



Friday, 21 February 2014

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **SUMMER IS STILL HERE – CFA VOLUNTEERS**

The CFA volunteers' association is warning Victorians that summer is not yet finished, bushfires are still a threat and we should not be fooled by this week's cooler weather.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) says CFA volunteers fighting last week's major fires found some houses still had long grass and roof gutters full of leaves.

CFA volunteer Captain John Lockie says burning embers from a bushfire can ride on the wind and start new spot fires that are kilometres ahead of the main fire.

He says even simple preparations like mowing and cleaning out gutters can help firefighters to save the house, and Victorians should make use of this milder weather to get those jobs done.

"If the gutters haven't been cleaned out properly, it's very easy for embers to take hold of the leaves and twigs that might be in the gutters," Captain Lockie said.

"Once you've got a fire in the eaves and the gutters of the house, it simply gets under the iron or the tiles, then you have a fire in your roof space," he said.

"That can go unnoticed, then by the time we see smoke coming out of the eaves or from inside the building, it's really too late to save the building."

Ends...

**VFBV Media Contact:** Peter Beaton 0419 504 111