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MEDIA RELEASE

WARRNAMBOOL TO HOST RURAL FIRE BRIGADE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Warrnambool will host the annual Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) state rural championships for the first time on April 7-8 with 60 senior and 60 junior teams from across the state competing.

VFBV support officer Glenn Mercer said the event would bring hundreds of CFA volunteers to the city as they hone their firefighting skills in a competitive setting.

Warrnambool also hosted the Victorian urban junior championships in February, though this time the venue has moved from the fire training track at the Friendly Societies Park to the Warrnambool Showgrounds.

“Rural championships run on grass, not on the bitumen,” Mr Mercer said.

There will be six events for seniors and five for juniors, all involving a mock CFA tanker. “It’s all against time and the events use the same skills that we use in the fire ground,” Mr Mercer said.

The CFA District 5 competition committee successfully applied to host the event.

South-west Victorian teams from Yambuk, Dunrobin and Irrewarra will compete.

VFBV CEO Andrew Ford said 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 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,” he added.

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