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MEDIA RELEASE

MIRBOO NORTH CFA VOLUNTEERS TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS

The Mirboo North community is set to celebrate 75 years of CFA volunteers serving their local region.

And Mirboo North Fire Brigade captain Dave Smith says the community has good reason to feel proud of their efforts, both close to home and far away.

The brigade will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Saturday November 30 with a reunion of past and present members. On Sunday December 1, the brigade is inviting the community to an open day and barbecue at the fire station.

A committee of volunteers has been tracking down past members and uncovering the brigade's early history and photos to mount a display.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) CEO Adam Barnett congratulated the Mirboo North volunteers on their significant milestone and said they are a great example of local people supporting their communities and beyond.

"The experience and willingness of CFA volunteers to drop everything and help others makes a huge contribution to the safety and response capacity of CFA and the protection of Victoria," Mr Barnett said.

Captain Smith said the community should be proud of its volunteers past and present. The brigade has about 40 active members, ranging from teenagers to people in their 70s who respond to 70-80 calls each year, mostly for motor vehicle accidents and small grass fires.

"Locally we've been fortunate with structure fires as the CFA awareness campaigns seem to be working, but we're always there when needed and I'm really proud of our volunteers who put their hands up to join strike teams," Captain Smith said.

"When our volunteers go away on strike teams, my thoughts are if it was our town under threat, we'd be really happy to see them. You've got to be proud of people who are willing to go away from their town and district to help others, and I thank their families who support them."

Captain Smith said some of the earlier members would be amazed at how much the brigade has changed over the years.

The brigade now has a pumper, tanker, rescue vehicle and a forward command vehicle.

“Back in the 80s when we became a rescue brigade, the members and Ladies Auxiliary did a lot of fundraising to put some gear in a trailer; now we have a dedicated 15-tonne truck,” Captain Smith said.

“The gear, technology and professionalism has come a long way,” he said. “It will be interesting to see the response of some of the earlier members when they return.”

The reunion starts at 2pm at the Mirboo North Fire Station. Please RSVP to: **0491 641 028** or email: mnfb@cfa.vic.gov.au

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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