

NSW FIRE BRIGADES



# FIRE NEWS



June 2004



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## FROM THE COMMISSIONER



Our annual New South Wales Fire Brigades' Open Day is always a big winner with families. It's wonderful to see so many happy faces as people, young and old, visit the fire stations and talk to us while kids clamour over the fire trucks, inspect the equipment and imagine what it's like to be a firefighter. Some of our Open Day visitors marvel at the history that lies within the walls of their local fire stations — such a pivotal part of the community. Hopefully, all our visitors walk away wiser about fire safety, which is what the day is all about.

Fire prevention is an integral part of our role as a fire and rescue service. Our own awareness programs, such as FireEd and SABRE, the information we release through the media and events like Open Day allow us to reach many people with safety messages that can help them protect themselves and their families. Such education is a key facet of the NSWFB's role, particularly in the winter months. As we saw so tragically early in June, this is the time of year when people can be most at risk from fire in their homes.

We therefore need to capture the community spirit of Open Day every day of the year. Each day should be like an open day at local fire stations, so that people can drop in to obtain advice about installing smoke alarms, help with developing a home escape plan and other potentially lifesaving information. They'll be greeted with the same friendly faces, and, work permitting, kids will still be able to climb over the trucks and learn more about the incredible work of NSWFB firefighters.

Greg Mullins AFSM

## FROM THE EDITOR

While waiting for the lights to change at a busy intersection, I noticed a shiny red NSWFB appliance pull up on the left hand side of my vehicle. On the right hand side, a car carrying two young children was also waiting. A little girl about five noticed the fire engine and excitedly motioned to her brother. Both children, their faces shining with excitement, waved to the firefighters, who much to the children's delight, waved back. The lights turned green and we all went our separate ways, but this delightful incident caused me to think about the great public relations job our firefighters do, and it provided tangible evidence of how well respected and trusted they are within the community. It is therefore not surprising that our NSWFB Open Day, featured in this edition, was a roaring success. Apart from spreading the fire safety message, demonstrating firefighting skills and displaying appliances, firefighters, it seems, also excel in the culinary arts, and the NSWFB Open Day barbecued sausage sandwiches were declared to be "second to none."

Jan Crombie-Brown



# NSW Fire Brigades' Open Day

**O**n Saturday 8 May 2004, fire stations across NSW opened their doors for the annual NSWFB Open Day. To the delight of thousands of families, the sausages sizzled and kids got to climb over pumpers and inspect the equipment as well as take away free CD-Roms, tattoos and balloons. Open Day also gave firefighters the chance to talk directly to members of their local community about their role and to offer them vital fire safety information.

Here's how some fire stations celebrated the day.

## Uralla

Uralla Fire Station had a bumper Open Day with many visitors coming along to learn about the NSWFB. Local MP Richard Torbay, presided over the presentations which included the donation of a defibrillator by Rotary and the presentation of the National Medal to Retained Firefighter Wayne Howard.

## Mittagong

The people of Mittagong turned out en masse to support the NSWFB Open Day. The fire shed was dressed up as a house with fire education displays inside, and plenty of fun for the kids. Many kids were delighted to get truly 'hands-on' with fire extinguishers. Close to 400 visitors went through the station by 1pm.

Retained Firefighter Michelle Hatton was hugely impressed by the community reaction on the day.

"The response for Open Day here was terrific... all the members here had a ball! Wow!"

## Wollongong

If the record amount of sausages consumed by hungry visitors is any indication, Wollongong Fire Station's Open Day was a huge success.

Visitors of all ages inspected the appliances (the Bronto was most popular), looked over equipment, chatted with friendly firefighters, and sampled the gourmet barbecue fare.



Photo: Julie Delvecchio

## Mortdale

The retained firefighters from Mortdale Fire Station had around 300 people pass through the doors. They showed adults how to use fire extinguishers and put on face painting as an extra attraction for the kids.

Retained Firefighter Justine Denton declared the day a big success.

"We've had more people here than last year. Spreading the word through the community has made a big difference," she said.

## Tamworth

Tamworth Fire Station enjoyed a successful open day with 450 people visiting the station. In fact, Open Day is so popular they extended it by an extra two hours.

Not everyone was there to look at the shiny red fire engine - the station also received several enquiries from locals and a couple of RFS volunteer firefighters about retained recruitment.

## Wagga Wagga

Open Day was a perfect opportunity for the people of Wagga Wagga to meet their local fires. Displays with hoses and extinguishers were topped off with a number of vintage fire vehicles, including a beautifully restored 1943 Mack Truck, on show to the inquisitive crowd.



Mortdale

Between 800 and 1000 people attended on a clear, crisp, sunny Wagga day. The traditional sausage sizzle kept the hundreds happy as they learnt about fire prevention and safety from their local firefighters.

### Maitland

Open Day visitors to Maitland Fire Station were so eager they arrived before the official 10am start time. Captain Paul Mayers credits a rise in the number of visitors this year to publicity leading up to the event.

"Parents told us they planned their day around it because it's a treat for the kids," Captain Mayers said.

And the children didn't just leave with a showbag, they also got fire safety advice. As firefighters helped them apply their tattoos they spoke to the children about the 'get down low and go go go' and 'stop, drop and roll' messages on them.

Deputy Captain Paul Casey said he was impressed by how many of the older primary school kids remembered the safety messages from the Fire Ed program.

### Marrickville

The firefighters from Marrickville Fire Station enlisted the help of the local SES volunteers to cook the sausages, leaving them free to talk to visitors about the work they do and fire safety. They estimated 300 visitors through the station.

### Batemans Bay

Open Day in Batemans Bay was a real treat, especially for the kids. A strong turnout from the local community made this a special day for the town. The appearance of Bernie Cinders helped spread the fire safety message and brought big smiles to the faces of the station's visitors.

A real fire call, accompanied by the flashing lights and sirens of the trucks, brought instant cheers from the kids (and a few grown-ups).

### Leichhardt

There were lots of young children with their parents at Leichhardt Fire Station. Firefighter Robin Weckert said she was surprised by the sophistication of the questions from some youngsters, who wanted detail about specific pieces of equipment. The Brigade Kids CD-Rom was running at the station, and the kids got a kick out of playing it.

On the day, one parent was heard to remark: "A sausage on a roll and a fire truck - what more could a kid want?"

### North Shore and Northern Beaches

Animals were an attraction at two fire stations on Sydney's north shore. Crows Nest featured a demonstration by Ellie the FIRU arson-detection dog, which was a real crowd pleaser. Mosman had the Zoo-mobile with a snake and other animals from Taronga Zoo.

Zone Commander N2, Superintendent Brian Johnson, reported a steady stream of visitors through most north shore and northern beaches fire stations, particularly Crows Nest, Mosman, Neutral Bay, Narrabeen and Manly.

### The Entrance

Firefighters from The Entrance welcomed the opportunity to meet and greet members of the public, reinforce fire safety messages and discuss fire brigade activities.

Approximately 200 people visited the fire station to inspect the static displays and fire fighting equipment as well as sample one of the gourmet sausages. Firefighter Chris Wallace declared Open Day to be "a complete success."

### St Andrews

This year Macarthur fire stations, including Campbelltown, Ingleburn and Macquarie Fields, joined forces for a combined Open Day which was held at St Andrews Fire Station. The 1000 visitors inspected the fire appliances on display and were treated to practical fire safety and rescue demonstrations, all of which were well received by the enthusiastic crowds.

### Lakemba

"A great day was had by all," was the consensus of Lakemba firefighters. The "FIRE 000" balloons proved a very popular way of spreading the fire safety message to many of the station's smaller visitors.





Wollongong  
Photos: Jan Crombie-Brown





Lakemba  
Photos: David Weir



# St Andrews

Photos: Peter Morthen





## Crows Nest



Photos for Crows Nest and Manly: Bob Dobson



## Manly

## Marrickville



Photo: Chris Atkins

## Randwick

Photos: Bronwyn Hilton



Photo: Natalie Laharnar



## Leichhardt

Photos: Natalie Laharner



## Mittagong

Photos: Michelle Hatton



## The Entrance

Photos: Chris Wallace







Beecroft

Photos: Bronwyn Hilton



# Back to basics - what is CFBT?

Commissioner Mullins practices gas cooling techniques in the demonstration cell while the other "trainees" await their turn.



**C**FBT or Compartment Fire Behaviour Training is the study of extreme fire behaviour using realistic carbonaceous fire cells and props. Firefighters can observe first hand how a fire grows and interacts with many variables by observing the phenomenon in a safe and tested environment. Better still, they can practice and prove the validity of gas cooling techniques designed to combat the dangers of flashover, backdraft and fire gas explosions.

The NSWFB has prepared a long term CFBT program based on the knowledge gained by research and study in Sweden and the UK and liaison with a number of leading international Fire Brigades and experts. The CFBT training, comprising three levels, has been developed to equip every NSWFB firefighter with a greater understanding of fire behaviour. This understanding, combined with realistic training in proven and practical techniques, should enable firefighters to safely and efficiently extinguish structural fires under varying conditions.

All NSWFB operational firefighters, including senior officers, will complete the program. Recruits receive CFBT as part of their basic firefighting training as do retained firefighters who attend as part of their skills maintenance. The key to CFBT is that ALL firefighters are taught the same skills from the same resources.

There are currently 40 qualified CFBT Instructors across the State. All instructors have completed a five day course to ensure training

outcomes are the same regardless of where firefighters are stationed. This also ensures that instructors are equipped with the skills to provide a safe environment during realistic cell evolutions.

Training facilities which have CFBT cells in operation:

- Albion Park – Split Demo Cell
- Deniliquin – Split Demo Cell and Attack Cell
- Wellington – Flat Demo/Attack Hybrid Cell
- Armidale - Flat Demo/Attack Hybrid Cell
- Vales Point - Flat Demo/Attack Hybrid Cell
- State Training College - Split Demo Cell (in limited use)
- Shell Refinery (Clyde) - Flat Demo/Attack Hybrid Cell (under review)

## History of CFBT

In the mid 1980's, trainers in the UK and Sweden began using basic steel shipping containers, loaded at one end with timber, to replicate the production of flammable fire gases, with open and shut vents added to control air flow. Inside these 'cells', firefighters could not only view the early stages of fire growth but examine first hand the production of unburnt products of combustion combining with flammable gases given off by the timber.

Firefighters were able to witness the transformation of smoke to flame as pockets of unburnt fuel reached ignition. As the session progressed, the firefighters would observe a 'flashover' in the fuel-loaded end of the cell, witnessing the sudden but sustained transition from a developing to a fully developed fire. During their



time in the cell, the firefighters crouched low as super heated flammable gases billowed from the end of the cell, only inches above their helmets and as the temperatures increased, fingers of flame moved through the smoke.

Using their hose-line, firefighters directed short pulses of water fog into these gases, lowering their temperature and causing any flames to disappear. As they cooled, the layer of fire gases would contract away from them, allowing firefighters to maintain visibility. Under the watchful eye of an instructor, firefighters practiced techniques, and were able to observe variances

between too much or too little water, becoming mindful of the steam generated if they misdirected their pulse against the superheated linings of the cell. These were the skills that they would take to their first fire call.

Scandinavian countries such as Norway, Finland and Denmark trialled the techniques which spread to other parts of Europe such as Holland and Spain. By the mid 1990's, a number of British Brigades were also training this way. Since then many Brigades worldwide, have successfully incorporated CFBT as part of their compulsory firefighter training.



**S**enior Officers from Region South at the Shell Refinery after completing the six hour CFBT Level One course.

Back row: Superintendent Ken Hayes, Superintendent Wayne Roberts, Chief Superintendent Paul Rugg, Acting Chief Superintendent Jim Smith, Inspector Mal Cronstedt FESA (secondment from WA Fire Service), Commissioner Greg Mullins  
Front row: Station Officer Tim Brown (CFBT instructor), Superintendent Mick Guymer, Superintendent Steve Davis, Superintendent Peter Murgatroyd, Acting Superintendent Greg O'Connor

### NSWFB Fire Suppression and Research Section

CFBT course development, training of instructors, realistic testing of firefighting equipment and delivery of CFBT to firefighters within the greater Sydney area are all part of the role of the NSWFB Fire Suppression and Research Section which is based at Terrey Hills. Many firefighters who have completed their CFBT Level One would have met the current staff of Station Officer John McDonough, Station Officer Guy Brisbane, Station Officer Tim Brown and Station Officer Mark Riddell. The Section welcomes any feedback which can help make CFBT more effective.

