



August, 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS SET A GOOD EXAMPLE AT LILYDALE

Junior volunteers are setting a good example at the Lilydale Fire Brigade.

Lilydale is the only local fire brigade with a junior group and an influx of 17 members is leading the way as the senior brigade looks to embark on its own recruitment campaign.

Lilydale Fire Brigade captain Warren Davis said the success of the juniors was a good sign for the future.

“Kids from local schools come along and they bring a friend they want to join as well, which is great,” Mr Davis said.

Children can join at age 11 and can move into the senior brigade at 16.

The juniors participate in knot tying, simulated rescues, pumping, hose work and other related activities. They do the same training as a senior member except for live fire training.

Lilydale’s junior brigade acts like a feeder to recruit and train new members for the district.

Despite the success in junior ranks, Lilydale also wants to attract more senior members.

Mr Davis said the existing 35 senior members are very dedicated and provide a safe and professional service to the local community.

“We’ve got a lot of keen members who deal with about 300 calls a year ranging from structure fires and motor vehicle accidents to alarms and kids being locked in cars,” he said.

“We’re a 100 per cent volunteer brigade and people who join find that they enjoy contributing to their local community.”

Becoming a member from a young age can also help job prospects. “Employers really seem to appreciate the skills we instil in our members, which go far beyond just fire training. By being involved in an organisation that routinely deals with dynamic emergency response, members develop and hone their leadership, communication and problem solving skills – a great investment for prospective employers,” Mr Davis 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 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.

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