

From The Chief Officer.....



Number 88

"Our mission is to protect lives and property"

15th August 2013

Specialist Appliances

We have reached a major milestone in the commissioning of our new \$15m fleet of high-tech specialist appliances. On Monday 19 August, staff at Shepparton will begin the training on CFA's new Heavy Hazmat vehicle. The delivery of the training is the culmination of months of hard work to ensure these appliances are ready, safe and suitable to come into service. The Shepparton Heavy Hazmat will provide state of the art protection from chemical, biological and radiological incidents in the greater Shepparton area and beyond. It will replace the current ageing vehicle and provide our people and the community with a modern and sophisticated hazmat response capability anywhere in Victoria. Shortly after training in Shepparton, delivery and training of the other Heavy Hazmat vehicles will take place at Hallam, Corio and Ballarat. Two of the four Aerial Pumpers are in the final stages of commissioning, after what has been a lengthy and difficult delivery, hampered by a protracted worldwide recall of a vital part. We expect the Aerial Pumpers to follow shortly after the Heavy Hazmat vehicles go into service, within the coming months. These specialist vehicles are the most advanced in Australia, if not the world, and will provide CFA with advanced urban firefighting and emergency response capability to manage structure fires, hazardous material incidents and communications across the state.

DMO Eligibility for National Medal

CFA has recently approved the eligibility of **District Mechanical Officers** for the award of the National Medal. The duties of a District Mechanical Officer includes ***"provide direct support in fire with specialist expertise as part of CFA's emergency response operations for the suppression of structural fires and wildfires, motor vehicle accidents, trench/mine rescues and hazardous chemical containment"***. A condition of the approval, from this point forward, is that DMO's be required to hold the minimum skills qualification for wildfire firefighter. This requirement is not retrospective.

Joint Project with CSIRO

A contract has been signed with CSIRO to carry out a research project aimed at:

- furthering understanding of the physical processes by which curing state affects fire propagation;
- developing predictive equations that define fire propagation thresholds in grassland fuels under marginal burning conditions; and
- improving the accuracy of operational grassland fire spread models under partially cured situations.

The main research objectives of the project are to quantify the effect of curing degree in key fire behaviour characteristics in grasslands; evaluate currently used curing functions; and derive a new curing function.

Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross invites you to a **special panel event for emergency services professionals** interested in working overseas. The panel explores the challenges involved in international disaster preparedness, showcasing career pathways into humanitarian aid sector. When & Where: Thursday **29 August, 6pm – 8pm** at **Rydges North Melbourne**. Email Registration COB 17 August to amperry@redcross.org.au. More info from (03) 9341 7589.

"I have come to the frightening conclusion that I am the decisive element. It is my personal approach that creates the climate. It is my daily mood that makes the weather. I possess tremendous power to make a life miserable or joyous. I can be a tool of torture or an instrument of inspiration; I can humiliate or humour, hurt or heal."
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe