

# HOT off the Press

Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (MFS RFFS Transfield)

## Message from the President

Hello members and friends,

Planning is well underway for the 2011 Annual Charity Ball. District Officer Peter Mason has kindly put his hand up to coordinate the event, with an enthusiastic new ball committee. Peter has vast experience with major events, in particular his involvement with the Clipsal 500 in recent years. I am sure with Peter's knowledge, dedication and enthusiasm, the 2011 Ball will be a wonderful success.

The APFF were proud to join forces with the UFU and the Fire Service Fund to contribute to a \$1000 donation to support Shane Crawford on his "That's What I'm Walking About" walk from Adelaide to Melbourne. His effort in raising funds for breast cancer was amazing, with the end result at almost \$500,000 raised. This was certainly a great cause, well done to Greg Northcott for driving this initiative.

The APFF is once again proud to support the MFS RAAP program and the wonderful work being done by SO Rod Campbell. The APFF committee has allocated \$10,000 for providing audio visual equipment to be used during RAAP presentations. This program has saved many young lives over the years, and therefore its vital work should be continued.

**APFF Health Initiative** – Acting Commander Mick Morgan is working with the APFF to develop a website dedicated to fire-fighters and their family's health issues. The APFF are lucky to have assistance with the current web page from SF Greg Chivers, 'C' Communications. Greg will hopefully play a pivotal role in the development and ongoing management of the revitalized web page.

I would like to congratulate SO Mick Tagell for his wonderful effort on the "Tour of Duty" run across the USA, culminating in New York on 9 September 2010. I look forward to Mick's report in an upcoming Newsletter. Well done Mick.

The APFF are looking for interested people to become Station Representatives. This role is designed to ensure that information is getting out to the members, and also that feedback is passed back to the committee. Anyone interested please contact Billy for more information.

DO Kevin Eckermann is taking orders for APFF merchandise. If you are interested in purchasing any gear, please contact Kevin and he will make an order for you. The sports bags have proved to be extremely popular. Kevin has also been in discussions with the Wakefield Hotel who have offered very generous support for the APFF in relation to supporting the W.C.H. burns unit. Please consider supporting businesses that are supporting our Foundation.

Thanks again for your continued support.

Kind Regards,

Greg Crossman, APFF President



Greg Crossman  
President

P.S. Don't forget to visit our Web page to keep up to date with what the Foundation is doing – [www.apff.org.au](http://www.apff.org.au)



All firefighters, their families and personnel are invited to BECOME A MEMBER AT THE WAKEFIELD.

Membership includes an extended happy hour every Thursday night from 5-8pm with free finger food, exclusive rotating monthly bar discounts, a \$30 birthday voucher, and prizes and giveaways each month.

**200% of your Gold Coin donation on sign up goes to the APFF supporting the W.C.H. Burns Unit – yes, they match your donation \$ for \$.**

So even if you think you won't use the membership, join up anyway to donate to the APFF.

Sign up now for a chance to win a 50" 3D HDTV and Blu-Ray Player.

For more info, visit [www.thewakefield.com.au](http://www.thewakefield.com.au)



## Melbourne Cup Luncheon

2<sup>nd</sup> November 2010 at the Wakefield Hotel

Free sweep given to every person booked

A'la Carte Menu

Live Music from 3pm

Sweeps and Prizes

\$10 table charge supporting the APFF

All profits from the raffles will also support the APFF

Book now on 8223 1622



## MFS Open Day

The MFS Open Day is on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November (Pageant Day) from 11am to 3pm. The APFF will be asking for a gold coin donation for all visitors that come into the fire service that day. The Foundation will also be running a BBQ and any help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Billy Boyle to register your interest in helping.

## APFF Footy Tipping Comp

The APFF is thinking about starting a footy tipping competition in 2011. It will be an expansion of the footy tipping competition held in the Northern Command in 2010 and facilitated by SF Kevin Fischer at Gawler Station.

A charitable donation component out of the proposed prize pool will be incorporated.

Watch this space for more information in the coming months on this footy tipping comp.



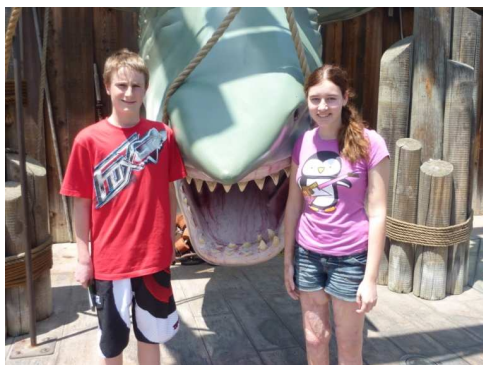
- Joe Hodgson

In August 2010, Camp Smokey Association sent two campers and chaperones to Toronto Canada to attend Camp Bucko (a Burns Camp for Kids in Ontario). This was our first camper exchange and proved to be a huge success.