# Full steam ahead at Wellington

Photos by Tony Lenthall

CFBT is full steam ahead at the Wellington Training Centre. Permanent Officers and Firefighters from Lithgow, Bathurst and Orange have recently undertaken training at Wellington. The remaining firefighters from these stations, as well as firefighters from Broken Hill and Dubbo will soon undergo the training.

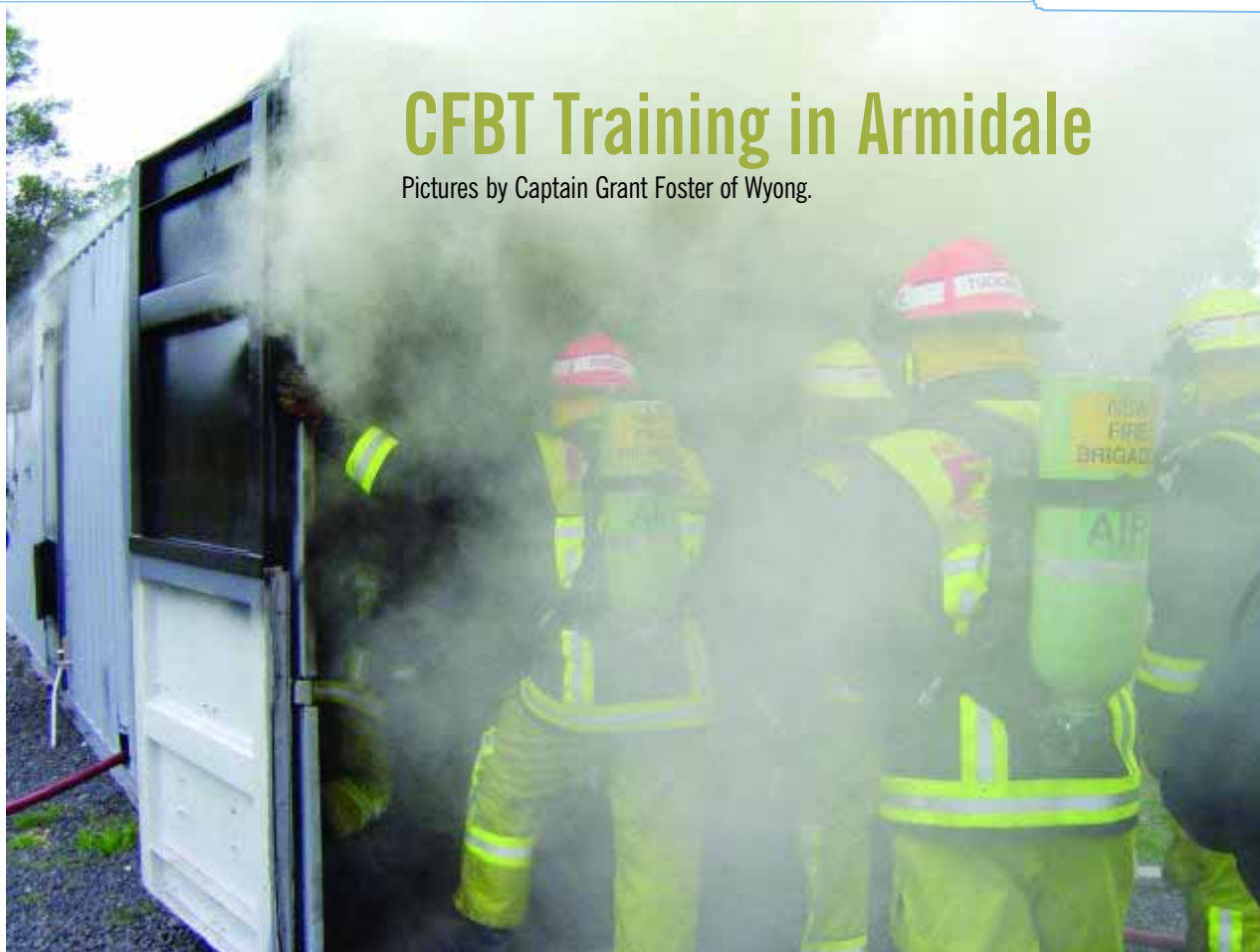
The regular Skill Maintenance training held at Wellington for Retained Firefighters also focuses on CFBT.

During the weekends, firefighters undertake both theory and practical components of the CFBT course as well as refreshing some basic firefighting skills, such as ladders, hose handling techniques, and patient removal techniques.

CFBT has been enthusiastically received by firefighters who maintain that it is the most exciting and realistic training they have undertaken.







## CFBT Training in Armidale

Pictures by Captain Grant Foster of Wyong.

Crews entering the hot cell.



**A**rmidale firefighters were equally enthusiastic about the CFBT training which was held at the end of March. Captain Ross Beckley from Toukley declared that, "the skills learnt over the weekend will prove invaluable."

Left: Chris Frost demonstrating a Burn Box Display simulation.

## Region North CFBT

**R**egion North Deputy Regional Commander Chief Superintendent Roger Bucholtz and six of the Region's Zone Commanders were put through their paces in CFBT training on Wednesday 19 May 2004.

As part of the training, the officers reviewed fire behaviour and its relation to compartment fires, and were shown the signs of impending flashover and backdraft and how to apply gas cooling techniques. Finally, they entered the attack cell where they were tested on

door entry and gas cooling techniques with final extinguishment being completed by pencilling out.

Region North Principal Instructor, Inspector Darryl Dunbar, who conducted the training with Station Officer John McDonough at the Armidale Training Centre, said the officers handled the new techniques well.

"They went through the training to gain hands-on knowledge about the latest techniques all operational staff are being taught," Inspector Dunbar said.



Back row (left to right): Superintendent Brian Johnson, Chief Superintendent Roger Bucholtz, Superintendent Keith King, Inspector Darryl Dunbar and Superintendent Michael Johnson

Front row (left to right): Superintendent Geoff Barnes, Superintendent Garry McBain and Superintendent David Gray.

# Dubbo hazmat incident

Photos by Paul Beylerian

In the afternoon of Thursday 18 March 2004, a motor vehicle accident just north of Dubbo caused a major hazmat incident that closed the Newell Highway for over three days. Nineteen NSWFB crews, including specialist teams and appliances from Hazmat and State Operations, attended the incident which was made more difficult by problems in identifying the goods involved.

The collision occurred approximately three kilometres north of the Dubbo central business district and involved a southbound double-B semi-trailer and a southbound car. The semi-trailer careered off the road and the cabin to burst into flames.

The first crew on the scene indicated there was a truck carrying dangerous goods, with fertilisers and foodstuffs alight, and requested firefighting support and additional assistance from other emergency services.

Fortunately, the truck driver escaped from the burning truck suffering only minor injuries, as did the occupants of the car who were all taken to Dubbo Base Hospital for treatment and later released. Staff at a function centre nearby were evacuated to hospital for observation in case the smoke had harmed them. They were not able to return to the premises until late Sunday afternoon, which threw the wedding plans of a local couple into disarray. Fortunately the couple were able to find another location and from all reports the wedding went off without a hitch.

As the semi-trailer was totally involved in fire, firefighters were unable to identify the transport company or retrieve the load manifest to determine the type of goods being carried. The labels on the containers carrying the chemicals had been also been destroyed by fire, making it impossible to identify the load. Zone Commander West 4, Superintendent Andrew McLeod, arrived at 2.20 pm and assumed incident control. Firefighter protection was revised from spillage suits and breathing apparatus to fully encapsulated suits with breathing apparatus.

Following Police registration checks, it was discovered that the prime mover was owned by a Queensland







sub-contractor who worked for a major transport company. After three hours of investigations, the owner of the goods was identified and information on the load, including materials safety data sheets, was delivered to the site.

While these investigations were taking place, everyone involved in the incident, including vehicle occupants, the Police, emergency services, energy authority and members of the public were decontaminated.

On Thursday evening specialised equipment was flown in from Sydney by the helicopter, FireAir 1. The aircraft returned on Friday morning with Hazmat specialists, including the NSWFB's Scientific Advisor, Paul Beylerian, who provided expert advice and guidance to operational staff throughout the recovery and decontamination process.

Incident action plans were implemented based on information contained in the materials safety data sheets under guidance of the Department of Environment and Conservation. Later in the morning, Station Officer Bob Allerton arrived in the Breathing Apparatus Training semi trailer to provide on-site air set servicing and recharging of air cylinders. The semi-trailer also contained additional fully encapsulated suits and spillage suits, making the incident scene autonomous as far as breathing protection and protective clothing was concerned.

On Friday afternoon FireAir 1 returned with a second Incident Management Team enabling the recovery and



decontamination effort to continue around-the-clock. A Technical Support Rescue Vehicle provided specialised lighting, tents and other support equipment. The Incident Control Vehicle from State Operations supplied additional communications and information support.

After four days of a very determined and arduous effort by all agencies, the NSWFB's commitment concluded at approximately 5 pm. Approximately 300 tonnes of contaminated soil was removed from the site and the Department of Environment and Conservation continued to monitor the site for several weeks before the site was restored to its pre-incident state.

**Support crews from across western NSW attended the incident.**

Coolah  
Dubbo  
Delroy  
Gilgandra  
Gulgong  
Mudgee  
Narromine  
Parkes

Peak Hill  
Warren  
Wellington  
Orange  
Molong  
Gunnedah  
Coonabarabran  
West Wyalong  
Temora  
Narrandera  
Leeton



# Jamisontown factory fire

Photos by Tim Pruyn and Kernin Lambert

**A**t 8:21 am on Saturday 8 May, 2004 the NSWFB received the first of numerous 000 calls to a factory fire in Patty's Place at Jamisontown in Sydney's west.

When fire crews from Penrith arrived within eight minutes of the call they were confronted with a well-alight factory complex containing a large amount of packaging products, telecommunications equipment and several LP gas cylinders. Additional crews were called and it took 16 hours before the blaze was finally extinguished.

A 5th Alarm saw 85 firefighters from 12 surrounding fire stations battling to contain the main fire, their efforts hampered by several wall collapses and an unstable roof. Several aerial appliances were also used during the long operation to attack the fire from above.

A large smoke plume was visible for several hours and firefighters constantly monitored surrounding areas, including a local indoor swimming centre, for health hazards. Hazmat crews continued to monitor the water run-off in order to minimise pollution of local waterways.

The building and all its contents were totally destroyed and an investigation into the cause of the incident is currently taking place.



Kernin Lambert



Kernin Lambert



Kernin Lambert





Kernin Lambert

Kernin Lambert



Kernin Lambert



Kernin Lambert



# Newcastle University fire

Photos by Garry Luxton and Mike Pugh

**O**n the morning of Monday 15 March 2004, NSWFB crews from seven stations in the Newcastle area battled a 3rd alarm structure fire at Newcastle University. The fire, which started in a cafeteria in the Shortlands Students Union building, spread to the ceiling and quickly escalated.

When crews arrived they found the two top floor alight and called for assistance. Newcastle University security personnel had evacuated the building, which contained restaurants, shops and the student union's office. Two kitchen staff suffering from smoke inhalation were transported to hospital by NSW Ambulance.

"We attacked the fire from inside and out," said Incident Controller Chief Superintendent Bob Lewthwaite. "Our efforts were most effective from the inside, although during the later stages of the operation, crews were forced to withdraw because of the danger of timber beams collapsing."

Crews worked throughout the afternoon to ensure that all hot spots were extinguished and the area made safe. The first and second floors of the building were damaged by fire, heat and smoke and the ground floor was severely damaged by water.

