

From The Chief Officer.....



Number 86

"Our mission is to protect lives and property"

9th August 2013

Progress On National Emergency Medals:

Manager Volunteerism, Kate Harrap advises that CFA has received 3730 approved medal sets from the Australian Honours and Awards Secretariat (AH&AS) in Canberra. Another 1,000 nominations are still under consideration. It is likely that the first awards of this batch of medals will commence in September/October this year.

Some Great Local Media Grabs:

Media journalists have recently praised CFA members for their television interviews after two incidents. In the first, two Somerville residents, including CFA volunteer **James Dodge from Tyabb Brigade**, rescued a man whose car left the road and landed between two trees. The vehicle caught fire on landing. The impact woke neighbours, including James, who went outside, removed the victim from the vehicle and put out the fire with a garden hose. In the second, Kyabram Brigade responded to an incident where a two-year-old boy became trapped in the plug hole of the bath tub. **Kyabram CFA Captain, Mick Crompton** was interviewed and said it was one of the most difficult and strangest rescues he'd been involved in. These two incidents showcase CFA, and our leaders, in the community – great work!

Concept Heavy Tankers Rolling Out Soon:

The new 4.4R Concept Heavy Tankers are almost ready for delivery to the respective DMO's prior to delivery to the nominated brigades. These tankers are being issued around the state to be further assessed in this **"proof-of-concept"** stage. These trucks are also trialling an IVECO cab-chassis for the first time in CFA. Whilst specific brigades are receiving the tankers, it is expected that they will be showcased around the Districts to get as much operational user feedback as possible. These concept tankers are being allocated to: **Dimboola, Orbost, Rochester, Kilmore, Benalla, Diggers Rest, Ferntree Gully, Cobram, Bannockburn and Wodonga West.**

We Are CFA:

Marketing Manager Craig Rowston has advised of a new suite of communications materials (titled: ***We are CFA***) that are now available to help members explain and promote CFA to the community and stakeholders. The materials are designed to be simple and generic and can be used by all brigades and members for brigade activities in the community. The materials highlight what CFA does, describes the volunteer culture, our history and our work with the community to help protect lives and property. Materials include: **"We are CFA" video**; **"We are CFA" Power-Point presentation**; The video and Power-Point presentation can be found on the *Template Toolkit* (under 'Marketing Materials') which is located on CFA's intranet.

VFBV Darley Volunteer Leadership Program # 3:

Along with other guests, I attended the Darley Stud recently to celebrate the graduation of 16 CFA and 6 SES members from the Darley Leadership program. Congratulations to **Paul Baguerra (Rye); Tim Bennetti (Wandin); Eddie Boal (South Warrandyte); Cath Cornford (Bunyip); Tim Desmond (Dromana); Mark Jones (Stratford); Anthony Knight (Bunyip); Benjamin Lee (Eaglehawk); Brett Menzies (Werribee); Luke Morrison (Mt Eliza); Anthony Nolan (Sorrento); De-Arne Peel (Bayswater); Michael Rudd (Kinglake West); Heather Vile (Bacchus Marsh); Errol Werner (Gnarwarre); and Scott Werner (Gnarwarre).** Through the program co-sponsor, **Chisholm Institute**, participants graduated with a Certificate 4 in Frontline Management.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We only have today. Let us begin."

- Mother Theresa