

# FOR SALE



## FORMER BUXTON SLIP-ON UNIT

Expressions of Interest are invited for purchase of either complete unit or cab & tray and pump & tank separately

Inspection strictly by appointment only

Email secretary@buxtoncfa.com for EoI Tender Pack

EoI to be received no later than 5:00pm, 21 September 2019

*Note: It is CFA Policy that the vehicle exits the CFA Fleet*

## WE ARE ALL CFA

(by Woman on Fire)

It's as though people are holding their breath, waiting for the unknown effects of the changes to the CFA and its future relationship with Fire Rescue Victoria. No-one knows just what the changes will bring and how they will alter brigade life and service to the community when paid firefighters leave the CFA fold.

We are promised the changes are necessary to improve service delivery and respond to the increase in urban populations across the state. Certainly change is long overdue, because volunteer brigades often struggle to meet the minimum standards for response times. When you are in danger, you want help to arrive without undue delay. It's small comfort that more of your house has been destroyed while waiting for the fire brigade because you want to support the volunteer's continuing service.

Being a CFA volunteer was never about providing a role for people wanting to do good works. It was always about getting the job done for others in challenging circumstances.

Victoria, although small in comparison to other states, has varied topography from coast to mountain, from desert to rainforest, and a distributed population across the state. It has never been a simple matter to serve the entire population when it comes to fire-fighting, whether by prevention, mitigation or suppression.

Victoria also has some of the most dangerous fire environments of the country, mainly because of where people live. People will continue to be attracted by natural environments to live in and this makes them very vulnerable to encroaching fires. With corridors of highly

flammable indigenous vegetation, in difficult terrain for fire trucks, fires spread easily and when they join up to be major incidents, they overwhelm the capacity of paid firefighters to manage the pumps and hoses.

Even with increased aerial firefighting, which has been a great boon in recent years, there is a need for surge capacity during large incidents. This is the way Victoria rolls when it comes to managing fires. We have reconciled to this necessity. The big risk to the changes to the CFA that are to come into effect in 2020 is that this surge capacity will be severely diminished, and when we are desperate there won't be people available who are qualified and experienced to step up.

Perhaps along with the substantial change to come we need to also review how the CFA may need to change in its mission and methods. Perhaps it's time to think broadly, creatively and in ways unhampered by political agendas. We may be members of CFA here, but we are also, first and foremost, community members. As members of our communities how do we want to be served by and in turn serve others when it comes to fire emergencies?

Imagine a radical future when if you desired to be, you could become a CFA certified community fire responder. Anyone and everyone could join and learn the basics of prevention and suppression and activities relevant to their local area. A bit like first aid. Imagine the surge capacity when over 2 million people, as a conservative number, had current knowledge, skill and willingness to step up to help their neighbours. Imagine a time when we are all CFA.

## COMMUNITY THANKS OUR SECTOR

Comments by Chris Hardman, Chief Fire Officer, FFMVic

I'm thrilled to have been part of the inaugural Emergency Services AFL match held on Friday 5 July at the

MCG. The event was an opportunity for the Victorian community to express thanks for the great work that firefighters and emergency services sector personnel do for the community.

It was awe inspiring to see our firefighters out on the MCG alongside colleagues from other emergency services organisations. The match is likely to become an annual fixture, and I'm looking forward to next year!

One change I am determined to make throughout FFMVic is improving gender balance. More women in roles at all levels will benefit FFMVic by better reflecting the community we serve and providing staff with the opportunity to fully reach their potential. To achieve true gender diversity we need more opportunities for women in senior leadership roles.

A diverse workforce leads to greater diversity in opinions and new and improved ways of doing things. We are currently running a survey with FFMVic staff to identify barriers that prevent people for fulfilling their potential.

Thursday 1 August was the first day of our annual Project Firefighter recruitment campaign. PFFs play a vital role in boosting our ranks over the summer fire season. It's also a



great way for aspiring firefighters to get a 'foot in the door' into the emergency services sector. Many of our permanent FFMVic personnel began their careers working as PFFs.

Last year around 20 per cent of PFFs were female. This year we want to increase that number. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a PFF, please encourage them to visit [ffm.vic.gov.au](http://ffm.vic.gov.au) for more details. The recruitment closes on 25 August.