FIRU were called in to investigate the fire.

NSWFB attendance:	Newcastle Hazmat
Waratah	Occupational
Wallsend	Commander North 3,
Hamilton	Inspector Peter Smith
Lambton	Zone Commander
New Lambton	North 3, Chief
Mayfield West	Superintendent Bob
Newcastle	Lewthwaite
	FIRU





# Dust Explosion at CSR Silos

## Glebe Island Terminal, Rozelle

Photos by Brad Smith

**A**t 4.28am on Saturday 24 April, crews from stations 18 and 12 responded to reports of an explosion at CSR plant at the Glebe Island Terminal, James Craig Road Rozelle. The plant consisted of a 5-storey concrete building and 30 silos, 14 containing sugar and 16 containing cement. On arrival, firefighters saw that most of the building's windows were smashed and a haze of dust or smoke was coming out of the windows.

Surveillance cameras in the site office showed that a small fire was burning in a bag of sugar dust which had been extracted through the processing system. The fire was extinguished using a fine soft water spray.

The Operational Commander, Inspector Buxton, upgraded the response to a structural 3rd alarm, which also brought in crews from City of Sydney, The Rocks, Leichhardt, Pyrmont, Hazmat, an Incident Control Vehicle, and an Incident Management Team (IMT). With these additional resources, crews in breathing apparatus then checked approximately 1 km of conveyor ducting above, below and around the silos visually and with a thermal imaging camera for further signs of fire. After naturally venting the area above, all silo inspection ports were also removed and checked for any sign of fire.

The cause of the explosion was investigated, and metal grinding inside the conveyer was identified as the possible ignition source. The blast occurred in one of the belt-and-bucket conveyors, which have explosion arrestors attached to the side of the ducting. If a dust explosion occurs, the arrestors help to dissipate the energy, while rotary valves prevent the blast penetrating back through.

In this incident, the force of the blast peeled open ducting up to the sixth level, left explosion arrestors hanging from their mounts, lifted inspection ports, and caused caramelisation (the charred coating left after sugar burns) in Bin 3, a 30-tonne holding chamber. The building also received minor structural damage.

Dust explosions and silo fires are not very common, but when they do, they can produce tremendous force. Poor housekeeping can be a contributing factor to dust explosions in any manufacturing area. The initial actions of the first arriving appliances are crucial to ensure the safety of all. The NSWFB's Standard Operational Guidelines 8.2 and 8.5 provide information on dealing with dust explosions and silo incidents.



# Wetherill Park Plastics Factory Fire

Photos by Kernin Lambert

**O**n Saturday 29 May, NSWFB crews attended one of the largest fires in Sydney so far this year. The fire, which began in a Wetherill Park factory containing a large amount of stored plastics, quickly escalated into a spectacular 5th alarm factory fire from which flames spread 15 metres into the night sky.

On arrival, crews found the main building, which housed a door fittings manufacturing company, well alight. The fire had taken a strong hold of the centre section of the 50 metres x 200 metres construction factory. The building's tilt-slab construction made it highly vulnerable to collapse, posing great danger to crews entering the factory.

The initial Incident Controller, Inspector Graham Chappell, adopted a firefighting strategy which aimed to cut off fire spread internally. The fire was burning in a very open area behind a central office section and was extremely difficult for crews to access. In addition, the factory's metal roof meant there was minimal ventilation and a lot of under ceiling fire spread due to high level racking.

The fire quickly spread to the factory's front section which had a very high fire load. Crews at the front of the building then adopted a defensive firefighting strategy, operating outside the collapse zone and attacking the fire with aerial appliances and roof monitors, mainly concentrating on extinguishment. Meanwhile, crews at the rear maintained an aggressive attack within the building to prevent fire spreading there.

Fire crews used the ring mains and booster systems from two adjoining factories to fight the fire as the installed system was adjacent to the tilt slab panels. These panels eventually collapsed, confirming Safety Officer Inspector Lyon's decision to pull back crews from the front of the building. Crews remained in the rear third of the factory and despite the intensity of the blaze, more than 30% of the building remained sound, and millions of dollars worth of machinery was saved.

## NSWFB Attendance

Smithfield

Busby

Fairfield

Chester Hill

Guildford

Liverpool Rescue

Merrylands

Parramatta

Huntingwood

Cabramatta

Horningsea Park

Superintendent John Spiteri

Acting Superintendent West 1,  
John Spencer

Acting Regional Commander,  
Chief Superintendent Michael  
Hurley

BA/Hazmat Crews

Operational Commander  
Inspector Graham Chappel  
West 1

Operational Commander  
Inspector Steve McGuinness  
West 6





# Annual Report wins gold

**T**he NSWFB has been awarded a highly-sought after Australasian Reporting Awards' Gold Medal Award for its 2002/03 Annual Report. On 13 May 2004, NSWFB Commissioner Greg Mullins attended the Australasian Reporting Awards (ARA) Ceremony where he accepted the award. He was accompanied by members of the NSWFB's annual report team and key contributors.

The annual report is a crucial part of the NSWFB's communication with its major stakeholders. It provides the opportunity to benchmark ourselves against other agencies, to demonstrate accountability, and to publicly report on achievements and progress against key performance measures.

At the Award ceremony left to right: Peter Walker, Gary Meers, Sarah Adams, Julie Delvecchio, Paul Johnston, Commissioner Greg Mullins, John Shaw, Carmel Donnelly, Mark Brown and Bob Murray.

Around 350 annual reports were entered for evaluation in various categories. The NSWFB's report was entered in Division 9 (Miscellaneous Services), and this division attracted the largest number of entries. The NSWFB was the only NSW public sector agency to achieve a gold award in 2004.

Australasian Reporting Awards are not given for fancy design or lavish printing. Reports are judged on their effective communication and

accountability. The judging panel assesses excellence in reporting in areas such as relevance, reliability, reporting against performance indicators and disclosure.

The NSWFB's report was commended as a model report which set the highest standard among public sector reports in NSW, and which demonstrated outstanding design, organisation and effective summary of complex information.



## Medical Research Award for NSWFB doctors



NSWFB Occupational Health nurse, Barbara Matthews "vaccinates" Firefighter Colin Rice.

**D**r Catherine Field, NSWFB Assisting Medical Officer, recently received the Australasian Faculty of Occupational Medicine's 2004 Annual Ramazzini Prize for medical research. The Prize was for a new Hepatitis B vaccination protocol that enables vaccination of firefighters to be completed in a third of the usual time with 100% effectiveness. The old protocol took at least 6 months and was only 95% effective.

Dr Field's study was based on a new vaccination protocol

developed by Dr Maryanne Dawson, NSWFB Brigades Medical Officer, based on overseas research aimed at providing quick and effective Hepatitis B immunity in special groups such as liver transplant patients. Dr Field was assisted by Barbara Matthews, NSWFB Occupational Health Nurse, who did the "jabbing" at the Training College and assisted with follow-up of firefighters to ensure that they had their blood tests on time.

The study is of significance to all health and emergency service workers because these occupations face the highest risk of Hepatitis B infection from accidental exposure to blood and body fluids.

Our doctors will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the protocol over the next few years as more firefighters are added to our vaccination database.



Dr Catherine Field (seated) and Dr Maryanne Dawson



# Australian Fire Service Medals

**The Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), was established by the Queen in 1988 to recognise distinguished service by members of an Australian Fire Service. It is one of the highest honours any Australian firefighter can receive, and is awarded for outstanding service to the NSW Fire Brigades and most importantly to the community. Congratulations to the AFSM recipients:**

## Captain Kevin Muldoon

Captain Muldoon has been a retained (part-time) firefighter with the NSWFB for 40 years, spending most of that time as Captain of the Goonellabah Fire Station. He has been actively involved in promoting fire safety messages throughout the community, and has been a driving force behind the Goonellabah Fire Brigade's participation in firefighter championships.

Kevin has often volunteered his time in support of other communities in distress, and has left his own area to render assistance during major emergencies such as bushfires and the recovery efforts after the Sydney hailstorm.

"Captain Muldoon has given 110% throughout his career and is deserving of this recognition," said NSWFB Commissioner Greg Mullins.

## Inspector David Holden

Inspector Holden has close to 40 years of firefighting experience. He served as the Officer in charge of a number of operational command positions across the greater Sydney area, as well as specialising in the Fire Safety Division.

During his time in Fire Safety Division, Inspector Holden concentrated on fire safety in hospitals and special building projects. His expertise in the field was instrumental in the NSWFB being recognised as an authority in these highly specialised and complex areas.

Inspector Holden is also recognised for his consistent operational diligence and competence on the incident ground, as well as for his professional interaction with other emergency services personnel.

"David is a role model in the fire service and has been a mentor to me as I progressed through the ranks," said Commissioner Mullins.



Assistant Commissioner John Anderson and Captain Kevin Muldoon.



Inspector David Holden and Commissioner Greg Mullins.



Chief Superintendent Robert Lewthwaite and Assistant Commissioner John Anderson.

## Chief Superintendent Robert Lewthwaite

Chief Superintendent Lewthwaite is in charge of NSWFB operations in the City of Newcastle and Lake Macquarie, and has served the NSWFB and the community for 39 years.

While working in the Fire Safety Division he was acknowledged as an expert advisor on fire safety issues to the private sector. He was responsible for furnishing fire safety reports for many country hospitals and was part of the project team which introduced fire safety reforms in backpacker accommodation.

As well as his operational and fire prevention work, Chief Superintendent Lewthwaite has been instrumental in establishing permanent and successful fundraising projects for the Burns Unit of the John Hunter Hospital as well as coordinating fundraising activities for the Newcastle Kidsafe and Burns Unit Support Group.

"Bob is very highly regarded, and the award is a fitting recognition of his efforts," said Commissioner Mullins.

The Minister for Emergency Services, Tony Kelly, congratulated the three NSWFB recipients. "Awarding of these medals is evidence of the high regard the community has for the dedicated efforts of our emergency service workers," he said.

"I would like to commend Chief Superintendent Robert Lewthwaite, Inspector David Holden and Captain Kevin Muldoon on receiving the medal and on their outstanding service to the NSWFB and the community."



## Anzac Day...

Photos by Kernin Lambert and Bronwyn Hilton

We remember....

**“B**attles that were fought and lives that were lost in the pursuit of freedom. We remember not only those who returned, but those who were left behind: wives who never saw their husbands again, children whose fathers never came home, parents who outlived their children, and soldiers whose mates died by their sides.

Today, we not only remember the First World War, but conflicts that have followed; World War Two, Korea, The Malayan Emergency, Vietnam, and more recently, East Timor, Afghanistan, and Iraq. Many Australian service men and women are currently overseas engaged in combat. Our hope is that they return safely home to their families.”

The thoughts and feelings of those assembled were summed up by NSWFB Commissioner Greg Mullins at the annual Anzac Day Service held on 25 April 2004 at City of Sydney Fire Station. Following the service, the NSW Fire Brigades' Band assembled at Martin Place to salute in proud Fire Brigade tradition before joining the parade in a swift march up George Street. On a gloriously sunny day, the Anzac spirit shone through the cheering faces of the crowd.



That morning, flags at every fire station in NSW flew at half-mast, as a mark of respect to those who gave their lives so that we could enjoy the freedoms we have today. At twelve noon the flags were raised to full mast to symbolise that while we remember and give thanks to the fallen and to those who returned, we must always have the confidence to carry on and protect the freedoms they fought for.

**...Lest we forget**



## Gallipoli Pilgrimage

"Everyone I spoke to agreed that it was the most moving thing they had ever done on Anzac Day," says Station Officer Dennis Raynor, an ex-serviceman who travelled to Gallipoli, Turkey to experience an emotionally charged dawn service on the shores of Anzac Cove.



