



VFBV BOARD VACANCIES

Invitation to ALL CFA Volunteers to apply

Closing date for written applications is 2 September 2024

VFBV advances the interests of all Victorian fire brigade volunteers

Vacancies on VFBV Board will arise when the terms of four VFBV Board members expire on 1 October 2024. Of the four members whose terms are expiring, two are eligible for reappointment. VFBV invites applications from any CFA volunteer who is motivated by the prospect of making a difference and believes they have the skills to contribute to the VFBV Board.

The role of a board member involves contributing to VFBV direction, policy determination and monitoring the performance and governance of the Association. This includes actively contributing to policy discussion, consulting with CFA volunteers and contributing to the identification and management of strategic issues.

VFBV is seeking applications from gender and culturally diverse candidates in addition to a diverse range of skills and experience including applications from diverse brigade types and classifications.

Members should familiarise themselves with the VFBV Board member role statement and key selection criteria available from the VFBV website or via the office at (03) 9886 1141.

Applications close on Monday 2 September 2024 and must be lodged to VFBV, 9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151; email vfbv@vfbv.com.au; telephone 9886 1141; fax: 9886 1618.

CFA ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HONOURS IN JUNE

by CFA Officer Jason Heffernan

It's been a busy month of announcements for CFA with upgraded equipment and trucks which will continue to keep our members and the community safe for years to come.

Thousands of firefighters will be better protected on the frontline with a new foam fit out on all of CFA's ultralight vehicles.

CFA has commenced the new \$3.19 million retrofit program which includes 246 existing ultralights plus \$4.95 million for the purchase of 33 new ultralights with crew protection.

Retrofitting all our ultralights gives our members the best possible chance of survival in a burnover.

The ultralight retrofit includes a compressed air foam based external deluge system (CAFS) and radiant heat shield curtains. They will also be provided internal cabin storage for fire blankets, making them more accessible for protection in a burnover.

It was also announced that 25 new pumpers will be added to CFA's fleet over the next three years, which will help

brigades better protect and serve their communities.

The new pumpers will be capable of delivering 4,000 litres of water per minute and once operational will replace pumpers that are older than 20 years of age.

The first 10 brigades to receive the new pumpers will be Wendouree, Kangaroo Flat, Sebastopol, Eaglehawk, Narre Warren, Rochester, Emerald, Benalla, Bairnsdale and Lorne.

The King's Birthday Honours on 10 June featured many outstanding CFA members.

Deputy Chief Officer North West Region Gavin Thompson and Pakenham Upper Fire Brigade Stephen Hicks were awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in recognition of their exceptional CFA service.

Another eight current and former CFA members were also awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for the service to their communities, including Wilhelmina Armstrong, Eric Bumpstead, Phillip Collins, Robert Dean, Michael McLaughlin, Karen Noonan, Bernard Sinnott and



Dianne Spark.

CFA also congratulates Grovedale Fire Brigade 1st Lieutenant James Mullins who was honoured as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to his community.

Finally, I want to encourage members and their families to roll up their sleeves for a great cause, the 2024 Emergency Services Blood Drive.

The Blood Drive, held annually by Australian Red Cross Lifeblood from 1 June to 31 August, calls on emergency service workers to compete in a bit of healthy competition by providing the highest number of blood and plasma donations.

Let's get behind this incredible cause and help save lives.

Honours congratulations

by Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent

Firstly, congratulations to those who received King's Birthday Honours last month.

The awards are an outstanding accomplishment and mark your significant contribution to your community. The passion, dedication and commitment that each of you have in giving back to your communities and supporting them before, during and after emergencies is second to none.

Winter is well and truly upon us, and the All Sectors Resilience Forum was a great opportunity to discuss what more we can do to support communities to become more resilient through all stages of emergency management, particularly where there is a loss of communication.

The Forum got me thinking about practical ways that we can build resilience, and ensuring our community can sustain for up to 72 hours after an emergency is one important part of that resilience. This includes having a battery powered radio, and not just relying on one single source of emergency information.

Something I am really pas-

sionate about is the Emergency Services Blood Drive, and it was great to see representatives from all agencies come together and roll up their sleeves for the annual launch event.

I've been donating for more than 30 years and there's no better feeling than getting a text from Lifeblood saying your donation has been used at a hospital somewhere, to help save a life. The Blood Drive is open until the end of August, and I'd encourage anyone who can, to get involved.

Later this month, the Emergency Management Conference will be another opportunity to listen and reflect on what we can do to further support each other through challenging times. I look forward to discussing the personal impact of emergency service work, and how we cope with what we see and do. For me that means going for a run, or listening to a Podcast on the way home from work.

