



May 2018,

MEDIA RELEASE

HAMILTON CFA VOLUNTEER WINS VALUES AWARD

Susan Little recalls watching a fire truck rush past her house in Sunbury during Ash Wednesday.

As she was stuck at home for the next few days she kept thinking about what the firefighters did to protect their communities.

“That’s what sparked my interest in being a volunteer firefighter,” Susan said. “I went to school in Kyneton and we had to travel through Mount Macedon so we couldn’t go to school for days.

“I was young but that was when I started to take notice.”

Now with nearly 33 years of experience as an active volunteer firefighter, Susan has won the prestigious Living the Values award as part of the 2018 Spirit of CFA awards.

Susan has been part of Diggers Rest, Milltown and for the past 10 years Hamilton brigades and says she has grown from the experience.

“It has been a huge part of my life. All my children have all been involved and being a member of brigades has helped connect me to the communities I’ve lived in.”

While she is now heavily involved with the Hamilton fire Brigade junior program and has helped with fund-raising over the years, Susan says being an active firefighter was always what she wanted to do.

Susan’s support for volunteers extends to her work as a regional administration officer for the SES.

She says she is “very humbled” by the CFA award. “We don’t do it for the recognition. The Hamilton brigade has taught me so much and given me confidence to grow and believe in myself.”

Winners of the Living the Values award have and continue to exemplify CFA values, promoting safety at all times, showing respect, empathy and understanding, act with

integrity, honesty and fairness and work collaboratively, maintaining open communication while adapting to change.

Other Hamilton region volunteers recognised in the Spirit of CFA awards included Steven Lewis from the Dundas Group who won the Excellence in Sustainability Planning award, and Wayne Munro, of Merino, who was commended in the same category.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said the value and professionalism of volunteers like Susan Little make them a vital part of every regional Victorian community.

“As one of the most fire-prone places in the world, Victorians can be confident that with almost 60,000 volunteers and 1000 paid firefighters, we’re professionally trained and equipped for all fire risks and our huge volunteer numbers mean we have the ability to step up and respond anywhere in the state in times of disaster,” Mr Ford said.

People interested in volunteering can contact their local brigade or visit www.vfbv.com.au

Ends...