"On Friday 23 April we visited Anzac Cove and beach cemetery, standing where the Anzacs stood, walking where they walked, seeing some of what they saw, and given the terrain, wondering how they achieved what they did. We visited places that I had only ever read about: Lone Pine, the Nek, Courtney's Post, Quinn's Post, Baby 700, Plugge's Plateau, Walkers Ridge, all of which had memorials and cemeteries. It is difficult to describe the feelings and emotions that arise from being in such a place.

In the early hours of 25 April, we joined the huge crowd assembled in Anzac Cove and were entertained by the Royal Australian Navy Band while waiting for the 5am service to begin. Around mid morning we travelled to Lone Pine for the next service and we veterans in the massive crowd were afforded celebrity status and given special seating. There were thousands of Australians present, as well as representatives from New Zealand and Turkey. Veterans from WWII, Korea, Borneo, Vietnam, the Gulf and East Timor had also made the pilgrimage, and I was honoured to be asked to lay a wreath at the memorial on behalf of our tour group.

Amid thunderous applause, the Ambassador to Turkey declared, "that there hasn't been this many Australians at Lone Pine since 1915. I know we told you not to come, but we're glad a few of you did!"



# Australia's best rescuers

**A** NSWFB team consisting of members from Burwood Fire Station's D platoon gained second place at the recent Australasian Road Rescue Organisation Challenge in Melbourne. While New Zealand claimed first place overall, consistently impressive performances across the three events from the Burwood team have delivered them the title of the best rescue team in Australia.

Burwood Station Officer Clayton Allison was awarded best team leader for the competition. Of the three disciplines being tested in the competition, the team achieved third place in the Rapid Extrication event, second place in the Unlimited Equipment event and second place in the overall competition (a combination of points scored over the three events). The team has gained automatic entry into the International Road Rescue Challenge based on the strong results at this year's competition.

The International Challenge will be held next year in Hamilton, New Zealand in conjunction with the Australasian Road Rescue Organisation's challenge and AGM. Teams from the NSWFB have been hugely successful in winning a number of titles at previous events, including first place in the Limited Rescue event at the World Motor Vehicle Rescue Championships in Canada last year.



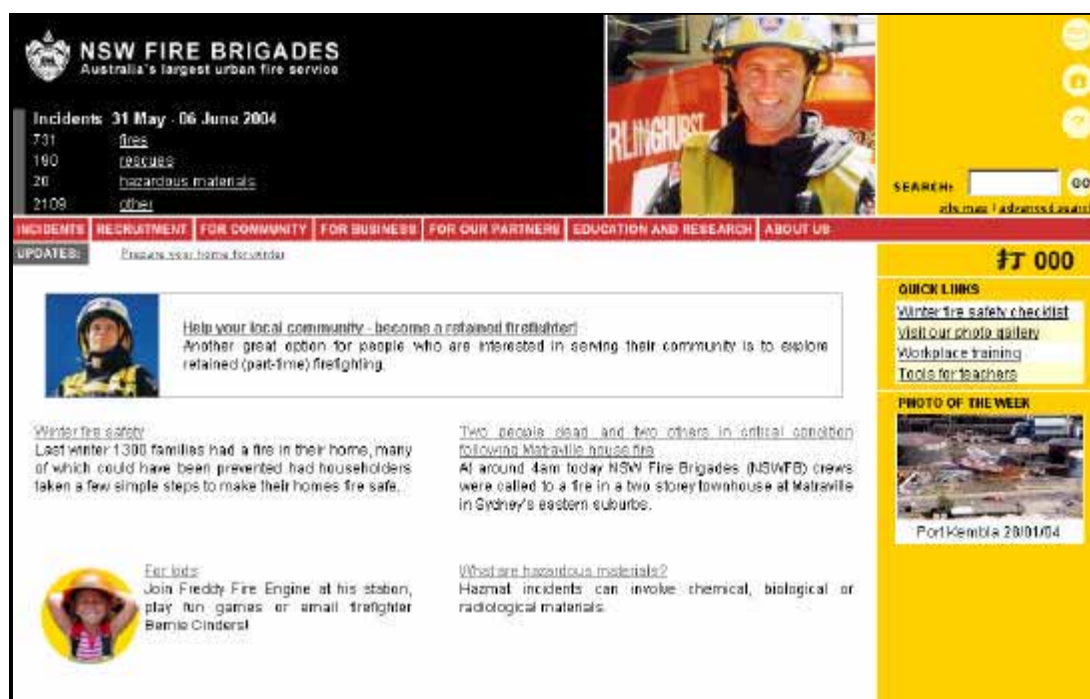
Above: SS Commodore convertible.

Below: Traffic light incident.





# What a site!



Following extensive research and redevelopment, the NSWFB launched its new Internet website site on 28 May. The site can be visited on [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

The new site, apart from looking fantastic, has greatly improved navigation, design and structure, which make it much more accessible and user-friendly. A new search facility allows desired information to be located quickly.

The site provides cost-effective electronic delivery of services to all NSWFB stakeholders. It also offers easier access to accurate, up-to-date and relevant information on a wide range of topics. Key parts of the site cover:

- Recruitment (including permanent and retained firefighters, administration and trades positions and community fire units);
- Community Information (including bushfires, non-English information, community education, fire permits and what to do after the fire);
- Business Information (including Comsafe training programs for

business and industry, guidelines and regulations, workplace safety, and alarms and extinguishers);

- Business and Community Partners (including information for insurers, local government and fire alarm service providers);
- Education and research (including facts and figures, vehicles and equipment, information for teachers and students, a special kids section and photo gallery); and
- Incidents (including incident updates, fires, hazardous materials, rescues, bushfires and incident investigation).

The new site also aligns closely with the NSWFB's corporate objectives. It will also help to implement the government's electronic service delivery and Information Management and Technology strategies.



The Commissioner gives the new site his seal of approval.



The Commissioner and Sarah Adams who designed the new website.

# Bravery Awards

**O**n April 13 2004, Assistant Commissioner Murray Kear presented bravery commendations during a ceremony held at Huntingwood Fire Station.

## Civilian Commendation

### Leesa Marie Cryer

Leesa Marie Cryer was commended for her action at an LPG explosion at Kalang Road, Edensor Park on 21 September 2002.

Leaking gas from a car LPG tank under a carport had exploded, causing severe burns to two people. Ms Cryer witnessed the incident and immediately went to the assistance of the victim who had suffered severe burns. Ms Cryer demonstrated level thinking and provided effective first aid treatment to the victim until the emergency services arrived.

## NSWFB Commendations for Meritorious Service

### Senior Firefighters Max Campbell and Brad Kelleher

Firefighters Campbell and Kelleher were awarded Commendations for Meritorious Service for their actions at a house fire in Luddenham Road, Orchard Hills on Thursday 1 November 2001.

On arriving at the fire, the crew was advised that the elderly female resident was missing. Firefighters Campbell and Kelleher forced entry into the residence and despite the rapidly spreading fire, located the woman and moved her to the front of the house.

## Retained Firefighter Mark Horder

Retained Firefighter Horder was awarded a Commendation for Meritorious Service for his actions at a motor vehicle accident on Sunday 18 August 2002.

Retained Firefighter Horder discovered a seriously injured woman in the middle of the road. This victim had stopped breathing and Retained Firefighter Horder commenced CPR and continued until Ambulance crews arrived.



Back Row (Left to right): Retained Firefighter Mark Horder (Commendation for Meritorious Service), Station Officer Michael Hehir (National Medal), Senior Firefighter Brad Kelleher (Commendation for Meritorious Service), Assistant Commissioner Murray Kear, Senior Firefighter Max Campbell (Commendation for Meritorious Service), Senior Firefighter Glen Sekulic (National Medal), Station Officer David Inns (National Medal), Inspector Alex Scott

Front Row (centre): Retained Firefighter Robert Duffy (National Medal) with his two children

Front Row (far right): Leesa Marie Cryer displays her Civilian Commendation.



Left to right: Firefighter Jarrod Anthony, Firefighter Trent Gordon, Station Officer John Sheedy, Senior Firefighter Brad Kelleher and Firefighter Mark Lynch.



# Quit and Save – it's never too late

**E**very year on May 31 the World Health Organization promotes World No Tobacco Day, which is observed globally to raise awareness about the devastating toll of smoking.

This year's focus for World No Tobacco Day is bound to encourage many smokers to think about quitting. With the theme 'Quit and Save', World No Tobacco Day in 2004 emphasised the financial and health costs of smoking.

Smoking can be an expensive habit - a packet a day smoker could save around

\$3500 in a year if he or she quit. Smoking also costs in terms of health. Each year, around 19 000 Australians die from smoking related illnesses. By quitting, smokers can save financially - and physically! And it's never too late to quit smoking - there are major and immediate health benefits for people of all ages.

The NSWFB and the FBEU joined forces for World No Tobacco Day by developing a quit smoking program specifically designed for NSWFB firefighters. The program consists of three main parts:

- information and advice
- comprehensive support
- nicotine replacement therapy

All of the quit smoking tools used are based on extensive research, and have been proven to help people quit smoking - for good. Features of the program include voluntary participation, strict confidentiality and individualised programs.

## Benefits of Quitting

### Health Benefits

#### After two days

- Nicotine and carbon monoxide leave the body
- Nicotine by-products leave the body<sup>1</sup>
- Blood pressure returns to normal
- Lung function improves<sup>2</sup>

#### After three months

- Blood flow to the limbs improves
- Cilia (small hairs) regrow in lungs to better handle mucous, clean the lungs and reduce infection<sup>3</sup>

#### After 1 Year

- Risk of coronary artery disease is half that of a smoker<sup>4</sup>

#### After 5 Years

- Risk of stroke becomes same as non-smoker<sup>5</sup>
- Risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas goes down<sup>6</sup>

#### After 10 years

- Lung cancer death rate goes down by one-half<sup>7</sup>

As well, if you have a chronic illness like diabetes, asthma or kidney failure, quitting can dramatically improve your health.

### Smoking is a Wealth Hazard

Smoking is an expensive habit. Quit and you'll be surprised how much money you save. The average smoker spends \$3,500 a year on cigarettes<sup>8</sup>.

**Love Your Work?**  
Don't let smoking cut your career short.

**Call 1800 425 282 or 9265 2800**

**Smoking - Quit the habit.**  
NSWFB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program

For more information on the NSWFB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program, or to receive a brochure, call Health Services toll free on 1800 425 282 or 9265 2800.

**Every cigarette is doing you damage**

Each time you light a cigarette, you are taking a step towards serious illness and death. Quitting now can save your life.

**Immediate Effects of Smoking**

- Nicotine and carbon monoxide leave the body
- Nicotine by-products leave the body<sup>1</sup>
- Blood pressure returns to normal
- Lung function improves<sup>2</sup>

**Long Term Effects**

- Blood flow to the limbs improves
- Cilia (small hairs) regrow in lungs to better handle mucous, clean the lungs and reduce infection<sup>3</sup>
- Risk of coronary artery disease is half that of a smoker<sup>4</sup>
- Risk of stroke becomes same as non-smoker<sup>5</sup>
- Risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas goes down<sup>6</sup>
- Lung cancer death rate goes down by one-half<sup>7</sup>

**Reduced Health of Life**

As well, if you have a chronic illness like diabetes, asthma or kidney failure, quitting can dramatically improve your health.

**Smoking is a Wealth Hazard**

Smoking is an expensive habit. Quit and you'll be surprised how much money you save. The average smoker spends \$3,500 a year on cigarettes<sup>8</sup>.

**NSWB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program - how to stop and stay stopped**

Quitting can save your life. Quitting now can save your life. Quitting now can save your life.

**Key features of the program are:**

- Voluntary participation
- Strict confidentiality
- Individualised programs

**The program has three main parts:**

- 1 Information and advice**  
Information and advice is provided to help you quit. You can find this in the NSWFB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program brochure, or on the NSWFB and FBEU websites.
- 2 Support**  
Quitting can be hard. However, you don't have to quit alone. You can get support from the NSWFB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program. This support includes:
  - A quit line (1800 425 282 or 9265 2800)
  - A quit kit (nicotine replacement therapy)
  - A quit group (support group)
- 3 Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT)**  
Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) is a safe and effective way to help you quit. It helps you manage the withdrawal symptoms of quitting. NRT is available in the form of patches, gum, inhalers, and nasal sprays. NRT is available from the NSWFB and FBEU Quit Smoking Program.

