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MEDIA RELEASE

ROBERT REPRESENTS VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS

Dumbalk Fire Brigade volunteer firefighter Robert Auchterlonie is taking his 40 years of experience to the next level.

Mr Auchterlonie has been appointed to the Board of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria which represents CFA's 60,000 volunteer firefighters.

With almost 40 years as a volunteer firefighter, Mr Auchterlonie brings a great deal of experience in fire service to his new position. He is a Lieutenant with the brigade, a former Deputy Group Officer with Mirboo North Group, has assisted at fires all over the state as well as interstate, has been a State Councillor representing District 9 since 2009.

He has also been a CFA Peer since 1996 with high level training in the Peer Support Program providing support to other volunteers through traumatic times which may be caused by incidents they have attended or in other areas of their lives.

Mr Auchterlonie said he was encouraged by other CFA people to apply for the position. "I see it as an opportunity to further represent our professionally trained volunteer firefighters who do such a great job within their communities and beyond," he said.

"I see the role as a Board Member of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria as further supporting our people and a chance to advocate improvements for our members. VFBV has many great programs already and the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund is just one of these that I think is a terrific way to support our people and their families in times of need."

Robert and his wife Janet typify family in the CFA. Janet is Captain of Dumbalk Brigade and both she and Robert have additional professional training as strike team leaders to form part of CFA's surge capacity when larger fires occur anywhere in the state.

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