

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017



VFBV

VOLUNTEER FIRE
BRIGADES VICTORIA



ABOUT VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES VICTORIA

OVERVIEW

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) is the body established under Victorian law, the Country Fire Authority Act, to represent CFA volunteers on all matters that affect their welfare and efficiency. VFBV is an independent Association operating autonomously from CFA, but at the same time working closely with CFA and other key stakeholders, to engage volunteers in CFA and other deliberations and provide advice on all matters affecting CFA volunteers. 95% of CFA Brigades elect to pay an annual financial affiliation contribution to the running of VFBV.

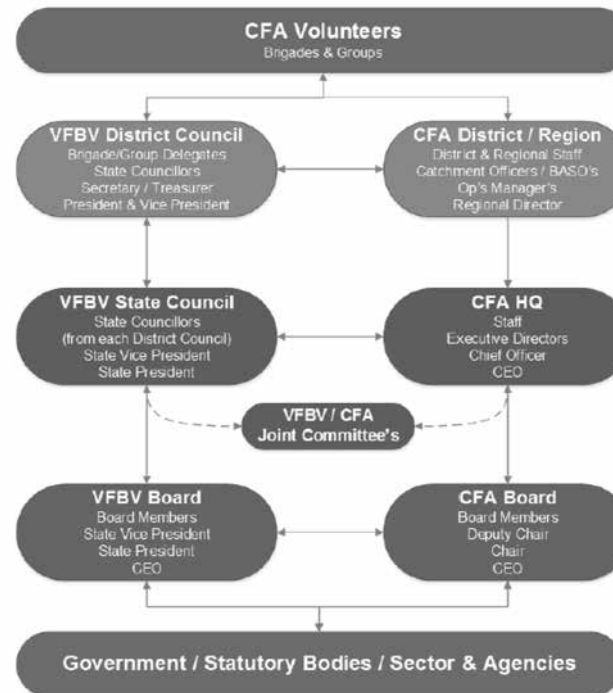
VFBV also represents Coast Guard Brigades in Victoria and has close working relationships with other emergency service volunteer associations across Victoria and Australia. VFBV and volunteer fire brigade associations in all states of Australia work together on issues of common interest and/or national relevance through the Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA).

VFBV is an organisation made up of the CFA volunteers it represents. VFBV works in partnership with the State Government, Emergency Management Victoria, the CFA Board and Management, Members of Parliament, official inquiries, municipal councils and instrumentalities, business and the public to proactively shape the future of emergency management.

VFBV actively partners with Government and emergency management agencies to ensure that volunteers and their communities remain actively involved in emergency management decision making at every level; through day to day practical work in VFBV/CFA Joint Committees, through the Ministerial level Volunteer Consultative Forum, and in working to ensure positive, practical results from reviews such as the Jones Inquiry and the Victorian Auditor General's Office (VAGO) report on Managing Emergency Services Volunteers.

Given its organisational background, expert knowledge, access to local information and depth of experience in matters affecting volunteers and the provision of a volunteer based service model, VFBV is best placed to provide advice on matters affecting volunteers. VFBV facilitates numerous regular state and local consultation forums and engagement activities to ensure that the views of volunteers are known and represented.

VFBV is independent from CFA and at the same time is an important part of CFA's foundation and future success. CFA is the community based Brigades that form it. CFA management and staff provide the framework, governance, leadership, systems and expertise to direct, coordinate, support and empower this network of community based CFA Brigades to deliver a remarkable and world envied service to the community. VFBV is an integral mechanism for enabling CFA to harness the leadership, knowledge and experience of volunteers and to engage volunteers in decision making about matters that affect their welfare and efficiency. In a community and volunteer based organisation such as CFA, genuine engagement with volunteers is vital. Robust, meaningful, respectful and honest communication and consultation is essential.



OUR VISION

Strong Volunteerism, Embraced to Build
Community Resilience for a Safer Victoria

OUR MISSION

To achieve our vision we will:

- be well informed of, and responsive to, grass roots volunteer needs, ideas and concerns;
- represent volunteers and work with CFA and the Victorian Government to ensure ongoing commitment to the principles outlined by the Volunteer Charter;
- be aware of strategic influences, opportunities and challenges confronting CFA volunteers, volunteerism generally and the decision makers who influence our future;
- be proactive and prepared to lead and contribute, as volunteer advocates, to decision making and future planning processes at all levels;
- build the profile and relationships required to position VFBV as an active and respected influence on decision making;
- deliver communication, representation and decision processes that keep volunteers informed and provide opportunity for volunteers to be consulted on matters that impact on them;
- resolve concerns and issues raised as quickly as possible;
- work collaboratively with CFA management to achieve a CFA culture, structure, and operating context that treats volunteers fairly, justly and reasonably.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc.

Reg No. A0057948T ABN 110 830 80403

Strong Volunteerism, Embraced to Build Community Resilience for a Safer Victoria

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 - 2017

For the year ended 30 June 2017

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Some photographs courtesy of: *FireWise*, Brigades, CFA and Keith Pakenham AFSM.



While this year has seen many VFBV achievements, our focus and mindset has been largely centred on advocating for volunteer respect and ensuring the volunteer voice is genuinely listened to.

As VFBV State President, I am particularly proud of the efforts of those in our volunteer network, from the Board, State Council, District Council and the many volunteers at Group and Brigade level. The dedication and effort shown by all to address issues as they have arisen has been remarkable.

As a long serving CFA volunteer, I am proud that despite this year being a challenge for all volunteers with the very core of our structure and ethic being challenged, we continue to put our communities first and turn out 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and all volunteers should feel proud of their continued commitment in protecting their communities and protecting our state.

This year has seen VFBV continue to strengthen with most Brigades across the State now affiliated. It is this support that ensures VFBV remains a viable and truly representative organisation capable of addressing volunteer issues effectively with knowledge and confidence.

We have come a long way since the amalgamation of the two Volunteer Associations in 2008, only 9 years ago. Our Association has a history of over 120 years, with the Victorian Urban Fire Brigades Association (formerly the Victorian Country Fire Brigades' Association) being formed in 1885, and the Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association (formerly the Victorian Bush Fire Brigades' Association) being formed in 1928, both existing long before the formation of CFA in 1944. Next year will see the 10th anniversary of VFBV as the unified voice for all CFA volunteers across Victoria and we will celebrate that milestone and recall the many significant achievements made for volunteers over that time, as well as celebrating the Association's past history of over 130 years.

As Captain of a volunteer Brigade with nearly 50% female membership, it is pleasing to see diversity increasing throughout the VFBV network. This is evident in many aspects of what we do including the VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network which is now established in most Districts, the new VFBV Delegate Development Program that centres on engaging diversity and record numbers of young women competing at this year's Junior State Championships. All of this bodes well for a broader diversity within future CFA volunteer ranks.

It is always fantastic to see our junior volunteers competing hard at the annual State Championships. This year nearly 800 junior volunteer participants competed at the two Junior State Championships. These young enthusiastic members are the future of volunteerism and the CFA alike, and many will become volunteer firefighters, VFBV and CFA leaders, as well as community leaders and contributors. These juniors are our successors and we have a responsibility to nurture their growth and success.

On a sadder note, the year saw the departure of some very respected people and I want to recognise and once again thank those who suffered the consequences of standing firm on their principles, namely Emergency Services Minister Jane Garrett, CFA Board Members, CFA CEO Lucinda Nolan, CFA Chief Officer Joe Buffone, MFB Chief Officer Peter Rau, and many other senior CFA volunteers and paid personnel.

As State President and on behalf of the VFBV Board, I thank all VFBV staff for their contribution and considerable effort this year. I would particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding commitment of our Chief Executive Officer Andrew Ford and Executive Officer Adam Barnett. We are indeed fortunate to have such committed and high calibre people leading VFBV and representing CFA Brigades and volunteers.

Finally I would like to sincerely thank my fellow Board members, State Council and District Council members for your support, contribution and involvement across the VFBV and CFA network.

Nev Jones, AFSM
State President



As we look back on the past year, I am sure most members and volunteers would agree that it has been a very challenging year, but from any turmoil there is often good to emerge and it has been extremely pleasing to see the exponential growth in the numbers of volunteers who are now deeply connected and active within VFBV.

Brigades across Victoria are more connected with VFBV than ever; our VFBV State, District and Brigade delegates are more informed and active than ever, and I thank all volunteers for the tremendous activity and support over the past year in substantially raising the profile of volunteer issues.

VFBV affiliation levels this year are at a new record high with 95% of Brigades affiliated with VFBV and 90% subscribing to the VFBV Welfare Fund.

We have made great progress in establishing our VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network, with active Youth Panels now established in most Districts. With VFBV support some of the Youth Panels have commenced working on a number of projects, they are engaging with their District Councils, attending District Council meetings and two Youth Network members currently sit on State VFBV/CFA Joint Committees – the Joint Volunteerism Committee and the Joint Communications & Technology Committee.

There is justifiably a huge emphasis currently on encouraging all of us to embrace greater diversity in CFA, including a need to encourage more women in CFA. The signs are positive for the future if we look at the young people coming through the Brigade teams at this year's

State Championships – with 30% of this year's junior competitors being young women.

VFBV's Volunteer Leadership Program continues its success with 45 graduates this year, and with a very high graduation success rate, making the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program one of the highest graduation/completion rates in the tertiary sector. This brings our total graduate numbers to 277, with another 52 scholarships currently working through our next program.

Of significance was VFBV's successful campaign to achieve a change to the Federal Fair Work Act (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) that protects volunteers and ensures the volunteer nature of CFA cannot be undermined by an industrial agreement that restricts or limits CFA's ability to recognise, value, respect or promote the contribution of its volunteers to the wellbeing and safety of the community. The amendment also protects the powers of the CFA Chief Officer from being undermined or overridden on matters affecting volunteers.

Our aim during this campaign was ensuring that industrial arrangements do not try to dismantle the fully integrated nature of CFA, that they don't discriminate against CFA members simply because they choose not to be paid, and that volunteers can continue to deliver CFA services without interference from external agreements that over-reach far beyond normal IR matters such as pay and conditions.

Key VFBV achievements this year, which we should all be proud of include:

- Volunteer support for VFBV is at an all-time high, with 95% of Brigades affiliated with VFBV, and nine out of ten subscribing to the Welfare Fund.
- Achieving a change to the Federal Fair Work Act that protects volunteers.
- VFBV provided practical assistance to Brigades and Groups applying for VESEP grants, with 179 applications successfully sharing \$9.3 Million.
- A record 3,066 volunteers participated in the VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey, as well as

- thousands more emergency volunteers across the sector and nationally participating in VFBV specifically tailored versions of the survey.
- The CFA/VFBV Digital Scanner subsidy program VFBV proposed and negotiated with CFA, has saved Brigades and Groups over \$3 Million.
- The VFBV Welfare Fund has assisted 46 volunteers suffering financial stress/hardship.
- Almost 1,800 volunteer members competed at this year's VFBV State Championships.
- VFBV's Multi-Agency Youth Network continues to grow with Youth Panels now established and working with VFBV support in most Districts.
- 45 volunteer members successfully graduated this year's VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program, gaining the nationally recognised Certificate IV in Leadership & Management.
- The launch of VFBV's newly developed *Delegate Development Program: Engaging Diversity*, which provides practical skills and knowledge to VFBV Brigade delegates at the Brigade/Group level.
- District Councils, State Council and VFBV/CFA Joint Committees resolving dozens of day to day issues and shaping decisions on key CFA issues.

I want to personally thank the VFBV Board members, State Councillors, District Council officers, all VFBV and Brigade delegates and the volunteers at all levels of VFBV, for their efforts, work and support.

Thanks also to VFBV's small staff team for their tireless efforts, contribution and work to serve our membership. I particularly thank and acknowledge Executive Officer Adam Barnett for his absolute dedication and commitment on all matters in representing the interests of volunteers, and for his assistance to myself and the Board in leading VFBV.

Andrew Ford
Chief Executive Officer

Faced with a challenging year, VFBV has continued to successfully advocate for CFA volunteers on various platforms and contribute to the continuous improvement of Victoria's fire services in many important ways.

While the latter half of the year has been dominated by uncertainty caused by the State Government's proposed Fire Services Legislation reform, VFBV has kept focus on all aspects of our portfolio and delivered pleasing results. Some highlights follow that are further discussed in this Annual Report.

- VFBV's representation of CFA volunteers continues to strengthen with a new high of around 95% of Brigades across Victoria affiliated with VFBV.
- VFBV's Welfare Fund is supported by over 90% of Brigades across Victoria, and this year distributed over \$176,000 to 46 volunteers and their families.
- The various VFBV/CFA Joint Committees have successfully advanced many issues during the year, including the continued roll out of the Digital Scanner Subsidisation Program that has seen over 10,000 scanners supplied to Brigades across Victoria, representing a saving of around \$3M to volunteers. Another notable achievement is the successful adoption by Government of the reduced speed limits for motorists passing emergency services vehicles. VFBV actively advocated for such change.
- Over the year the VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network has grown with over 130 young volunteer delegates formally joining to represent their District.
- A further 45 volunteers graduated from the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program this year, making the total graduates to 277 since 2010.
- A record 3,066 CFA volunteers participated in this year's VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey, with results studied by VFBV, CFA and EMV to better understand volunteer opinions.
- VFBV provided assistance to many Brigades and Groups applying for a VESEP grant this year, with 179 Brigade and Group applications successfully sharing in \$9.3M distributed by Government.
- A VFBV supported project for secondary students won the Education Award at this year's Fire Awareness Awards.
- The new VFBV Brigade Delegate Development Program, engaging diversity, was launched this year with courses held in 4 Districts. Courses in other Districts will be held over the next 2 years.
- VFBV has contributed to various official Committees and Inquires over the year. Notably, VFBV successfully campaigned for amendments to the Federal Fair Work Act (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) that protects volunteers and ensures the volunteer nature of CFA cannot be undermined by an industrial agreement. Also of significance has been the strong and consistent advocacy for volunteers in the face of significant State Government led fire services restructure which VFBV believes to be ideologically and inappropriately motivated by its narrow industrial relations agenda.
- VFBV facilitated discussions and supported the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission as part of an independent review into equity and diversity of the State's fire services.
- Surge capacity research and modelling has continued to advance with over 50,000 people viewing our online education material. VFBV considers it critical that surge capacity be enhanced to meet future needs across Victoria, and that statements describing Victoria's surge capacity are evidence based.
- Brigade competition was strong with over 1,800 competitors involved at the 3 State Championship events held across Victoria. Notably of the 800 Junior competitors this year, 30% comprised young women representing their Brigade, and competing in fully integrated teams.
- Throughout the year, CFA Brigades responded to 43,261 incidents including 29,737 emergency incidents, with 62,464 Brigade turnouts, protecting over 3.4 million Victorians, 60% of suburban Melbourne, regional cities and all of country Victoria.
- Overall, VFBV remains in a good financial position, enabling it to serve Victoria's CFA volunteers well into the future.