The initial idea came from Canadian exchange firefighter Patrick Hayter who is involved with the Canadian camp and contributed to Camp Smokey during his time in Adelaide. Patrick and the Camp Smokey committee liaised with the Camp Bucko director, and spent considerable time and effort bringing this trip to fruition. One of the biggest hurdles to this trip was funding.

A big THANKYOU to the APFF for allocating funds to make it possible.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of August 2010, two Camp Smokey senior campers, Myles (16) and Renee (14), along with two Camp Smokey leaders as chaperones, Julie (WCH Burns Nurse) and myself, departed Adelaide via Melbourne



and Los Angeles to Toronto. We had an overnight stop in LA to minimize the impact of such a long journey. Full use of the stopover was made with a tour of the rich and famous stars homes of Beverley Hills and a visit to Universal Studios. After 19 hours travelling, it was only the amazing sights and sounds that were keeping the kids (and adults) awake!

We then flew overnight and were met at 0600 at Toronto Airport by Pat Hayter. Accommodation for 2 nights was at Melissa's (Pat's girlfriend) house. We pretty much took over her house and no amount of debating could persuade her not to give up her rooms and sleep on the couch. The hospitality was great. Melissa and Pat took us for an awesome 2 days which included the CN Tower, City open top bus tour, Blue Jays baseball game, and Niagara Falls, with a Maid of the Mist boat ride into the Niagara Falls mist. By virtue of Pat and Melissa's efforts and a lot of support from the Toronto Firefighters Union, all the tickets for these activities were provided/donated.

On Day 4, Pat dropped us at the Toronto pick up point for the coach ride to Camp Bucko.

There were four different buses travelling from all areas of Ontario. We travelled north for about 3 ½ hours to Minden and the Kinarck Outdoor Centre. The camp is based in a forest on a private lake set on about 100 acres. We arrived in the rain and got settled into cabins spread throughout the forest. The forecast was for a wet week, which gladly never eventuated – turning to a hot and humid week instead!



The first night everyone was gathered in the big hall instead of around the campfire (due to the rain). Much to Myles and Renee's embarrassment, we were called to the front and introduced to the group. While Camp Bucko participates in camp exchanges regularly within North America, we were the first overseas visitors.

There was about 70 kids and 70 leaders/support staff. Nancy, the camp director, welcomed us and gave us a gift package. Then 2 of their leaders and 5 of their campers put on an Australian comedy skit with the only thing being worse than their bad Aussie accents, was their bad Aussie jokes. It was hilarious!

The theme for Camp Bucko this year was an International Tour. This meant that each day the campers woke up in a different country and all activities and meals for that day reflected the region.

The five areas visited were Europe, Asia, North America, Polynesia and Africa.

Everyone was given a Bucko passport and had to collect Visa stamps throughout the camp.

Some of the activities/games included 'The Running of the Bulls', the Power of Physics, Milan Fashion Show, Chinese games, Martial Arts, Rodeo, Aussie Ex, Maori Dancing, Safari Hunt and a Dug out Canoe Challenge.

Everyday also include a free choice activity session with the kids getting to choose from canoeing/kayaking, fishing, arts and crafts, guitar lessons, rock climbing, high ropes and archery. Each day also ended with an open waterfront session for 1 ½ hours where the kids got to swim, kayak, canoe and play beach volleyball.

While there we saw a couple of Beaver dams and lots of Chipmunks. Fortunately the bears stayed away.

Most evenings included an activity such as movies, camp fires, discos and fireworks. One evening, Julie and I did a 1 hour presentation about Camp Smokey and Australia. This was well received with the kids amazed at the wildlife and Australian icon pictures and facts. We finished this with a fun quiz with lots of prizes and handouts for the kids. We also presented Nancy with a gift and challenged them to ensure they sent campers to Camp Smokey to retrieve their Canadian flag Myles and I swapped for the Australian flag at about midnight on day one of the camp.

They were very pleased to hear that we will fly their flag at Camp Smokey this year to recognize the permanent bond that now exists between our two camps. Six days on and it was a teary departure for many as the buses prepared to return us all. Many addresses were swapped and goodbyes were said for the friendships formed. All the Canadian leaders (firefighters, nurses and other helpers), along with all the campers had made us very welcome, and looked after us like family.

Pat and Melissa picked us back up in Toronto and later continued

their good form with a trip to a Canadian Football game and tea out. Then finally it was airport time, and with no stopovers, a tiring 30 hour trip home.

