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All nozzles can be ordered with a colour coded grip and handle. The 38mm is available in 3,5,6 and 7 Bar Pressure.

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MANY ADVANTAGES AND BENEFITS TO NEW ULT

Lawloit Fire Brigade has commissioned a new Ultra Light Tanker which is the first of its type within Kaniva Group.

The tanker will increase operational capacity of the brigade and group and allows the brigade to provide a more comprehensive service to the local community and surrounds.

According to Captain **Chris Hicks**: “The versatility of this appliance, the ease of turning out quickly, and the ease of crewing it will make it a valuable asset to the community, helping to prevent fires from becoming large and shortening the time required to mop-up the fire impacted area. The appliance will save volunteer time to minimise impact on their livelihood.”

It does not require a truck licence to drive which opens up the number of drivers to all fire fighters.

Lawloit Fire Brigade has 75 brigade members including 56 firefighters who proudly serve for their community and responds to a wide range of incidents including agricultural and bush fires (particularly in the nearby National Parks), structural fires, chemical spills and highway accidents/fatalities.

In addition to the new Landcruiser ULT, the brigade’s firefighting fleet consists of a 3.4D Isuzu taker and a quick fill trailer.

The Ultra-Light Tanker was funded through the 2017/2018 VESEP Grant Program and Lawloit Fire Brigade. The grant funded \$113,500 and the brigade funded \$21,500.

The brigade raised money through generous community donations and from organisations and businesses.

Below: Captain Chris Hicks receives the keys to the impressive new ultra light tanker from CFA Board Member Lynda Hamilton. Also pictured are Emma Kealy (Member for Lowan) and District 17 Operations Manager Craig Brittain.



HIGHLIGHTS AT ANNIVERSARY

Barongarook Fire Brigade held its annual presentation function last month celebrating nearly 75 years of service to the local community. The highlight of the event was the presentation of National Medals to four long serving members.

Recipients of National Medals were **Barry Ackerman**, **Graeme Benallack**, **Martin Dow** and **George O’Dwyer**. Graeme also received a CFA Life Membership.

At the event service medals were presented to President **Mike Evans** (30 years), **Lena Johnstone** and **Ken O’Brian** (25 years), Captain **Brad Langdon** (20 years), **Greg Smith** (10 years) and **Ken Hay** (5 years).

Acting Chief Gavin complimented Barongarook Fire Brigade on its extensive community service responding to many hundreds of local fires including Ash Wednesday (1983), Wye River/Jamieson Track (Dec 2015) and South West Complex (March 2018), and major campaign fires in NSW, Eastern Victoria, North Eastern Victoria, Kinglake and Bunyip (2009). He also noted the brigade’s involvement in the introduction of Class A Foam onto CFA tankers, its long history of fire prevention and fuel modification works, and its involvement with CFA Rural Competitions (Senior and Junior).

He also made note of Barongarook Brigade’s recent modernisation undertaken in regards to community safety, vegetation management and fire protection activities including recent Community Awareness days, and its proactive Vision, Mission and Values statement and officer role statements that Barongarook Fire Brigade has just developed.

Barongarook Fire Brigade has 23 firefighters - including seven young women - and 10 support personnel.



Pictured above are Barongarook Fire Brigade’s National Medal and service medal recipients. From left: Lena Johnstone, Martin Dow, George O’Dwyer, President Mike Evans, Graham Benallack, CFA Acting Chief Executive Officer/Acting Chief Officer Gavin Freeman, who made the presentations, and Captain Brad Langdon. The brigade celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Loss of GPS tracking

Millions of GPS devices worldwide, including the Tait radios on CFA appliances, experienced a Y2K-style glitch on April 6 when the GPS internal date counter resets itself.

Volunteer Delegates on the Joint VFBV/CFA Communications & Technology Committee have expressed disappointment that neither CFA or Tait had put in place planning for a known fault that occurs every 20 years and which impacted on CFA during the fire season.

As outlined in CFA Operations Bulletin 006-2019 released on 12 April 2019, all vehicles will still have full use of the radio for communication purposes. However, the glitch means the radio GPS loses satellite lock and cannot re-establish.

As a result, appliance locations will not be visible using the resource tracking system, eMap or EM-COP, and when the “L” button on the handset is pressed, the last stored coordinates is displayed. When the duress button is pressed the correct co-ordinates are not sent.

VFBV information . . .

EMV is removing all symbols from EMCOP and eMap so there is no confusion as to whether the signal is working or not for those users of the mapping product.

TAIT is working on providing CFA a firmware patch that requires reprogramming of the GPS antenna, however installation will require a visit from a technician to each vehicle fitted with a mobile radio. CFA expects the patch will be completed as quickly as possible and planning is currently underway.

Due to the use of external aerials, CFA Bag radios are likely to be updated by a different process that is yet to be determined by CFA’s Comms Department. This will be communicated to the Districts when finalised.

VFBV has requested that the update program be developed to ensure there is minimal impact on Brigades, and delegates have requested that CFA give Brigades plenty of notice of when these visits will occur to limit the inconvenience and ensure minimal appliance off line time.

CFA has supported these requests and has committed to provide regular updates as soon as details have been finalised.

DRESS UNIFORM SUPPLIES

VFBV continues to advocate for the speedy resolution of the CFA dress uniform contract.

All orders for dress uniform tunics and trousers were put on hold while contractual arrangements with a new tailor are being negotiated.

While slower than hoped, CFA has provided an update indicating positive progress is being made. Due to probity constraints around commercial negotiations, details regarding the commercial arrangements are unable to be released publicly, but VFBV will update members as soon as possible.

VFBV also continues to lobby for changes to the cut of the female dress uniform based on feedback received from female members, who are looking for more diverse options in the cut and fit of the dress uniform shirts in particular.



INVITATION TO APPLY: Board Members of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV)

INVITATION OPEN TO ALL VOLUNTEERS TO APPLY

Closing date for written applications is 31st July 2019

VFBV advances the interests of all Victorian fire brigade volunteers and advocates on their behalf to CFA and other key stakeholders. The VFBV Board drives policy development based on volunteer input and is involved in management of issues of central importance to all CFA volunteers. Vacancies for Four Board Members will arise when the terms of Samantha Rothman, Kate Boschetti, Jan Cleary and Libby Hay expire on 1st October 2019; all members are eligible for re-appointment.

The term of appointment will be to 1st October 2021 (two years) and applications are invited from interested volunteers to be considered for these vacancies.

The role of a VFBV Board Member involves contributing to VFBV direction, policy determination and monitoring the performance and governance of the Association. Also actively contributing to policy discussion at Board Meetings, networking with others about policies and issues management, and not only making decisions but being prepared to actively advocate for the benefit of all CFA volunteers and ultimately the Victorian community.

A Board Member Role Statement including the key selection criteria is available from the VFBV office or from the VFBV website.

This is an honorary position; no honorarium is paid.

If you are motivated by the prospect of making a difference for CFA volunteers, then send your written application addressing the key selection criteria in the role statement, plus an outline of your CFA activity including the names of two referees.

Applications must be lodged with VFBV by **Wednesday 31st July 2019** to:

VFBV, 9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151
 Tel: 9886 1141; Fax: 9886 1618
 Email: j.laing@vfbv.com.au