



## Fire & Rescue get ready to race for kids

With dreams of re-enacting the classic film *The CannonBall Run*, Mt Gravatt fires are gearing up the old 991A Brisbane Day Pumper for the Annual XXXX Gold Variety Bash.

Aiming to raise funds for Queensland's sick, disabled and disadvantaged children, the Variety Bash is an annual event in which motor enthusiasts decorate their cars and themselves for a 10-day adventure throughout Queensland.

The event will travel from Cairns to Birdsville with the "Bashers" stopping in at a number of schools and communities to deliver equipment and assistance to kids in need.

Also joining the event is the team from Goodna SES who are equally busy preparing for the spectacular event.

Both groups are heavily relying on support and donations and encourage all staff and local businesses to make a difference to the special

kids of Queensland.

With the Bash commencing on August 21, the teams need to raise a minimum of \$7,000 in order to enter the event.

To find out how you or your local business can support these fantastic efforts, please contact Nigel Jones of QFRS on 0407 163 170 or Goodna SES, Kevin Dowsett 07 3271 6646.

Keep an eye out for Bash Car 971's BLOG diary entries throughout the Bash.

## Rural Operations looks to future direction

Some of the biggest developments for Rural Operations since the 1940s were announced in early June with the launch of the new Rural Operations Structural Enhancement Package.

The new \$1.8 million package will see a 30% increase to staff numbers with an extra 23 FTE positions available, and a restructuring of the division that will provide further management and support to all levels of staff.

Steve Rothwell said volunteer fire fighters and staff would benefit from an increase in training and career progression opportunities.

"This new package has been designed to further support our 'on-the-ground' firefighters and staff with a clear organisational structure that will allow for development and growth of both individuals and rural operations," Steve said.

"We recognise that we already have a great base of skills amongst our many volunteers and staff, and the package is designed to formally recognise this and provide increased opportunity to further these skills.

"We will be looking to increase the advice and support on offer to all levels of staff by employing

new managers and restructuring to accommodate the growing needs and demands of these crucial regions."

The changes are anticipated to reduce and spread the workload of staff so they can better service, support and train our rural fire volunteers.

In addition, the Rural Fire Service regions will now align to the seven regions of QFRS Urban Operations – an initiative that will allow greater cooperation and sharing of resources amongst the department.

It is expected that the new changes and recruitment for new managers will commence in early July.