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MEDIA RELEASE

MT ELIZA VOLUNTEERS FIND NEW WAY TO PROTECT THE COMMUNITY

Mt Eliza CFA volunteer firefighters have found a new way to protect the local community.

In addition to their regular work in fighting fires and helping at accidents and emergencies, 14 volunteers have completed a group blood drive at the Australian Red Cross Blood Service Frankston Donor Centre.

Brigade secretary and regular blood donor, Norm Coleman, organised the donation and said it was another way of contributing to the local community.

“We had some first-time donors so it was good to get new people on board, along with some who hadn’t donated for several years and this opened the door for them to return,” he said.

“The first timers were a bit nervous but they got through it well.”

The Blood Bank has a blood challenge between emergency services across Victoria. “We normally train on a Tuesday night so we thought it would be a good time to get some members down to donate blood as an activity,” Mr Coleman said.

“It’s a good feeling to know you’ve been able to help the community as a volunteer firefighter in another way.”

Mr Coleman said the brigade hoped to do a similar group donation next year. “A lot of volunteers have put their name down to donate again in their own time,” he added.

The brigade regularly responds to call-outs, which range from fires to car accidents and even checking on smoky heaters for elderly residents. The Brigade also engages in community safety events as well as supporting the local community events.

The brigade has 60 operational and non-operational members who give up their spare time to help and support the community.

“We have a lot of members who help with maintenance around the station, do administrative work, and pass on their experience to newer members which is very helpful,” Mr Coleman said.

So far this year the brigade has responded to more than 160 calls.

Mt Eliza also has a junior brigade with about 10 members aged under 16.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Adam Barnett said the donation reflected how volunteer brigades connect with their local communities.

“Volunteers are essential to public safety and our dedicated volunteers are continuing a great Australian tradition that is well respected in our communities,” Mr Barnett said.

Learn more about CFA’s world-respected surge capacity on the VFBV website: <https://vfbv.com.au/index.php/component/k2/item/568-cfa-s-volunteer-surge-capacity-essential-for-victoria>

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