

# MFS Chief Officer's UPDATE

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## News from the Chief Officer and Chief Executive



### Welcome to the February 2021 edition of the Chief Officer's Update.

I trust you have all had a wonderful festive season with family and friends. It has been positive to welcome the new year and news that Australians are due to start accessing a [COVID-19 vaccine](#) in coming months. We are all hopeful that it will bring greater flexibility to our lives.

### Enterprise Bargaining

Negotiations for the new Enterprise Agreement are continuing between the UFU, MFS and the Department of Treasury and Finance (DTF).

### New Resources

The MFS has been successful in obtaining funding for a number of specific projects, including but not limited to (see below):

#### New Appliances

- Four new Heavy Urban General Pumpers that are scheduled to arrive in mid 2021 will be strategically stationed within the MFS area to provide enhanced response capability.
- Additionally, the government has committed funding for 11 new MFS fire appliances over the next four years. The MFS has committed to match this with a further 11 appliances from within the existing MFS capital program over the next four years. This is a total of 22 new appliances, which will be a combination of Heavy Urban General Pumpers and/or Heavy Urban Rescue. Eight of these 22 appliances have already been ordered. (Expected delivery times to be confirmed.)
- A tender process commenced in 2019-20 for the replacement of the Heavy Aerial appliances with a contract awarded to Global Fire Solutions Pty Ltd in the second quarter of 2020-21 which will be funded from within the existing MFS Capital Budget.

#### New Helmets and Breathing Apparatus (BA)

- BA selection has now been finalised and supplier MSA has been engaged for the provision of 420 sets of BA. Training will be provided to MFS personnel prior to a staged rollout. New BA supply to firefighters commenced at the end of November 2020.
- Following recent learnings from interstate, the MFS postponed the selection of new helmets until a decision on BA had been determined. This is important as it had been identified by our interstate colleagues that the interface between the physical positioning of BA with some helmet selections created issues (e.g. knocked against one another at the base of the neck).
- The Structural Helmet Working Group has now reconvened to commence the selection of new helmets.

#### Wet Weather Gear

- Since October 2020, MFS personnel have been able to order the wet weather jacket, after production delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic occurred in 2020.



Above: Mt Gambier MFS participates in 'The Clothesline Project' (Page 2).



Above: The APFF's Deefa brings Xmas Day cheer to stranded regional travellers (Page 2).



*Above: Deefa brings Xmas Day cheer to a family travelling through regional SA at Mt Gambier Hospital.*

## Festive Spirit

Mount Gambier MFS retained firefighters recently showed that Christmas truly is the season of giving, presenting a young family with an irreplaceable memory.

A Perth family travelling around Australia unfortunately had to visit Mount Gambier hospital when their youngest daughter fell sick several days before Christmas. The family was forced to hit pause on their journey while the father and his three boys spent Christmas Day in a camper van in the hospital carpark. The father, with his hands full with caring duties, was not able to go shopping for presents.

On learning about the family, Mount Gambier retained firefighters and the Australian Professional Firefighters Association's (APFF) DEEFA paid a visit to the family and handed out presents to the children. The parents were extremely touched by the gesture, which made this Christmas for them extra special. Well done to all involved.

*Below: Mt Gambier MFS contributes to The Clothesline Project.*



## The Clothesline Project

I am incredibly proud of Mount Gambier retained firefighters, who put on their creative caps to support a global movement against domestic violence.

The Clothesline Project was started in 1990 by a coalition of women's groups in the United States to reveal the depth of the issue of violence against women. Every year, domestic abuse survivors and allies use words and artwork to decorate t-shirts that are displayed in public places as a way to tell their stories.

In November, retained firefighters at Mount Gambier Station provided their support to the City of Mount Gambier which was hosting a Clothesline Project event. Firefighters painted a t-shirt, alongside the printed words "No matter how dark, you are not alone". The t-shirt (pictured, page 1 and bottom left) is currently on display at the local library alongside dozens of community submissions.

Well done to all involved and the fantastic initiative shown by our regional operations.

## Functional Fitness Project

As part of the ongoing commitment to the health and wellbeing of MFS personnel, the Functional Fitness Project is centred around providing the necessary resources to assist in keeping personnel healthy and injury free from recruitment to retirement.

To complement the refurbishment of the station gym facilities (currently underway), the MFS now has two dedicated Functional Fitness Coordinators, Joel Dunstan and Alex Redshaw. Joel and Alex started with the MFS in November 2020 and will be available to provide a range of health and fitness services to MFS employees.

### A moment with Joel...



**Functional Fitness Coordinator, Joel Dunstan**

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

Helping people be healthy, physically active and recover from injuries.

**INTERESTS:** AFL (West Coast), weight lifting and camping.

**FAVE TV SHOW:** Peaky Blinders.

**FAVE MUSIC:** Luca Brasi & Childish Gambino.

### A moment with Alex...

**Functional Fitness Coordinator, Alex Redshaw**

**WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR WORK?**

I'm really looking forward to building strong relationships with everyone here at the MFS and having the opportunity to make a real difference to the health and fitness of our workforce through implementing voluntary health and fitness sessions.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS:** I really enjoy playing footy and cricket up in the Adelaide Hills.

**FAVOURITE MOVIE & TV SHOW:** Blues Brothers and Seinfeld.

**FAVOURITE MUSIC:** Hilltop Hoods.



*FROM THE CHIEF: I hope you have all started the year with optimism and new energy. I look forward to working with you throughout the year to continue our significant contribution to the community of South Australia.*

*MFS Chief Officer Michael Morgan*