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MEDIA RELEASE

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ADDS A NEW CAUSE TO SUPPORT

For the past three years Daylesford's Sam Speedie has contributed to her local community as a volunteer firefighter.

On March 22 she's taking on a new cause by shaving her hair to raise funds and awareness for the Leukaemia Foundation's World's Greatest Shave campaign.

Sam will join more than 1.9 million extraordinary Aussies of all ages who have helped beat blood cancer over the past two decades by getting sponsored to shave, colour, wax, cut pony tails, banish beards and trim top knots.

Volunteering is part of her nature and Sam doesn't mind losing her hair for a good cause.

"Recently a member of our community passed away from cancer," Sam said. "She was a big supporter of our brigade and I wanted to do what I could to support people with cancer and help with research."

Sam, 21, has been a member for three years, joining on the recommendation of her friend Darren Burren. She completed her initial wildfire training with Malmsbury before moving to Daylesford, where she is brigade secretary.

As a rescue group as well as an urban fire brigade, Daylesford's volunteers respond to one or two calls for support each week.

Sam is keen to see more women in the brigade. "The CFA needs more female members and I'd encourage more to join," she said. "It's an amazing thing to do."

People wanting to support Sam's head shave can donate online at the World's Greatest Shave website or come to the event at the Daylesford community op shop at 6/8 Mink Street at 2pm on March 22.

"I've never shaved my hair totally before so I'm a bit nervous but hopefully it will grow back okay," she said.

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

“Our dedicated volunteers are trained to national professional standards, are highly experienced and always improving what they do continuing a great Australian tradition that is justifiably valued and well respected in our communities,” Mr Ford said.

“Our volunteers provide about \$1 billion worth of service each year and contribute to the CFA’s well-established ability to mobilise huge numbers of highly trained and experienced volunteers to deal with major incidents,” he added.

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