

# Memberlink grows

**Emergency Memberlink has seen strong growth since its inception 14 years ago and now has a total membership of just under 30,000.**

Memberlink is now available to volunteers and employees of six Victorian Emergency Service Agencies - CFA, VIC SES, Ambulance Victoria, St John Ambulance (Vic), Australian Volunteer Coast Guard and ESTA. Founding partner CFA, has around 23,000 Memberlink members. CFA members need to apply to join Memberlink and they can do this via [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au)

Memberlink is transitioning to a digital (online) platform with members now able to use their smartphones to access their Emergency Memberlink membership card; as well as the 'mobile compatible' Memberlink website.

This will result in quicker delivery of membership kits

to new and renewing members, a reduction in the use of paper and plastic and a reduction in delivery costs, especially postage costs. It also means that members will always have their Memberlink membership cards with them.

The Memberlink team does recognise that not all members will have Smartphones and that some will be uncomfortable with this technology. Those members will be able to request a physical membership card be posted to them.

Trials of the new digital platform have been conducted since October 2018 and member reaction and acceptance has exceeded early expectations.

Members will be contacted over coming months as their Memberlink card approaches the expiry date.

Any questions can be directed to the Memberlink team by email [members@emergencymemberlink.com.au](mailto:members@emergencymemberlink.com.au) or through the website "Contact Us" page at <https://emergencymemberlink.com.au/home/contact>.

**In February I announced that I was stepping down as CEO of VFBV. I will leave the role at the end of April and, as part of our long-standing succession plan, I'm delighted that Adam Barnett, our current Executive Officer, will step into the CEO role from 1 May 2019.**

One of the things I love about my role as CEO at VFBV is that it is truly meaningful. I get to meet and represent people who actively protect their communities and who go above and beyond for the CFA and the whole of Victoria.

I have felt privileged to work with and represent volunteers across Victoria, which quite reasonably meant working hours that suited them; on weekends and beyond normal 9-5 hours. And that's fair enough, given the hours and effort of CFA volunteers, especially our Brigade and Group leaders.

However, as most people would in a role with big time commitments, it was always my plan to move on after a few years and give myself a new challenge – and spend time with family and new interests. In fact I spoke to the VFBV Board about my thoughts on this a few years ago and worked with them to put in place a succession plan.

The dangerous and damaging games being played with our fire service in the past few years made me decide to stay longer to give my best and strongest possible defence of CFA volunteers and the communities we serve. I realised the VFBV and volunteers were under attack by those who should be our strongest supporters, and by forces that were not acting in the interests of CFA, volunteers or the safety of Victorians.

Like many, I think there is always a room for improvement in our service. But dismantling the CFA and our critical surge capacity with a proposal based solely on political and industrial benefits just couldn't be left unchallenged.

That is why I'm stepping down as CEO but I will continue to help VFBV fight for a strong and sustainable CFA in the future, given we expect that this Government will revive its ill-considered and poorly formulated legislation and has a stronger position in parliament than it has had before.

By the way, I don't agree with claims that the election gave the

# A truly meaningful role

(by VFBV CEO Andrew Ford)

Government a 'mandate' to change the CFA. It was pretty clear during the election that the Government wanted to say as little as possible about its fire services legislation given how polarising it was in previous campaigns, so it's not an issue that voters focussed on during the election campaign.

Regardless of that, it's still deeply flawed and dangerous to the safety of Victorians, and VFBV will work with the Government and other decision-makers to try to protect the invaluable attributes that make the CFA so admired around the world – the meaningful and vital role of volunteers and CFA surge capacity in particular.

As I write this, the fires in Victoria's east remind us why the current CFA operating model is world-renowned for its ability to generate surge capacity of highly trained firefighters over long-duration fires.

I am looking forward to working with Adam Barnett, as CEO of VFBV, and the VFBV Board to carry out our duties under the CFA Act 1958 to represent volunteers to the CFA and other decision-makers on the matters that affect us and our welfare and efficiency. I'm also looking forward to spending a bit more time with family and on other interests, which I will be able to do with Adam in the driving seat.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members and supporters for their support, teamwork, integrity, persistence and courage. Thanks also to the VFBV Board, who have been tireless and excellent representatives of CFA volunteers and VFBV, and everyone in the VFBV office, our Support Officers and all VFBV delegates around Victoria.

# 50 year anniversary



Ian Chanter strikes the bell as a mark of respect to each of the people who lost their lives in the tragedy.

Image by Rodney Braithwaite, Shepparton News

**Hundreds of people united on 7 February 2019 at Violet Town to pay tribute to those who lost their lives, and the emergency service personnel involved at the Southern Aurora railway tragedy that occurred 50 years earlier.**

At the anniversary tribute was paid to the people who lost their lives, those who were injured and impacted.

The wide and dedicated response by emergency service personnel to the incident and the dedicated efforts as well as community spirit of towns-people as a result of the tragedy was highlighted.

During the vigil the large crowd stood for a minute's

silence to remember the nine people who lost their lives.

Following this the names of those tragically killed were read whilst long serving Vi-

let Town Fire Brigade member **Ian Chanter** struck the CFA bell for each person.

All those who attended were invited to a community breakfast in the town centre.



iOS & Android Compatible

## you've earned it

emergency memberlink



Thanks for your contribution! You're invited to take advantage of these specially negotiated offers from a range of providers across Victoria and nationally. We've got something for everyone – special offers and discounts that all members can use, a variety for the whole family.

Not a Member? Then call 1800 820 037 to sign-up or request a card online from the Memberlink website [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au)

## Emergency Memberlink is now Smarter!



iOS & Android Compatible

## Your Memberlink Card is always available, at any time, online via your Smartphone

- Using your internet browser on your smartphone go to [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au)
- Login with your CFA Volunteer/Staff Number and your Password (your surname in lower case).
- To view or present your online Memberlink Card, click on the arrow on the 'Welcome Tab' and then click on 'My Membership Card'. Tap on your card to view the back.
- Once logged in, you can then enjoy all of the aspects of our mobile website.