



Pound Creek Rural Fire Brigade

686 Inverloch-Venus Bay Road, Pound Creek via Inverloch. Vic. 3996

Fire Calls: 000

Enquiries: (03)56745550 (Capt.)

Mobile: 0428-745550 (Capt.)

Fire Station: (03)56745640

Captain: Peter Vanzuyden J.P.

Sec/Treas: Allen Archbold

*Auxiliary - President: Tania Frank

Sec/Treas: Meg Walker (03)56745520

July 3, 2013

Mr. Dan Fraijo, Fire Chief,

Prescott, Arizona. USA

Dear Dan,

Our hearts go out to you and your firefighting community after last Sunday's terrible tragedy with the loss of 19 of your finest young firefighters. My brigade members, at our monthly meeting last night, asked me to send you and your firefighting community our deepest sympathy and sincere condolences to all associated with those who lost their lives so tragically.

Even though we are only a small rural brigade of 30 volunteer members downunder on the most southern coastal aspect of the Australian mainland in Pound Creek, in the State of Victoria, our hurt is felt as real as if these men were members of our own brigade. We can relate so realistically to the job they were doing, protecting your community from the ravages of a bushfire, something we experience ourselves every summer season.

Many of my brigade members spend time away from their families every "fire season" as members of "Strike Teams" to fight these cursed bush fires in our effort to protect lives and property. Fortunately, we have never experienced the loss of a life in the performance of our duties from year to year, so we can only imagine the pain and suffering your firefighting community is experiencing at this time with the loss of so many.

I hope that our prayers and thoughts will help in some way to ease the pain a little for those who are feeling shattered at the moment because of the loss of a loved one, a best friend or colleague.

It's very hard to put our thoughts into words but please just let it be known to all associated with your firefighting community that other firefighters and their immediate families from other parts of the world, even as far away as Pound Creek in Victoria, Australia, nearly 10,000 miles away, are thinking of you at this very stressful time and may that bring some comfort to you all.

Our thoughts are with you!

Kind Regards,

Peter Vanzuyden (Captain)