An awesome trip for all. We watched Myles and Renee grow and come out of themselves. They forged lasting friendships and realized that their injuries are not a hindrance, but instead an opportunity to be part of a worldwide group of incredible individuals that can overcome huge adversity and come out better for it.

I consider myself lucky to know these people, and be a part of Camp Smokey.

Joe Hodgson



On Monday the 13<sup>th</sup> of September in Moomba, The Yard Dog Association had the pleasure of hosting the Camp Quality Crew. This year we had four kids (Chloe, Angel, Clara and Hayden) and their parents, Camp Quality representatives, a 2 piece band, Mona's and Ralph, and of course the hairdressers, Jamie and Delia.

Once we got everybody booked into camp, it was time for lunch. Again this was hosted by the boys from Veolia. A big thanks to Dave Bald and his crew who had some serious bailing to shift water out of their BBQ area (how are the fish doing Dave?).

The rest of the day was spent dropping in on various people and places around Moomba, as once again the roads were all but closed, thanks to the Emergency Services and the Heliair guys for helping us out with this.

Peter Graham gave us a hand to start the night off with some introductions and presentations. All the kids and their parents got up and, with a little help from Lou Anne, Clara and Chloe explained how important it is

having organizations like Camp Quality (CQ) doing what they do best, improving the quality of life for these very special children. Once the formalities were out of the way, the music started and the barbers shop opened. This is really becoming a feature of Camp Quality Nite – years ago you maybe got one or two people, these days it makes some serious money. Louie "The Crusher" from Bardrill raised around \$3500, and Brian Suttie, WDS Manager, raised \$1000. Marios and the Heliair boys said they would get into the act if they could raise \$1000, and with the help of a cheeky little donation from YDA, this was achieved within the hour and they ended up with \$1400. Well done to all those who lost hair on the night! Next on the agenda – The Auction. First time Auctioneer, Andy Wait (O&G) (who I didn't think had any idea he had been nominated as auctioneer by his workmates until early in the evening) did a great job. The highest bid of the night was from Jenny (Spotless) who paid \$3500 for a Crows jumper that was donated by



the Ballara Social Club (Cheers Ron). The total for the 20 items on auction was \$15,655 – a great result! The rest of the night belonged to Mona's and Ralph, who did a rather good job of entertaining the crowd with a bunch of songs everybody seemed to know the words to. Overall, we raised around \$34,000 for Camp Quality. A great effort due to reduced numbers in the camp. On behalf of Camp Quality and the Yard Dog Association, we would like to thank the generous people and companies for their contributions and kindness. What is achieved from so few, benefits so many. It's such a pleasure to be involved. Thankyou to Santos for allowing this to happen. Remember – Laughter is the best medicine.

Steve Parrott and Dave Pritchard



## Calendar of Events

**October 10<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>**

Catering for USAR Course

**November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2010**

Melbourne Cup Luncheon, Wakefield Hotel

**November 4<sup>th</sup> 2010**

APFF Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, HQ

**November 12<sup>th</sup> 2010**

Shake the Boot

**November 13<sup>th</sup> 2010**

MFS Open Day BBQ

**May 4<sup>th</sup> 2011**

APFF Ball

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**E-MAIL:**

ball@apff.org.au

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

**www.apff.org.au**

### About Our Organisation...

The Australian Professional Fire-fighters Foundation is dedicated to burn prevention as well as survivor support and recovery programs in all States of Australia.

The organisation is committed to becoming more actively involved with its local communities, in particular the children's burns unit. It will provide financial assistance for the purchase of equipment and assist in the operation of a children's burn survivor camp called "Camp Smokey".

The Foundation is also committed to improving and maintaining the internal network and

welfare of Professional Fire-fighters and their families.

The APFF is an organisation unique to Australia, which began in South Australia and is expanding, now also having a branch in Queensland.

It is an organisation belonging solely to the member fire fighters and their families.

Its main purpose is fundraising for charity, offering assistance (both financially and other) to fire victims, especially children, and those in immediate need.



### Membership

The APFF is looking to boost its membership. The APFF is responsible for:

- o Raising funds for the Newland Ward at the Women's and Children's Hospital
- o Organising the 'Shake the Boot®' fundraiser
- o Organising the 'Fire-fighters Charity Ball'
- o Assisting with the running of 'Camp Smokey' for child burns survivors

- o Assisting victims of fires and burns
- o Assisting MFS staff and their families in need
- o Many other important activities

You can help by

- o Donating \$2 from your fortnightly pay
- OR
- o Donating \$13 from your fortnightly pay and receiving 2 tickets to the annual charity ball.

You may think you're a member and you're not! Check your payslip! It should have a donation to 'F/F Found'

If you are not a member and are interested, please contact Todd Miles (C Shift Headquarters) on 0438 376 216.

