



New fire truck gets a warm welcome

by Verna Costello

A new heavy-duty fire truck, equipped with aspirated foam has been added recently to the Perth District fleet.

The truck is likely to be given its 'baptism of fire' (pun intended) at short notice, following the high number of fires (135) experienced by the district during the 1995-96 summer.

On hand, to receive the new vehicle with acting director of regional services Ric Sneeuwjagt (left), were senior fire fighter Les Holden, reserve management assistant Mel Price, operations officer Mike Cantelo, CALMfire co-ordinator for Perth District John McKenzie, and Swan Region's recently appointed manager Bruce Harvey.

According to Perth District manager Alan Briggs, there's a *CALM NEWS* story behind most of the fire-truck's welcoming party.

"For example, Mike Cantelo, is heavily involved in CALMfire's aerial fire bombing exercises, and Mel Price is a recent recipient of the Executive Director's Award," Alan said.

"Les Holden has been seconded to CALM from the Western Australian Fire and Rescue Service (WAFRS)—City and Town Firefighters; his secondment is part of a CALM/WAFRS partnering arrangement.

"The partnering exercise will have been in place for two years this February, and involves close working arrangements between WAFRS and CALM with a win-win focus towards overcoming issues and fostering teamwork.

"Les is an example of applying these principles and is working with CALM during the 1996-97 fire season to share learning experiences; Les is currently providing CALM fire fighters with training in structural fire fighting.

"There are three stories already—just waiting to be told—and you'll be seeing them in *CALM NEWS* over the ensuing months," Alan said.

