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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **WERRIBEE FAMILIES LAUNCH CFA COMMITMENTS**

Werribee teenagers Brandon and Breanna Borg and Ryobi and Blake Hindle are setting the scene to become future volunteer firefighters

The siblings last weekend competed at the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) State Urban Junior Championships in Warrnambool, where they gained an early insight into the work of volunteer firefighters.

Many of the competition events stem back to the late 1880s when people would couple hoses to hydrants to fight fires. The events are designed to help potential firefighting volunteers becoming efficient in operational skills.

Brenna has been an active member of the junior brigade for a couple of years, Brandon started this year, following in his big sister's footsteps.

Likewise, Breanna was inspired by a relative to join. "My cousin Emily Martignago is a volunteer firefighter and I wanted to follow in her footsteps," she said. "She's always been an inspiration."

Emily is now the brigade's junior coach.

"The Werribee Fire Brigade is like a second family to us," Brenna added,

Breanna aims to become a paramedic and believes being involved with the emergency services will help her to achieve that goal.

"We love the togetherness of doing things as a family," Breanna added.

Ryobi and Blake are following aunts, uncles and cousins into the brigade, and like the Borgs hope to eventually turn their junior competition into ongoing roles as trained volunteers serving the community as part of the CFA.

"We think it's a good way to help out the community," Ryobi said.

VFBV CEO Andrew Ford said junior brigades and the championships were the best way for young people to become engaged and learn practical skills before being old enough to attend fires.

“The VFBV State Urban Junior Championships can set young people on a pathway to serve their communities,” Mr Ford said.

“They encourage family participation and help to instil a sense of community service and volunteerism in young people while raising the importance of local fire brigades,” Mr Ford said.

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