Membership of the VFBV is via affiliation at Brigade level. This ensures all volunteers within a Brigade can access VFBV’s member services and are represented with a voice to their local VFBV District Council.

VFBV AFFILIATION RATES CONTINUE TO CLIMB

VFBV’s representation of CFA’s volunteers continues to strengthen with a new record high of 95% of Victoria’s 1,200 CFA Brigades affiliating with VFBV for the 2016/17 financial year.

After a challenging year, culminating with the announcement of the Government’s fire services review in the last quarter, it is very rewarding that we finished the end of the financial year with record levels of membership and support.

Districts 22, 23 and 27 achieved 100% Brigade affiliation, while Districts 2, 8 and 17 achieved 99% and Districts 6, 12 and 24 achieved 98%. Overall, this is an excellent result.

The continued strong support from Brigades can be attributed to the hard work and good local representation of VFBV District Councils, Brigade delegates and State Council delegates. The support can also be attributed to VFBV involvement with the many beneficial and practical projects that assist volunteerism and Brigade operations like the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Scholarships program; the VFBV Volunteer Welfare & Efficiency Survey; the Brigade Delegate Development program; the digital scanner subsidisation program advocated by VFBV and run in partnership with CFA which provided thousands of subsidised digital scanners to Brigades; the affiliation related benefits of additional involvement in VFBV forums and decisions and eligibility for the VFBV Welfare Fund.

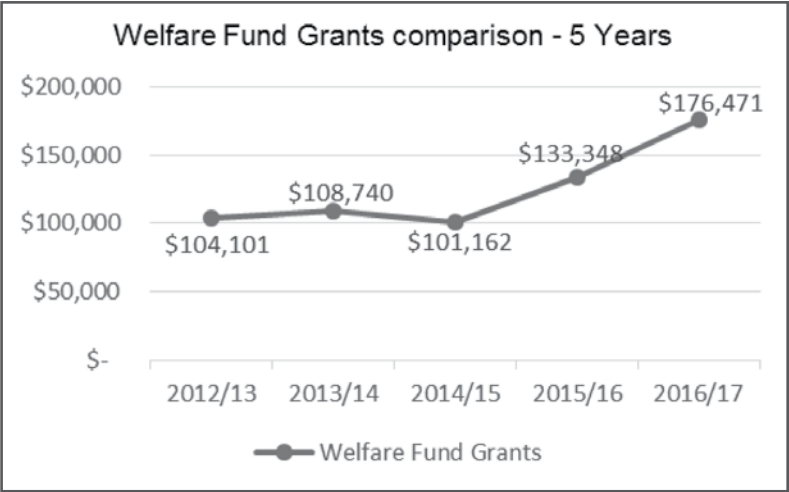
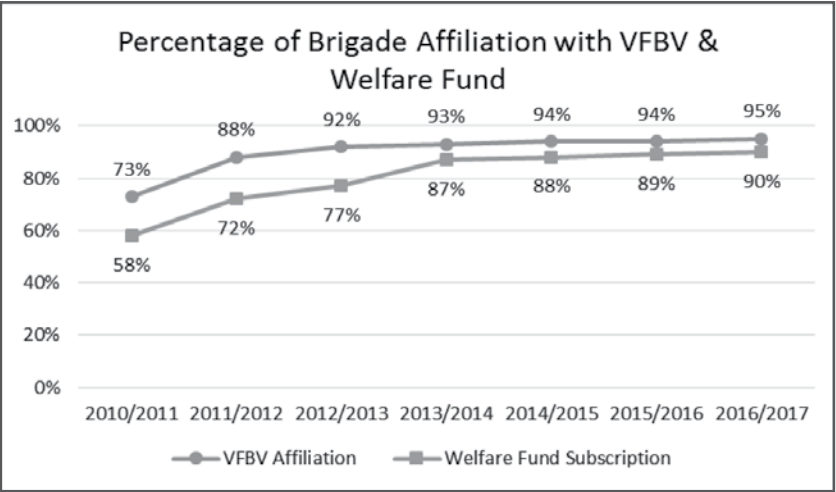
Brigade membership of the VFBV Welfare Fund has risen to another record high, with 1,069 Brigades subscribing for the 2016/17 financial year – almost 90% of CFA Brigades.

In 2016/17, the Welfare Fund distributed \$176,471 to assist 46 volunteer members or their families who were experiencing financial hardship.

Since its creation in 1913, the VFBV Welfare Fund has assisted 1,111 volunteers in need by distributing more than \$1.6 Million. Over the last 10 years alone, the Fund has provided grants of nearly \$1.4 Million, with 100% of received applications being approved by the Welfare Fund Committee of Management over the last 12 months.

The VFBV Welfare Fund is run as a Government approved Charity under Australian Taxation Office rules, and is managed by a Committee of Management comprising six long serving CFA volunteers. The Fund is independently audited annually, with all operating and administrative costs covered by VFBV. This ensures that every dollar earned by the Fund’s investments and subscriptions goes to assisting volunteers in need. Typical cases involve volunteers who are facing significant financial difficulty due to prolonged illness, bereavement, loss of earnings, or the accommodation and travel costs associated with supporting a family member undertaking medical treatment or hospitalisation.

The VFBV Welfare Fund grants are financed by Brigade subscriptions and the interest earned on the Fund’s invested capital. This enables the equity to pay grants and also maintain the Fund’s asset capital base to ensure support to CFA volunteers in need for generations to come.



OVERVIEW

VFBV’s day to day work is based on volunteer involvement at every level and an organisational structure that supports the development of volunteer input to policy, major projects and issues from the local and state-wide arena.

This work involves our 21 District Councils, State Council, VFBV/CFA Joint Committees, working parties and specific issues inputs covering:

- Continuous scanning to understand relevant and emerging topics of interest;
- Gather relevant information;
- Validate the evidence and prepare options;
- Conduct engagement and communication with our broader membership;
- Drive the issues process to resolution;
- Prepare VFBV position papers for consideration;
- Manage the documentation and organisational memory regarding volunteer views.

Further information about the work of our Joint Committees is included later in this Annual Report. Some key issues that were addressed in 2016/17 include:

FIRST AID TRAINING

Delegates on the VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee continued its advocacy on First Aid Training arrangements. VFBV has advocated for: the removal of capped or limited access to First Aid courses; increases to first aid training budgets; and the removal of District/Region budgets for first aid and for it to be replaced with a statewide based budget that is fully costed and supported by additional Government funding.

VFBV has strongly urged CFA to investigate adopting a multi-year First Aid Training strategy, that would allow members to participate in shorter annual CPR (only) refreshers, and then only be required to attend their full refresher course every 3 years in line with the Australian Standards.

VFBV also urged CFA to investigate other Flexible Learning modes being offered by St John and other contractors in the industry, that allows participants to complete some pre-course work (either on-line or by hard copy pre-course reading and activities) that allows the face to face time to be better utilised doing practical simulations and not taken up by theory, and allows the 2 day courses being condensed to just one day.

Pleasingly – CFA has acted on many of VFBV’s recommendations, and throughout 2016/17 First Aid Training has been significantly increased and better resourced and continues to be improved and supported.

40 KPH SPEED LIMITS

Over 2016/17 the VFBV/CFA Joint Operations Committee has continued to advocate for a 40 kph speed limit for vehicles passing any stationary emergency service vehicle displaying its red and blue flashing lights.

VFBV has long pointed out that firefighters attending incidents on or near roads are at significant health and safety risk from passing vehicles. For many years, VFBV has called for 40 kph speed limits similar to those for roadside workers, along with strong public campaigns to educate motorists of the dangers.

It is pleasing that this has been adopted with a new road rule recently issued. This is another practical demonstration of how VFBV successfully advocates for volunteer wellbeing.

PRESUMPTIVE LEGISLATION

VFBV has long campaigned for presumptive legislation to provide simpler and fairer cancer compensation for all Victorian firefighters. Our core and fundamental principle is that presumption for both volunteer and career firefighters should be treated equally. Cancer and smoke don’t discriminate – so why should legislation?

Following presumptive legislation being passed in Western Australia this year, presumptive legislation is now in place in all States except NSW and Victoria, with South Australia and Queensland’s legislation leading the way and providing equal treatment for career and volunteer firefighters.

In more recent 2016/17 developments, consideration of Presumptive Legislation in Victoria has been rolled up with the Fire Services Reform agenda. VFBV has advocated for the separation and subsequent independent consideration of these two issues and changes to ensure paid staff and volunteers are treated equally.

PLANNED BURNS AS TRAINING

VFBV has been advocating for a more holistic approach to planned burning, and for CFA to promote the training advantages of volunteers participating in planned burns.

Planned burns allow less experienced volunteers to observe and learn about fire behaviour as well as an opportunity for experienced volunteers to pass on their knowledge to others.

Volunteers on the VFBV/CFA Joint Community Safety Committee have worked with CFA to see recent planned burns being developed into exercises that include not just fire behaviour and fuel load interactions, but also aspects of weather behaviour, impact on flora and fauna, bush heritage and Indigenous fire management practices.



The “Burn Camps’ conducted this year have provided practical ‘hands-on’ experience for all involved including coaching and mentoring roles, and ensuring volunteer involvement across all aspects of the planned burn. These camps offer a great opportunity to train in realistic settings and gain extensive firefighting experience with complex burn scenarios.

CHAINSAW TRAINING

The VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee continues to advocate for greater member access and support to attain chainsaw qualifications and training.

Despite two Mobile Chainsaw Training trailers being developed through the Mobile Prop Project in 2015, a ban on paid instructors using these trailers resulted in widespread cancellation of CFA planned courses for volunteers during the year.

After long delays, CFA was finally able to resolve the outstanding issues and confirmed there was no restrictions on volunteer trainers and assessors using the trailers, which has allowed CFA to streamline and prioritise volunteer access to this much needed training.

DIGITAL SCANNER PROGRAM

The Digital Scanner Subsidisation Program advocated for by VFBV and run in partnership with CFA, has been an overwhelming success since it began in October 2015.

So far, around 10,500 digital scanners have been ordered and shipped to Brigades and Groups across the state. The subsidy budget has ensured savings to volunteers of over \$3 Million.

In many cases Brigade and Group members paid \$150 for a scanner, with the subsidy budget paying the other \$300 required for purchase. CFA is still accepting ‘Tier 3’ orders, which are available at a significantly reduced price due to the bulk orders placed during the subsidisation program, with CFA agreeing to a VFBV request to extend the contract with the supplier for a further year.

TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

After reports of differences in how volunteer travel reimbursements are paid and authorised in different CFA Regions and Districts, the VFBV/CFA Joint Volunteerism Committee has asked CFA to develop a state-wide Business Rule that will standardise and clarify arrangements.

VFBV’s long held position is that no volunteer should be out of pocket due to their volunteering. The Committee continues to advocate for improved access to CFA vehicles, including corporate pool vehicles, for travel to training and other CFA related activities.

HEAVY VEHICLE LICENCE TESTING COST REIMBURSEMENT

Over 2016/17 VFBV has been advocating for increased financial support to cover the reimbursement of heavy vehicle license testing for volunteers.

VFBV encouraged CFA to work with VicRoads to provide more flexible and practical solutions for volunteers to access Heavy Vehicle license testing. CFA agreed, and has been working closely with VicRoads to better recognise training and assessment provided by CFA endorsed Driver Instructors, including more streamlined license testing.

PAGER FAULT REPORTS

Over 2016/17, the VFBV/CFA Joint Communications & Technology Committee advocated for improved pager fault resolution processes and can report that the time taken to investigate issues has been significantly reduced. The three most common faults are: not receiving messages, physical damage to the pager and lost or stolen pagers.

VFBV encouraged volunteers to lodge EAS fault reports on any problems with pagers, which helps to identify network performance issues as well as monitoring the status of the pagers.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY MOBILE PROPS

Despite significant work and progress on the design of an electrical safety mobile trailer prop in 2014/15, CFA funding for the prop had lapsed leaving the project unfunded.

VFBV advocated for funding to be reinstated. Electrical Safety and especially skills maintenance for Low Voltage Fuse Removal has been identified as a state-wide gap for some time. As such the VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee considers the electrical safety mobile props would significantly improve volunteer capability and knowledge.

The prop trailers have been designed by subject matter experts drawn from both volunteer and career staff ranks, many of whom are licensed electricians.

PUMPING PIT RECOMMISSIONING

For many Brigades, pumping pits form the only safe, controlled and viable option for brigades to train in drafting and other related pump operations and skills maintenance.

VFBV advocated for CFA to commit to a remediation and recommissioning program for pumping pits since their use was temporarily suspended in February 2015 due to safety and health concerns. Since then Brigades have been forced to utilise alternative training locations such as dams, creeks and rivers, where water quality is often unknown.

As a result, CFA issued a Work Instruction on the Management of Pumping Pits and implemented a recommissioning process. Unfortunately, funding for pumping pit recommissioning is expected to be drawn from existing Region/District training budgets, with many Regions claiming insufficient funds to cover the works. The VFBV/CFA Joint Training Committee has requested CFA provide a central state-wide budget for the initiative.

ROP SAFETY CUSHIONS

The VFBV/CFA Joint Equipment & Infrastructure Committee supported an initiative by the Arcadia Brigade who designed a prototype cushion for use in vehicles with rear deck Roll Over Protection (ROP). The cushions are designed to minimize vibration and offer benefits in firefighter safety by reducing possible back injury and also increasing firefighter comfort on long duration trips.

On the recommendation of the Joint Committee, the Tanker ROP Safety Cushion prototypes were manufactured in Proban, Nomex and marine canvas and each were field and burn tested over the 2016/17 summer season. With overwhelmingly positive feedback, the Committee selected a design and material and recommended that a funding proposal be prepared to advance a retrofit rollout of the cushions to all Tankers with external ROP’s.

VFBV is now advocating for funding for rollout and will monitor progress. Thanks to the Arcadia Brigade for this proactive initiative.



BURNOVER VEHICLE ENTRAPMENT RESEARCH

Following a presentation to the Committee earlier in the year from CFA’s Research & Development team, the Committee requested that CFA use this research to create a new burn-over training video that uses historical vision and vision from field testing filmed in February this year.

The research team closely duplicated conditions similar to those experienced during the tragic Linton Fires in 1998 to test the response of CFA’s crew protection systems.

Three vehicles were tested, a tanker with ROP and crew protection, an Ultra-light with Gel coating and an Ultra light with foam coating. All vehicles were relatively unscathed with the temperature in the cabin of the tanker sitting at around 40 degrees whilst the outside temperature rose well above 600 degrees. This type of research is critical to ensuring firefighter safety and educating members on how the crew protection safety systems work, build confidence in those systems and the importance of situational awareness and entrapment procedures.

