



February, 2018

MEDIA RELEASE

PAKENHAM COACH DEFIES INJURY TO JOIN TEAM

Pakenham junior fire brigade under 17 coach Quentin Leuridan doesn't let injury get in the way of his dedication to the team.

Quentin has proven his commitment by travelling nearly four hours to attend state championships while stuck on crutches.

He hit the road on Saturday after being discharged from hospital to coach the under 17 team in the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) State Urban Junior Championships in Warrnambool on February 24-25.

It was well worth the effort with the team winning the marshall twos event and scoring several other impressive results over the weekend.

A week earlier Quentin injured his hip and tore muscles while running in a demonstration competition at Sale.

He was in hospital until Saturday but was determined to be there to guide his team.

"I was in the car for more than three and a half hours but it was worth it," he said.

In his first year as coach, Quentin, 22, is keen to return to competition and resume his service as an active volunteer member of the brigade.

VFBV CEO Andrew Ford said junior brigades and the championships were the best way for young people to become engaged and learn practical skills before being old enough to attend fires.

"The VFBV State Urban Junior Championships can set young people on a pathway to serve their communities," Mr Ford said.

"They encourage family participation and help to instil a sense of community service and volunteerism in young people while raising the importance of local fire brigades," Mr Ford said.

Ends...