I'd encourage you to share your tips and tricks for how to 'switch off' and cope with challenging situations



together, so you can continue to support each other in the work you do.

To all of our amazing volunteers, thank you for your ongoing commitment to keeping your community safe. Stay warm.

Take care,
Rick

NNG unit rollover

Whilst responding to a call at approximately 0630 hours on 11 June, Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade's pumper/tanker, with two crew members, was involved in a serious accident in atrocious weather conditions.

A tree branch that was hanging in power lines fell in the high winds and heavy rain, hitting the appliance as it passed below, causing it to roll over.

The firefighters crewing the pumper/tanker, once free of the wreckage, were immediately taken to hospital for treatment and observation.

One of the two crew members was released later in the

day with other member being released the following day.

Nar Nar Goon Fire Brigade, the two members involved and their families, extend appreciation to the many, many CFA brigades and volunteers who sent messages of support and enquired on the welfare of those involved as well as fellow brigade members.

At the announcement of the new pumper build were members of Ballarat Fire Brigade Liam Ryan and Nat Huf, Wendouree MP Juliana Addison, Ballarat Brigade Captain Mark Cartledge and Michelle Brewer, Emergency Services Minister Jaclyn Symes and CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan.

TRUGANINA'S NEW STATION AND REHAB UNIT

Officers and members of Truganina Fire Brigade celebrated the official opening of the new fire station in Tarneit as well as the official handover of the rehabilitation appliance last month.

This station represents the first permanent home for the Brigade since its inception in 1940, funded by the State Government, CFA and the local community.

The \$4.78 million fire station is a modernised, fit-for-purpose facility which will help the brigade continue to service the fast-growing local community.

Through its fundraising efforts Truganina Fire Brigade was able to contribute \$57,120 for the extension of its new vehicle shed from a two bay to four bay shed with storage.

The new station is designed with better facilities and includes features that adapt to the different needs of the growing community. It includes a three-bay drive through motor room to house three firefighting appliances, a turnout room and change room areas, a new workshop and office space for volunteers.

The facility will be a comfortable and up-to-date place at which volunteers can train, turnout and work from.

The station has been designed with numerous sustainability features, including water tanks with a total capacity of 45,000 litres, insulation and glazing, a rain garden to filter storm water before discharging into a storm water system and air conditioning systems that can be deactivated when the conditioned rooms are not in use.

It has also been fitted with accessibility features for disability access and gender equality.



Pictured during the formalities at the station opening with the commemorative plaque are Captain Mark Hatton (left) and local Member of Parliament Dylan Wight.

The contribution included \$38,040 which was provided by the Victorian Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP).

The new station has been designed with flexibility in mind and there are three workstations which allow brigade members to work or study remotely from the station.

This enables the brigade to respond to emergencies faster because if it gets a fire call, members can respond straight away because they're already at the station.

Captain Mark Hatton said he had lobbied hard for a prayer room to be built at the new station. "I thought it would help us with our recruiting and making our other members feel more comfortable. It's a big step forward in encouraging more multi-culturalism in volunteering."

The station will play a positive role in attracting new volunteers to the brigade now and into the future.

During the day the official handover of the brigade's new Rehabilitation Unit also took place. Local MP Dylan Wight MP presented the keys to Captain Mark Hatton, who accepted these on behalf of Truganina Fire Brigade. The unit was partially funded via a successful VESEP grant.

As part of the day's proceedings, Chief Officer Jason Heffernan and Commander Michael Campbell presented service medals to numerous members whose service totalled 550 years of service to CFA.

In addition two members were also presented with Brigade Life Membership.

facebook

Join our facebook page for more information and to make comments or suggestions.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fire-Wise/351678354181>

Fleet boost with 25 new pumpers

– from front page

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes visited Wendouree-based SEM Fire and Rescue to announce the company as the approved builder of all the new pumpers.

Said the Minister: "Victoria is one of the most fire-prone places in the world. These pumpers are locally made for local conditions – ensuring our volunteer firefighters have vehicles that can respond quickly to keep Victorians safe."

"These new impressive appliances coming to brigades have numerous state of the art features in their design

and will ensure the community is well protected during an emergency."

With more than 65 years in operation, SEM Fire and Rescue has extensive experience in equipping Victorian firefighters with the tools they need to keep both themselves and communities safe.

The CFA has 218 pumpers across the State, with these new pumpers set to replace existing medium and light pumpers which are approaching their end of life. The first of the 25 pumpers is due for completion in early 2025, with the rollout to continue thereafter.

