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MEDIA RELEASE

GOLD STARS RECOGNISE 145 YEARS OF SERVICE

Three new Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) Gold Star Awards have recognised a combined 145 years of service to the CFA and years of dedication to rural championship competitions.

The awards have been presented to Tony Treffers from Baranduda Rural Fire Brigade near Wodonga, Ron Leary from Stanley Fire Brigade near Beechworth, and Ron Evans from Bethanga and District Rural Fire Brigade near Tallangatta.

The gold stars were presented by VFBV state councillor Mary Anne Egan at the recent District 24 championships at Gapsted and recognised the trio's support for the championships.

Mr Treffers has been a state championship delegate, coach, secretary and track official; Mr Leary has served as chairperson, track official and master and team coach and competitor, and Mr Evans has been a marshal, founding member, secretary and protest committee member.

All three were nominated by the District 24 championship committee.

Mr Evans has given 65 years of service to the CFA; Mr Leary 42 years and Mr Treffers has been involved for 38 years.

Mary Anne Egan said the award winners were inspiring a new generation of competitors and potential CFA volunteers.

"They have worked at local championships and contributed to the state championships and continue to be an inspiration for many young people," she said.

"We know how wonderful the championships are for comradery, family activity and strengthening our CFA skills, and the people who contribute to that are incredibly generous. They never seek reward but what they do makes it work so well."

Mrs Egan added that the championships were a family affair for the three award winners.

Mr Leary has been supported by his wife Carol and children Michelle, Simone and Kimberley (KJ), Mr Evans with wife Jeanette and children Elizabeth and Jason and Mr Treffers' children Christopher, Samantha and Natasha.

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