VFBV MULTI-AGENCY YOUTH NETWORK

VFBV has long recognised the need to encourage youth participation in the fire services and has created a Multi-Agency Youth Network.

The network has been a success story and continues to build, attracting over 130 young volunteers, including 13 from Life Saving Victoria, VICSES, Red Cross and Australian Volunteer Coast Guard. VFBV also hopes to attract in the near future young members from the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry and St John.

Active 'Youth Panels' are also now operating in all but three Districts, with young volunteer members exchanging ideas and communicating across the State via the VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network Facebook page and via District Council meetings. Two Youth Network members also currently sit on VFBV/CFA Joint Committees.

With support from VFBV, some exciting achievements and projects being developed for volunteer feedback and CFA consideration by our Youth Panels include:

- A mentoring system at the Brigade, Group and District levels.
- Skills Maintenance Training Sessions: review resource materials and assessment tasks for each training qualification course and develop Brigade level training sessions that would annually re-qualify members in that competency.
- Explore an Emergency Services ID App to register all firefighters, their skill set, qualifications, turnout/incident experience and their Captain's endorsement; the App will page all firefighters to a fire call within a turnout area.
- Investigate ways to fast track achieving Minimum Skills through Brigade delivery.
- Explore how members can maintain an interest in the Brigade for extended periods when not able to turn out or assist.
- Explore "making fire brigades the centre of the community" again, and bring the fun and family aspect back into Brigades.
- Create fun competitions with prizes and incentives to train.
- Explore cross training opportunities with other agencies, with agencies benefiting from different approaches and techniques; also a push for prior learning

acknowledgement between agencies.

- Write and produce an "induction" package, including a printed brochure and accompanying video that appeals to younger volunteers.
- The formulation of a 'Can I, Can't I?' style campaign that includes a media guide and subsequent training program/package that focuses on the protocols of digital photography, inclusion of social media policies and the education offered to Brigade members (as part of an induction package for new volunteers as well as general info for existing members).
- Explore the idea of creating an interconnected CFA paging system using mobile phones instead of pagers.

The App and pager projects are part of a theme that is building up among the young members of the Youth Network regarding the need to make better use of modern technology.

The VFBV Multi-Agency Youth Network Facebook page has already become a useful forum for discussions and many groups are planning projects to encourage greater use of the internet, such as lodging FIRS reports, and for wider access to VFBV District Council meetings.

Two field meetings were held in early 2017 between members of VFBV's Multi-Agency Youth Network and the Victorian Equal Opportunities and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC). Our young volunteers showed a high level of maturity and expressed a broad range of issues that were reflective of young volunteers across the organisation. VEOHRC assured our young volunteers that the issues raised would inform the VEOHRC Review into equity and diversity, and the Commissioner was very grateful for the time and energy of all the participants.



VFBV VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

The VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program is offered to volunteers from CFA, Ambulance Victoria, Australian Volunteer Coast Guard, Life Saving Victoria, VICSES and St John, and has already produced over 270 graduates with many in leadership positions within their agencies, volunteer representative organisations or local communities.

In 2016/17, 45 volunteers successfully graduated from the VFBV Volunteer Leadership Program, each obtaining the nationally recognised Certificate IV in Leadership & Management (BSB42015). The program continues to have a very high success rate, which we are told is one of the highest graduation/completion rates in the tertiary sector.

This year's participants worked as two groups in Woodend and Dandenong on practical projects in the areas of fatigue management, diversity, training, technology, and volunteer recruitment, retention and succession.

The VFBV Volunteer Leadership Scholarship course has been designed for volunteers, with a mix of lectures and interactive activities designed to suit the needs of adult students, as well as ample support using distance learning methods. The course involves 12 units, eight face to face days (six Saturdays and two Sundays), with course work and assignments spread throughout the year, and includes units on: leadership, decision making, planning, safety and risk management, team effectiveness, making presentations, managing projects, and engaging the community.



VOLUNTEER WELFARE AND EFFICIENCY SURVEY

A record 3,066 CFA volunteers participated in the 2016 VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey, along with thousands more who participated in specifically tailored versions of the survey for emergency volunteers from VICSES, Ambulance Victoria, Red Cross Victoria, Life Saving Victoria, St John Ambulance, The Salvation Army and the Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry.

This year VFBV also hosted a nationwide version of the survey for fire agency volunteers in other states on behalf of their associations, under the auspices of the national Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA).

VFBV designed the survey in 2012 to measure volunteers' views on issues like how well they are being supported, trained, recruited and retained by the CFA, and how well they are supported at the Brigade level.

The annual VFBV Volunteer Welfare and Efficiency Survey is a co-operative process, and each year's results are compared with previous years' figures to show trends in how volunteers feel on issues. The data is analysed and developed into a Survey Report which will be studied by VFBV, CFA, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) and the State Government.

Results are available on the VFBV website.

VOLUNTEER EMERGENCY SERVICES EQUIPMENT PROGRAM (VESEP)

VFBV congratulates the 179 CFA Brigades and Groups who shared in \$9.3 Million this financial year, through the Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) grants for Brigade operational gear, improvements to facilities and emergency vehicles.

VESEP is a vitally important program now in its 16th year, and VFBV has worked with successive State Governments on its original design and subsequent improvements. The program provides one off grants of up to \$100,000 for emergency vehicles, equipment and facilities improvements, and VFBV provides practical help to Brigades and Groups making VESEP applications.

Most VESEP funding is provided on a 'two for one' basis as a top up to local fundraising. Hardship provisions are also

available to Brigades that can demonstrate they are unable to fund the one third contribution. This year, CFA added \$2.8 Million for state-wide initiatives, among those being the provision of Cold Climate Jackets that were field tested and improved with the direct involvement of VFBV volunteer representatives. Cold climate jackets were designed to provide protection for firefighters from the cold and elements during non-fire duties and emergencies.

AWARD FOR KIDS' PROGRAM

A VFBV supported project for secondary students has won the Education Award at this year's Fire Awareness Awards, thanks to local CFA volunteers and the Maryborough Education Centre.

The 'Emergency Services Journey' takes Year 9 students to their local Brigade, Police and Ambulance stations to see how each service operates and learn practical skills.

What began as a 'Brigades in Schools' program run by the Maryborough Brigade in 2004, the program has been developed into an innovative course by Samantha Rothman, teacher at the Maryborough Education Centre, volunteer member of Maryborough Brigade and VFBV Board member. The students achieve certificates in Life Saving skills and First Aid with over 40 students participating each year and several having gone on to become CFA volunteers.



Pictured: CEO Andrew Ford, Maryborough Brigade Captain Darryl Wagstaff AFSM, teacher and VFBV Board member Samantha Rothman, and Maryborough Education Centre Principal David Sutton, at the Fire Awareness Awards.

NEW BRIGADE DELEGATE DEVELOPMENT

In 2016/17 VFBV launched its newly developed course – 'Delegate Development Program: Engaging Diversity', with two courses conducted at Lilydale (combined Districts 13 & 14) and at Warragul (combined Districts 9 & 27). Brigade delegates, BMT members and other volunteers attended.

Mapped to national competencies from the Australian Public Safety units, the course has been designed on the premise that if we want to attract, encourage and support a diverse range of leaders and delegates now and into the future, what kind of skills will our current leaders need to have, to do that effectively?

The course has been designed to empower our delegates to more effectively research issues and gather important information from their Brigade before raising issues at District Council, to ensure local problems are solved locally at the lowest possible level.

Available to all current and aspiring VFBV Brigade/Group delegates and office holders, the 2 day course provides delegates with tools and techniques to improve and develop their issues resolution, communication skills, problem solving, decision making, teamwork, relationship and network building, strategic thinking and leadership.

The course has the objective to increase the level of engagement between District Councils, Brigades, Groups and individuals, and help delegates be more involved with issues on a broader scale.

VFBV will be offering courses to all Districts over the coming two years.

VFBV considers this a very important investment in volunteer leadership skills, providing delegates across the state the chance to gain new skills, network among peers, improve teamwork and communication and assist with succession planning for their District Council.

This year, VFBV represented volunteers before a number of official inquiries, Parliamentary Committees and reviews, with preparation of submissions, briefings and formal evidence involving hundreds of hours of research and consultation with volunteers, feedback from our 21 District Councils from across the state, local workshops, and reference to the submissions made by Brigades and individual volunteers.

FIKSVILLE INQUIRY'S FINAL REPORT

The State Government responded to the Fiskville Inquiry's Final Report endorsing all recommendations either fully or in part. VFBV hoped the Report would be the catalyst for urgent action to replace the significant capacity lost from its closure.

The CFA Board closure of the site came in 2015 after the discovery that water quality problems were persisting in spite of the reassurances of WorkSafe, the EPA, technical experts and the CFA. VFBV has consistently called for urgent remedial action at the site, independent and expert monitoring, ongoing support for everyone affected and the urgent replacement of Fiskville's vital training capacity.

VFBV was therefore very pleased with the recent announcement that a new state-of-the-art Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre is to be established in Ballan to support training programs into the future.

VEOHRC REVIEW

In 2016 the Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission (VEOHRC) commenced an 'Independent Equity and Diversity Review' of CFA and MFB to examine the nature and prevalence of discrimination, including bullying and sexual harassment, amongst CFA and MFB employees and volunteers.

The Review came out of the State Government's Fire Services Review, which recommended: "the fire services take the lead in advancing the sector's collective effort to increase diversity in the sector, through making a genuine and public commitment to understanding and addressing harassment and discriminatory practices and behaviours in their organisations, and launching a process for doing so". (Recommendation 7).

The VEOHRC Review Team conducted surveys, focus groups and interviews to assess the workplace culture and the experience of discrimination (including bullying) and sexual harassment among CFA and MFB members.

VFBV worked closely with VEOHRC by supporting members who took part, and facilitating VEOHRC's attendance at District Council meetings and the State Council meeting held in December 2016. VFBV worked with Districts and VEOHRC to ensure that volunteers across the State had an opportunity to participate and have their say in this important Review.

The VEOHRC Review Team will make recommendations to CFA and MFB with their Report due around mid-2017.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO FIRE SEASON PREPAREDNESS

VFBV's presentation and evidence to the 'Inquiry into Fire Season Preparedness' by the Victorian Parliament's Environment and Planning Standing Committee covered the vital importance of CFA volunteers to fire season preparedness, the essential nature of CFA's volunteer surge capacity, the interrelationship of fire service delivery in outer metropolitan Melbourne and Victoria's fire season preparedness and the importance of CFA's integrated model for managing this interrelationship.

FEDERAL SENATE INQUIRY

This year VFBV successfully campaigned for and achieved a change to the Federal Fair Work Act that protects volunteers and ensures the volunteer nature of CFA cannot be undermined by an industrial agreement that overreached well beyond pay and conditions and tried to interfere and impact upon volunteers.

VFBV provided extensive material and detail to a Federal Senate Inquiry considering the proposed Federal Legislation, Fair Work Act Amendment (Respect for Emergency Services Volunteers) Bill 2016. A major breakthrough was achieved with the Bill being approved by the Senate on 10th October 2016, and given Royal Assent which confirms these changes as law.

SELECT COMMITTEE INQUIRY

In May 2017, the State Government announced major structural reform of Victoria's Fire Services via the splitting of CFA, separating paid operational employees and volunteers into different organisations. This was articulated in the proposed Firefighters' Presumptive Rights Compensation and Fire Services Legislation Amendment (Reform) Bill 2017 tabled in Parliament.

The Bill was passed in the Legislative Assembly (Lower House) on 6th June 2017, but did not gain the support required in the Legislative Council (Upper House). The legislation was referred to a Select Committee established to examine the restructuring of Victoria's fire services as contemplated by the proposed legislation.

Submissions to the Select Committee were open until 7th July 2017, with the Select Committee to report to Parliament no later than 8th August 2017.

There was unprecedented conversation throughout our VFBV networks, District Councils and State Council and VFBV made a formal submission to the Select Committee incorporating the extensive and comprehensive input received from volunteers across the State.

Volunteers requested VFBV reinforce their dissatisfaction with the complete lack of consultation prior to the legislation being tabled in Parliament and also their huge disappointment that the proposed legislation immorally linked the two totally separate issues – Firefighter Presumptive Rights Compensation and the proposed restructuring of Victoria's fire services.

VFBV arranged for a comprehensive and detailed legal analysis of the Firefighter Presumptive Right Compensation portion of the bill, urging law makers to remove the blatant and unfair discrimination of volunteers from the proposed legislation – urging Government to honour its promise that it would be modelled on the fair and equal Queensland legislation.

Volunteer Surge Capacity

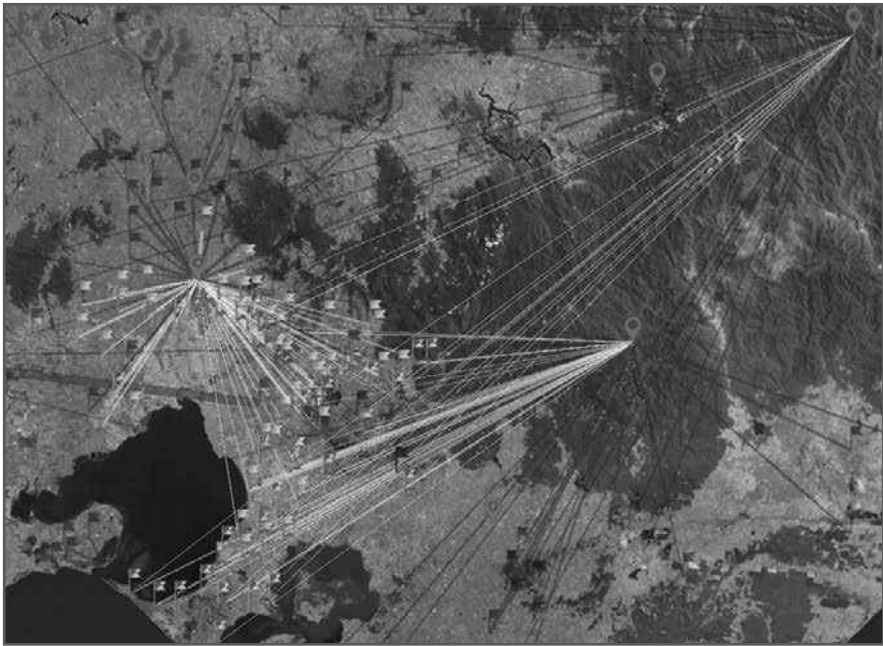
This year VFBV continued to work with the University of Melbourne's Centre for Disaster Management and Public Safety on an evidence based, computer-generated time lapse tool that visually demonstrates CFA's huge volunteer surge capacity in real time.

VFBV's surge capacity modelling uses CFA incident response data to spatially depict how Brigades from all over the state contribute to CFA's ability to deal with multiple and concurrent major incidents while still protecting Brigade's local community. This depiction has been further updated and enhanced this year to provide the ability to turn on or off particular Brigades or different types of brigades such as integrated Brigades or those Brigades in the Greater Melbourne Area, so that they are shown on the visualisation in different colours.

