

# Fire & Rescue NSW Firefighter Championships Association Inc

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



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April, 2014

## MUDGEES CHAMPIONSHIPS

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# President's Report

As we move into autumn, I wonder where the time goes. So far this year Mudgee Championship was conducted on 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> March, the weekend of 3 & 4 May will see Unanderra host MS1 Regional Championship, then 19 & 20 July Swansea Championship is to be conducted culminating with the NSW State Championship to be held at Kelso in October 23, 24 & 25.

Whilst Mudgee was a great success, we did have two reported injuries. One of these was a minor head injury as a result of suction hose coming in contact with a competitor's head. On review of circumstances a rule change has been made to reduce this risk for future competitors in the suction event. If you have not received new RGE (with change to suction), contact assistant Sec Rick Guinery. To encourage newer teams, a number of disqualifications in RGE have been changed to 10 second penalties. Where safety is involved however, disqualification has been retained.

Great to see team numbers continuing to grow (19 at Mudgee). Thanks to all of you who continue to spread the word where ever possible to other fireies. It is encouraging to talk with new teams and individuals and hear of your experiences at Championships.

I am looking forward to Unanderra Championship where the Saturday night function will be held at an iconic venue, the North Wollongong Surf lifesaving Club. Also, I am hoping Tim Climo will be able to bring the BA truck to Unanderra. The maze is gone and has been replaced by two rooms, one a bedroom & the other a kitchen / drug lab for TIC and gas monitoring exercises. Tim and his team will be on hand to answer questions and provide demonstrations as required.

Andrew Parsons from FRNSW Media is in the process of editing a 'promo' he has been working on with vision and interviews recorded at Mudgee.

Andrew hopes to;

Complete a "3-min stand-alone video using the interviews from firefighters he captured at Mudgee mixed in with some vision of the championship he filmed".

Produce a "30-second 'TV style ad' for use on the intranet and Facebook using the vision from Mudgee ahead of the next championships to remind firefighters the event is coming/enter a team, and;

Use some of the photographs he took to help with some promotional material for internal use".

I am sure the end result will be a valuable contribution to the promotion of our Championships. Thank you Andrew for this work and the effort you and partner Cecelia, who came along to see what was involved in a championship -- did to help promote these great events.

We are still going through the necessary processes involved in the sponsorship partnership with Bendigo bank. A lot of care to detail and governance protocols must be addressed to ensure success at the end the day. Representatives from Bendigo Bank will be attending Unanderra Championship – a good chance to have a chat and for these people to see what we do.

Note; This is your newsletter, so send in photos, stories of past or present experiences at Championships for all to share. Subject to space and suitability, Editor Rosemary (mandr.reed@bigpond.com) will insert.

**Captain Greg Fredericks AFSM  
President**

## Director Regional Operations

### Firefighter Championship Update

The first quarter of 2014 has seen a hive of activity and achievements in support and promotion of the Championships.

A successful Mudgee Championship was completed in early March. The weather produced some much needed rain for the area over the weekend and didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors.

Nineteen teams competed in the first Regional Championship for 2014 at Mudgee and considering the weather was not inviting, it is a great sign for the following Championships this year at Unanderra, Swansea and the State Championship to be held at Kelso in October.

Andrew Parsons the Assistant Director of Media and Communications came to Mudgee Championship accompanied by his partner Cecelia. Andrew and Cecelia are both quiet skilled with a camera and they worked very hard with passion and excitement in capturing all the events on both camera and video. The pictures and video captured by them at Mudgee will be used to modernise our Championships material on both FRNSW Intranet and the

FCA web page with the intention of attracting more firefighters to attend

Championships. Some of the pictures captured can be viewed at: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/nggcbgqmys7hbk4/BuK18ulvEZ>.

FRNSW and the FCA have been busy looking for more partners to assist in funding the Championships. There have been numerous meetings with interested businesses and we are confident that we will be able to secure further support in the future which will enhance our Championships. Further to these activities we have submitted a draft Service Level Agreement (SLA) between Fire & Rescue NSW and Firefighter Championship Association (FCA) to Fire & Rescue NSW Governance branch for review and final sign off between the Commissioner of Fire & Rescue NSW and the President of the FCA, which when completed will see a commitment to hosting Championships to the end of 2015.

I will not be able to attend Unanderra Championship, however please bring a friend to Unanderra and I will see you all at Swansea.

**Assistant Commissioner Rob McNeil AFSM**  
**Director Regional Operations.**

## Assistant Director of Championships

Hi all, I hope you all had a nice break over the holiday season with your families. Well, Mudgee championship put on a great weekend of events including the weather with rain, that was much need in the area. This did not dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors who again demonstrated their high level of skill. It was also good to see an increase in team numbers. As the FCA

keep saying bring a buddy. I hope you are all training hard for the upcoming State Championship later this year at Kelso. Keep safe until we meet again at the next championship

**Garry Tant**  
**Assistant Director of Championships**

## CFA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP AT BENDIGO

On the Victorian Labour Day long weekend in March Rosemary and I attended the CFA State Championship, representing the FCA to present a perpetual trophy. The weekend was very hot but this did not deter the competitive spirit of the teams present.

