mail: secretary@qafa.asn.au

Auxiliary Update

December 2018



President's Message

It's Christmas 2018 and I hope you enjoy time with family and friends and have a break before 2019 arrives.

2018 has been a challenging year, particularly 1 Dec 2017 through June 2018. In an industrial action, the United Firefighters Union Queensland, (UFUQ) lodged a industrial complaint in the Industrial Relations Commission against QAFA. The Full bench of the QIRC refused the UFUQ application against us. Thank you to MS J Marr, Nicole & Mike at Herbert Smith Freehills and QAFA members Renier Van Raders, Jon Karas, Adrian Williams and Darryl Shelswell for your support.

In August, we met with Minister for Fire & Emergency Services Hon Craig Crawford to discuss our Charter and MOU. We met also with Lachlan Miller, Opposition Minister and Policy Advisor Mark Neville.

QAFA is represented on a number of QFES working groups including Uniforms and Equipment,(D Shelswell), Olga Wilson Trust (Steve Brennan) and we continue to publish our QAFA Magazine (Adrian Williams). Thanks to each of you for your efforts.

QAFA continues to meet quarterly with QFES to discuss a range of topics. These have included:

Our Charter & MOU, - Overalls for Auxiliaries - Working group participation - Auxiliary stations review – Recruitment - QIRC decision - Recruit Course SFRST for Auxiliaries only - Firefighter Competitions - Workplace Conduct consultation – Employee Relations Unit - AC Tom Dawson's retirement - Alcohol at stations policy - proposed new QES Urban/Rural regional structure, - Review of QFES - C4i as well as Strategy 2030.

We also attended QFES Continuous Improvement Directions workshop recently. That was encouraging! This year, across QFES, a number of significant developmental changes continued to take place and, as the new Department evolves, with more changes continuing through 2019, we anticipate some well-considered improvements.

QAFA is aware the Auxiliary Award is up for review next year. Following consultation, QAFA has proposed a number of topics for discussion & consideration by UFUQ, and these will be given to them soon. They include:

Auxiliary Rank Structure – add Grade 3 - Paid travel time to training courses (same as full time - calculation & payment of Captains Allowance - double time payment for first 2 hours. - Payment of Special Allowances– (same as full time) - Attendance allowance calculated and assigned monthly.

CAVFA Meetings nationally during the past year, have discussed:

A MOU with national SES Australia - CFA Victoria's interference from UFU

Volunteer Welfare Survey - CAVFA / AFAC Groups

'Your Health Matters' program by NSW RFS Sam Anderson

Public Safety Industry Reference Update - Keelty Report

Presumptive Legislation status update. Only Tasmania and Queensland have good outcomes

Tasmania Jubilee Medal for 50 and 100 years since Brigade formation and considering further medal.

QAFA continues to produce two editions annually of a magazine for Auxiliaries. Next edition is due out in early 201. To make it interesting, we need your support. If you have a story, with photos, send it in for consideration. It can be about your station, the job, or your life as an Auxiliary.

QAFA remains ready and able to support our Auxiliary Firefighter members in many ways and continues to seek better outcomes for all auxiliary firefighters.

Although challenging at times, it has also been a successful year.

Thanks to all those who put in long hours during the recent wildfires across Queensland, and I hope, as you catch your breath after a busy couple of months, you get to spend time over the festive season with family and friends when possible.

We wish you, and your loved ones, a Merry Christmas and a Safe, Happy and Healthy New Year!
Stay Safe



Rodger Sambrooks -President