The model was presented at an international data modelling conference in Taiwan where it was well received. VFBV has also been approached with a request for our surge capacity modelling to be included and used for Ph.D. work in understanding the reliance on volunteers and understanding Victoria's demands on its volunteer workforce. This is a new field of exciting work that will further reinforce the vital importance of volunteer surge capacity for Victoria, being one of the most fire prone areas of the world.

A practical example of the critical importance of volunteer surge capacity is shown below where modelling over four days in mid-February 2013 shows CFA responded to 695 incidents with more than 2,500 trucks in the field, many from the greater Melbourne area. The map uses CFA turnout data from that time and shows crews responding to major, simultaneous fires at Donnybrook, Harrietteville and Aberfeldy. The simulation shows the dependence on predominantly volunteer crews from metropolitan Melbourne. Of 103 Brigades at the Donnybrook fire, 69 were from outer Melbourne and of 915 CFA personnel deployments, 711 were from the metro area with 98% being volunteers.

VFBV considers it is critical that any fire services reform being considered by the Government not only maintains, but also enhances volunteer surge capacity across Victoria.



VFBV Support Officers – strengthening District Councils

Our team of five VFBV Support Officers cover the entire State, and work directly with Brigades and the elected volunteer representatives of each VFBV District Council. They provide technical, administrative and leadership assistance and hands on support in each of CFA's five Regions. The Support Officers are also an important link in VFBV's Brigade engagement network that seeks constant feedback and input from volunteers, Brigades, District Councils and other local CFA Committees and processes.

VFBV Support Officers are all experienced CFA volunteers, many having occupied senior Brigade leadership positions and each one works on state-wide projects in addition to providing localised support and engagement of volunteers.

Amongst other things, VFBV Support Officers provide:

- advice and support with organisation and preparation to facilitate results focussed processes, forums, meetings and committees; and good member engagement;
- consultation support and follow up within VFBV and with CFA or others to ensure issues and concerns of interest to VFBV members are understood and appropriately addressed;
- analysis and research support to progress issues resolution, develop volunteer informed VFBV position/ policy and address emerging strategic opportunities/ challenges as required;
- targeted support to assist transparent, fair and timely action is taken to deal with member concerns relating to conflict, discipline and other volunteer support issues;
- personal networks and (volunteer accessible) field presence to ensure up to date intelligence on issues affecting volunteer welfare and efficiency and escalate issues as appropriate.

Fire Brigade competition has a very long history in the CFA and has served a very important part of Brigade readiness and skills.

Competition is an ideal opportunity for members to keep fit and improve their firefighting skills in a competitive environment. Through these competitions, members develop a strong sense of teamwork and camaraderie both within their own Brigade and also with others.

The annual Championships are a culmination of a series of local competitions held each year and are an opportunity for members to compete with Brigades from all over the State and showcase their firefighting skills.

Each year three State Championship events are held in varying locations in Victoria, being the Rural (Junior & Senior), Urban Senior and Urban Junior Championships.

VFBV is very active in organising and running these events, with a dedicated committee that seeks ways to improve the competition and Championship events each year, and overseeing the rules, judges and officials and the running of each year's competitions.

This year all three State Championship events were outstandingly successful and a credit to the countless people who contributed to the pre planning, management, setting up, officiating and conduct of.

Almost 1,800 volunteers competed at the 2017 State Championships, with many more participating in various roles including coaching, local support, judging and officiating.

The Junior State Championships treated those who attended to a picture of thriving young volunteer participation, with just under 800 junior volunteer participants in total competing at Tatura and Wodonga.

Maryvale won the Urban Senior Championship for the second year in a row, and home team Tatura easily won its fourth successive Urban Junior State Championship title.

Beazley's Bridge A were the aggregate winning team at the Senior Rural Championship beating last year's winner Greta A, and Stuart Mill A won its first Junior title at the Rural Junior State Championship at Wodonga.

VFBV sincerely thanks the many people for their work and support in making these events so successful, and our sincere appreciation and thanks are extended to:

- CFA management and staff, particularly the DMO's and tower overseer's for their work and efforts prior to, during and following each Championship;
- The three local committees: Tatura Competition Committee, Bendigo & Districts Fire Brigades Championship Committee and the District 24 Championship Committee, for their huge contribution and effort in hosting these successful events;
- To the many volunteer officials and judges, without whom these events could not be conducted;
- To our major sponsor Hino and the many other sponsors and trophy donors for their generous support;
- To the Brigades, competitors, coaches and the families and friends who support the competitors, ensuring the continuation of our competitions and Championships.



URBAN SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Bendigo hosted its 30th State Urban Championship in March 2017, with Maryvale winning its 16th State Championship title with 88 points.

Maryvale's win was closely contested by Kangaroo Flat with both teams on almost equal points at the start of the final day of competition. However, Maryvale sealed its win with two first placings to Kangaroo Flat's one.

It is believed this year for possibly the first time, a female competitor has competed in the winning team of the A Section Hose & Reel 8's event, with Kangaroo Flat competitor Kate Dargaville winning this event with her teammates, which included her father David as Coach and her two brothers, Jackson and Thomas.

Tatura easily won the B Section aggregate with 75 points, with a couple of the Brigade's junior competitors now moving into the senior team, both juniors having been members of the Tatura team winning successive Junior State Championship titles for the past four years.

Pakenham convincingly won the C Section Aggregate with 84 points, from Hoppers Crossing 53 and Eaglehawk B 51.

2017 AGGREGATE RESULTS

A SECTION

1st	Maryvale	88 Points
2nd	Kangaroo Flat	77 Points
3rd	Narre Warren A	41 Points

B SECTION

1st	Tatura	75 Points
2nd	Benalla	45 Points
3rd	Geelong West	32 Points

C SECTION

1st	Pakenham	84 Points
2nd	Hoppers Crossing	53 Points
3rd	Eaglehawk B	51 Points

Dry Aggregate

1st	Maryvale	19.5 Points
2nd	Kangaroo Flat	13 Points
3rd	Drouin/Bunyip	11 Points

Wet Aggregate

1st	Maryvale	68 Points
=2nd	Kangaroo Flat & Tatura	64 Points

2017 VFBV STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

DISCIPLINE CONTEST

A SECTION

1st	Mildura	87.27%
2nd	Melton	86.36%
3rd	Bassendean WA	82.73%

B SECTION

1st	Patterson River	80.45%
2nd	Benalla	80.00%
3rd	Kyneton	76.82%

C SECTION

1st	Hoppers Crossing	87.27%
2nd	Eaglehawk B	85.91%
3rd	Knox Group	85.45%

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION

1st	Hoppers Crossing	95%
2nd	Melton	92%
3rd	Narre Warren	91%

2017 CHAMPION BRIGADE: Maryvale

2017 CHAMPION COMPETITOR: Matt Royal (Maryvale)

WA/VIC Challenge Event Winner: Victoria



RURAL SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Aggregate winners at the 61st Senior State Rural Championship were Division 1 Beazley's Bridge A with 52 points, from second placed Greta A with 42 points (winner of the last year's Division 1). Division 2 was easily won by Chiltern A with 56 points from Dunrobin/Nangeela C second on 38 points; and Sedgwick A won Division 3 with 32 points from Pearcedale B with 22 points.

The Championship was conducted by District 24 at Wodonga in April 2017 and this was the third State Championship held at Wodonga, the first being held in 1967, 50 years ago. Local Brigade Wodonga West entered two Teams with former CFA Board member Ross Coyle competing in the Wodonga West B team. Overall the Brigade had a successful day of competition gaining three event placings and winning the overall Discipline Award.

District 24 Host Committee did an excellent job, with outstanding support from OO Paul King AFSM, and all committee members are to be congratulated on their efforts. Next year's Rural Championships will be conducted by District 5 at Warrnambool.



2017 AGGREGATE RESULTS

DIVISION 1 AGGREGATE

1st	Beazley's Bridge A	52 Points
2nd	Greta A	42 Points
3rd	Napoleon/Enfield A	30 Points

DIVISION 2 AGGREGATE

1st	Chiltern A	56 Points
2nd	Dunrobin/Nangeela C	38 Points
3rd	Hurstbridge B	32 Points

DIVISION 3 AGGREGATE

1st	Sedgwick A	32 Points
2nd	Pearcedale B (on count back)	22 Points
3rd	Willaura B	22 Points

DISCIPLINE AWARD: Wodonga West Brigade

WINNERS OF THE SPRINTS:

Female Sprint: Sarah Hooper, Greta Brigade
Male Sprint: Nathan Hooper, Greta Brigade



2017 VFBV STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

URBAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Tatura won its fourth successive State Junior Championship with an impressive performance, coming first in 10 of the 18 events and creating a new record time in the Y Coupling 4 Competitors, Under 17 Years. The Tatura team had a significant lead in the final Grand Aggregate with 103 points from Melton A on 37 points and Harvey A (W.A.) on 34 points. Tatura also won both the Dry and Wet Aggregates, as well as both the Under 14 Years Aggregate and the Under 17 Years Aggregate.

Other strong performances came from Harvey and Melton. Melton had four teams competing and were 2nd in the Dry Aggregate, 2nd and 3rd in the Under 14 Years Aggregate, and 2nd in the Grand Aggregate. Harvey, who travelled from W.A. with two teams, was 2nd in the Under 17 Years Aggregate and 3rd in the Dry, Wet and Grand Aggregates.

The Championships were again held in Tatura and attracted more than 700 junior competitors aged between 11 and 16 years old, with 78 teams from across the state including the two from Harvey, Western Australia.

2017 AGGREGATE RESULTS

GRAND AGGREGATE

1st	Tatura	103 Points
2nd	Melton A	37 Points
3rd	Harvey A	34 Points

UNDER 14 YEARS AGGREGATE

1st	Tatura	48 Points
2nd	Melton A	30 Points
3rd	Melton B	28 Points

UNDER 17 YEARS AGGREGATE

1st	Tatura	55 Points
2nd	Harvey A	34 Points
3rd	Pakenham	21 Points

DRY AGGREGATE

1st	Tatura	51 Points
2nd	Melton A	27 Points
3rd	Harvey A	21 Points

WET AGGREGATE

1st	Tatura	52 Points
2nd	Morwell A	19 Points
3rd	Harvey A	13 Points



RURAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Stuart Mill won its first State Championship title at this year's 39th Junior State Rural Championship at Wodonga in April, with Eldorado a close second.

Stuart Mill A won the 11-13 Years Aggregate, and Eldorado A won the 11-15 Years Aggregate which was determined following a countback. In the final tally, Stuart Mill A won the overall Junior Grand Aggregate on 82 points, with Eldorado A second on 74 points.

The Junior Rural Championship conducted by District 24 was well attended by volunteers, supporters and families, with over 300 junior volunteer members competing in 67 teams.

2017 AGGREGATE RESULTS

11-13 YEARS AGGREGATE

1st	Stuart Mill A	46 Points
2nd	Sedgwick A	42 Points
3rd	Eldorado A	36 Points

11-15 YEARS AGGREGATE

1st	Eldorado A (on countback)	38 Points
2nd	Springhurst A	38 Points
3rd	Stuart Mill A	36 Points

CHAMPION TEAM

1st	Stuart Mill A	82 Points
2nd	Eldorado A	74 Points
3rd	Sedgwick A	50 Points



VFBV STATE PRESIDENT ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD: Truganina B

STAN ROSS CONDUCT TROPHY: Wodonga West

Junior Firefighter Sprints:

11-13 Years – Female:	Bethany Evans, Greta
11-13 Years – Male:	Callum Darefuel, Eldorado
11-15 Years – Female:	Abbie Hromenko, Huntly
11-15 Years – Male:	Nick Myers, Stuart Mill



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VFBV BOARD APPOINTMENTS

At the VFBV Annual General Meeting held on 11th September 2016, State Vice President Graeme Jilbert announced the appointment to the VFBV Board for two years as from 1st October 2016, of:

- Nev Jones AFSM
- Andy Cusack AFSM
- Bill Maltby
- Bruce Pickett AFSM

The State Council meeting, also held 11th September 2016, re-elected Graeme Jilbert and Gerry Neyenhuis as the two State Council ex officio Board members for 2016/17.

VFBV BOARD ELECTIONS

At the first meeting of the VFBV Board in October 2016, the members of the VFBV Board elected Nev Jones AFSM as State President and Graeme Jilbert as State Vice President for the year 2016/17.

CFA BOARD VOLUNTEER NOMINEES

The CFA Act requires a skills based appointment process for CFA Board members, who must meet any of the following criteria: (a). knowledge of, or experience in, commercial, technical, operational, legal or financial matters; (b). expertise in fire or emergency management, land management or any other field relevant to the performance of the functions of the Authority'. Four of the nine CFA Board Members are appointed by the Minister from a panel of volunteers nominated by VFBV.

Following the dismissal of the former CFA Board on 17th June 2016, including the four volunteer nominees Ross Coyle, James Holyman, John Schurink and Michael Tudball AFSM, VFBV received a significant number of applications which enabled a high quality panel of eight nominees to be forwarded to Government.

From the panel of eight volunteer members nominated by VFBV and forwarded to the Minister, the following four members were selected by the Minister and appointed to the CFA Board on 19th July 2016, each for a term of three years:



Hazel Clothier has been a CFA member since 2008, is currently Captain at Warburton Fire Brigade and has a background in biomedical science and epidemiology.



Lynda Hamilton has been a CFA member since 2011, has held brigade management roles, and has a strong background in management consulting and change management.



Peter Shaw, is Deputy Group Officer with the Knox Fire Brigades Group and a volunteer firefighter since 1974, with a long history in Police and emergency services.



Timothy Young, a member of CFA since 1980, Timothy is Brigade Secretary and Treasurer at Little River Fire Brigade and has an extensive background in law.

HUGE THANKS AND RESPECT FOR OUTGOING CFA BOARD

There was a standing ovation at the 2016 VFBV Annual General Meeting in appreciation for former CFA Chair John Peberdy and former CFA Board Members Ross Coyle, Samantha Hunter, James Holyman, Michael Freshwater, John Schurink and Michael Tudball AFSM, for their contribution and support and in particular their firm stance on the future of the CFA.



Former CFA Board members pictured with State President Nev Jones AFSM and CEO Andrew Ford at the 2016 VFBV AGM

VALE BARRY PYKE

VFBV members were saddened to learn of the passing of former District 12 VFBV State Councillor Barry Pyke, who passed away 21st November 2016. Barry was elected as a District 12 delegate to the former VRFBA in 2000, and retired as VFBV State Councillor in May 2010. He was honoured with VFBV Life Membership, with a VFBV Life Member plaque presented to Barry at the State Council meeting 16th September 2012.

Barry was a long serving CFA volunteer with 50 years' service, and a long-time member of the Whanregarwen Fire Brigade. He served our volunteers and the community for many years and prior to 2008 was an active participant in the creation of a single association in District 12 as part of the move towards the creation of VFBV.

