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MEDIA RELEASE

LINDSAY VOLUNTEERS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR SERVICE

With less than 10 active members and not even mains power at their fire station, Lindsay Fire Brigade might be one of the smallest in Victoria but the volunteers are punching above their weight.

Servicing a farming and plantation region near the South Australian border west of Casterton, the brigade's size and lack of mains power hasn't stopped the volunteers from protecting a large community.

The efforts of volunteers to keep the brigade viable have been recognised with the Frank Angelino encouragement trophy awarded by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria's (VFBV) District 4 executive committee.

VFBV District 4 state councillor Kelvinn Bateman said the award recognised the commitment of volunteers to keep brigades operating, even in difficult circumstances.

The award considers brigade participation in their group, improvement in brigade management, and turn out performance.

"This brigade does a remarkable job considering the lack of resources at their disposal, and members always respond when their pager goes off," Mr Bateman said.

The brigade has operated out of its current fire station for the last 40 years without any 240-volt mains power.

"They have missed out on all the things other brigades take for granted such as toilets, kitchen facilities, hand washing basins, cold drinks in a fridge, being able to recharge portable radio batteries and truck batteries, or a pressure washer to clean their tanker when they return from a job," Mr Bateman said.

That will change soon following a CFA announcement that the fire station will receive a \$25,000 solar panel power upgrade and a power generator.

Brigade captain Grant Harvey said the award was appreciated and the local volunteers continued to protect the local community.

“We have seven or eight active members and about 12 on the books all up,” he said. “Like a lot of areas, farms are bigger and numbers have dwindled but when there’s a fire we’re all there.

“This has been relatively quiet but other years we get quite a lot of calls.”

Captain Harvey said the brigade would be boosted by the new solar panels.

“We’ve never had power in the shed so that will be good to have.”

Captain Harvey encouraged all landholders in the region to consider joining the brigade.

VFBV CEO Adam Barnett said volunteers are the cornerstone of local communities and their experience and willingness to drop everything provides made a huge contribution to the safety and response capacity of CFA and the protection of Victoria.

CAPTION: Gary Taylor District 4 VFBV president (right) presents the trophy to brigade secretary Andrew Hill and Captain Grant Harvey.

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