

This Issue:

- Yacht Racing Event
- Recent Visits
- Cairn's Hovercraft
- Restructure
- ARFF Manager visit schedule
- Avalon Success

ARFF Services

General Manager Update

NSW Police Games Yacht Racing Event—Sydney

The NSW Police Games Yacht Racing was held in Sydney from 20-22 February 06. I joined the team on 21 February 06 and under the steady helm of Steve Stedman I had one of the most enjoyable days sailing yet. In "Sirius" (the day I went) we came a consistent third in each race and the permanent crew of Chris Gough and John King went close to winning a bronze, but due to some outrageous handicapping, finished fourth.



My congratulations to Wayne Jones, Steve Stedman, Rob Willmeete, Graham Randell, Stephan Mai and Bill Harrison for organising the event it is a tremendous event which I hope gets bigger. I for one will be back.

Recent Visits

I visited a number of fire stations and operational units recently including Melbourne, Avalon and Cairns. Following these visits I hope to get to Coolangatta, Perth, Darwin, Alice Springs and Yulara in the near future.

These visits have provided a great opportunity to fully explain the restructure and the proposed future business model for ARFF. I have received some very good feedback on a range of matters which will aid in the development of our work program and key initiatives.

Cairn's Hovercraft

While visiting the Cairn's Fire Station on 24 February 2006 to award Andrew Stevenson his Australia Day Medallion, Joe Murrell introduced me to the Slider XL which is manufactured in NZ by Pacific Hovercraft and is 4.6m long, 2.3m wide. It cruises easily to 60km/ph and has a rated uplift over water of 350kg. Over land this uplift doubles. It was purchased to fulfil a need identified originally in 2001 to allow access to "difficult terrain" namely shallow water, mud and sand areas within the ARFF response area. It is a stable craft with a non standard seating configuration to provide space to carry rescue platforms and air bridges. The craft now has 27 engine hours on the clock and is proving itself to be mechanically reliable and easy to operate. The picture on the right is of DCO Tom McGinness in amongst difficult terrain within the Cairns ARFF response area.



General Manager Update

Restructure

As I announced on 3 March 2006, we now have an agreed management structure with an Executive Management team in place and we have appointed a number of existing managers to new roles which are as follows: Capability & Capacity Manager—Mark Cunningham, Regional Operations North East Manager—Tom McGinness, Regional South West Manager—Kim Curwood, Training Establishment Manager —Dave Werner, Finance Manager —Jonathon Kable.

The Executive management team consist of the Director Operations & Capability—Rob Porter, Director Human Resources & Training—Bruce Jagers, Director Finance & Corporate Services—Jonathon Kable (acting) and Director Quality Assurance & Safety—Glenn Wood (acting).

I know they each have a number of exciting initiatives planned for 2006 and I am confident this team will make a significant contribution to the future development of ARFF.

ARFF Manager Visit Schedule 2006

With ARFF executive and senior management all but finalized, I have decided to ensure that senior management are more accessible. Starting this month, all senior managers will visit and work for one week at two ARFF locations during the year. We have developed a schedule and each manager will liaise with individual locations to confirm the exact timing of their visit. This will ensure any operational requirements are taken into consideration.

I encourage everyone to make each manager welcome during their visit and make the most of this opportunity to share your ideas and suggestion with a member of the management team.

Avalon Success

The commitment of ARFF staff at the Avalon Fire Station since September 2005 has been tremendous and as of 1 March 2006, we commenced charging at Avalon airport for our services. Well done to all those involved in establishing the service and a special note of thanks to station staff and Les Heath for getting it up and running.

Andrew Clark
A/ General Manager
Aviation Rescue and Fire Fighting

ARFF Services