The team from Kangaroo Flat certainly brought the spectators to their feet every time they competed as one of their young members was super fast down the track and an incredible ladder climber.

Kangaroo Flat were the overall winners of the Championship.

Ken Miller from Lakes Entrance took us up to the recording box to show us how they operate, which was very interesting. Quiet was the requirement as they were very busy.

We went to the Torchlight Procession and were amazed at how serious the teams were. We found out later that points were awarded for this, they certainly do know how to march.

Of course we were proud to see the Fire & Rescue NSW pumper from Randwick leading the procession and we gave them a big cheer. They were on deployment in Bendigo due to the Morwell Coal Mine Fire.

The winners of the Perpetual Trophy for Hose Reel Sixes was the Maffra Brigade.

As can be seen from the photo below they were a very happy team.

**Captain Mervyn Reed AFSM**

Photos courtesy of Phil Hawkins of the Maffra Brigade



**"Maffra CFA Brigade"**

**Winners are Grinners**

**A Happy Coach**



# Secretary's Report

## 2014 is Up and Running

The first regional Championship for 2014 was held at Mudgee on 1st & 2nd March. Despite the damp conditions, we had 20 teams on the track competing in the Championship events with skill and expertise and a lot of enjoyment. Tamworth was the stand out team winning the overall point score. Congratulations to Tamworth and all of the other teams who competed.

The Association was appreciative of the efforts of Captain Craig Underwood, his wife Cathy and his team of helpers for organising the teams registration and the presentation night dinner and all of the other tasks which go with hosting a Championship.

The Association held a meeting of its Management Committee at Mudgee on Friday 28 February. At that meeting, RFF Jarrod Mohr, Management Committee Member for North Region, tabled his resignation from the Committee. Jarrod has reluctantly resigned because of his move interstate due to work commitments. The Committee accepted Jarrod's resignation and appointed RFF Col Bennett of Casino Brigade to replace Jarrod until the AGM at Kelso in October 2014. Congratulations to Col on his appointment to the position and welcome to the Committee.

The Committee also approved a schedule of Championships for 2015-16. All Host Brigades have accepted the invitation to hold their Championships as scheduled. A copy of the schedule is included in this Newsletter.

For the remainder of 2014, we have Championships scheduled for Unanderra on 3rd & 4th May, Swansea on 19th & 20th July and the State Championships at Kelso on 23rd to 25th October 2014.

Invitations have been distributed to all brigades to send teams to the Unanderra Championship. All teams wishing to compete should get their registration forms in to Captain Paul Dawson at Unanderra as soon as possible. The Championship track is located in the park opposite Unanderra Fire Station in Central Road Unanderra.

The order of events will be changed at Unanderra. With the rain on Saturday afternoon

at Mudgee, we ran the Rescue Event first thing on Sunday morning. This worked well as Garry's team could set up the track for the Rescue Event before everyone arrived at the track. So we will run the Urban Pumper & Breeching Event as Event 6 on Saturday and the Rescue Event as Event 7 on Sunday morning. All teams competing at Mudgee applauded this modification to the order of events

The Saturday night function will be held in the spectacular North Wollongong Surf Club function room overlooking the beach at North Wollongong. Following a request by the host brigade, dress code for this function will be smart casual with FRNSW dress uniform optional.

See you on the track

Trevor Jones  
Secretary FCA

### MSA AirMaXX Breathing Apparatus

**Carrier: Length Adjustment >**  
• Three sizes, easy to set:  
1. press clips  
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## 2014 Australia Day Honours

Congratulation to Captain Greg Fredericks on his being awarded the AFSM in this year's Australia Day Honours for his long and dedicated service as a firefighter.

Greg has served FRNSW for 40 years and is a highly respected member of the Balgownie Fire Station and throughout the Illawarra by his colleagues in the other emergency services and the local community.

He is also know throughout NSW and nationally through his voluntary work, together with his wife Robyn, as President of the FRNSW Firefighter Championships Association, a position he has held since 2008.



## OAM—JUNE 2013

The article below missed our last newsletter but the story behind the award is exceptional.

For service to the community of Tamworth Lorraine Eckersley was awarded an OAM in last year's Queen's birthday honours. The photo depicts her and a very proud family at the presentation in September 2013.

GIVING to the community has been a way of life for Lorraine Eckersley. An all-round good sport, she played hockey from 1973 to 2005 and when her children took up the sport, Mrs Eckersley didn't just cheer from the sidelines.



