



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**24 April 2019**

## **TRUGANINA CFA ON THE HOP THIS EASTER WEEKEND**

Truganina CFA members spent Good Friday shaking tins for the Royal Childrens' Hospital Good Friday Appeal, but they were kept on the hop thanks to several emergency calls in their primary response area and surrounding suburbs.

Over the course of the long weekend, Truganina responded to six calls, including a gas leak and a container fire in its primary response area, as well as supporting Hoppers Crossing CFA at a solar panel fire.

Despite interruptions, 35 brigade members and helpers raised **\$15,128.30** for the Good Friday Appeal, collecting at intersections, door to door and on Thursday at the Tarneit Shopping centre.

Mark Gravell, CFA District 14 President for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, said the busy brigades in the outer area of Melbourne provided operational support for nearby brigades as well as in their own primary response area. CFA District 14 covers an area ranging from Werribee in the west to Eltham in the north west.

Over the weekend CFA brigades in the district had a total of 142 responses, mobilising around 500 CFA volunteer firefighters. This included brigades supporting their neighbouring brigades at incidents outside their primary area.

Despite interruptions, District 14 brigades raised more than **\$158,000** for the Appeal.

Mr Gravell said CFA's respected surge capacity in urban and rural areas happened every day, not just during large fires.

"CFA's highly active volunteer presence in outer Melbourne means dozens of trained firefighters can turn out to incidents in other locations and still maintain service levels in their primary response area," Mr Gravell said.

Truganina is typical of brigades in District 14, undergoing massive growth and seeing rapidly increasing call volumes - attending 430 incidents in the past year, including supporting other CFA brigades and MFB. Truganina is also a specialist brigade that runs Staging Areas where vehicles are maintained and crews are rested and fed during major campaign fires, most notably the Whittlesea staging area during Black Saturday.

## **Recruitment campaign**

Truganina CFA is currently recruiting new volunteer members, through a membership drive on their Facebook page.

Mr Gravell said being a CFA volunteer is a great opportunity for people who enjoy teamwork, a physical and mental challenge, and who want to provide a meaningful contribution in their community.

“Whether you want to attend incidents as a firefighter or work in support, logistics and communications roles, you are welcome to apply.”

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