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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MALLACOOTA CELEBRATES 70 YEARS AND LOOKS TO THE FUTURE**

Mallacoota Fire Brigade has celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary by honouring the commitment of its volunteer members while looking towards a positive future.

The brigade has secured a VESEP grant of \$170,000 for a new tanker that is expected to arrive in mid-2018 and has just taken over management of local Red Cross equipment.

For brigade captain Rod Lewis it's all part of the ongoing professional service offered to the community.

The brigade has 35 members and Captain Lewis says it is well trained and equipped to deal with the myriad of calls that comes its way.

"We're kicking along really well," he said. "We have a really good and active membership which is well trained to deal with all types of incidents.

"We always have strong turn outs to training and last weekend's burn over and tree awareness training and most of the firefighters attended."

The brigade has negotiated to take over management of the local Red Cross facility.

"It will keep the Red Cross trailer and equipment here to service the community," Captain Lewis said. "We will maintain and use it and we already have personnel qualified to manage it."

The new tanker will have an Isuzu 4 x 4 crew cab chassis with a 1700 litre capacity. "Together with the new Iveco tanker we received last year, this will bring us up to a very high standard of firefighting equipment for a town of our size," Captain Lewis said.

During the 70<sup>th</sup> celebrations Ray Fellows was posthumously awarded a Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) Life Medal and CFA Life Medal, and CFA service awards were presented to Cecil Wilson 70 year life member, Stuart Johnston 35 year life member, Paul Gray and Colin Gilchrist 15 years, Greg Mackieson, Jill Mackieson and Christopher Parker 10 years.

The function celebrated the registration of the Mallaoota Fire Brigade in November 1947. The exact date of formation is unknown but a photo of a fire truck in 1927 shows there has been a brigade in the town for at least 90 years.

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