# **Volunteer Fire Fighters Association**

"The Voice of Volunteer Firefighters in NSW" PO Box 123, Clarence Town NSW 2321



# MINUTES OF VFFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018 HELD ON SATURDAY 4 AUGUST 2018 THE PARKVIEW HOTEL 281 SUMMER STREET ORANGE NSW

Meeting commenced 1018 hours.

Attendees as per the attendance list.

- 1. **Welcome by chairman** President Mr Mick Holton welcomed all present especially the local members who met face to face for the first time and thanked everyone for attending. The future of the VFFA is in a strong position and relies on the people in attendance here today to continue the good work. The president acknowledged the exceptional work done by the executive though out the year and looks to be an even busier 2018.
- Apologies: Tim Cathles, Al Lukes, John Peters, Peter Cannon, Rod Young, Graeme Jay, Jeanette Holton, Rob Webb, Ian Burnett, Neil Crawley, Peter Cathles, Tasha Dennis, Don McKilop, Phil Donato, Robert Brown, Tony Ellis. Moved J. Russell Second A. Scholz Carried
- 3. **Previous minutes of 2017 AGM:** The president read through the minutes of the 2017 AGM discussing major points throughout the minutes.

Brian Williams moved that the minutes of the 2017 AGM were a true and accurate copy of the meeting. Second Michael Scholz Carried

#### 4. Business arising:

- VFFA Constitution has been lodged with Fair Trading NSW and registered.
- RFSA membership with the Opt out system still in RFS membership form.
- VFFA meetings are moving ahead and are looking at a new way of conducting meeting and that is a video hook up through Face book.
- Government Inquiry has been completed and recommendations put out.
   Thanks to the volunteers who submitted submissions to the inquiry on their personal issues with bullying.

### 5. Correspondence: IN.

- Émails
- Donation from Naradham RFB \$25.00
- Mark Coure MP New Bargo Fire Station
- Beyond Blue ref National mental health and wellbeing of Police and Emergency services personnel.

Volunteers for community and the environment

- Sen Const Ryan Hitchen enquiry into VFFA sign on building.
- Anonymous letter misuse of RFSA iPad.
- Mr Barnaby Joyce DPM decentralisation policy.
- Mr Ben Sheilds Mayor Dubbo Protect the Protectors campaign
- Mr Cris George resident Keelty Report
- East Gippsland W'fire T'force committee request to attend.
- Henty MFD 2018 site application
- Rural Fire Brigades Association QLD magazine.

#### Out.

- Emails
- Fair Trading NSW Lodgement of Financial Affairs and Charitable Fundraising Application.
- Fair Trading NSW lodgement of VFFA Constitution.
- Commissioners Office Appeals on behalf of volunteers.
- Mick Holton Beyond Blue ref letter of support.
- Jon Russell Oliver Maruda solicitors

Greg Godde moved that the correspondence be accepted. Second M. Holton Carried

- 6. **Financial Report:** The president presented the financial report for the 2017/2018 financial year on behalf of the treasurer detailing the income and expenditure details. All accounts have been audited for the past 12 months. This report represents a true and fair view of the VFFA financial performance and position.
  - M. Scholz moved that the financial report for the 2017/2018 financial year be accepted. Second T. Bucklane Carried
- 7. **Payment of Honorariums:** 'Mick Holton read out the honorariums for 2017.

President/Chairman \$1000.00

Treasurer \$500.00

Secretary \$500.00

Web manger \$1,000.00

Media Officer \$1,000.00

Brian Williams moved that the honorariums remain the same for next year. Second S. Bryant **Carried**.

8. **Election of Office Bearers:** The President Mr Mick Holton invited Mr Michael Scholz to take the chair and conduct the election of office bearers.

President – Mick Holton nominated by Brian Williams - 2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Godde Accepted Duly elected.

Senior Vice President – Brian Williams nominated by Jon Russell - 2<sup>nd</sup> Greg Godde Accepted Duly elected

Vice President – Graeme Jay nominated by Greg Godde - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jon Russell
Accepted Duly elected

Treasurer – Jeanette Holton nominated by Greg Godde - 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Williams
Accepted Duly elected

Secretary - Greg Godde nominated by Jon Russell - 2<sup>nd</sup> Brian Williams
Accepted Duly elected

Media Officer - Jon Russell nominated by Greg Godde - 2<sup>nd</sup> Jeanette Holton Accepted Duly elected

There be no objections to the nominated positions all nominated persons were accepted to their role of office bearers.

Mr Michael Scholz was thanked for his assistance, Mick Holton resumed the chair and thank everyone for their support as their President over the last 12 months.