She took an active role as umpire, umpire convenor, judiciary member, representative team selector, convenor of NSW Junior Girls, secretary and secretary/treasurer of Tamworth Women's Hockey, and fulfilled the secretary's role in the Tamworth Hockey Association and Central West Hockey Region, and was U18 team manager from 1988-93.

She's also the representative team manager of the Veterans, open U18 and U16.

With her husband Robert clocking up 40 years as a fire in 2012, Mrs Eckersley became a member in 1974 of the NSW Fire Brigades Firefighter Championships Association and took an executive position in 1998.

She's been involved in hosting and overseeing trophies and presentations and sponsorship of the state and regional firefighters' championships in the years since.

In 1999 Mrs Eckersley became a member of the St Nicholas Catholic Parish debutante ball committee and put her hand up for the secretarial role a year later, a position she has retained to this day.

Congratulations Lorraine

# CHAMPIONSHIPS HISTORY

'Demonstrations' as they were known until recently, are very much part of the history of Fire Brigades in NSW.

In March 1883 a number of brigades from the Colony of NSW attended one of the first Victorian Demonstrations at Sandhurst (Bendigo). Dubbo, Deniliquin, Glebe, Redfern, Wagga, Sydney 1, 2 and 3 were among a number from this side of the Murray. 110 Brigades in total competed.

Corowa, whose Captain Ritchie moved from Geelong with experience in Demonstrations, hosted one in May 1883. Events such as Engine Practice, Ladder Race & Engine and Ladder Practice were conducted with prize money totalling 100 pounds. Special trains were run in Victoria to cater for the Victorian teams. Corowa attended a number of Demonstrations in the period 1881 to 1905, including a trip to NZ in 1904.

Bathurst hosted 'the first ever International Demonstration in the Western Districts' on New Years Day 1889, a special train ran from Sydney for this event. Bathurst also hosted Demonstrations in 1893 and 1899.

Demonstrations were conducted in Stockton, Sydney 1898, Goulburn and Newcastle 1902, Armidale 1904, Forbes 1905 and Dubbo 1908.

Teams competing in this period included Albury, Hay, Wallsend & Plattsburg, Paddington Brewery, Honeysuckle, Tighes Hill, Stockton and Parramatta. *(Thanks to Captain Kevin Ryan of Bathurst for information used in this article)*

The last Demonstration held prior to the formation of the Board of Fire Commissioners in 1910 was at Corowa in 1909. It wasn't until 1932 that the Board conducted the first State Demonstration at Wagga Wagga.

Demonstrations and today's Championships are so much part of Fire Brigade history in this State, providing Brigades an opportunity to train, hone and demonstrate their skills, in a competitive environment, using current equipment and firefighting practices, thus providing their communities protection at the highest level.

Captain John Hand AFSM



Manual Fire Engine, 1860

*The Manual Fire Engine  
Used in 'Demonstrations' from  
The late 1800's until the  
Corowa Demonstration of 1909*

**New Safety & Rescue Products**  
Available exclusively through Chubb Fire Safety

<b>FENZY "X-PRO" Breathing Apparatus</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Easy Do 2 positional backpack</li><li>• Ergonomic shoulder plate</li><li>• Articulated swivelling waist</li></ul>	<b>ISO "ELITE" Thermal Imaging Cameras</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rapid rescue in low light and smoke</li><li>• Dual colour transparent display</li><li>• Long battery life with fast on</li></ul>
<b>HOLMATRO "CORE" Single Hose Rescue Tools</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Single hose from pump to tool</li><li>• Change tools without isolating pump</li><li>• Speed valve to reduce waiting time</li></ul>	<b>RESPIREX "ULTIMATE BARRIER" Type 1A/Level A Gas Tight Suits</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seven layer non-woven fabric</li><li>• Bat-Wing sleeves for optimal wearer comfort</li><li>• Detachable boots and gloves</li></ul>

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# CHAMPIONSHIP DATES

## 2014

Metro South 1	3/4 May, 2014	Unanderra
Metro North 1	19/20 July, 2014	Swansea
<b>STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>23/25 October 2014</b>	<b>Kelso</b>

## 2015/16

Region North 3	14/15 March, 2015	Gunnedah
Region South 2	2/3 May, 2015	Cootamundra
Region South 1	1/2 August	Berry
<b>October 2015</b>	<b>Australasian Championship</b>	<b>Echuca</b>

Region South 2	12/13 March 2016	Forbes
Region North 2	21/22 May 2016	Grafton
Region North 1	30/31 July, 2016	Tamworth
<b>STATE CHAMPIONSHIP</b>	<b>20/22 October, 2016</b>	<b>Wyong</b>

## Contacts

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### Treasurer

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RFF Sheree White  
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