VFBV STATE COUNCILLORS AND DISTRICT COUNCIL OFFICERS

	STATE COUNCILLORS	DISTRICT COUNCILS		STATE COUNCILLORS	DISTRICT COUNCILS
District 2	Ex Captain Geoff Browning Ex Captain Ron Cole Ex Captain Bill Maltby Captain Gary Parlbay Captain Darryl Wagstaff AFSM	President Peter Thompson Secretary Peter Dillon	District 13	Ex Lieutenant Paul Denham Firefighter Vickie Linaker	President Frank Whelan OAM Secretary Eliza Sawyer
District 4	Captain Andy Cusack AFSM Ex Captain Peter White AFSM	President Kelvin Bateman Secretary Karyn Bothe	District 14	Lieutenant Sean Brittain * Lieutenant James Stephens	President Mark Gravell Secretary Rodney Leeson
District 5	Firefighter Owen O'Keefe Ex Captain Malcolm Bishop	President Don Robertson AFSM Secretary Heather McIntyre	District 15	Group Officer Shane Cramer Ex Captain Graeme Goodrem	President Maurice Preston Secretary Sam Finch
District 6	Ex Captain Mike Evans Secretary Andrew Bath	President Brian Ritchie Secretary Margaret Evans	District 16	Firefighter Greg Fithall Ex Captain Mick Nunweek	President Peter Hannan Secretary Tameeka Cann
District 7	Ex Captain Fred Grove Ex Captain Gerry Neyenhuis Ex Capt Bruce Pickett AFSM	President Robert Clark Secretary Eddy Rees	District 17	Group Officer John Davies Firefighter Maurice Dumesny	President Garry Smith Secretary Ian Plumridge
District 8	Ex Captain David Jarratt Ex Captain Bill Watson AFSM Captain Timothy Desmond	President Eric Collier Secretary Max Johnson	District 18	Firefighter Graeme Jilbert Firefighter Trevor Wyatt AFSM	President Harold Jochs Secretary Chris Smith
District 9	DGO Robert Auchterlonie Firefighter John Austin	President Brian Brewer Secretary Amy Barbeler	District 20	Firefighter Keith Clough Ex Capt Rob Waterson AFSM	President Greg Murphy Secretary Bryan Pickthall
District 10	Ex Captain Mark Jones DGO Bryan Walpole	President Mark Jones Secretary Terry King	District 22	Firefighter Phil Hawkey AFSM Ex Captain Phil Slender	President Leonard Balfour Secretary Bill Stockdale
District 11	Captain Geof Bassett Firefighter Philip Lind	President Graeme East Secretary Ian Ashcroft	District 23	Secretary Mary Anne Egan Firefighter John Seymour	President Mick Jones Secretary Jim Buchan
District 12	Lieutenant James Holyman Lieutenant Eric Smith	President Mick Sanderson AFSM Secretary Alex Caughey	District 24	Lieutenant Simon Hicks Captain Howard Smith	President Max Wood Secretary David Langshaw
			District 27	* Ex Lieutenant Pat Quinn DGO David Farmer	President Lance King Secretary Di Billingsley

* Due to recent retirements, both positions remain vacant as at 30th June 2017, pending District Council elections

RETIRED MEMBERS

Lieutenant Don Garlick (District 15)

Retired 28 July 2016 – long serving volunteer member of Mooroolbark, Lilydale, Montrose, Sale, and currently Wendouree Brigade, served as VFBV State Councillor for three years including State Council delegate to the Joint Community Safety Committee.

Firefighter Jackie Crow (District 8)

Retired 25 August 2016 – long serving member of the Crib Point Brigade including roles as Brigade Lieutenant and Junior Leader, served as District 8 State Councillor for three years including State Council delegate on the Joint Volunteerism Committee.

Firefighter Graham Cocks (District 24)

Retired 11 September 2016 – long serving member of Bright Brigade, VFBV State Councillor for nearly 9 years, delegate to FEM Advisory Committee, continues as District nominee on the Joint Volunteerism Committee and is still an official at the State Urban Championships.

Firefighter Peter Sharman (District 12)

Retired 13 November 2016 – a Group Officer of Yea Group, Peter resigned from State Council to take up the appointment as VFBV's newest Support Officer for the South East Region (Districts 4, 5, 6 and 7) and commenced in that role on 5th December 2016.

Ex Lieutenant Charles Dennis (District 8)

Retired 13 February 2017 – long serving volunteer of Frankston Brigade and a valued contributor for over 12 years including State Council Executive Committee, and as a VFBV delegate on numerous committees and working parties including Joint Operations, FEM Advisory and PPC/E Committees.

Lieutenant James Stephens (District 14)

Retired 18 May 2017 – First Lieutenant of the South Morang Brigade, VFBV State Councillor for five years and a contributor to State Council, State Council Executive Committee and the Joint Training Committee.

Ex Lieutenant Pat Quinn (District 27)

Retired 5 February 2017 – long serving volunteer with the Morwell Brigade and former Morwell Brigade First Lieutenant for nearly 20 years, one of the first two elected VFBV delegates for District 27 when VFBV District Council 27 was first formed in 2015.

NEW STATE COUNCILLORS



Ex Captain Bill Watson AFSM, District 8
– elected 25th May 2017, has been a long serving CFA volunteer with Ferntree Gully and Wonthaggi Brigades, former long serving President of District Council 13 and during his service has held the roles of Secretary, Lieutenant, Captain and Knox Group Deputy Group Officer.



Ex Captain David Jarratt, District 8
– elected 25th August 2016, was a former volunteer member of Carrum Downs and Bittern Brigades, now volunteer member of Crib Point Brigade, having served as Lieutenant, Captain, Junior Leader and Group delegate.



Lieutenant Eric Smith, District 12
– elected 13th November 2016, is a volunteer member of the Strath Creek-Reedy Creek Brigade and has served as Brigade Secretary and Treasurer, and is currently Brigade Lieutenant and Brigade Training Officer.



Ex Captain Graeme Goodrem, District 15
– elected 28th July 2016, is a long serving member of the Bacchus Marsh and Parwan Brigades, having served as Brigade Lieutenant and Captain and is currently Brigade Health & Safety Officer and Group Community Safety Officer.



Lieutenant Simon Hicks, District 24
– elected 11th September 2016 as a District 24 delegate to State Council, Simon is a volunteer with the Tallangatta Brigade former Communications Officer and current Brigade Lieutenant and Group delegate.

NEW LIFE MEMBER



At the VFBV Annual General Meeting 11th September 2016, District 7 State Councillor Fred Grove, Lara Brigade, was honoured with VFBV Life Membership. Fred was presented with his VFBV Life Member plaque at the 2017 State Urban Championship at Bendigo.

STATE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The State Council Executive Committee makes recommendations to State Council on strategic/process matters and issues raised by District Councils. State Council members representing Brigades with a predominantly structure risk profile nominate nine members and State Council members representing Brigades with a predominantly bushfire risk profile nominate nine members.

Members of the State Council Executive Committee in 2016/17 were:

Rob Auchterlonie, Sean Brittan, Keith Clough, Maurice Dumesny, Mary Anne Egan, Phil Hawkey, Mark Jones, Phil Lind, Bill Maltby, Mick Nunweek, Bruce Pickett, Phil Slender, Howard Smith, Rob Waterson, Peter White, Trevor Wyatt. Charles Dennis and James Stephens were also members up until their retirement.

DISTRICT COUNCIL RETIREMENTS

VFBV thanks the following retired members for their contribution to District Councils:

District 14	President Christopher Maries (February 2017)
District 14	Secretary Damien Milloy (August 2016)
District 15	Secretary Trinsa Lewis (July 2016)
District 16	Secretary Anna Subendranthan (Oct 2016)
District 17	President Ronald Zanker (July 2016)
District 18	President Rob Whateley (July 2016)
District 22	President John Dunn (August 2016)

VFBV continues to build volunteer involvement in Emergency Management Sector and decisions through the State Government's Volunteer Consultative Forum (VCF) and advocating on key issues with key decision makers. A series of inquiries and reviews have expanded key decision makers contact with volunteers at VFBV's request, and VFBV's work on a variety of issues has equipped volunteers to work directly with local and state decision makers.

The result of a VFBV proposal, the VCF joins up volunteer agencies and representatives across the sector to enable greater collaboration and shared effort.

All of these connections complement VFBV's network of Board, State Council, District Councils, Group and Brigade engagement opportunities, which provides VFBV with unparalleled reach into the grass roots to ensure all decisions and representatives are well informed by rank and file members and local consultative forums.

JOINT COMMITTEES

As already noted in this Annual Report, the VFBV/CFA Joint Committees are a critical part of the streamlined consultative framework and offer a direct line of communication between volunteers and state level decision makers. This year, some of the key issues worked on by the VFBV/CFA Joint Committees include:

Communications & Technology

- Digital Scanners
- EAS Pager Observation Reports
- Proposed Regional Radio Dispatch Service Expansion

Community Safety

- Planned Burning
- Fire Safety Pledge
- Bushfire Hotline Number Change
- Home Fire Safety – Smoke Alarms
- CFA-SES Community Engagement and Hazard Awareness – Regional Forums
- Fuel Management – Burn Camps and Burn Controller Short Course

Equipment and Infrastructure

- Tanker Rear Deck POD Prototype
- Burn Over Vehicle Entrapment Research
- ROP Cushion Prototype
- Medium Tanker Evaluation
- VESEP applications
- Hazardous Tree Management Training/ Skills Maintenance

HR, Welfare and OH&S

- VEOHRC Review
- Injury Claims Reporting
- Priority Sites Register
- New Member Medical Forms
- Volunteer Injury and Claim Trends
- Induction Review and Redesign Project
- People Capability Framework
- Psychosocial Risk Assessment Project

Operations

- Role of Group
- 40 kph Speed Limit

Training

- Volunteer Trainers and Assessors
- Pumping Pit Recommissioning
- Chainsaw Training
- Electrical Safety Mobile Props
- First Aid Training
- Heavy Vehicle License Testing Costs Reimbursement
- Monitor Hazardous Atmospheres

Volunteerism

- Volunteer Travel Reimbursement
- Award Winning Program for Kids
- Enhancing Volunteerism Forum
- New Member Application Forms
- Brigade Viability Indicator Tool
- Regional and State Events and Initiatives

JOINT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER REPRESENTATIVES				
COMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY				
Dave Arnott	Andrew Bath	Keith Clough	Shane Cramer	Neil Dusting
David Farmer	David McLarty	Gerry Neyenhuus	Col Pomroy	Gary Taylor
COMMUNITY SAFETY				
John Austin	Alex Caughey	Bruce Conboy	Graeme Goodrem	Fred Grove
Elissa Jans	Phil Lind	Jill Parker	Bruce Vine	Maree Varley
EQUIPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE				
Noel Austin	Tom Brodie	Simon Hicks	Mark Jones	Owen O'Keefe
Bruce Pickett	John Seymour	Phil Slender	Toddy Small	Rob Waterson
Peter White	Trevor Wyatt			
HR, WELFARE & OH&S				
Robert Auchterlonie	Mary Anne Egan	Ian Hannaford	Vicki Linaker	Lesley Read
Bill Rodda	Hans van Hamond	Bill Watson		
OPERATIONS				
Geof Bassett	Ron Cole	Andy Cusack	Charles Dennis	Tim Desmond
Gary Fitzgerald	Phil Hawkey	Nev Jones	Adrian Marshman	Trevor Roche
Peter Shaw	Peter Solley			
TRAINING				
George Calleja	Eric Collier	John Davies	Paul Denham	David Jarratt
Graeme Jilbert	Harold Jochs	Greg McIntyre	Howard Smith	James Stephens
Jeffrey Swain	Vivienne Wood			
VOLUNTEERISM				
Malcolm Bishop	Geoff Browning	Graham Cocks	Maurice Dumesny	Stuart Hastie
Sam Rothman	Noel Tonkin	Bryan Walpole		

ASSOCIATION HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

Pre-1954	M.W. Carver J.K. Stokes C. Ford (Miners Rest) D.M. Cameron	1980	R.J. Jilbert BEM (Swan Hill) A.E. King AFSM D.J. McEachern OAM (Wodonga)	1999	R.A.C. McDonald (Bowser)
1955	J.L. Allen	1981	E.C. Caddy (Drouin) L.W. Peters	2000	D.W. Adams (Carrum) R.E. Schultz AFSM (Benalla) P.J. White AFSM (Casterton)
1956	W.B. Richardson BEM (Wangaratta)	1983	R. Jones	2001	H. van Hamond AFSM (Wendouree)
1959	J.R.C. Plante (Lilydale) M. Steward OBE (Warragul) J. Reilly (Tarndale) H.M. O'Rorke MBE (Lake Bolac)	1984	D.H. Lade QFSM (Highlands/Caveat) D.E. Gow (Leitchville) K.W. Talbot OAM (Dandenong)	2003	P.E. Davis AFSM (Carrum) L.C. Doye (Golden Square) J.L. Laing
1961	H.W. Wade (Natimuk)	1985	R. Collier OAM (Portarlington) G.T. Evans OAM QFSM (Echuca) M.E. Johnson QFSM (Traralgon) J. McLeod AFSM (Boronia) P.G. Mullins (Maryborough) R.K. Patterson AFSM (Portland) H.W. Stewart (Broadford)	2004	R.W. Waterson AFSM (Cohuna)
1962	I.A. Swinburne MLC	1986	E.J. Baynes OAM AFSM (Indigo Valley) M.W. Dawson OAM (Avoca)	2005	B.A. Pickett AFSM (Geelong West)
1966	W.H. Barnes (Chelsea) H. Brown (Golden Square) S.G.W. Burston OBE (Casterton) T.F. Hayes (Violet Town) W. Jones AFSM (Moorooduc) L.J. Slattery (Kyabram) A.E.J. Turton (Wodonga)	1987	L.J. Baillie (Warrnambool) B.C. Condick AFSM (Tarnagulla)	2006	R. Hill (Paynesville) G.J. Kennedy (Loch) G.N. Lyttle AFSM (Cardigan) S.M. O Callaghan (Warracknabeal)
1967	E.E. Allen (Kaniva) S.M. Begley (Colac) T.H. Grigg CBE (Maldon) Dr P.S. Lang	1988	D.A. Austin QFSM ED L.V. Winsall AFSM (Warracknabeal)	2007	T.J. Brodie AFSM (Longwood) P. Downes (Mandurang) R.A. Horner AFSM (Sassafras/Ferny Creek) O.T. O'Keefe (Winslow) W.R. Rodda AFSM (Korumburra) J.I. Thomson (Sunbury)
1968	F.C.B. Minchin J.S. Tabuteau (Moe)	1990	G.H. Baxter AFSM (Freshwater Creek) K.H. Larsen AFSM (Belmont) J.N. McEachern (Wodonga)	2010	B. Conboy (Mt Martha) R. MacDonald (Carlsruhe) W.T. Pressey AFSM (Mortlake)
1970	D. Campbell (Springvale) S.C. Diffey MBE MC OAM (Springhurst) H. Lester-Smith MBE (Kerang) L.J. Maguire (Boronia) W.M. Reid (Mooroopna)	1991	W.E. Davies AFSM (Walmer) W.H. Royal AFSM (Bairnsdale) M.J. Taylor AFSM (Mornington) L.L. Thomason AFSM (Woodend) G.A. Ellis (Bendigo)	2011	B. Vine AFSM (Tawonga)
1971	H.L. King	1992	M.J. Sanderson AFSM (Seymour)	2012	B. Pyke (Whanregarwen) P. Denham (Boronia) M.R. Jones (Stratford) B. Snell (Hamilton)
1972	E.J. Barrett (Geelong City) R.A. Dore (Carrum) W.H. Rowe (Maldon)	1993	Q.T. Turner AFSM (Creswick) P.R. Bishop AFSM (Mildura) G.C. Dare (Colac) R.D. Walker (Kerang)	2013	A. Cusack AFSM (Mumbanner) T. Desmond (Dromana) M. Evans (Barongarook) P. Lind (Mount Taylor) W. Maltby (Castlemaine) C. Pomroy (Longford) C. Dennis (Frankston) M. Nunweek (Stawell)
1973	H.G. Kyle AFSM (Bengworden)	1994	R.G. Jacobs OAM AFSM (Chelsea) B.M. Maher AFSM (Lubeck) J.C. McMillan (Moe) H.B. Morris (Avoca)	2014	D. Wagstaff AFSM (Maryborough) T. Wyatt AFSM (Murrayville)
1975	N.H. Jenkins (Kyneton)	1995	R.D. Gartside (Castlemaine)	2015	G.W. Bassett (Lakes Entrance) P. Slender (Tatura)
1976	C.J.H. Drife BEM (Clunes) W.G. Wilson OAM (Shepparton)	1997	A.J. Hooper AFSM (Winnindoo)	2016	F.J. Grove (Lara)
1979	A.I. Laidlaw BEM AFSM (Willaura) C.T.N. Stone (Diamond Creek)	1998			