Spring is only a month away and we are looking ahead to Spring season planned burning. The successful Safer Together program sees FFMVic crews working closely with CFA brigades to provide a joined-up approach to burning on private and public land that benefits the Victorian community. This season we will again provide both FFMVic and CFA burns to the public through the planned burning website, making it easier for the community to find out when and where burns are taking place.

Many thanks to volunteers and brigades everywhere, I look forward to working closely with you in the coming fire season.



## Three changes to BMT

Nhill Fire Brigade has held an awards and management change over evening.

The BMT has had three changes following elections with **Joel Borgelt** handing over the captaincy to **Rob Schneider**. During his six year tenure as Captain Joel has given great leadership and direction and fellow members would like to thank him for his great work as part of the BMT for the past 17 years.

**Lachie Wilde** has been elected 4th Lieutenant and **Emily Donnell** as Treasurer. A huge thankyou to former Treasurer **John Slattery** who received his 50 year service medal; for the past 32 years he did an amazing job in this position.

Service medal recipients were **Malcolm Pye** (55 years), **John Slattery** (50), **Trevor Schwarz**, **Errol Laverty** (40), **Cindy Bone** (20), **Jeremy Borgelt** (15), **Tom McPeake** and **Armand Von Bencke** (5).



Nhill Fire Brigade's new BMT. From left: Captain Rob Schneider, Lieutenants Dave Donnell (1st), Brendan Moylan (2nd), Jeremy Borgelt (3rd), Lachie Wilde (4th), Secretary Annie Gebert and Treasurer Emily Donnell.

## Communications and Engagement Officer

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) is looking to recruit a talented Communications and Engagement Officer to join its small staff team.

As part of its ongoing work in supporting CFA volunteers and its consultative structures, VFBV wants to focus on improving how it engages with and provides information to members. This will be a critical role in building capacity and providing support for VFBV delegates and members as they communicate and consult.

This will initially be a six month (full time) contract, with an opportunity for renewal.

The right person will become an invaluable part of the VFBV team and will:

- Be a passionate supporter of CFA volunteers
- Be a great writer who is fantastic at turning complex information into clear, factual and concise language
- Develop and execute creative, engaging online campaigns and communications, including managing our website and social media
- Manage and liaise with media – both new and traditional
- Design and execute initiatives to engage CFA volunteers and brigades in different ways and provide members with information that is important for them
- Source creative and special interest stories to share and communicate great stories about the importance of CFA volunteers and volunteerism to the State of Victoria
- Write media releases and other materials as needed to promote the work of CFA volunteers and VFBV
- Help VFBV's elected delegates at Brigade, District and State level receive timely, cohesive information to provide to members

Expressions of interest are now invited. Salary will be negotiated based on experience, qualifications and skill sets. Work location will primarily be based in the Burwood East office. To apply, please see our website for details and application process. Go to [www.vfbv.com.au](http://www.vfbv.com.au) or contact the VFBV Office on (03) 9886 1141.

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## CLYDE TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS

Clyde Fire Brigade celebrates its 75th anniversary this year which has seen the brigade grow from humble beginnings into a busy brigade with structural response. Common over this time is the high level of service the brigade has provided to the local community and district.

The brigade is led by Captain **Andrew Milligan** and Lieutenants **Lee Bostock** (1st), **John Johnson** (2nd), **Ash Richmond** (3rd) and **Tim Harrip** (4th). There are currently 47 members with a number currently going through minimum skills training.

Three appliances are operated by the brigade – 3,2 D Hino tanker, 4 x 4 Isuzu Big Fill and a Nissan Navara FCV.

Clyde Fire Brigade has only one fire station during this time which has been added to over the years to keep up with the demands of the community and needs of the brigade. An additional shed was built in the past six years which houses the FCV as well as other vital pieces of brigade equipment.

Initially formed to protect the area largely from grass and scrub fires the area has changed vastly in the past eight years. There were

around 250 structures in the area and urban growth saw this number explode to around 10,000 in this time. The risk profile is now mainly structural.

The Big Fill appliance is deployed to most of the campaign fires that occur throughout the State, including Bunyip fires earlier this year. Most local responses see the brigade support Cranbourne and the ever increasing number of MVAs in their own area with a high increase in the volume of traffic movements.

Clyde Fire Brigade is celebrating its 75th anniversary at a special function on 21 September.

The brigade is keen to hear from former members who wish to attend. Please contact **Ken Blencowe** on 0409 405 991 or **Daryl Manks** on 0416 071 459.

[www.fire-wise.com.au](http://www.fire-wise.com.au)