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MEDIA RELEASE

DANDENONG VETERAN STILL COMPETING AND VOLUNTEERING

Like many CFA volunteers, Murray Anderson started running with the junior brigade in local and state competitions and more than 30 years later his passion still burns.

Murray remains an active trained firefighting volunteer and also competes annually at the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) state urban senior championships.

This year he was part of the ladder 8 team at the state championships at Bendigo, but he admits his time as a solo runner has past.

“We’ve had some good teams over the year,” Murray said. “I’m not in individual races anymore; I’ve got past that.”

However, he remains committed to the team and the brigade. “You meet a lot of good people,” Murray said.

The brigade has a mixture of paid and volunteer firefighters.

“We’re an integrated brigade with staff and volunteers,” Murray said. “A number of our staff were at one stage volunteers and ran in the competitions, and we’ve had a lot of people who’ve come to live in the area and joined.”

With about 3000 calls a year and supporting roles when major incidents happen,

“If you go to the station, you’ll get a job,” Murray said. “We’re a very busy station with a lot of people and we go to a lot of other areas with our rehab-rescue vehicle. We were one of the first brigades in the state to have a radio rescue vehicle; a lot of stuff in CFA that has become standard on trucks we had it first at Dandenong”.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said volunteers like those at Dandenong are essential to public safety and provide a professional service that is effective and affordable.

“Our dedicated volunteers are continuing a great Australian tradition that is well respected in our communities,” Mr Ford said.

Mr Ford said volunteers are part of the fabric of society and contribute to community resilience.

“Volunteers also make a big contribution to the CFA’s surge capacity,” he added.

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