**To find out how you can improve your health call: NSWFB 1800 425 282 or 9265 2800**

# St Patrick's Day New York style

**S**ix NSWFB off-duty firefighters had us green with envy when they joined 2000 comrades to march in New York's 2004 St Patrick's Day Parade. The five hour parade, which is traditionally attended by firefighters and police from around the world, was broadcast live across the USA.

Snow was falling and temperatures fell below zero as the NSWFB contingent, carrying the NSWFB, Australian and US flags, marched down Fifth Avenue alongside several New York colleagues and representatives from other visiting fire departments including Canada, Ireland and England. "Seeing thousands of people waving and cheering as the snow fell and piled in the streets was a truly amazing sight," said Inspector Tom Cooper. The march ended at Central Park which was covered in snow and according to Inspector Cooper, "looked like something out of a fairy tale."

Our firefighters proved very popular, and many New Yorkers, including dignitaries from the Mayor's enclosure, shook their hands and thanked them for coming all the way from Australia to be with their FDNY colleagues.

During their stay, the contingent visited several fire houses, the Brooklyn Communication Centre, the Training Academy on Randall's Island, and toured New York Harbour in one of the fire boats. The firefighters, who paid for their own travel expenses, were offered accommodation at a Brooklyn fire station.

"The St Patrick's Day March provided a wonderful opportunity for NSWFB firefighters to visit the New York Fire Department with a view to continuing friendship and goodwill between the two services," said Commissioner Mullins.



Firefighters visit ground zero.







### Forging the bonds

In March 2002, a delegation of firefighters from the New York Fire Department who were involved the aftermath of the September 11 attack on the World Trade Center, visited Sydney and were hosted by NSWFB firefighters during their stay.

The resulting camaraderie forged a close link between the two fire services, and in October 2002, two groups of NSWFB firefighters accepted an invitation from the New York Firefighters to attend the bi-annual National Fallen Firefighters' memorial at Madison Square Gardens in New York City.

Organisers of New York City's St Patricks Day Parade dedicated the 2004 event to the Fire Department of New York, and New York firefighters extended an invitation to their NSWFB colleagues. The rest, as they say, is history.

#### Our representatives:

Inspector Brad Harrison

Inspector Tom Cooper

Station Commander Christopher Murtagh

Station Commander Matthew Malone

Leading Firefighter John Wallworth

Senior Firefighter Chris Stathis

# MOU with EnergyAustralia

On Wednesday 7 April, NSWFB Commissioner Greg Mullins and EnergyAustralia Managing Director Paul Broad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NSWFB and EnergyAustralia which will improve the existing cooperative arrangements between the two organisations. The MOU was developed following the attendance of the NSWFB at a fire involving an underground high voltage cable vault in a substation in Darling Harbour in September 2003.

EnergyAustralia operates an electricity supply network covering around 22 275 square kilometres in the Sydney, Central Coast and Hunter regions, and provides

electricity to over 1.4 million businesses and homes. Operations include major infrastructure planning, design, construction, maintenance, and emergency response to ensure the safety and reliability of the electricity network.

The MOU establishes a framework between the two organisations for planning, operations, information sharing, joint training and inter-agency policy development. It also allows for specific Mutual Aid Agreements to be developed to improve NSWFB response to emergencies involving EnergyAustralia infrastructure.



Commissioner Greg Mullins and EnergyAustralia Managing Director Paul Broad signing the Memorandum of Understanding.

Over the next year, the NSWFB and EnergyAustralia will work together on protocols that will reduce the time taken to restore power to consumers following fires in major electrical infrastructures and to improve service delivery to the community during storm recovery operations.



Captain Maslen in the new pumper.



Commissioner Mullins, Captain Maslen, Chief Superintendent Bob Lewthwaite, RTO Allan Dixon.

## Captain Col Maslen goes for gold

Commissioner Greg Mullins, was one of the many special guests who attended a barbecue in honour of Captain Col Maslen of Merewether Station who celebrated 50 years of service with the NSWFB. "Captain Maslen has been dedicated in his service to the NSWFB and the wider community since joining as a retained firefighter on 1 February, 1954," said Commissioner Mullins.

Merewether firefighters, families and friends were on hand to acknowledge this milestone, but there were further celebrations afoot. Commissioner Mullins, Newcastle/Lake Macquarie Area Commander Bob Lewthwaite and the Merewether crew had planned a "surprise" delivery of the station's new Type 2 Izuzu Pumper. Despite the difficulties in keeping something that big hidden, "and you can't hide anything from this man," said Retained Firefighter Mario Pin, Captain Maslen looked genuinely surprised and delighted as the shiny new pumper was driven into the station.

Congratulations, Col, on 50 good years.



# Profile: Firefighter Craig Mashman

When Craig Mashman drove a garbage truck for Botany Council, his friends who were firefighters were enthusiastic about Craig joining the NSWFB ranks. "They were constantly telling me how great a job it was," says Craig, and their persuasion eventually paid off. "The excitement of it all really appealed to my adventurous side and here I am."

Craig is a member of the La Perouse aboriginal community, and his indigenous background has played a major role in forming his current outlook on life. "My grandparents and elders in my community always stressed the importance of family. Giving is the greatest respect you can show someone. Community in a way is similar to family, and I am a firm believer in contributing to community. As a firefighter I am serving and giving back to my community on a day to day basis, however large or small my contribution may be. These are the values that are important to me."

The most unusual fire Craig can recall attending was a submarine fire at Garden Island. "It was around 1998, I think. The

fire was located mid-hull within the centre of the vessel. We were a little perplexed on how to deal with this one, but Senior Firefighter Ron Lindsay (an ex sub-mariner) and the then NSWFB Commissioner Ian Mac Dougall (retired Vice Admiral, Royal Australian Navy and former Submarine Fleet Commander) devised a plan of attack and the situation was successfully dealt with."

Craig is currently stationed at City of Sydney Fire Station and is looking forward to undertaking his Station Officers Promotional Program in July. "There's never a dull moment," says Craig. "In between chasing all those automatic fire alarms, I'm working with Terry Hill, the NSWFB Aboriginal Services Officer. We are currently involved in implementing Community Fire Units (CFUs) in Aboriginal communities which have been identified as "at risk", and have been training the new CFU members." Craig was involved in the



Fingal Head and Brewarrina CFUs and, with Terry Hill, is currently working on establishing units in Kempsey and Bowraville.

"The CFU program helps empower communities through self determination which in turn fosters pride throughout those communities," he said. "Evidence also indicates that where we've got aboriginal people involved in our programs, the incidence of fire calls in those areas is reduced."

# Graduation



## CLASS 8A/2004

FIREFIGHTER	STATION	PLATOON
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Sinisa Kukor .....	Wentworthville .....	B
Benjamin Abbott .....	The Rocks .....	C
Mark Lynch .....	Wentworthville .....	D
Robert Strauch .....	Bondi .....	B
David Wicks .....	Leichhardt .....	A
Andrew Shannon .....	City of Sydney .....	C
John Sanday .....	Schofields .....	C
Lucas Ferrier .....	The Rocks .....	B
Rohan Warnock .....	Concord .....	A
Mark Edis .....	City of Sydney .....	A
Jeremy Brown .....	City of Sydney .....	C
Geoff Brown .....	Busby .....	C
Andrew Johnston .....	Leichhardt .....	B
Norman Buchanan .....	Darlinghurst .....	B
Jason Townsend .....	Busby .....	D
Randall Lucas .....	City of Sydney .....	B
Andrew Coe .....	City of Sydney .....	A
Brent Miller .....	City of Sydney .....	D
Romeo Ayoub .....	Leichhardt .....	C

## Class 8a





Class 8b

**CLASS 8B/2004**

<b>FIREFIGHTER</b>	<b>STATION</b>	<b>PLATOON</b>
Charles Antonievich .....	Drummoyne .....	A
Shane Kennedy .....	Leichhardt .....	D
Christopher James .....	Bondi .....	C
David Turner .....	Bankstown .....	C
Mark Curr .....	City of Sydney .....	A
Patrick Kwong .....	Lidcombe .....	B
Andrew McIntosh .....	Fairfield .....	B
Robert Murray .....	Forestville .....	A
Joseph Zaouk .....	Crows Nest .....	A
Alex Petelevitch .....	Bankstown .....	A
Adam Long .....	Smithfield .....	C
Todd Pauling .....	Crows Nest .....	B
Antony Boswell .....	City of Sydney .....	D
Nicholas Medianik .....	Parramatta .....	C
Mitchell Wright .....	Bankstown .....	B
Paul Scrace .....	Crows Nest .....	D
Richard Wilson .....	Eastwood .....	D
Kristen Ross .....	Hornsby .....	D
Lisa Catty .....	Gladesville .....	A





# Brewarrinna CFU

Photos by Terry Hill



CFU team members look on as Firefighter Mashman gives instructions.

The sun sets after another day's training.



The CFU team conducts some running repairs.

The NSW Fire Brigades recently conducted Community Fire Unit (CFU) training with the Brewarrina Aboriginal community. Brewarrina will shortly join Nambucca Heads and Fingal Bay as Aboriginal communities with CFU's.

NSWFB Firefighter Craig Mashman, from the La Perouse Aboriginal community in Sydney, travelled to Brewarrina and spent a week in consultation and training with members of the Brewarrina Aboriginal community.

Following strong support from the Northern Star Aboriginal Corporation in bringing the group together, eight members of the Brewarrina CFU have now completed CFU training, with Andrew Baker nominated as team leader.

This CFU will enable local Aboriginal residents to pass on important safety advice to their community, not only about bushfires but also about home fire safety and other important safety messages.

"The program builds the capacity of the Aboriginal community and breaks down perceptions about the role of Aboriginals in the community," said Firefighter Mashman. "The NSWFB recognises the need to tap into the skills of the Aboriginal community to better manage fires and fire safety."

This program allows Aboriginals to make a positive contribution to the entire community."



CFU team takes a break from training.

## At the top of the hill

Goonellabah firefighters displayed true community spirit when they came to the rescue of an elderly lady who needed assistance to lift her paraplegic daughter.

Grace Douglas, a Goonellabah resident, had been looking forward to a visit from her daughter Mary as it had been 11 years since mother and daughter had been together in their family home. Despite the joyous reunion, the pair was faced with the hurdle of manoeuvring Mary's wheelchair up and down the flight of stairs into Grace's home.

Mrs Douglas made a number of calls to various organisations but was unable to gain assistance. In desperation she called Captain Kevin Muldoon from Goonellabah Fire Station who organised for a number of retained firefighters to go to her house each day and assist Mary in and out so she could take sight-seeing and day trips around the local area.

The crew received a card with "Magic Happens" which included the following from the two ladies, "A very big thank you for the special crew at the top of the hill. Thanks for helping my mum and I get together again at home after 11 years. Thanks Guys! Dreams do come true."







## Harmony Day 2004



**A**t the national launch of Harmony Day 2004, which was held at the Sydney Opera House Forecourt, abseiling NSWFB firefighters unfurled a giant 60 metre orange banner down the southern pylon of the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Affairs, Gary Hargraves, NSWFB Commissioner Greg Mullins and acting Assistant Director of Community Risk Management, Superintendent Chris Lewis, attended the launch which included a spectacular water display by the Shirley Smith fireboat.

Harmony Day falls on 21 March, and coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Participation in events such as this generates a better understanding of different cultures and also provides an opportunity for the NSWFB to increase fire safety awareness and smoke alarm penetration across the State.

## Clean Up Australia Day

**O**n Sunday 7 March 2004, NSWFB firefighters participated in Australia's largest community based environmental event, Clean Up Australia Day.

