

ASSISTING FIRE WISE

Support Fire Wise by contacting the Editor by telephone 0402 051 412 or email gordon@fire-wise.com.au with any happenings around your brigade. Incidents, awards, new equipment, training are all items of interest.

Also, please provide your email address through the same contacts so as future subscription invoices can be emailed to you as opposed to being sent by mail.

If you have any suggested improvements or ideas about the publication we would love to hear from you.

RECKLESS FIRES ARE A CRIME, COMMUNITIES WARNED

Whether deliberately or recklessly lit, starting a bushfire or grassfire is a crime—that's the message from Crime Stoppers Victoria as it urges the community to report reckless behaviour this summer.

The warning comes as part

of Crime Stoppers Victoria's Reckless Fires Cost Lives campaign, aiming to educate Victorians of the potentially deadly consequences resulting from seemingly innocuous actions.

Crime Stoppers Victoria Community Manager Chris

Plumridge said that it was up to all of us to report unsafe behaviour, and to encourage others to do the same.

"Many people in the community are unaware that starting a bushfire is a crime, whether recklessly or deliberately lit," he said.

"Behaviour that we might think is harmless at the time, can actually have very disastrous consequences, and one spark or ember really is all it takes to start a fire and put lives and properties at risk. It's up to all of us to encourage the community to know and follow the rules for the areas they're in, whether they're lighting campfires, using angle grinders, or any other potentially hazardous activity.

"We are urging brigades to talk to their communities about reckless fires, and to refer people to Crime Stoppers if they wish to report reckless behaviour or arson."

Reckless behaviour can include disobeying restrictions relating to Total Fire Ban or Fire Danger Periods, leaving campfires unattended, burning off without a permit, or using hot tools or machinery that emits flames or sparks on Total Fire Ban days.

Penalties for causing a bushfire include up to 15 years imprisonment or fines of over \$36,000. The maximum penalty for arson resulting in death is 25 years imprisonment.

To obtain a social media pack with pictures, digital posters and messages, or for hints and tips on how to talk to your local community about reckless and deliberate bushfire arson, contact CSV Community Manager Chris Plumridge on 9247 6093 or chris@crimestoppersvic.com.au.

People are urged to report suspicious or reckless fire behaviour to Crime Stoppers Victoria on 1800 333 000 or at www.crimestoppersvic.com.au. You don't have to give your name, and all reports are completely confidential. In an emergency, or if you see smoke or flames, contact 000.

Surprise for Captain Joel

A presentation was made at Nhill Fire Brigade's Christmas dinner function in December with a surprised Captain Joel Borgelt being presented with a brigade life membership.

Joel was a member of the junior brigade and transferred to the senior brigade where he was soon elected Lieutenant. When first elected to the office as Captain he became the youngest ever Captain of Nhill Fire Brigade.

He has now become the youngest ever recipient of life membership, which was an extremely well deserved accolade.

Since being elected as Captain six years ago his enthusiasm and leadership skills have seen many young people join the ranks.

The life membership was presented by 1st Lieutenant Rob Schneider.

During the evening the brigade's firefighter of the year was awarded to Lieutenant Brendan Mylan. Brendan has played an important role since transferring from Rushworth three years ago. He is currently the brigade's training officer.

KEEP IT FREE!

District	Day 1	Day 2	Location
2	22 nd April, 2018	20 th May, 2018	Castlemaine
8	19 th May, 2018	23 rd June, 2018	Dandenong
10	5 th May, 2018	30 th June, 2018	Sale
11	27 th May, 2018	17 th June, 2018	Bairnsdale
18	8 th , April 2018	29 th April, 2018	Ouyen
20	15 th April, 2018	8 th May, 2018	Echuca

Brigade Delegate Development Program

Engaging Diversity

VFBV District Councils are offering an exciting training opportunity for members to improve their skills as a current or aspiring VFBV Brigade Delegate or future leader within your brigade.

This is a great opportunity for all members to participate in the course with other members from your District Council to improve your delegate skills,

network and get to know other members and improve teamwork and communication between members.

Engaging Diversity is the theme of the program with the following skills being important, Issue Resolution *Relationship Building Communication Problem Solving Decision Making Teamwork Strategic Thinking and Leadership.*

Contact Mark Dryden for more information
m.dryden@vfbv.com.au PH: 0428 767 258

