

FRFANZ Chairpersons Annual Report 2014

Welcome to the FRFANZ Annual General Meeting for 2014.

This is my first annual report as Chairperson and I must say it has been a very interesting and busy year for the Management Committee.

At the time I took over this role from Doug Ashford we had just completed an independent review of FRFANZ and looked at what our members' expectations were of FRFANZ and what issues they felt were important.

One of the key recommendations from this report was:

There is clear messaging from key stakeholders that they believe FRFANZ needs to elevate its focus and influence under the following subjects areas:

- *Lobbying / representation*
- *Promotion / awareness*
- *Networking / knowledge sharing*
- *Volunteer attraction, training & retention*

Fittingly the theme of this year's conference is Change, Expectations, and Volunteers, as these are certainly the issues that have been raised with FRFANZ during our scoping project and consequently the focus for the Management Committee over the last year.

We received significant feedback through our scoping project that FRFANZ needed to take a lead role in advocacy at a national level, so this will remain the focus of our efforts together with improving our feedback and communication with members.

I am pleased to say that the committee has achieved a number of significant goals this year and are working progressively toward implementing the recommendations and better meeting the expectations of our members.

Achievements for the year include:

- Reviewing our constitution to ensure it is relevant and supports our strategic plan.
- Registered FRFANZ for GST.
- Adopted an electronic accounting program and online banking facilities.
- Registering FRFANZ as a charitable entity, this will be finalised with the adoption of the new constitution.
- Compiled a database of contacts from several sources to ensure our communications reach as many members as possible.

- Implemented a project in conjunction with Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology to develop a FRFANZ website with advanced functionality.
- Created a FRFANZ Facebook page.
- Carried out a survey of members regarding a national uniform standard.
- Worked closely with Emqual by:
 - Regularly meeting with Emqual management.
 - Attending the Emqual AGM.
 - Supporting Emqual funding application to TEC.
 - Lobbying Minister for Tertiary Education with regard to ongoing funding for Emqual, particularly for Rural Volunteer training.
 - Providing advice and input to working groups with Emqual on rural training matters regarding the Targeted Review of Qualifications and review of unit standards

- Submitting on issues of national policy including:
 - Fire Services Review.
 - CIMS review.
 - Helicopter standards
 - IGC radio project.

- Issued 4 medals for 50 years service to:
 - D. Syme Lauriston VRFF
 - I. Huggins Mt Somers VRFF
 - Keith Marshall ChCh CC
 - R. Sloan Taupo VRFF

In October 2013 I attended a meeting of the Rural Fire Committee of the Commission and raised 7 different issues of concern.

It is disappointing that FRFANZ is not recognised by inclusion in any formal consultation forum by the commission as this was a very strong theme from our members during our scoping project.

I will continue to seek formal representation for our 2000 odd members.

The introduction of a Volunteer Forum to this conference is a great step toward our volunteers having an avenue for their concerns to be heard at a national level and I urge all volunteers to use this opportunity to the fullest.

My thanks go to Barry Low for the efforts he has put into organising this year's conference, I am sure that many of you that have taken on this role in the past realise what an undertaking it is to run an event such as this.

It is becoming increasingly apparent that the workload involved with many of the FRFANZ functions including organising the conference have grown to a stage where we must consider alternatives to voluntary workers and will need to consider contracting in services.

I would like to thank the entire committee for their efforts this year particularly with multiple projects on the go at any time.

Particular thanks go to Gavin Wallace and Morrie Genty for their efforts and support for the committee, their retirement from FRFANZ hasn't quite eventuated the way they may have expected.

Finally I would like to express special thanks to Bella and Veronica for their work as secretary and Treasurer, without these two and the work they put in we would not have achieved as much as we have over the past year

I move that my report be accepted.

Kevin Ihaka

Chairperson