Over 677 000 volunteers collected an estimated 8383 tonnes of rubbish; enough to fill 1676 skip bins. While the most common items were plastics, cigarette butts, glass bottles and cans, more diverse finds included lounge suites (leopard print), car bodies, and beer kegs, dentures, mobile phones and a glass eye.

Pictured are Queanbeyan firefighters who assisted Rotary, Landcare and other community groups in cleaning the banks of the Queanbeyan River. The firies gained a positive response with passing

motorists expressing their approval by sounding their horns and giving the thumbs up.

"We're an important part of the community here," said Queanbeyan Station Officer Steve McGuinness, "and we like to help out where we can. While people are always grateful for our help in emergencies, community events like these allow firies to help in more normal circumstances. The amount of rubbish collected and the improvement to the area was a credit to all those who assisted."

Statistics courtesy of Clean Up Australia Website: <http://www.cleanup.com.au>.



428 crew at Jerrabomberra.



428 crew at Thorpe st Queanbeyan.





## Northern Sydney Community Fire Unit training day

**M**ore than 400 Community Fire Unit members from Sydney's north shore and northern beaches attended a special four-hour training session at St Ives Showground on Sunday 16 May, 2004.

CFU volunteers received training in the use of portable pumps and hoses from NSWFB firefighters. The volunteers also heard about the role of CFUs and the nature of bushfires from the NSWFB and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. They also received information on first aid from St John Ambulance.

Region North CFU Coordinator Senior Firefighter Warren Page said the training day gave the NSWFB the chance to train CFU volunteers as a group and take some pressure off individual fire stations.

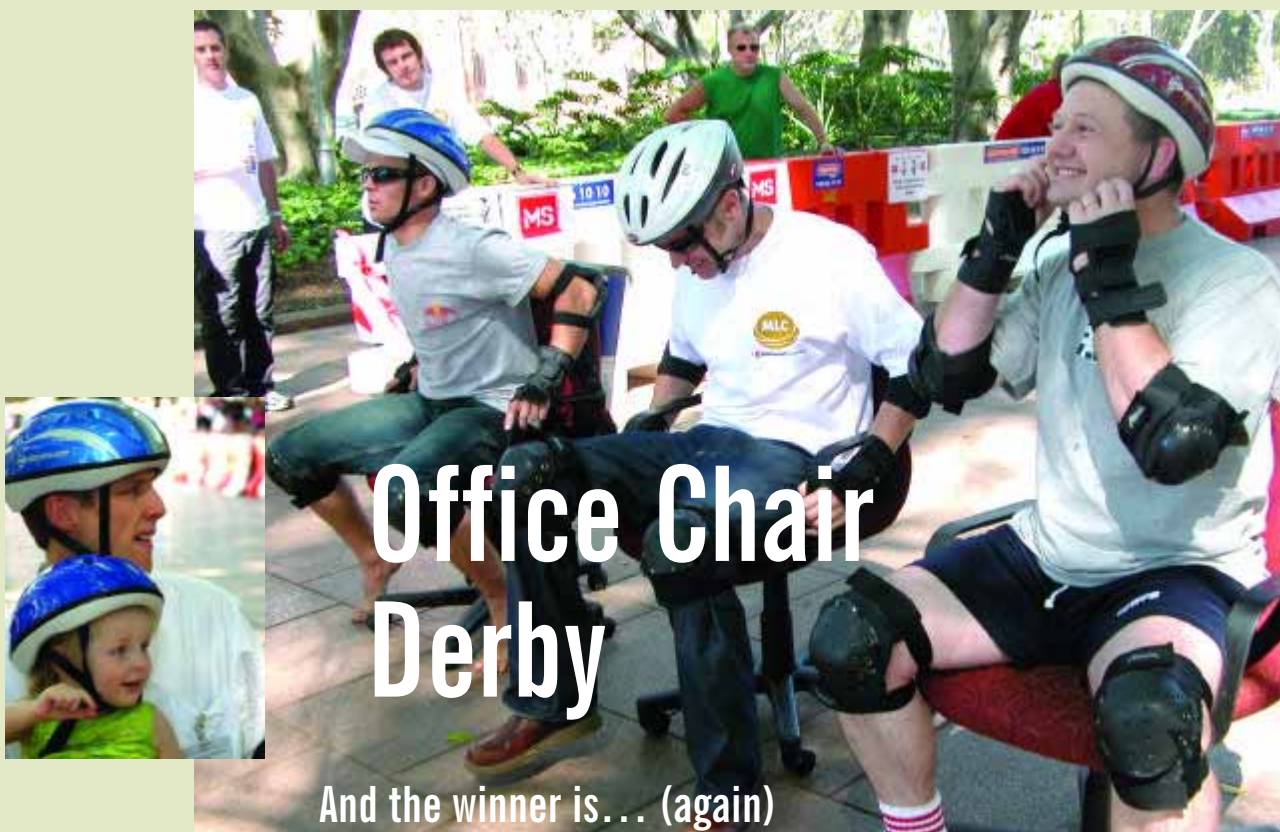
"It also gives the volunteers the opportunity to meet, network and share ideas," Senior Firefighter Page said. "The day was very successful, and we had some very positive feedback on the different sessions."

Two more training days will be held for CFUs in Sydney's north before the 2004/05 bushfire season.









# Office Chair Derby

And the winner is... (again)



**O**n Wednesday 31 March 2004, the sun was shining and lunchtime crowds were cheering in Hyde Park Sydney, when Station Officer Michael Morris determinedly gripped the arms of his office chair and raced along the 50 m course to defend his 2003 Shiny Bum Cup win.

Other NSWFB entrants in the Office Chair Derby, a major fundraiser for the MS Society, included Assistant Commissioner Murray Kear and Zone Commander West 5 Superintendent Steve Pearce, but it was Fiona Penrose from the NSWFB's Health Services who took out third place in this high-speed and often hilarious event.

The fun and games were for a serious cause; MS is the most common disease to affect the central nervous system of young Australians aged from 20 to 40 years, and the disease can produce a range of debilitating symptoms.





# Zone North 7/3 Swansea Championships

Photos by Sue Bowen



**O**n Saturday 1 May 2004, Commissioner Greg Mullins attended the Zone North 7/3 Firefighter Championships hosted by Swansea Brigade. Swansea provided perfect weather for the games which saw 23 teams, including two from the Rural Fire Service and one from the Army emergency response squadron, participating in many of the events.

Strong competition over the weekend saw Morisset Brigade emerge as Zone champions ahead of Boolaroo and Swansea.

Glen Innes won the out-of-zone point score, with Balgownie coming in one point behind.

Coffs Harbour won the new Urban Pumper and Breathing Apparatus event and the crew received \$1000 from event sponsors MSA. Like the Turvey Park crew, Coffs Harbour will also use the winnings to pay for team accommodation at the State Championships.

Not only were the games declared a success, but a good time was had by all who attended the function for competitors and their families at Swansea RSL.

The next championships, hosted by the Grafton Brigade, will be held over the weekend of 24 and 25 July 2004.



Photos at left  
by Gary Luxton

# Zone South 4 Corowa Championships

**O**n 20 March 2004, Commissioner Greg Mullins officially opened the Corowa South 4 Zone Championships, declaring that the championship ground to be "one of the best I've ever seen." Corowa Deputy Captain Lindsay Bush agreed. "The track was absolutely unbelievable - it was like running on carpet."

Competition was intense throughout the two days, with split seconds determining the winners. According to Finley Captain John Hand, "It's not necessarily the younger competitors who pull the events off - sometimes it's age and experience. While championships are fun events, they also sharpen your firefighting skills."

The in-zone winners were Turvey Park, with the Country Fire Authority team from Echuca gaining first place in the out-of-zone category.

A new event, Urban Pumper and Breathing Apparatus, was also taken out by Turvey Park. The crew received \$1000 from event sponsors MSA, and the money will be used to pay for team accommodation at the State Championships which will be held in Port Macquarie next October.

"The championships are aimed at family," says Captain Hand. "You take the family along and make friends with other keen supporters."



## Station facts

- The Nowra Volunteer Fire Brigade was established in 1894 under Captain Thomas Marriot. The first fire station in the town was opened on 28 February 1896 in Kinghorn Street. The cost of building the station was £36.
- In late 1901 land was purchased a long Johnston Street at a cost of £137. Eight years later, in 1909, the new station opened and remained in use until 1978. In February of that year the new Bridge Street station was completed.
- The current station opened in 1978. It remained a retained station until 1999 when it began operating as a mixed station of permanent and retained staff - 2 Station Officers, 7 Permanent Firefighters (2 shifts of 4 firefighters back to back) and 18 Retained Firefighters
- Secondary Rescue Station: 3 fire engines, a Mercedes pumper, a water tanker, and a service exchange vehicle (stored at the station).



# Station profile: Nowra

**N**owra, located on the Shoalhaven River, is a major town on the NSW south coast with a rapidly expanding population and a huge seasonal influx of tourists and holidaymakers. Nowra is also the centre of a major rural business district and has a permanent population of around 25 000 people.

Firefighters from Nowra Fire Station routinely attend motor vehicle accidents, bush and grass fires, and fuel spills in the Shoalhaven River; while also promoting community safety in the area. In 2002/03 the station responded to 687 emergencies, everything from bushfires to sinking boats.

"The biggest industry in town is tourism. Our population is almost tripled in the high peak tourist season and we're amongst the fastest expanding population areas in NSW - so all of these things keep the station very busy," said Firefighter Jason McManus from Nowra Fire Station.

Firefighter McManus was recently presented with a National Medal for his 18 years with the NSWFB. He has been permanently stationed in Nowra for the last three years.

"Call-outs could be anything. We have a major rail line running through the town that carries a lot of industrial and agricultural product. There's a large starch and ethanol industry as well as a paper mill and these are all fairly heavy industries. We also have a burgeoning chemical industry and a well established dairy industry in the region.

We attend quite a few motor vehicle accidents. The Princes Highway runs through town, and recently we've seen a number of accidents and deaths on that stretch of road which is always very sad."

The area the station covers is bordered on three sides by farmland and on one side by National Park. "We've just come out of two to three years of continuous bushfire activity in the region, which has resulted in some loss of property. We have had unprecedented winter fires in the area which has kept us constantly busy," he said.

The Shoalhaven River winds its way through Nowra, bringing in a lot of tourists who use it for boating, fishing and water activities. "We get called out quite a lot for overturned or sunken boats which require us to contain spilled fuel and chemicals from the vessel's engine."



Past and present.



"There's a large population of children in the town, we have six high schools and on a weekday the town is filled with workers who come in from the surrounding towns and areas" he said. Nowra firefighters are actively involved

in promoting the role of the NSWFB through school visits, public firefighting demonstrations and community risk management programs.

Firefighters from the Nowra Fire Station attend the Nowra Show every year, holding displays on fire safety for the community as well as performing checks on hydrants and equipment at the showground before it opens to the public.

Nowra firefighters are active in the NSWFB championships, with a string of wins under their belt in recent years. At last years National Championships, Nowra took eighth place overall. In February of this year, with temperatures soaring to 39°C in Bathurst, Nowra claimed first place at the Zone West 3 Championships.

# USAR 1 Semi Trailer

**A** new 32 tonne Mercedes Benz Actros prime mover and pantec trailer has been purpose built to transport the largest store of Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) equipment in Australia. USAR 1 will enable a rapid response to a major structural collapse within NSW.

## Specifications

The vehicle contains a Euro 3 compliant, 16 litre turbo-charged/intercooled diesel 350 hp engine with a massive 2 400 Nm of torque. The transmission is a 16 speed "Telligent" semi-automatic gearbox which allows the driver to pre-select gears and change them by a quick depression of a car-like clutch pedal.

The Actros prime mover is fitted with disc brakes and Electronic Braking System (EBS). The EBS electronic control system reduces stopping distances by a faster

with a back-up traditional braking system. Due to the advanced braking system fitted to the prime mover, the trailer also needed to be fitted with disc brakes and EBS.