This year nine CFA volunteers received the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM), the highest award for members of the Australian fire services, for their long and distinguished service.

Anthony Archer AFSM, Kilmore – for outstanding leadership and contribution at Brigade, District and Group level; operational knowledge and expertise; contribution to the design and presentation of scenario based basic skills training using innovative training aids, resulting in improved training, fire safety and service delivery to Victorian communities.

Henry Barton AFSM, District 5 HQ – for outstanding dedication to incident management capacity within the District and across the state; instrumental in establishing CFA operated Incident Control Centre at Warnambool; dedication as one of the first qualified Juvenile Fire Awareness Intervention Program practitioners, and a driving force in establishing technical rescue capability, training & skills maintenance in Districts 4 and 5.

Bill Bowery AFSM, Kangaroo Flat – for outstanding leadership and contribution at the Brigade and District level, and at the state level as a former Association executive member; for his contribution and dedication to community education and fire prevention as a founding member of the unique and award winning Community Education Group, and as the founder of the CFA Youth Crew at a local Secondary College.

Allan Cracknell AFSM, Bairnsdale – for long involvement in fire safety prevention including fire safety sessions provided to numerous community organisations and schools; conducting a Juvenile Fire Awareness & Intervention Program; and dedication to member welfare through the Peer Support Program and as Peer Support Co-ordinator for Districts 10 & 11 since 1997.

Warren Curry AFSM, Port Albert – for outstanding leadership in developing others particularly young members; reforming and improving Group operating procedures; training and assessment to enhance service delivery; outstanding leadership during the 2009 fires; in developing the capable team that operates the Tarra Group Local Command Facility; and in establishing the Port Albert Junior Brigade.

Lance King AFSM, Yallourn North - for outstanding leadership and innovative solutions within municipal emergency management sector, generating solutions to benefit the Brigade, CFA and the community through projects that produced improvements to community safety, public warning systems and information management by municipalities during emergency events and recovery periods.

Paul King AFSM, Wodonga – for leadership and significant contribution in developing and maintaining effective cross border relationships; outstanding incident management abilities and contribution with the development of planning, procedures, standards, training and protocols for CFA in managing the special fire risks and crew safety issues associated with fire in structures in the snow environment of the Alpine Resorts.



Graham Petrie AFSM, Beazley's Bridge - for outstanding leadership at the Brigade, District and Group level; for exceptional 24 years as Group Officer; outstanding dedication to fire prevention and a driving force in establishing strategic fire breaks in the area and retention of fire towers as having a primary role in fire prevention.

Don Robertson AFSM, Strathkellar - for commitment and distinguished leadership of numerous committees; advocacy for continuous improvement of fire management arrangements and systems, and instrumental in developing new stubble burning permit conditions aimed at reducing escapes and improving community safety outcomes.

VFBV Gold Star Awards

Since first being introduced in 1969, there has been 1,410 VFBV Gold Stars awarded in recognition of thirty or more years' service to the Association.

This year, 30 long serving volunteers from 16 Brigades were awarded the VFBV Gold Star, and congratulations are extended to:

Boort G R Mercer S M Morris P Nelson	Marong G Parlbry W Shay	Sale P Bennett C Skeen
Dromana S Cahill	Melton C T Newman R L Wright	Sorrento D A Croad R Deane
Eaglehawk R White	Morwell B Brinsmead	Trafalgar C Proctor P Mynard
Highton A Thornton	Parwan S Arandt P Bath G Miles W Ross	Warracknabeal K R Lynch
Kerang J W Rumbold	Rowville D Smith	Yarrambat A De Man K Collins L McQuade
Lakes Entrance G Bassett W Matthey K McDermott		

2016/2017 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS

District 2

Axe Creek
Axedale
Baringhup West
Bealiba
Bendigo
Benloch
Bolinda & Monegeetta
Bowenvale
Bullengarook
Campbells Creek
Carisbrook
Carlsruhe
Castlemaine
Chewton
Clarkefield & District
Darraweit Guim
District 2 Headquarters
Dunolly
Eaglehawk
Elmore
Elphinstone
Eppalock Group
Fortuna Group
Fryerstown
Gisborne
Golden Square
Goldfields Group
Goornong
Guildford
Harcourt
Heathcote
Hesket-Kerrie
Hunter-Diggora
Huntly
Junortoun
Kamarooka
Kangaroo Flat
Knowsley
Kyneton
Kyneton Group
Lake Eppalock Coast
Guard
Lancefield
Langley-Barfold
Lockwood
Macedon

Maiden Gully
Maldon
Malmsbury
Mandurang
Marong
Maryborough
Metcalfe
Mia Mia
Moolort & Joyces Creek
Mosquito Creek
Mount Macedon
Mount Macedon Group
Mt Camel
Mt Cameron
Natte Yallock
Newham
Newstead & District
Oscar 1 Emergency
Response
Pastoria
Raywood
Redesdale
Riddell's Creek
Romsey
Romsey Group
Sedgwick
Spring Hill
Springfield
Strathfieldsaye
Strathloddon Group
Sutton Grange & Myrtle
Ck
Talbot
Taradale
Tylden
Walmer
Wareek & Bung Bong
Whipstick Group
Woodend
Woodvale

District 4

Bahgallah
Carapook
Cashmore
Casterton
Casterton Group

Condah
Corndale
Dartmoor Group
Digby
District 4 Headquarters
Drik Drik
Dunrobin & Nangeela
Glenorchy Estate
Gorae West
Grassdale
Heathmere
Henty
Heywood
Heywood Group
Homerton
Killara
Lake Mundi
Lindsay
Lyons
Merino
Merino Group
Morven
Mumbannar
Myamyn
Narrawong
Nelson
Paschendale
Portland
Portland Coast Guard
Sandford
Strathdownie
Strathdownie Group
Tahara
Tyrendarra
Wallacedale
Wando Bridge
Wando Vale

District 5

Abbey Hills
Allansford
Ardachy
Ardonachie
Bainbridge
Balmoral
Balmoral Group
Belfast Group

Bessiebelles
Bochara
Branxholme
Broadwater
Buckley Swamp
Bulart
Burn Brae
Byaduk
Cavendish
Codrington
Coleraine
Croxtan East
Cudgee
Culla
District 5 Headquarters
Dundas Group
Dunkeld
Ellerslie
Framlingham
Garvoc
Gazette
Glenthompson
Grassmere
Gringe
Gritjurk
Hamilton
Hawkesdale
Hexham
Hilgay Settlers
Hopkins - Curdies Group
Karabeal
Kirkstall
Knebsworth
Kolara
Konongwootong
Koroit
Laang
Linlithgow
Macarthur
Macarthur Group
Melville Forest
Mepunga
Merri Group
Minhamite
Mooralla
Mortlake
Mortlake Group

Mount Rouse Group
Muntham
Nareen
Nareen Group
Naringal
Nirranda South
North Balmoral
North Byaduk
North Hamilton
Nullawarre
Orford
Penshurst
Peterborough
Pigeon Ponds
Port Fairy
Purnim
Ripponhurst
Spring Creek
St Helens
Strathkellar
Strathmore
Tarrayoukyan
Tarrenlea
Tarrington
The Sisters
Toolong
Vasey
Victoria Valley
Wando Heights
Warrayure-Moutajup
Warrnambool
Warrnambool Coast
Guard
Warrong
Willatook & District
Winslow & Yarpurk
Woodford
Woodhouse
Woolsthorpe
Wooriwyrite
Wootong Vale
Yambuk
Yulecart

District 6

Apollo Bay
Barongarook West

Barwon Downs
Beeac
Beeac Group
Berrybank
Birregurra
Bookaar
Boorcan
Bostocks Creek
Brucknell-Ayrford
Bungador
Camperdown
Camperdown Group
Carlisle River
Carpentait-Sth
Purrumbete
Chocolyn
Cobden
Cobden Group
Cobrico
Colac
Cororooke
Cressy
Darlington
Derrinallum
District 6 Headquarters
Dixie
Duverney
Ecklin & District
Elingamite - Glenfyne
Forrest
Gellibrand
Gerangamete
Irrewarra
Irrewillipe
Jancourt
Kawarren
Kennedy's Creek
Larpent
Leslie Manor
Lismore
Lismore Group
Lower Heytesbury
Mingay & District
Nalangil
Noorat & District
Otway
Pomborneit & Dist

Port Campbell
Princetown
Scotts Ck-Cowleys Ck.
Simpson
Stonyford
Swan Marsh
Terang
Tesbury
Timboon
Timboon Group
Vite Vite North
Warrior
Weering-Eurack
Weerite
Wye River
Yeo & District
Yeodene

District 7

Aireys Inlet
Anakie
Anglesea
Bannockburn
Barrabool
Barwon Heads
Bellarine Group
Belmont
Connewarre
Corio
Deans Marsh
Dereel
District 7 Headquarters
Drysdale
Freshwater Creek
Geelong City
Geelong Coast Guard
Geelong Group
Geelong West
Gnarwarre
Grovedale
Highton
Inverleigh
Lara
Leigh Group
Leopold
Lethbridge
Little River

Lorne
Lovely Banks
Mannerim
Maude
Meredith
Modewarre
Mount Mercer
Ocean Grove
Portarlington
Queenscliff
Queenscliff Coast Guard
Rokewood
Shelford
St Leonards-Indented
Head
Stonehaven
Teesdale
Torquay
Wallington
Werneth
Winchelsea
Winchelsea Group
Wingeel
Wurdale

District 8

Balharring
Bass
Bass Coast Group
Baxter
Bayles
Beaconsfield
Beaconsfield Upper
Berwick
Bittern
Boneo
Bunyip
Cardinia Group
Carrum Coast Guard
Carrum Downs
Clyde
Cockatoo
Corinella
Cranbourne
Crib Point
Dalyston
Dandenong

Devon Meadows
District 8 Headquarters
Dromana
Edithvale
Flinders
Frankston
Frankston Coast Guard
French Island
Gembrook
Glen Alvie
Hallam
Hampton Park
Hastings
Hastings Coast Guard
Heath Hill - Yannathan
Kernot
Keysborough
Kilcunda
Koo Wee Rup
Lang Lang
Langwarrin
Main Ridge
Maryknoll & District
Moorooduc
Mornington
Mt Eliza
Mt Martha
Nar Nar Goon
Narre Warren
Narre Warren North
Noble Park
Officer
Pakenham
Pakenham Upper
Patterson River
Pearcedale
Peninsula Group
Phillip Island
Red Hill
Rosebud
Rye
Safety Beach Coast
Guard
San Remo
Sandringham Coast
Guard
Shoreham

Skye
Somers
Somerville
Sorrento
South East Group
Toomuc
Tooradin
Tyabb
Tynong
Warneet - Blind Bight
Westernport Group
Wonthaggi

District 9

Allambee
Baw Baw Group
Berry's Creek
Darnum & Ellinbank
Drouin
Drouin West
Dumbalk
Erica & District
Fish Creek & District
Foster
Hallora & District
Hallston-Mt Eccles
Hedley
Inverloch
Kongwak & District
Koonwarra
Korumburra
Leongatha
Leongatha South
Loch Ark
Longwarry & District
Meeniyah & Stony Creek
Milford
Mirboo North
Neerim South
Nilma North
Noojee
Poowong
Port Welshpool Coast
Guard
Pound Creek
Ruby
South Gippsland Group

Strzelecki Group
Tarwin Lower District
Thorpdale
Toora
Trafalgar
Trida
Warragul
Welshpool
Westbury
Willowgrove
Yanakie
Yarragon

District 10

Alberton West
Avon Group
Boisdale
Briagolong
Carrajung
Clydebank
Coongulla
Covwarr
Dargo
Devon North
Giffard West
Glenmaggie
Golden Beach
Heyfield
Jack River
Licola
Loch Sport
Longford
Macalister Group
Maffra
Meerlieu
Munro
Newry
Perry Bridge
Port Albert
Port Albert Coast Guard
Sale
Seaspray
Seaton
Stradbroke
Stradbroke Group
Stratford
Tarra Group

Thomson Group
Tinamba
Willung
Willung South
Winnindoo
Won Wron
Woodside
Woranga
Yarram

District 11

Bairnsdale
Bemm
Bendoc
Bengworden
Bruthen
Cann Valley
District 11 Headquarters
Ensay
Fernbank
Flaggy Creek
Gelantipy
Glenaladale
Goongerah
Hillside
Johnsonville
Lakes Entrance
Lakes Entrance Coast
Guard
Lindenow South
Mallacoota
Marlo
Metung
Mitchell Group
Mossi - Tambo
Mount Delegate Group
Mount Taylor
Newmerella
Ormeo
Orbost
Paynesville
Paynesville Coast Guard
Sarsfield
Swift's Creek
Tambo Group
Toorloo
Wairewa

