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MEDIA RELEASE

YOUNG CFA VOLUNTEER HAS ALL BASES COVERED

Wyatt Kilgower has all bases covered when it comes to volunteerism.

Wyatt, 20, of Port Albert, started his volunteering with the CFA but since the bug bit he's gone on to contribute surf lifesaving, ambulance and local youth activities.

His commitment led to him being named the 2017 Wellington Shire Young Citizen of the year and he's now a finalist in the CFA Young Achiever of the Year award.

"It's like a permanent hobby...it keeps me out of mischief," he joked.

"I think I'm a better person because of it."

Wyatt is a Port Albert CFA volunteer, filling the roles 4th lieutenant, training officer and junior leader, the Woodside Surf Life Saving Club captain, patrol captain, first aid officer and second in charge of search and rescue.

He was also involved in the creation of the Youth Committee in Yarram and setting up the local Yarram FReeZA. More recently he has been volunteering with the local ambulance service while he studies a Diploma of Paramedicine.

Wyatt is also a member of the District 10 Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Multi Agency Youth Network.

The CFA was Wyatt's first volunteering stint and he remains passionate about his community contribution.

"I started when I was about 13. There's so much to learn from the older generation but I've also started to run training at the brigade," he said. "It's interesting running the training and ensuring members get the most out of it."

training guys in their 40s and 50s."

He says the connections and qualifications made through volunteering have been invaluable.

“You get to know so many people and if I had to pay for all these qualifications it would have cost thousands of dollars,” he said.

Wyatt has been involved in many major incidents including a local hotel fire and plane crash and has also been part of the strong CFA surge response across the region during major bushfires.

“Everyone just pitches in for the common cause,” he said.

VFBV State Councillor Bryan Walpole said Wyatt was a very active member of the community volunteering with many groups.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said volunteers play a vital role in developing community connections, capacity and resilience.

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

Mr Ford said CFA volunteers are not only essential for Victoria’s capacity to deal with day-to-day and major emergencies; they are also part of the fabric of society and fundamental to community resilience.

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