- 9. Executive members update: Jon Russell spoke on the current members of the Executive council to clarify how the members apart from the elected office bearers are put in place.
  Discussion ensure around the room on the past practices and what has
  - happened over the years. Consensus was that a review be conducted, and all current members be contacted and check that current people are still willing to be on the executive.
- 10. VFFA Constitution 2018: The VFFA Constitution has been lodged and registered with Fair Trading NSW. A reply was received from Fair Trading that they had received the documents but do not review the Constitution and is up to the Association to ensure they cover all the requirements in the Act & Regulations.
- 11. **Govt Inquiry into bullying into NSW Emergency Services.** Mick Holton spoke on result of the enquiry and read out the VFFA media release on the inquiry. Discussion ensured from around the room on the VFFA recommendations, examples of issues within the NSW emergencies services were discussed and debated.
- 12. Report back on Friday night meeting. Mick Holton read a statement about the meeting. 'The VFFA Executive conducted a meeting last night in response to volunteer requests about the lack of detail in the Rural Fire Service Association (RFSA) financials. The VFFA have received serious allegations on accounting irregularities for the RFSA and the RFSA Company. The VFFA will report further on this matter after we complete our investigation.' Further public comment will be made when more information comes to hand. Discussion from around the room on issues of where the money raised on behalf of the volunteers is distributed.
  - Michael Scholz spoke on the apparent monopoly on the RFS badge where there are limited suppliers from where RFS logo merchandise can be purchased. Discussion ensued from the members on the

purchasing and wearing of clothing with the RFS logo on it. Discussion also took place on the lack of new PPC that is not available to Districts due to supply issues.

13. **Item without notice:** Brian Williams requested to put a request to the meeting and asked the President Mick Holton could leave the room for the duration of discussion. Mick Holton left the room.

Brian Williams spoke on Mick Holton's nomination to Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party for the Comma/ Monaro area was successful. M. Holton will require an amount of approximately \$35,000.00 to help fund his campaign for the 2019 state election. Discussion on this issue ensued with the following motion put by Brian Williams. **MOTION**: 'That a donation of \$10,000.00 be made available as required for Mick Holton to be used for his 2019 state election campaign to be paid into an election account. An expenditure report is to be furnished outlining all costings of the donation with regular reports. The executive is to ensure it complies with the VFFA Constitution and electoral campaign guidelines.'

M. Scholz spoke for the motion.

No member spoke against the motion.

Moved Brian Williams

2<sup>nd</sup> Michael Scholz

Carried Unanimously

14. General Meeting / Executive meeting 2018.

Referring to the 2017 meeting it was a consensus that the next meeting will be held after the next big event such as a large fire. Some executive members must be available to down pens and get to that location ASAP after the event is under control. All agreed.

- 15. Next AGM Sat 10<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Location to be advised.
- 16. There being no further business meeting closed at 1205 hours.

Greg Godde Secretary VFFA Mick Holton Chairman / President VFFA

# - Balance Sheet

#### Balance Sheet

#### Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

As of: 2018-06-30 Created 2018-07-38

#### Assets

Assets	
Account	Balance
Current Asset	
Accounts Receivable	125.00
Total for Current Asset	125.00
Bank	
VFFA Business Account	6,059.40
Electoral Fund	50.00
Debit Card Admin	806.27
Total for Bank	6,915.67
Total Assets	7,040.67
Liabilities	
Account	Balance
Current Liability	
Accounts Payable	FIX 25.22
Total for Current Liability	25.22

## Equity

otal Liabilities

Equity	
Account	Balance
Owner's Equity	44,238.25
Previous Year(s) Earnings	(42,485.68)
Current Year Earnings	5,262.88
Total equity	7,015.45
Total Liabilities and Equity	7,040.67

25.22

# - Income Statement

#### Incume Statement

Volunteer Fire Fighters Association

Reporting period: 2017-07-01 to 2018-06-30

Created 2018-07-08

#### Revenue

Accounts	
Uncategorized Income	0.00
Magazine	20,000.00
Donations	1,945.00
Sales Merchandise	465.58
Refunds	674.71
Total Revenue	23,085.29

## Cost of Goods Sold (COGS)

Accounts	
Total Cost of Goods Sold	0.00
(COGS)	
(222)	
Gross Profit	23,085.29
Oluss From	

## Operating Expenses

Accounts	
Uncategorized Expense	0.00
Pank Service Charges	13,81
ASW Fair Trading	95.20
Computer – Software	638.13
Meeting Expenses	237.98
Telephone	1,536.00
Insurance	1,755.77
Office Supplies	80.22
Postage & Delivery	986.90
Media Subscriptions	639.86
Honorarium	4,000.00
Merchandise	1,192.00
Travel Expense	2,692.51
Accounting Fees	586.00

Accounts	A SERVICE AND A
Advertising & Promotion	2,113.00
Legal Fees	4,965.40
Field Days	3,961.80
Total Operating Expenses	25,494.58
Total Operating Expenses	25
Net Profit	(2,409.2