



Volunteer Ambulance Officers Association of Tasmania Incorporated

A.B.N. - 49 452 275 349

www.tasmanianambulancevolunteers.asn.au

Our aim: To enhance pre-hospital patient care, by providing representation and support for the well being of Volunteer Ambulance Officers in Tasmania.

VAOAT General Meeting 17th May 2009 Port Sorell

MINUTES

Attendees:

David Godfrey-Smith, Keitha Munro, Dianne Coon, Toni King, Helen Reynolds, Shirley Squires, Sandi-Lees Squires, Christine McDermott, Mary Knowles, Jack Spinks, Tony Johnston, George Hudson, Sonya Kok, Brian Hall, Collette Harrold, Sara Cullen, Jane Hyde, Spencer Jennings, Rebekah Greenwood, Ronita Montauban, Theo Montauban, Rita Fairchild, Pam Fanning, Russell Quigley, Alida Nolan, Cheryl Wilson, Sarah Madden, David Adams, Kahlia Beams, Hank Eekelschot, Jack Van Tatenhove, Monica Kursawe, Margaret Bricknell, Robin Bricknell, Margaret Preece, Chris Medhurst, Mary Levett, Robin Hay, Meg Hansson, Carol Merriman, Kari Stunden, Wayne Doran, Margaret Dennis

Apologies:

Craig Richardson, Colin George, Renee Kok, Lea Keller, Teegan Barnett, Dianne Reynolds, Diana and Albert Jongbloed, Nola Cooke, Paul Templar.

Reports:

OH&S - no meeting for more than a year

Fleet - no recent meeting

Uniform - Review committee set up (Wayne, Trudi Cooper, Wolfi). Trial uniforms (1 x male, 1 x female) are being worn in each region. If you have not seen these contact your local supervisor, and if this is not successful, contact Wayne.

Equipment - Report from VAOAT rep George Hudson including:

Trials will be run shortly on femoral and leg traction splints; being investigated for outlying areas - nasal packs for epistaxis, and heat blankets for hypothermic patients; plug-in BP cuffs to be implemented.

Leadership course:

The Australian Emergency Management Forum (AEMVF) commissioned a leadership course created specifically for the needs of senior volunteer leaders. VAOAT Committee member Pam Fanning was selected to be one of 26 participants at the inaugural national course held at Mt Macedon College in April. The four day course involved people from a wide variety of volunteer emergency service agencies, including 'combat' agencies like ambulance, fire and SES, and recovery agencies like Anglicare, Red Cross etc. Pam reported that it was a very valuable course and recommends it for others

Volunteer Ambulance Officers ... giving Tasmania more than a bandaid

AEMVF brief:

Dianne Coon represents ambulance on this national forum. See www.aemvf.org.au for more information on the Forum.

- The Bushfire CRC website has results of recent research into employer support;
- The National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund has \$3.25 million to distribute this year, There is a commitment for 2010 but not beyond that; AEMVF has strongly recommended it be continued, with some small changes.
- The Forum participated in research into the attraction, support and retention of emergency volunteers. Recommendations for action as a result of this research are being discussed now.
- International Volunteer Day is 5th December
- AEMVF is campaigning for a separate Emergency Volunteer Day (to be held apart from Volunteer Week)
- The famous picture of the CFA volunteer giving water to the koala during the Victorian fires has been sold to media organisations around the world, and netted over \$300,000 for the Bushfire Appeal.

Agfest:

Thank you to Mary Knowles for organising VAO participation in previous events; they won two 'Best Event in the Central Arena'. Monica Kursawe has continued Mary's good work this year, and again they won the award. Congratulations.

Area reports:

Lorraine Gardiner provided a written report from units in the northern region. Highlights: Volunteers in both Beaconsfield and George Town have achieved their Level 3 certificates; training sessions are enjoyed by all, and most units – with a couple of exceptions – report good training attendance; Campbell Town tried a new idea to get more local volunteers: the unit held a dinner – paid for by TAS management – and each vullie and BSO was asked to bring two new people. They report it was very successful, with several new recruits