

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## MFS 'Ride 2 Climb' firefighters raise \$22.5k & win Silver

Tuesday, 6 September 2016

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters have returned to Adelaide triumphant after raising \$22,500 for charity during an epic *Ride 2 Climb* journey from Adelaide to Melbourne.

Thirteen MFS firefighters spent nine days cycling 1,100 kms from Adelaide to Melbourne, arriving in Melbourne on Saturday, 3 September to compete in the *Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb* event.

The MFS team completed the final leg of their cycling journey the same day they won a team **Silver Medal** at the stair climb event, competing against 500 Australian and New Zealand firefighters.

MFS Senior Firefighter, Daniel Graham said the *Ride 2 Climb* team of MFS firefighters was overwhelmed by the public's generosity.

"We'd like to thank the South Australian and Victorian communities for wholeheartedly supporting our journey. We more than doubled our fundraising aim of \$10,000, receiving an amazing \$22,500 for the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF)\* charity.

"The APFF, a South Australian charity comprising professional firefighters, will donate 100 % of these funds to the *Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb's* charity of choice; the *Murdoch Childrens Research Institute*," Senior Firefighter Graham said.

MFS Station Officer, Chas Thomas said the *Ride 2 Climb* journey forged great relationships between fire agencies and communities along the way.

"A highlight of the journey for us was the people we met and the kindness shown to us by the public and local businesses. Our journey also strengthened relationships between regional MFS, Country Fire Service (CFS), Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB - Victoria).

"We couldn't have achieved the journey without the accommodation, meals and help provided by so many, including MFS, CFS, CFA and MFB. The support received has inspired us, and we hope to organise another similar fundraising journey in future."

The MFS / APFF tally of \$22,500 raised for the *Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb* event, with the fundraising tally second only to the MFB, which organised the stair climb event.

The cycling journey visited many South Australian and Victorian communities, including Adelaide, Victor Harbor, Meningie, Kingston, Mt Gambier, Portland, Warrnambool, Apollo Bay, Queenscliff, Sorrento, Mt Martha and Melbourne.

In Melbourne, MFS firefighters wore up to 25 kgs of fire fighting gear and breathing apparatus while climbing 28 floors of stairs in a high rise building.

\*The Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) is a South Australian charity comprising professional MFS and Airport firefighters who volunteer their time to support firefighters, their families as well as burns and road trauma survivors in South Australia. <http://www.apff.org.au/>

**For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770**

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