The trailer is constructed from sandwich fibreglass plywood and is fitted with a 2000kg tailgate loader. The interior fit-out was a joint collaboration between the NSWFB Rescue and Engineering Sections. It has been fitted with a work bench and vice for minor servicing of hydraulic rescue equipment, general shelving, timber storage, and a place for a quad bike.

running longitudinally along the centre of the trailer. This design serves two purposes: the fluorescent lights are well protected by the aluminium channels, and, the operators are not blinded by the lights while working inside the trailer, but still receive sufficient light through reflection off the roof.



application and synchronous truck and trailer braking which eliminates the time lag normally associated with traditional pneumatic brakes. In the event of electronic failure, the Actros is also fitted



Engineering were also responsible for the electrical fitout which includes:

- 240V electrical generator and associated electrical system
- 24V DC lighting system as well as the communications and response systems
- 24V internal trailer lighting system consisting of a number of fluorescent lights which are placed upside down in 2 V-shaped aluminium channels







### Technical Search Capability includes:

- Delsar seismic acoustic listening device
- Searchcam 2000 - a colour search camera
- Stanley hydraulic jackhammers
- Searchcam entrylink - a remote camera that can be taken underground and monitors what rescuers are actually doing by beaming back video and audio data which is viewed on a colour monitor situated in USAR 1 or the Incident Control Vehicle
- Satellite communication equipment
- A substantial amount of timber shoring material. This is used to stabilise a collapsed structure so that rescue teams can access victims
- Halogen balloon lights for illuminating the incident scene
- Suzuki 450 Quad bike.



# Class 1 (4x4) Urban Pumpers

**T**he Class 1 (4x4) Urban Pumpers are currently being rolled out into stations, with two already installed at Menai and Belmont Fire Stations. These pumpers are part of the replacement program for existing water tankers and are the first of a team of 16 appliances.

## Specifications

The Class 1 (4x4) Urban Pumper is constructed on an Isuzu FTS750 Crew Cab chassis of 4x4 configuration.

The vehicle has a maximum crew of four firefighters.

This pumper is designed as a multi purpose appliance which provides pump and roll fire fighting operations in grass and bush lands as well as fire fighting support at structure fires, hazmat and rescue incidents. The pumper is capable of cross country firefighting operations on made or unmade (in 4WD mode) roads. It will usually be used within 75km of it's home station, however on occasions the pumper may travel further as part of a task force deployment.

This vehicle is fitted with a GAAM Mk450 pump, powered from a Hatz 4L41C auxiliary diesel engine, providing a continuous pump and roll capability. The pump has a rated delivery of up to 2500 litres per minute which discharges via two 65mm delivery valves. The pump also includes a second stage outlet which discharges water at higher pressure into two rear mounted hose reels. Both hose reels are fitted with 60m of 19mm low pressure rubber delivery hose and dial-a-jet nozzles.

To supplement the vehicle's fire fighting capability, a Class A round-the-pump foam system is installed

for use at grass/bush fires or structural incidents. This foam system uses the venturi effect to syphon foam concentrate into the inlet side of the pump, which then circulates through the pump and discharges to all delivery outlets in operation, eg hose reels, 65mm deliveries or any combination of both.

The pump is supported by a water tank with a 3 00 litre capacity. The tank is compartmentalised into 2500 litres for general fire fighting use and 500 litres for emergency cabin protection use only.

Due to this vehicle's off-road grass and bush fire fighting capabilities, significant fire protection has been provided in the design of the vehicle. A cabin water spray protection system is provided to maintain cabin integrity during fire entrapment, and includes 500 litres dedicated water supply. Reflective fire curtains are provided inside the cabin to minimise radiant heat penetration into the cabin, thus offering a more tenable cabin environment during entrapment. Woollen fire blankets are also stowed in the cabin as an additional measure of thermal protection. Finally, critical brake, fuel and electrical lines and components have been thermally shielded to ensure continued operation during fire underrun, as may be experienced when fighting a fast moving grass fire.



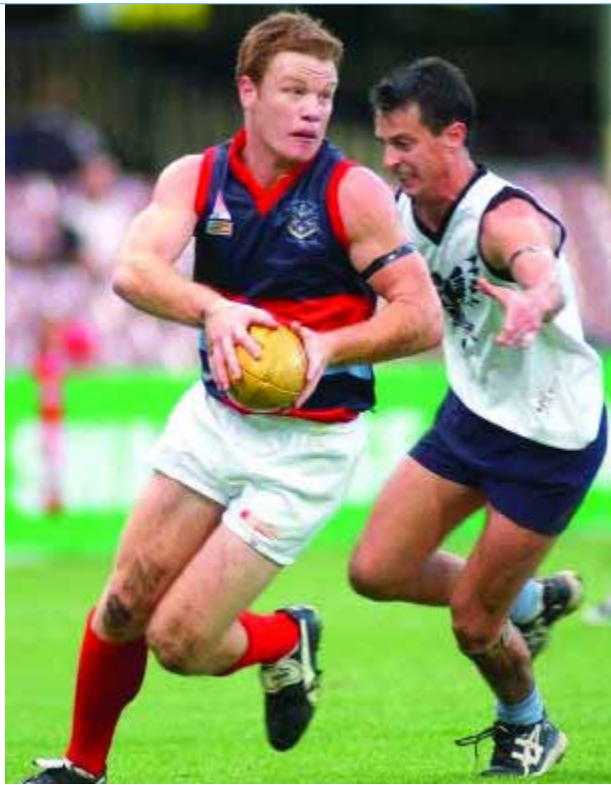


# Combined Emergency Services AFL

The night of Saturday 24 April 2004 saw the Combined Emergency Services AFL team take on the Defence Forces in the annual curtain raiser to the Anzac Day AFL match between the Sydney Swans and the Melbourne Demons.

The Emergency Services took a very professional approach into this year's match with a three man coaching team, managers, runners, water carriers and a uniform produced especially for the game.

Before the match, the team received motivational talks from Commissioner Greg Mullins and Deputy Commissioner of the NSW Police, Andrew Scipione which had them bursting out of their skins to get out onto the field. Unfortunately, despite all the best intentioned barracking of the Commissioner, he couldn't get the team over the line. Alas, in a brave showing, the Emergency Services team went down fighting 17.9.111 to 5.3.33.



Right: Damian Newson takes on the Defence Forces.



Photo by Steve Norris

Deputy Police Commissioner Andrew Scipione addresses the Combined Emergency Services team.



Photo by Steve Norris

The players listen intently to the Commish's motivational words.



Photo by Steve Norris

# Retirements

The NSWFB says a big thank you to the following firefighters for their unstinting efforts and dedication over the years. They have made a valuable contribution to the NSWFB's work in protecting the community. We wish them all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

## Permanent firefighters ..... Retirement date ..... Recognition

4661 Inspector P Risk .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp
3535 Station Officer D Boyle .....	19 March 2004 .....	National Medal and two Clasps
3269 Station Officer L Griffiths .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal and two Clasps
4934 Station Officer C Ewin .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp Unit Commendation For Meritorious Service - Thredbo
5161 Station Officer P Aitkin .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp
6078 Station Officer G Warren .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal Australian Fire Service Medal Unit Commendation For Meritorious Service - Thredbo
5759 Senior Firefighter R Cowie .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp Unit Commendation For Meritorious Service - King Georges Rd, Beverley Hills
5789 Senior Firefighter L Mason .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal
6261 Senior Firefighter D Seelin .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal Unit Commendation For Meritorious Service - Dennison St, Hillside
5614 Firefighter A Young .....	30 March 2004 .....	National Medal
6781 Qualified Firefighter M Newell .....	1 April 2004 .....	National Medal
3475 Inspector K Blades .....	15 April 2004 .....	Australian Fire Service Medal, National Medal and two Clasps
3714 Station Officer K Kelleher .....	7 May 2004 .....	National Medal and two Clasps
5577 Station Officer R Broughall .....	7 May 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp
5493 Senior Firefighter P O'Mara .....	10 June 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp Unit Commendation For Meritorious Service - Thredbo
4248 Senior Firefighter G Pearce .....	10 June 2004 .....	National Medal and one Clasp



Retained firefighters	Station	Retirement date	Recognition
Retained Firefighter G J Fraser	Merrylands	28 December 2003	National Medal
Retained Firefighter G S Dixon	Lawson	26 March 2004	
Captain J Harveyson	Grenfell	19 April 2004	National Medal and two Clasps
Retained Firefighter J J Driscoll	Aberdeen	29 February 2004	National Medal and one Clasp
Captain E Larkins	Tarro	20 February 2004	National Medal and one Clasp

## Code 2

These are the names of former NSWFB members who have passed away.

Deputy Captain Kevin McLachlan	December 2003	Death in Service
Retained Firefighter Tom Kelly	May 2004	Retired
Station Officer John Roll	June 2004	Retired
Station Officer Herbert Hemsworth	June 2004	Retired
Senior Firefighter John Collins	May 2004	Resigned
Captain Eric Bardia	April 2004	Retired
Retained Firefighter Albert Kay	May 2004	Retired
Station Officer John Weir	May 2004	Retired
Firefighter Roy Ross	April 2004	Retired
Retained Firefighter Douglas McPherson	April 2004	Death in Service
Firefighter Norman Smith	April 2004	Retired
Captain Ron Adamson	April 2004	Retired
Retained Firefighter Jamie Becroft	April 2003	Resigned
Senior Firefighter Raymond Berg	March 2004	Retired



**R**ecently retired Senior Inspector Keith Blades AFSM is pictured proudly displaying his father's World War Two Pacific Service Campaign medals.

Keith was stationed the old No 13 Station at Waterloo when he attended his first fire at Botany in the old E District. Thirty-nine years later, while stationed at the new No 13 Station at Alexandria, the last fire he attended as a senior officer was also in the old E District. "That's the fire that finally drove me into retirement," he quipped.

"I can vividly remember my first day with the NSWFB as if it were yesterday," said Keith. "I enjoyed every minute of my time with the Brigades - that's why I stayed in the job for 39 years. I have many, many fond memories."

# You've got mail

To: NSWFB

This year, Diabetes Australia's annual fundraising event, The Great Australian Bite, was officially launched with a breakfast "bite", which was held at Marrickville Police Station. Approximately 80 people turned up to meet our Ambassador, Marcia Hines, and to enjoy the delicious barbecue breakfast.

The event would not have been so successful without the help of the Marrickville Fire Brigade. Thank you to those firefighters who took time out of their busy schedules to attend the launch and to talk to local school children and members of the community.

Diabetes Australia-NSW would like to extend our appreciation to the Marrickville Fire Brigade for their support. We look forward to working with them in the future.

From: Liz Peers  
CEO  
Diabetes Australia - NSW



Right: Marrickville fires with Marcia Hines.

Below: NSWFB, Police and SES at the launch.



To: Station Commander Ron James,  
Darlinghurst Fire Brigade

Firstly, I must apologise for the delay in writing to you but the aftermath of this incident has been somewhat more disruptive than I had anticipated.

I do however, want record our appreciation for the manner in which you and your crew dealt with this matter. Not only was every effort made to clear up the water and steam damage caused by the dishwasher hose connection in our absence, but your actions in contacting us in the country and following up later in the day were greatly appreciated.

Previously I had been immensely impressed by the way in which you dealt with a fire in my brother-in-law's apartment in Rushcutter's Bay. Whilst he was away early last year a fire which broke out in the ceiling was put out as I guess one would expect, but the way in which plastic was laid to protect the kitchen surfaces and the carpet, the care taken to minimise damage to the ceiling were things I had not necessarily expected but greatly appreciated.

It sounds as though we are somewhat accident prone but this is in fact not the case as fortunately these are the only two occasions I have had to call the Fire Brigades' services. Obviously, I hope not to call on you again, but if I had to it would be with the utmost confidence in, not only your professionalism, but also your thoughtfulness and attention to detail.

From: Ms Jeannie Lyall



# Letters

To: Zone Commander West 5, Tamworth  
Regional Commander Murray Kear

I would like to personally thank you for sponsoring me in the Queen of Country Music Quest for 2004. I had a fantastic time, made lots of new friends and was able to see the festival from a different perspective, an experience which taught me a lot about the city of Tamworth and its people.

