

Hello everyone,

Due to unavoidable family commitments I am unable to be with you this weekend, but from the work put in by Coles Bay & Association Board member Lesley Green I know you will be having a fantastic time

It's been a demanding, interesting and productive year for your association with many hours of work put in by the Board, just some of the areas being:-

- * Coordinator Volunteer Strategy (CVS) - Worked with AT (Ambulance Tasmania) to bring into fruition this (VAO/FRU) Volunteer Ambulance Officer / First Response Unit dedicated salaried position, with input into Statement of Duties and representation on the selection panel
- * Gained \$50k from the Tasmanian govt to conduct the King Island Gathering 2011
- * Emergency Driving (Lights & Sirens) - Conducted comprehensive review & prepared detailed submission for AT, which was accepted, ratified & policy decision circulated by CEO Dominic Morgan
- * Reimbursements & Volunteer Recruitment - Working with AT on updated policy & philosophy in these areas to benefit all Volunteers
- * Quarterly Meetings with Dominic Morgan & Board - Representing all Volunteers
- * Made representations to Parliamentarians over bad media publicity about AT
- * Gained an ongoing grant from AT for some VAOAT administrative costs
- * Thoroughly reviewed and updated our constitution;

- * Had national representation on the Australian Emergency Management (AEMVF) Volunteers Forum, and had three Tasmanian VAO's attend leadership training run through this body;
- * First Response Magazine - Changed to on-line e-publication
- * Continue to have an impressive online presence through our revamped website.
- * Ambulance Tasmania Qualification -versus- Transferable Qualifications
 - Surveyed membership and prepared submission for AT
- * ATOV (Ambulance Tasmania Occupational Violence Working Group) - Represented VAO's on this committee
- * Developed New Online Forums: to hear your views and ideas -
 - A General VAOAT Membership Forum and a dedicated Forum for All Coordinators
- * VAOAT Presentations to incoming Students: - Formalised as a two part process"
 - At commencement of course "concept of volunteering"
 - At completion "salaried & volunteer mutual relationships"
- * Conducted this Gathering!

With such a task list and on your behalf I thank and commend the committee for their tireless work throughout the year, not forgetting long serving Collette Harrold who recently retired from the board.

This has been my first year as your President - it has been busy, exciting, challenging and very rewarding.

In our next year I look forward to welcoming you to my home base on King Island in May, and some of us will attend the National Emergency Volunteer Summit in Canberra.

I'm disappointed to lose David Godfrey-Smith as a hard working and innovative Board member, but am delighted that he was chosen from a high quality field to be the inaugural Coordinator, Volunteer Strategy, and our Board is determined to provide him with strong support and counsel.

In this forthcoming year we expect to work closely with David and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to progress the reimbursement review and to create policies to standardise FRU's and better support their volunteers.

Through all this I look forward to vigorous and wide ranging discussion and debate through our online Forums. It's your Association and we need to know what you care about and what troubles you.

I thank Dominic Morgan & Paul Templar for their assistance and commitment to volunteer issues, and most of all I thank and applaud all Volunteers for your dedication and commitment to the Tasmanian Community - Well done everyone
It's been a great year, and 2011 will be even better....working together

Pam Fanning

President