

Kalamunda VFRS chalks up a half century

A 50 year anniversary is an important milestone and the Kalamunda Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service celebrated theirs by holding three events during the year.

Long serving brigade member and former Secretary and Foreman Jim Armanasco who is compiling the history of the brigade, coordinated a reunion of past and present members.

“Around 150 guests, including families of the volunteers, attended a nostalgic get together at the Kalamunda Fire Station,” Jim said.

“It was a wonderful opportunity to renew acquaintances and reminisce about times past. We had plenty of brigade photos on display and an anniversary cake was cut by present Captain Tony Moiler and Foundation Members Frank Cooper (inaugural Secretary), Vic Jones and Wally Halse (inaugural Apparatus Officer).

“We are very proud of the fact that five of our nine life members are still active in the brigade.”

The second social activity was the brigade’s annual dinner that included



Seven of the 12 Kalamunda VFRS captains celebrated the Brigade’s 50th anniversary. L-R: Wally Halse – Captain No.3 (1 year); Terry King – Captain No.6 (1 year); Derek Fletcher – Captain No.7 (2 years); Don Parker – Captain No.8 (2 years); Allan Pugh – Captain No.9 (8 years); current Foreman Jim Armanasco – Captain No.11 (3 years); and current Captain Tony Moiler (12 years).

presentation of service awards to Tony Moiler – 30 years; James Armanasco – 25 years; Ross Smith – 20 years and Travis Bowen – 10 years.

The brigade’s final celebration was a chance for current members and

families to take time out and have a fun day off together.

The volunteers went on a weekend bus trip to Hyden and enjoyed a pleasant drive, sampled the local food and accommodation, and surfed Wave Rock.

Firefighter honoured

Fremantle Station Officer Mark Graham, who is also Chief Petty Officer with the Australian Navy Reserve Diving Team Seven, has been honoured with a Reserve Service Excellence Award.

The award was presented by the Defence Reserves Support Council WA at a special function at Irwin Barracks that also included Employer Support Awards.

Mark undertakes his reservist role at HMAS Stirling and received the award for his dedication, unflagging enthusiasm, commitment and selfless outstanding contribution to Navy diving operations.

He was described as an exceptional administrator of personnel, as evidenced by sound professional knowledge and above average judgement.

The citation also noted that Chief Petty Officer Diver Graham was an outstanding Senior Sailor in keeping with the highest traditions of the Australian Royal Navy, whose loyalty and high standards merited recognition.

Mark said he had been a member of the Navy Reserves for more than 28 years and found his role very rewarding.

“I’ve enjoyed my service with the Navy Reserve and it has provided a range of experiences you could not possibly encounter in other jobs,” Mark said.

“There is a great feeling of camaraderie that exists when working in a diving team with a bunch of really dedicated people.

“A lot of my Navy training and service would not have been possible without the support of my employer, for which I am very grateful.”

Acting District Manager Cockburn Sound Bruce Chamberlain attended the award presentation as Mark’s employer guest.



Mark Graham Reservist Excellence Awards. Acting District Manager Cockburn Sound Bruce Chamberlain (left) with Chief Petty Officer Diver Mark Graham at the Reserve Service Excellence Award presentation.