Participating in the cavalcade and walking down the street with "Bernie" was a real buzz. Being part of promoting the NSWFB and the work that they do was special for me as the Fire Brigade has been a great part of my life. A big thank you must also go to the firefighters who manned the Peel Street display, they did a wonderful job liaising with the public and promoting the NSWFB and the work that they do in our community.

Once again, thanks for your support.

From: Renee Eckersley

To: Inspector Terry Farley,  
Tamworth Hazmat

It has been brought to my notice by one of my officers, the kind assistance they were given at the truck rollover accident near Tingha by you and your fellow officers.

I would like to sincerely thank you for this assistance and for supplying my officers with drinks and a meal whilst they were investigating the accident. This gesture was very much appreciated.

From: D J Harrington  
Inspector - Duty Officer  
NSW Police,  
Inverell

To: Station Officer Allan Johnson and Brigade members of Crows Nest C Platoon

Late last year, the car in which I was a passenger was involved in a severe accident when the driver lost control rounding a corner. The car ended up wrapped round a lamp post and as a result I was trapped inside the vehicle, sustaining fractures to both femurs, pelvis and with a severe amount of bruising.

I would like to offer my gratitude and praise for the professional and caring manner that Station Officer Johnson and the crew members extended to me whilst cutting the roof off the car to get me out, and their concern about my well being during what was an agonising experience.

My thanks to all those Fire Brigade crew members for looking after me.

From: Charles Tucker  
Naremburn

To: NSWFB Superintendent Michael Johnson,  
NSWFB, Maitland

On behalf of the Australia Day Committee I would like to thank you for being a part of the 2004 Australia Day celebrations held in Maitland Park.

The celebrations were huge success with attendance estimated at 5000 people. With the official ceremony, live music, and children's activities it was fantastic to see so many families enjoying the day.

Without the participation of many organisations, individuals, community groups and clubs, the day would not have been the success it was.

Once again, thank you for your invaluable support and contribution towards this City event.

From: Tracey Currie  
Events Coordinator  
Maitland City Council

To: Station Commander,  
Liverpool Fire Brigade

The Animal Welfare League, West Hoxton Centre Staff and Brooke, a very lucky white cat, wish to express our sincere appreciation to the officers involved in Brooke's rescue.

Thank you from the management, staff and Brooke.

From: Judith Welsh  
West Hoxton Centre Manager  
The NSW Animal Welfare league

To: Officer in charge,  
Crows Nest Fire Brigade

A few weeks ago, I read in the local paper that fire officers were installing batteries in smoke alarms for elderly people. I had always been worried that I didn't have such an alarm so I bought one and rang your station and asked if it could be installed.

This letter is to express my appreciation to the firefighters who installed the alarm for me, and to say that you should be proud of their demeanor and attitude.

Thank you

From: Dorothy Gulerian

To: The Station Officer,  
Alexandria Fire Station

I wish to thank your staff for the effort of your crew in helping my son, Andrew. They were totally professional and I appreciate the great effort.

While my son is now deceased, I know everything that could have been done, was done. I am grateful for your staff's total commitment.

From: Lorna Raymond

To: Telarah Fire Brigade

The members of the Telarah Pre-School community would like to thank you for your hospitality. The children enjoyed the visit to your station very much and came away well informed about fire safety. We look forward to another visit next year

From: The Pre-School staff  
Telarah Pre-School

To: Telarah Fire Brigade

On the evening of Wednesday 24 March 2004, a fire caused severe damage to the Mackay Memorial Presbyterian Church, in Rutherford.

There were at least four fire trucks in attendance. There may have been more. As far as I know Telarah only has one fire engine, so the others must have come from other stations. Please convey the following message to all NSWFB personnel who attended this incident:

On behalf of the congregation of the Mackay Memorial Presbyterian Church, I wish to thank you for your attendance and work at this fire. If it were not for your work the damage could have been so much more severe. Thank you very much for your willingness to be of assistance.

From: Bruce McIntyre  
Session Clerk,  
Kurri Kurri-Rutherford Presbyterian Church

To: The crew at Cronulla Fire Station

Thank you all so much for your quick and efficient work last August. The outcome of our fire would have been so much worse if you guys had not responded and acted as you did. We're all extremely grateful to you.

From: The deMaria family

To: Penrith Fire Station

I'd like to say thank you to the firefighters at Penrith who took time to show my two-year-old son around the fire truck. My son loves to walk past the fire trucks when we are in the area, and although very shy at the time, is still telling everyone he encounters all about how he 'drove' the fire engine. He has been carrying his bag of goodies around with him ever since and will not let it out of his sight!

The attention paid to him by firefighters means quite a lot to this little guy, so a HUGE thank you once again.

From: Anita Buckley

To: Merimbula Fire Brigade

I must apologise for this very belated letter of appreciation to your fire crews. Late last year, a car left the road and finally came to rest with a front portion inside our bedroom.

The New South Wales Fire Brigades was the first to arrive, and as an ex-service man (WWII) and an officer in the RVCP, I pay tribute to the professional and disciplined way the crews sorted out the mess, calmed down the driver and took control of the situation, messy as it was.

My wife Barbara of course joins me in our thanks for your attendance.

From: John & Barbara McCammon

To: The Captain,  
Byron Bay Fire Brigade

Dear Captain

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the firefighters who attended and extinguished the electrical fire that occurred at our premises.

We appreciate the prompt attendance and the speed with which your firefighters tackled, contained and extinguished the fire with very little damage to our restaurant.

Again we would sincerely like to thank you for your help.

From: Mark Sims  
Director  
Fisheads@Byron Seafood Restaurant

To: The Station Officer,  
Riverwood Fire Station

A note of thanks to you and your officers who came to my aid and installed a smoke alarm for me.

I trust that it will be a precaution only and will not have to be used.

From: Jean Jarrett

To: Crookwell Fire Brigade

On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and residents of Crookwell Shire, I would like to thank you and the members of Crookwell Fire Brigade for cooking breakfast for the Crookwell community at our Australia Day function.

Council is most appreciative of the community spirit shown by you and the members of the Brigade in a wide range of activities held within the Shire.

From: P R Harvey  
General Manager,  
Crookwell Shire Council

To: The Station Officer D Platoon,  
Crows Nest Fire Station

A BIG thank you to your team.

On Friday 14 May, the hot water system in my bathroom broke, and water flooded throughout my unit.

The NSWFB crew arrived promptly and assisted me in removing all the excess water from my flooded floor.

The firefighters did a fantastic and thorough job. I would never hesitate in ringing your team in the future. They were extremely professional with a friendly demeanour.

From: Stephanie

To: Toukley Fire Brigade

Thank you so much for organising the visit of the Toukley fire truck and crew to our school on Wednesday 10 March. Once again, the visit was a highlight for the Year 2 students (a hard act to follow for our other workers in the community). Simon, Paul and Kate did a fantastic job of entertaining and edifying the children for over an hour. The children were inspired to do some great follow up work to this visit including research on firefighters, making big books of the visit using our photos and working on a power point slide show.

The Year 2 teachers greatly appreciate the time your officers gave to our school. We would like you to pass on our thanks for their time and effort. They have great communication skills and know how to keep the interest of your children.

Best wishes to all

From: Roslyn Ray,  
Gorokan Primary School



To: The Editor,  
Fire News

The Pandoleon family would like to thank the members of the NSW Fire Brigades for their concern and best wishes during Alf's recent illness.

He is now settled into a nursing home.

From: Ms Veronica Pandoleon

To: Commissioner Greg Mullins,  
NSWFB

There was a serious fire at our home at Purcell in Redfern late in the evening of Wednesday 5 May.

The population here is mainly elderly and in some cases fairly frail and with special needs, and the fire was distressing.

All those who responded worked far beyond any mere job description! To a person, they were polite and caring, worked like proverbial Trojans, and handled their jobs professionally and compassionately. Much was done that would probably not be required as a normal part of these people's duty, but none in attendance on the night or the following few days hesitated in giving generously of their time and more.

On behalf of the community that I have the privilege to represent, and inadequate as it seems to me, I just wanted to thank every person involved for giving as they did and restoring to many what often gets lost these days, and that is dignity.

From: Dave Horscroft  
Tenants Representative

To: Officer-in-charge,  
Portland Fire Station

Thank you and your fellow firefighters for your contribution to our Anzac Day Celebrations 2004.

Please ensure all members are aware how their involvement helped to make the day a success and how much our members really appreciated their presence for the 11am Service and March.

From: John Grannall  
Honorary Secretary  
The Returned Services League of  
Australia,  
Portland Sub-Branch

To: The Station Officer,  
Engadine Fire Brigade

I wish to offer thanks on behalf of the members of the Combined Probus Club of Heathcote Inc. for the assistance provided by members of your station when a member of this Club became very ill whilst on a bush walk along the cliff-tops south of Bundeena.

These sentiments are extended by all members of this Club, and in particular, by those who were participating in the outing.

From: Ken Robinson  
President,  
Combined Probus Club of Heathcote Inc.

To: Superintendent Steve Pearce,  
Tamworth

On behalf of Station Manager Shane Rae and the management of the Ambulance Service of NSW, I would like to offer my sincere appreciation to members of the Narrabri Fire Station. Their assistance in helping our Narrabri Ambulance Officers during the extrication and subsequent treatment of passengers from the train accident and derailment which occurred at Baan Baa in May was much appreciated.

The professionalism and discipline shown by the members of the Narrabri Fire Brigade on this night was a credit to your organisation and was of valuable assistance to officers in providing optimum patient care to the passengers and staff aboard the train.

Station Manager Shane Rae expressed his anticipation of a continued harmonious relationship with the members of the NSWFB, especially members of the Narrabri Brigade.

From: Geoffrey Garrett  
Acting Operations Manager  
Ambulance Service of NSW



# NSW Fire Brigades

## Winter Fire Safety Checklist

### Fact

Last year, 4339 homes were involved in fire in NSW, killing at least 20 people and injuring another 573. Around 1300 of these fires, or 30 per cent, occurred during the winter months. *(Statistics correct as of 04/06/04)*

### Is YOUR home winter Fire Safe?

The NSW Fire Brigades recommends a simple safety checklist to help keep homes fire safe this winter. Make sure you and everyone in your household follows the following safety advice:

- ☐ Most importantly, have an adequate number of suitable smoke alarms installed throughout your home and make sure that you test them regularly.
- ☐ Make sure you and your family know two safe ways out of every room in your home.
- ☐ Have a written home escape plan in case of fire and practice it regularly.
- ☐ Never ever leave cooking unattended.
- ☐ If you have a fireplace in your home make sure the chimney is clean.
- ☐ If you have a fireplace always place a screen in front of it when in use.
- ☐ Check electric blankets for damage or frayed cords before placing on the bed.
- ☐ Take care to keep curtains, tablecloths and bedding away from portable heaters.
- ☐ Always place wet clothing at least 1 metre from heaters or fireplaces and never leave unattended.
- ☐ If you use a clothes dryer make sure you clean the lint filter each and every time you use it.
- ☐ Only use one appliance per power point and switch off when not in use.
- ☐ Always extinguish candles or any other open flames before going to bed.
- ☐ Always handle candles or any other open flame with care.
- ☐ Store matches or lighters in a secure place out of reach and sight of young children.

For more information contact your local Fire Brigade Station or visit [www.fire.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fire.nsw.gov.au)

### Winter Fire Safety tips

- To test an electric blanket lay it flat on top of the bed, then switch it on for five minutes before putting it on the bed for use to confirm it is okay
- Use only authorised installers of fixed heating appliances
- Oil, gas or wood heating units may require a yearly maintenance check
- Only use fuses of recommended rating and install an electrical safety switch
- If possible, in the kitchen keep a fire extinguisher and fire blanket placed near the exit
- Never leave burning candles or any open flame unattended

# In an Emergency Call 000