District 12

Acheron
Alexandra
Alexandra
Alexandra Group
Broadford
Buxton
Clonbinane
District 12 Headquarters
Eildon
Flowerdale
Glenaroua
Glenburn
Highlands-Caveat
Hilldene
Homewood
Kilmore
Kingslake District
Kingslake West
Koriella
Limestone
Marysville
Mitchell Shire Group
Molesworth
Murrindindi &
Woodbourne
Narbethong
Nulla Vale
Seymour
Strath Creek-Reedy
Creek
Taggerty
Tallarook
Terip Terip
Thornton
Tooborac
Toolangi
Trawool
Wallan
Wandong
Whanegarwen
Whiteheads Creek-
Tarcombe
Yarck
Yea
Yea Group

District 13

Badger Creek
Bayswater
Belgrave
Belgrave Heights &
South
Boronia
Clematis
Coldstream
Dandenong Ranges
Group
Dixons Creek
Emerald
Ferntree Gully
Gruyere
Healesville
Hillcrest
Hoddle's Creek
Kallista-The Patch
Kalorama & Mt
Dandenong
Knox Group
Lilydale
Little Yarra
Macclesfield
Maroondah Group
Menzies Creek
Monbulk
Montrose
Mooroolbark
Mt Evelyn
Narre Warren East
Olinda
Reefton
Rowville
Sassafras & Ferny Creek
Scoresby
Selby
Seville
Silvan
South Warrandyte
The Basin
Upper Ferntree Gully
Upwey
Wandin
Warburton
Warrandyte

Wesburn-Millgrove
Wonga Park
Yarra Glen
Yarra Junction
Yarra Valley Group
Yellingbo

District 14

Arthurs Creek
Bulla
Caroline Springs
Christmas Hills
Craigieburn
Diamond Creek
District 14 Headquarters
District 14 Headquarters
East
Doreen
Eltham
Epping
Eyensbury
Hoppers Crossing
Hume Group
Hurstbridge
Kal Kallo
Kangaroo Ground
Melton
Mernda
Mount Cottrell Group
Nillumbik Group
North Warrandyte
Panton Hill
Plenty
Point Cook
Research
Rockbank
South Morang
St Andrews
Sunbury
Toolern Vale
Truganina
Wattle Glen
Werribee
Werribee Coast Guard
Whittlesea
Whittlesea/D.Valley
Group

Wildwood
Wollert & District
Wyndham Vale
Yarrambat

District 15

Ascot & District
Bacchus Marsh
Bacchus Marsh Group
Ballan
Ballan Group
Ballarat
Ballarat City
Ballarat Group
Balliang & District
Blackwood
Bungaree
Buninyong
Buninyong Group
Burumbeet
Campbelltown
Cape Clear
Cardigan & Windermere
Clunes
Coimadai
Creswick
Daylesford
Elaine
Franklinford
Glen Park
Glendaruel & Mt
Beckworth
Glenlyon
Glenlyon Group
Gordon
Greendale
Grenville Group
Haddon
Hardies Hill
Hepburn
Invermay
Kingston
Learmonth-Addington
Leonards Hill & District
Linton
Mannibadar
Millbrook

Miners Rest
Mollonghip
Morrisons & District
Mt Buninyong
Mt Egerton
Mt Wallace
Mt Warrenheip
Musk
Myrniong
Napoleons-Enfield
Newlyn Dean
Parwan
Porcupine Ridge
Rokewood Junction &
Dist
Rowsley
Sebastopol
Smythesdale
Trentham
Ullina
Wallace
Wallinduc & District
Waubra
Wendouree

District 16

Amphitheatre
Ararat
Ararat Group
Avoca
Barkly & Frenchman's
Beaufort
Beaufort Group
Beazley's Bridge
Bornes Hill
Brewster
Buangor & Middle Creek
Burnbank
Callawadda
Carapooee
Carranballac
Chatsworth
Coonooer Bridge
Cross Roads
Crowlands
Dadswells Bridge
District 16 Headquarters

Dundonnell
Elmhurst
Glenorchy & Riachella
Gooroc
Gre Gre Village
Great Western
Halls Gap
Joel Joel
Kooreh
Lake Bolac
Lake Goldsmith-
Stockyard
Landsborough
Langi Kal Kal
Lexton
Marnoo
Maroona
Mininera
Moyston
Narrapumelap South
Navarre
Nerrin Nerrin
Pomonal
Pura Pura
Pyrenees Group
Raglan
Redbank
Skipton
Slaty Creek
Snake Valley & District
St Arnaud
St Arnaud Group
Stawell
Stawell Group
Stoneleigh
Streatham
Stuart Mill
Tatyoan
Traynor's Lagoon
Wallaloo East
Warrak
Warrenmang & District
Westmere
Westmere Group
Wickliffe
Willaura
Woorndoo

Yalla Y Poora

District 17

Antwerp
Apsley
Areegra
Bangerang
Benayeo
Boolite
Brim
Brimpaen
Bringalbert South
Broughton
Cannum
Charam
Chetwynd
Clear Lake
Connewirricoo
Coromby
Crymelon
Dergholm
Detpa & Lake
Hindmarsh
Diapur
Dimboola
Dinyarrak
District 17 Headquarters
Dooen
Douglas
Dunmunkle Group
Edenhope
Gerang
Goroke
Goroke Group
Grass Flat
Green Lake
Gymbowen
Harrow
Horsham
Jeparit
Jilpanger Group
Jung
Kadnook
Kaniva
Kaniva Group
Karnak
Kellalac

Kenmare
Lah
Laharum
Langkoop
Lawloit
Leeor
Lorquon
Lubeck
Miga Lake
Minimay
Minyip
Mitre
Murtoa
Natimuk
Netherby
Neuarpurr
Nhill
Noradjuha
North Wimmera
Ozenkadnook
Patyah
Peronne
Pigick
Pimpinio
Poolaijelo
Propodollah
Rainbow
Rainbow Group
Rupanyup
Sandsmere
Sheep Hills
South Lillimur
Tarranyurk
Telangatuk
Telopea Downs
Ullswater
Vectis
Warracknabeal
Werrap
Wilkur South
Willenabrina
Winiam & District
Wonwondah
Woorak
Yanac
Yearinga - Yarrock

District 18

Annuello
Berriwillock
Beulah
Beverford & District
Birchip
Boundary Bend
Buckrabanyule
Buloke West Group
Charlton
Charlton Group
Chinkapook
Cope Cope
Corack East
Curyo
Donald
Dumosa
Glenloth East
Goschen
Hopetoun
Hopetoun West
Irymple
Jeffcott
Kooloonong
Laen East
Lake Boga
Lascelles
Manangatang
Merbein
Mid Murray Group
Mildura
Mittyack
Murrayville
Nangiloc
Narraport
Natya
Nullawil
Nyah Nyah West
Ouyen
Ouyen and District
Group
Piangil
Red Cliffs
Reedy Dam
Robinvale
Rosebery
Sea Lake

2016/2017 AFFILIATED BRIGADES AND GROUPS

Speed	Lockington	Cosgrove & Pine Lodge	Tungamah	Lima South	Bulloh	Wodonga
Swan Hill	Loddon Vale	Creightons Creek	Undera	Lurg	Burrowye	Wodonga Group
Teddywaddy	Macorna	Currawa	Upton Hill	Maindample	Carlyle	Wodonga West
Tempy	Meering West	Dookie	Violet Town	Mansfield	Chiltern	Wooragee
Ultima	Mitiamo	Drumanure	Violet Town Group	Mansfield Group	Cornishtown	Yackandandah
Underbool	Murphy's Creek	Earlston	Waaia	Merton	Corryong	
Waitchie	Murrabit	Euroa	Wahring	Milawa	Corryong Group	District 27
Walpeup	Newbridge	Euroa Group	Wilby	Molyullah	Cudgewa	Boolarra
Warmur	Pine Grove	Gooram	Wirrate	Moyhu	Dartmouth	Callignee
Watchem	Powlett-Salisbury	Kaarimba	Wunghnu	Moyhu Group	Dederang	Churchill
Watchupga	Pyramid Hill	Karramomus	Yabba North	Mt Buller	District 24 Headquarters	Driffield
Wemen	Quambatook	Katamatite	Yalca & Yielima	Myrrhee	Eskdale	Flynn
Woomelang	Rheola	Katandra	Yarrowonga	Oxley	Falls Creek	Glengarry
Woorinen South	Rochester	Katunga	Yarrowonga Group	Oxley Flats	Gapsted	Hazelwood North
Wooroonook	Rushworth	Kelvin View	Yarroweyah	Samaria	Granya	Hyland Group
Wycheproof	Sandhill Lake & District	Kialla & District		South Wangaratta	Gundowring	Maryvale
Yaapeet	Stanhope	Koonda	District 23	Springhurst	Harrietville	Merton Group
Yeungroon	Tarnagulla	Kotupna	Baddaginnie	Swanpool	Indigo Valley	Moe
	Tennyson	Locksley	Barjarg	Taminick & North Winton	Kergunyah	Moe South
District 20	Terrick Group	Longwood	Benalla	Tarrowingee & District	Kiewa	Morwell
Appin South	Tongala	Marraweeny	Benalla Group	Tatong	Leneva	Newborough
Bamawm Extension	Toolleen	Merrigum	Bobinawarrah	Thoona	Mitta Mitta	Tanjil
Beauchamp	Waranga Group	Miepoll	Bonnie Doon	Tolmie & District	Mt Beauty	Toongabbie
Boort	Wedderburn	Molka	Boorhaman	Wangaratta	Mt Hotham - Dinner	Traralgon
Bridgewater	Wedderburn Group	Moorilim	Booroolite & District	Wangaratta Group	Plain	Traralgon East
Campbells Forest	Woodstock West	Mooroopna	Boweya	Wangaratta North	Mudgegonga	Traralgon South
Cohuna	Woosang	Muckatah	Bowman-Murmungee	Warrenbayne	Myrtleford	Traralgon West
Colbinabbin	Wychitella	Murchison	Bowser	Whitegate	Nariel Valley	Tyers
Corop	Wyuna	Nagambie	Carboor	Whitfield & District	Noorongong	Yallourn North
Corop West	Yambuna	Naring	Cheshunt	Whorouly	Norong	Yinnar
Deakin Group	Yarrowalla	Nathalia	Chesney Vale	Winton	Old Tallangatta	Yinnar South
Dingee-Tandarra		Numurkah	Devenish	Woods Point	Ovens Valley Group	
Echuca	District 22	Numurkah Group	District 23 Headquarters		Ovens-Eurobin	
Echuca Village	Almonds	NW Mooroopna	Edi	District 24	Porepunkah	
Fentons Creek	Arcadia	Peechelba	Eldorado	Allans Flat	Rosewhite	
Gannawarra Group	Avenel	Picola	Everton	Baranduda	Rutherglen	
Girgarre	Baillieston	Rigg's Creek	Glenrowan	Barnawartha	Rutherglen Group	
Gunbower	Balmattum	Ruffy	Glenroy & Merrijig	Beechworth	Sandy Creek & Charleroi	
Inglewood	Barmah	Shean's Creek	Goomalibee &	Beechworth	Stanley	
Jarklin	Boho	Shepparton	Upotipotpon	Berringama	Talgarno	
Kerang	Branjee	Shepparton East	Goorambat Stewarton	Bethanga	Tallangatta	
Koondrook	Bundalong	St James & District	Goughs Bay - Howes	Biggara	Tallangatta Group	
Korong Vale	Burramine	Strathbogie	Creek	Bogong Group	Tallangatta Valley	
Kotta	Caniambo	Strathmerton	Greta	Bonegilla	Tawonga	
Kyabram	Cobram	Tallygaroopna	Jamieson	Bright	Tintaldra	
Lake Charm	Cobram East & Boosey	Tatura	Killawarra	Browns Plains	Wahgunyah	
Leitchville	Cooma	Toolamba	Laceby West	Buffalo River	Walwa	

Directors' Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

The financial statements incorporate the activities of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Welfare Fund (the Group). The board members submit the financial report of the Group for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

1. General information

Board members

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Name	Position	Appointed/Resigned
Nev Jones AFSM	State President	
Graeme Jilbert	State Vice President	
Hans van Hamond AFSM		
Jill Parker		
Andy Cusack AFSM		
Gerry Neyenhuis		
Mick Nunweek		
Samantha Rothman		
Bill Maltby		
Bruce Pickett AFSM		

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Group during the financial year were:

1. To function as a non-profit association whose Members comprise Volunteer Fire Brigades registered by the Country Fire Authority under the Country Fire Authority Act (1958) and its Regulations.
2. To liaise and consult on the operation of the "Volunteer Charter" in the interests of CFA volunteers about all matters which might reasonably be expected to affect them. The Volunteer Charter is an agreed tripartite commitment between the State of Victoria, the CFA and CFA Volunteers, committing the State of Victoria and the CFA to consultation with volunteers about all matters which might reasonably be expected to affect volunteers. VBFV represents its Members and CFA Volunteers in that consultation process.
3. To assist in maintaining high morale, ongoing health and welfare of CFA volunteer members and their families.
4. Support CFA volunteers experiencing personal financial hardship/crisis by providing small welfare grants that may assist in alleviating stresses impacting on the individual's ability to maintain their involvement as a volunteer.
5. Preserve and strengthen CFA's community and volunteer based foundations by enabling members of CFA brigades to consider and bring to the notice of CFA all matters affecting their welfare and efficiency (other than questions of discipline and promotion).
6. To promote to CFA volunteers the comprehensive support services available to them including but not limited to: legal assistance, OH&S, equity and diversity, counselling and welfare, training, employment support and compensation for accidents, injuries and illness.
7. To develop awareness, respect and support for CFA volunteers and their fundamental and pivotal role in the CFA as a community based, volunteer based fire and emergency service of the people of Victoria.

General information

Principal activities

8. To take any other action as determined by the Association Board consistent with these purposes.
9. To maintain and pursue a balanced focus on issues affecting CFA volunteers across all brigades from all risk profiles.

Significant changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating result

The deficit of the Group for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to \$ (504,244) (2016: \$197,675 surplus).

