

Tuesday 4 August, 2009

## Queensland's Hottest Firies - striking a pose for charity

**Some of Queensland's hottest firefighters have taken time out from the gym to tackle one of the Ekka's most popular strong-man challenges – the High Striker – to raise vital funds for kids with burn injuries.**

The Queensland Fire & Rescue Service (QFRS) firefighters will once again feature as pin-up boys in the Queensland Firefighters Calendar. Their modeling efforts have raised more than \$650,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation since the calendar's inception in 1993.

Calendar Organiser and Senior Firefighter Bruce Mitchell said his calendar recruits enjoy the playing the part of 'pin-up of the month' but don't take it too seriously.

"The calendar is a great motivator for the firies to keep in shape, however, they do cop some good-natured jokes as a result of being in such a public space," Mr Mitchell said.

"We have made the commitment to raise another \$100,000 over the next two years for the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation. We are venturing into Sideshow Alley once again, where we will be seen trading the dumbbells for the strong-man hammer all in the name of charity.

"As firefighters, we've seen the devastating effect of burns injuries. Hopefully we can raise even greater awareness and funds through the Firefighters Calendar so that children can live lives free from the trauma and scars that can result from burns injuries."

RNA President Dr Vivian Edwards welcomed the firefighters to the Ekka and applauded their dedication to a worthy cause.

"We are delighted that the firefighters have come on board again to help work wonders for young burns patients. The Firefighters Calendar, like Sideshow Alley, has become an institution at the Ekka and we are proud to be a part of it," Dr Edwards said.

Keeping with tradition, the calendar is sold for \$10 at the Ekka to raise funds for the Royal Children's Hospital Burns Research and Trauma Research Group to develop more effective treatments for children battling burn injuries. A portion of the monies will also go towards enabling firefighters to attend the World Firefighters Games to drive competition and excellence in Fire Service techniques.

Copies of the Queensland 2010 Firefighters Calendar are also available online at [www.firefighterscalendar.com.au](http://www.firefighterscalendar.com.au) and through participating The Coffee Clubs.

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