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**MEDIA RELEASE**

## **POOWONG CFA VOLUNTEERS TO CELEBRATE 75 YEARS**

Poowong Fire Brigade's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday November 10 will celebrate family connections that continue to protect communities near and far.

Captain Malcolm Blight said Poowong had always been a family-oriented brigade and that tradition continues today.

The brigade has about 24 members, including active and support volunteers. "We have two brothers, a brother and sister, fathers and mothers so it's a good family brigade," he said.

Captain Blight is personally contributing to the strong family connections; his wife Jo is the brigade secretary and his son Liam and daughter Tahnae are also firefighters.

The brigade usually has about 30 turn-outs annually but this year has already responded to 47 calls for help. "There hasn't been any specific reason for the extra calls locally but we have been helping a lot with the campaign fires as our volunteers add to the CFA surge capacity when there are major incidents," Captain Blight said.

"We're only a little brigade but we do quite a bit and as the only local emergency service we're a big part of the community."

The brigade has a three-bay station built six years ago to house its 3000-litre tanker, ultralight specialist appliance for blacking-out duties and a quick-fill trailer.

The brigade is inviting the community to join the 75<sup>th</sup> celebrations with a barbecue from 11am. Several brigade life memberships will be presented on the day.

"It's a significant milestone," Captain Blight said. "We've been involved with the CFA for 75 years but I believe the brigade was formed before that and was operating independently."

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

"Volunteers are essential to public safety and their experience and willingness help others makes a huge contribution to the protection of Victoria and the response capacity of CFA," 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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