Signed in accordance with resolution of the Members of the Board:

Board member:

Nev Jones AFSM - State President

Board member:

Andrew Cusack AFSM - Treasurer

Auditor's Independence Declaration

In accordance with the requirements of section 60.40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, as the auditor for the audit of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc for the year ended 30 June 2017, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit, and;
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Seward Dawson

Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated: 4 August 2017

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Income		
Affiliation fees	190,092	188,753
Grants and Other Reimbursements	1,451,854	1,423,357
Championships	25,682	30,372
Interest Received	133,068	160,356
Special Projects Funding	252,337	391,390
Merchandise Sales	23,852	23,553
Donations income	94,682	6,519
Bequest received	-	70,163
Other income	7,467	-
	<u>2,179,034</u>	<u>2,294,463</u>
Expenditure		
Employment Costs	961,533	877,347
Project Salaries and Other Projects fees	257,008	330,662
Welfare Grants	176,373	133,348
Travelling Reimbursement, Accommodation and meals	318,653	315,513
Legal Fees	599,288	93,660
Other Office & Administration Expenditure	34,185	35,267
Advertising	15,978	17,613
Rent & Outgoings	77,517	75,598
Depreciation	43,158	48,540
Printing, Postage and Stationery	80,322	75,883
Communications	40,028	42,512
Accounting and Audit Fees	9,260	7,445
Championships & Championships Equipment	20,557	25,640
Merchandise	20,673	15,328
Other Expenses	28,745	2,432
	<u>2,683,278</u>	<u>2,096,788</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(504,244)</u>	<u>197,675</u>
Other Comprehensive Income		
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income/(Loss) for the year	<u>(504,244)</u>	<u>197,675</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
Note	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	3 1,596,117	1,018,128
Trade and other receivables	4 553,062	147,455
Financial assets	5 1,367,855	2,785,389
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>3,517,034</u>	<u>3,950,972</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Financial assets	5 2,332,587	2,267,924
Plant and equipment	6 204,344	186,168
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	<u>2,536,931</u>	<u>2,454,092</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>6,053,965</u>	<u>6,405,064</u>
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	7 235,404	270,709
Employee benefits	8 226,700	165,563
Deferred income	9 889,627	758,120
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>1,351,731</u>	<u>1,194,392</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Employee benefits	8 9,824	14,018
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	<u>9,824</u>	<u>14,018</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>1,361,555</u>	<u>1,208,410</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>4,692,410</u>	<u>5,196,654</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated surplus	4,692,410	5,196,654
TOTAL MEMBERS' EQUITY	<u>4,692,410</u>	<u>5,196,654</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

2017

	VFBV Inc. \$	Welfare Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2016	2,333,492	2,863,162	5,196,654
Deficit for the year	(512,690)	8,446	(504,244)
Balance at 30 June 2017	1,820,802	2,871,608	4,692,410

2016

	VFBV Inc. \$	Welfare Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2015	2,192,725	2,806,254	4,998,979
Surplus for the year	140,767	56,908	197,675
Balance at 30 June 2016	2,333,492	2,863,162	5,196,654

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from customers and government grants		1,924,830	2,364,909
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,777,452)	(2,051,797)
Interest received		133,068	160,356
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	12	(719,554)	473,468
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:			
Purchase of plant and equipment		(68,510)	(126,414)
Redemption/ (Placement) of term deposit		1,352,871	(43,985)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		13,182	16,541
Net cash used by investing activities		1,297,543	(153,858)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		577,989	319,610
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		1,018,128	698,518
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	3	1,596,117	1,018,128

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is aggregated to include the numbers of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Welfare Fund (the Group).

This financial report is a special purpose financial statement prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The board has determined that the not-for-profit Group is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

(a) Income tax

The Group is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Welfare Fund are registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.

(b) Plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the Group commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

(c) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting year, the Group reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of profit and loss.

(d) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Group's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting year. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

(e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(f) Revenue and other income

The Group recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of the Group's activities as discussed below.

When grant revenue is received and the grant agreement contains conditions specifying a specific use or purpose, the Group recognises the grant revenue in the statement of financial position as an income in advance liability. Revenue is recognised only when expenses is incurred to meet the conditions of the grant.

When grant revenue is received that does not contain conditions specifying a specific use or purpose, the Group recognises the grant revenue when it obtains controls of the grant income, which is typically on receipt of funds.

Interest income is mainly on interest-bearing cash and cash equivalent balances. Interest income is recognised on an accruals basis.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Merchandise revenue is recognised when significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods are transferred out by the Group.

Affiliation fees are recognised as income in the year the fees are earned.

Championship revenue are recognised when the event has occurred.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(g) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(h) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing or financing activities which are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(i) Financial assets

Held-to-maturity investments

Held to maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets that have fixed maturities and fixed or determinable payments, and it is the Group's intention to hold these investments to maturity.

(j) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

2 Results for the year

Significant revenue

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
- Special Projects Funding	(a)	252,337	391,390

a. Included in special projects funding is \$40,964 which has been allocated from VESEP 2016/17 grant for the purchase of motor vehicles. The purchase of motor vehicle has been recorded in the statement of financial position and has not been expensed in the current year.

Significant expense

- Legal fees expense	(b)	599,288	93,660
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b. The significant majority of legal fees (\$599,288) relate to VFBV Supreme Court Action seeking to preserve the intent and obligations set down by the CFA Act and to protect against requests/decisions being entered into by CFA contravening the CFA Act and/or allowing/requiring CFA to act beyond its powers under the CFA Act (including protecting obligations to consult with volunteers; protecting the CFA's powers to control the prevention and suppression of fires; and to protect against limitations on the CFA Chief Officers powers).

The legal costs have been fully funded from previous donations in the Volunteer Support and Development Fund and current VFBV fundraising activity. VFBV's legal costs have not been funded by Government or CFA grant monies, or VFBV affiliations. VFBV fundraising activity does not accept and has not accepted any political donations.

3 Cash and cash equivalents

General Cheque Account		816,524	715,210
Travel reimbursement account		38,640	147,456
Debit card		5,559	4,769
Cash at call		93	92,040
Welfare Fund		96,323	58,653
Valuing Volunteers Cheque Account		2,506	-
Term Deposits - Valuing Volunteers	5a	636,472	-
		<u>1,596,117</u>	<u>1,018,128</u>

4 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT

Trade and other receivables		463,922	57,501
Welfare Fund trade and other receivables		89,140	89,954
		<u>553,062</u>	<u>147,455</u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

5 Financial assets

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Term Deposits - VFBV	898,457	874,138
Term Deposits - Volunteer Support and Development Fund (a)	-	1,349,090
Term Deposits - Welfare Fund (b)	469,398	562,161
	<u>1,367,855</u>	<u>2,785,389</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Term Deposits - Welfare Fund (b)	2,332,587	2,267,924
	<u>2,332,587</u>	<u>2,267,924</u>

a) Volunteer Support & Development Fund is a donation driven fund established by VFBV to support community awareness, volunteer development and volunteer advocacy activities of VFBV. In the current year, as the term deposit had a maturity period of 3 months or less, the term deposit has been classified in the statement of financial position as cash and cash equivalent.

b) Welfare Fund operates on a capital balance from donated funds used to support volunteers in times of personal hardship/crisis.

6 Plant and equipment

Motor vehicles		
At cost	253,447	209,688
Accumulated depreciation	(74,696)	(55,241)
Total motor vehicles	<u>178,751</u>	<u>154,447</u>
Office equipment		
At cost	149,254	156,340
Accumulated depreciation	(123,661)	(124,619)
Total office equipment	<u>25,593</u>	<u>31,721</u>
	<u>204,344</u>	<u>186,168</u>

7 Trade and other payables

CURRENT		
Trade creditors	82,635	79,814
Other payables	152,769	190,895
	<u>235,404</u>	<u>270,709</u>

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

8 Employee Benefits

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Long service leave	113,691	82,213
Annual leave	113,009	83,350
	<u>226,700</u>	<u>165,563</u>
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	9,824	14,018
	<u>9,824</u>	<u>14,018</u>

9 Income in Advance

Government Grants	677,413	548,969
Deferred Affiliation Fees - VFBV	96,297	93,429
Deferred Affiliation Fees - Welfare Fund	115,917	115,722
	<u>889,627</u>	<u>758,120</u>

10 Capital and Leasing Commitments

Operating lease commitments

Non-cancellable operating leases contracted but not capitalised in the financial statements.

- not later than one year	54,683	58,316
- between one year and five years	27,258	81,941
	<u>81,941</u>	<u>140,257</u>

Operating leases have been taken out for the rental of premises and the rental of a photocopier. Lease payments for the premise are increased on an annual basis to reflect market rentals.

The option for a further 3-year lease of the office premise was taken up on 1/1/16.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

10 Capital and Leasing Commitments

Operating lease commitments

11 Related Parties Transactions

During the year, VFBV entered into contracts with the following brigades of which Board members were also involved:

VFBV Board Member	Brigade	Membership Paid
Andy Cusack	Mumbannar	Yes
Bill Maltby	Castlemaine	Yes
Bruce Pickett	Geelong West	Yes
Jill Parker	Mortlake	Yes
Hans van Hamond	Wendouree	Yes
Nev Jones	Moorooduc	Yes
Graeme Jilbert	Swan Hill	Yes
Gerry Neyenhuis	Warrington	Yes
Samantha Rothman	Maryborough	Yes
Mick Nunweek	Stawell	Yes

All contracts for membership fees were provided at arms length commercial amounts.

Board members are reimbursed for their travel cost incurred.

12 Cash Flow Information

(a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
(Deficit)/Surplus for the year	(504,244)	197,675
Cash flows excluded from (deficit)/surplus attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in (deficit)/surplus:		
Depreciation	43,158	48,540
Profit on disposal of non-current assets	(6,006)	-
Changes in assets/liabilities		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(405,607)	112,469
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	131,507	(47,421)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(35,305)	136,578
- increase/(decrease) in provisions	56,943	25,627
Cashflow from operations	(719,554)	473,468

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

ABN 11 083 080 403

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

13 Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc. Welfare Fund

(a) Statement of Income and Expenditure and Other Comprehensive Income for the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017 \$	2016 \$
INCOME		
Affiliation fees	103,230	102,722
Interest Received	80,398	86,330
Other income	1,192	1,204
	<u>184,820</u>	<u>190,256</u>
EXPENSES		
Grants	(176,374)	(133,348)
Surplus from operations	<u>8,446</u>	<u>56,908</u>

(b) Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2017

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	96,323	58,847
Trade and other receivables	89,217	89,954
Financial assets	2,801,985	2,830,085
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>2,987,525</u>	<u>2,978,886</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Deferred Income	(115,917)	(115,724)
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>(115,917)</u>	<u>(115,724)</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>2,871,608</u>	<u>2,863,162</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS		
Accumulated surplus	2,871,608	2,864,162
Total Equity	<u>2,871,608</u>	<u>2,864,162</u>

14 Association Details

The registered office of the association is:
Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc
9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East
VIC 3151

True and Fair Certification by Members of the Board


The board has determined that the Group is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the board the financial report as set out on pages 4 to 15:

- 1. Give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2017.
- 2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- 3. Satisfies the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commissions Regulation 2013.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the board and is signed for and on behalf of the board by:


Board member.....


Board member

Dated 4th August, 2017

Independent Audit Report to the board of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report being a special purpose financial report, of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of income and expenditure and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the board's assertion statements for the Group.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC), including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Association Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the board's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Board Members for the Financial Report

The board members of the Group are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (VIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board members' responsibility also includes establishing and monitoring such internal control as the board members determine necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the board members are responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board members either intend to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

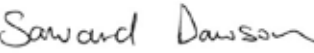
As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Group.

Independent Audit Report to the board of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria Inc

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Group's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


Seward Dawson


Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn, VIC

Date: 4 August 2017

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Other income	437	737
Expenses		
Fund Distributions	-	12,000
Surplus/(loss) for the year	437	(11,263)
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	33,025	44,288
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	33,462	33,025

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	33,559	33,025
Cash on hand	100	100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	33,659	33,125
TOTAL ASSETS	33,659	33,125
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	97	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	97	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	97	-
NET ASSETS	33,562	33,125
EQUITY		
Settled Sum	100	100
Retained Surplus	33,462	33,025
TOTAL EQUITY	33,562	33,125

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

ABN: 70 078 765 457

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Trustees believe the Trust is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. These financial statements are therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the trust deed and the information needs of stakeholders.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

(b) Income Tax

The Trust is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The entity is a registered charity with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Revenue and other income

The trust recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund's activities as discussed below.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.


Trustees' Declaration


The Trustees declare that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the trustee company declare that the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 3:

- present fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and;
- in the Trustees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.


Trustee


Trustee

Dated 4th August, 2017

Independent Audit Report to the members of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, the statement of income and expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the trustees' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Trust gives a true and fair view of the financial position of VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund as at 30 June 2017, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with their accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the auditor independence requirements and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report is prepared to assist the Trust to comply with the trust deed's financial reporting provisions. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance

The trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

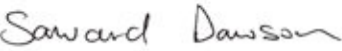
Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Fund's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Seward Dawson



Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated: 4 August 2017

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964

Statement of Income and Expenditure

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Donations	-	550
Interest received	329	420
Expenses	-	-
Surplus for the year	<u>329</u>	<u>970</u>
Retained surplus at the beginning of the financial year	24,819	23,849
Retained surplus at the end of the financial year	<u>25,148</u>	<u>24,819</u>

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964

Balance Sheet

As At 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Bank balances	25,148	24,819
Cash on hand	100	100
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	<u>25,248</u>	<u>24,919</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>25,248</u>	<u>24,919</u>
NET ASSETS	<u>25,248</u>	<u>24,919</u>
EQUITY		
Settled sum	100	100
Retained Surplus	25,148	24,819
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>25,248</u>	<u>24,919</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI)
Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2017

1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Basis of Preparation

The trustees believe the Trust is a non-reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial reports. These financial statements are therefore a special purpose financial report that has been prepared in order to meet the requirements of the trust deed and the information needs of stakeholders.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the Trustees have determined are appropriate to meet the purposes of preparation. Such accounting policies are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs unless otherwise stated in the notes. The accounting policies that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

(b) Income Tax

The Trust is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. The entity is a registered charity with the Australian Charity and Not-for-profits Commission.

(c) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(d) Revenue and other income

The trust recognises revenue when the amount of revenue can be reliably measured, it is probable that future economic benefits will flow to the entity and specific criteria have been met for each of the fund's activities as discussed below.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

ABN: 30 120 187 964


Trustees' Declaration


The Trustees declare that the Trust is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors of the trustee company declare that the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 3:

- present fairly the Trust's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements;
- in the Trustees' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Trust will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Trustees.

Trustee 

Trustee 

Dated 4th August, 2017

Independent Audit Report to the members of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund (the Trust), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2017, the statement of income or expenditure for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the trustees' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Trust gives a true and fair view of the financial position of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund as at 30 June 2017, and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with their accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with the auditor independence requirements and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund to comply with the trust deed's financial reporting provisions. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Independent Audit Report to the members of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

Responsibilities of Trustees for the Financial Report

The trustees of the Trust are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the trustees are responsible for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.


Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report


- Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.
- As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
 - Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
 - Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.

Independent Audit Report to the members of The Trustee for the Volunteer Fire Fighters Occupational Illnesses (VFFOI) Awareness and Protection Fund

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Fund's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.


Seward Dawson


Jeffrey Tulk
Partner

Blackburn VIC

Dated: 4 August 2017

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