

Volunteer fireys fundraise for burns kids



Jurien Bay Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service recently decided to go the extra mile to help children who have suffered burns, a cause that is very close to firefighters' hearts.

Jurien Bay Volunteer FRS firefighters with the \$5,000 cheque for PMH Burns Unit (l-r): Noel Wark, Emma Clingan (Brigade Captain), Bob Buckby, young Bodie Buckby and Jess Henriques.

Brigade Secretary Bob Buckby said his fellow volunteers gladly went out and knocked on doors to fundraise and assist the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (PMH) Burns Unit.

"We were impressed with the generosity of individuals and local businesses who readily made a donation," Bob said.

"A great deal of money also came from operating a children's train ride which was a fun activity for everyone to be involved in."

Bob said that four Jurien Bay volunteers recently presented a cheque for \$5,000 to the PMH Burns Unit which will go towards purchasing much needed equipment.

"I have a personal connection with PMH as my son Brodie spent time there as a burns unit patient," he said.

"They do such outstanding work and are internationally recognised.

"There is always a need for some new medical item that will benefit the kids, so we are all very happy to support them."

Bob is keen to see more fundraising done for the PMH Burns Unit. He acknowledges there are several volunteer brigades doing just that, but he would like to see even more get out there and match Jurien Bay's donation with their own.

Western Australia's career firefighters have a long tradition of supporting PMH through a variety of fundraising, as well as regular involvement with Radio Lollipop.

Recruitment drive paves way

Volunteers in the East Kimberley have welcomed a series of timely tips for retaining and attracting members.

Local regional district managers, accompanied by Volunteer and Youth Services branch (VYSB) staff from Perth, recently undertook a series of visits to Halls Creek and Wyndham Volunteer Emergency Service units, as well as Kununurra Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service and State Emergency Service.

VYSB Acting Coordinator Chris Cook said these areas were targeted because they had experienced a significant decline in local volunteer numbers.

"We wanted to correct the downward trend and our objective was to provide a number of volunteer recruitment strategies that would assist in attracting new volunteers and retaining current ones," Chris said.

"Another aim was to ensure that existing volunteers would be well equipped to continue effective recruitment into the future.

"Strategic initiatives included targeting local employers to support staff considering a volunteering role, and encouraging existing volunteers to introduce a colleague or friend."

Chris said the recruitment approaches were tailored to suit the circumstances of individual units.

"The desired outcome is dependent on a number of factors including the geographical location of the unit and the roles of the specific service," he said.

"The sessions were supported by the respective district managers who were in an ideal position to provide valuable assistance and insight into what would work best at the local level."

Feedback from the local volunteers showed that they appreciated the involvement of FESA staff.

"We had a very positive outcome as a direct result of the visits and series of informal sessions at the units," Chris said.

"Since then 20 new recruits have registered to become volunteers, which is very pleasing."