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No one understands more about the needs of the CFA and their trucks than the crew at Patterson Cheney. Hardly surprising given we've been assisting the CFA with all their truck requirements for over twenty years. So no matter what sort of truck you're after, talk to the CFA experts first.



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RELIABILITY IS EVERYTHING

Low voltage fuse removal training underway

Low Voltage Fuse Removal training is underway across the state with 82 brigades having already received training as part of stage one.

The one-day course includes both practical and theoretical components.

By undertaking this training, CFA firefighters will have the capability to operate safely on firegrounds when there is an electrical issue, enabling them to attack fires prior to the arrival of an electrical professional to the scene.

The training is open to class 5, 4 and 3 brigades, and to be eligible, members will need to complete the Electrical Awareness Package on the Learning Management System.

The two-day Safe Working at Heights training course will also be available soon, and open to class 5,4,3 brigades.

Both training packages are a step forward for safety, ensuring our people have the knowledge and equipment to work safely at the scene of an incident.

Emergency Management Victoria has been working in collaboration with Ambulance Victoria, ESTA, CFA and VICSES, to procure developers for the Supplementary Alerting Service (SAS).

Known as SAS, the smartphone app will supplement the existing Emergency Alerting System (EAS), and will benefit users by improving communications during response, as well as improved functionality.

The EAS network covers 95% of Victoria, and is critical to emergency management operations in the state. The SAS system has been developed to work in conjunction with the EAS system.

Users have identified several ways of improving the current system. The SAS app will receive the same messages as the EAS service and present them to end-users, and has been designed to suit the needs of each agency.

The app will be voluntary, and users will need to provide their own smartphone.

Evaluating a tender for the production of the app was carried out by a team of representatives from agencies who use the

New station for Portarlington

Portarlington Fire Brigade has a new state of the art facility that will house the brigade and further enhance its excellent service to the community.

The official opening of the station was a proud moment for the brigade with members working tirelessly prior to the build to fundraise so it could purchase many add-ons to ensure the facility was the best possible.

Features of the new facility include three large engine bays to house the brigade's medium 2.4C tanker, type 2 pumper and FCV; a large meeting room and kitchen; BA room; drying room; two office spaces, one which is being used by the BASO and the other occupied by the brigade; male and female change rooms; toilet and shower room; workshop area; a large shed to house the brigade's lighting trailer and for storage and a generator to supply power in the event of a power failure.

Portarlington Fire Brigade



Brigade icon and 55 year veteran Bob Tresize (left) pictured being congratulated by Captain Darren on receiving his service medal and CFA Life Membership.

stalwart **Bob Tresize** was presented with a 55 year service medal and CFA life member-

ship on the day. Bob is a former Captain and remains a dedicated member.

Other service medal recipients were **Robert Snell** (40 years and CFA life membership), **Mervyn Locke** and **Glenn Thompson** (40), **Captain Darren Nisbet** (30), **Ian McLennan** (25), **Connor Scott** and **Liam Scott** (15), **Lieutenant Lachlan Thompson**, **Jamie McLeod** and **Mike Fairweather** (10), **Brooke Woodhart**, **Patrick McGuire**, **Glen Jose** and **Mark Decosta** (5).

Captain Darren Nisbet and wife Andrea were honoured with life membership of Portarlington Brigade, in recognition of Darren's time and dedication to the brigade and Andrea's wonderful support, especially over the past three years during the word leading up to and during the new station build.

CFA Board Member **Lynda Hamilton** presented a National Medal and first clasp to Lieutenant **Wayne McLennan** and **Paul Least**.



Members of Portarlington Fire Brigade who were recognised for service pictured outside the new station.

Development of SAS app

EAS system, as well as EMV and ESTA. Ernst & Young is the successful tenderer for the development of SAS.

Ernst & Young has a strong record of delivering engaging and effective digital experiences in the government sector, spanning emergency service, state and federal government, and not for profit clients.

Their experience includes designing, building, and managing digital platforms and applications that are focused on great user experience.

Over the next six months, development of the app will be undertaken. Feedback from those who will be using the app will inform the app's development.

More information, including a timeline of the app's development and rollout, will be made available shortly. The app is being funded by the state government and as a result there will be no cost to staff or volunteers.

SW VOLUNTEER FORUM SUCCESS

CFA members from brigades throughout the South West Region came together to share their thoughts and experiences with fellow CFA members as part of the South West Region Volunteer Forum held in Warrnambool last month.

Assistant Chief Officer South West Region **Rohan Luke** took the large attendance through an overview of the information and expertise available to tap into on the day.

Subject matter experts from across CFA covering a large variety of volunteering initiatives were kept busy answering questions on everything from awards, wellbeing, Championships, rural decline, apparel, and pride; there really was something for everyone.

Guest speaker for the day **Chad Foulkes** from Liminal by Design led the group as volunteers shared stories about what they first joined CFA, why they continue to volunteer, and how they serve their communities. These stories clearly demonstrated the common passion that our volunteers share. Congratulations and thank you to those who shared with the group.

Following on from morning tea Chad got everyone up, smiling and 'high fiving', providing a fantastic catalyst for networking across the rest of the day. Chad also provided the group with some tips and key takeaways on effective community engagement.

The forum also saw the launch of a volunteer recognition song, Band Together, which was written and recorded by a couple of local students with support from Emmanuel College in Warrnambool. Thanks to **Indie** and **Hudson Buckle** the song provided the perfect way to wrap up the session.

After lunch ACO Rohan Luke presented information about CFA's vision for the future including key strategic goals and fire services reform. This led into a busy question and answer session led by Deputy Chief Officer **Stephanie Rotarangi**, who along with a panel of staff members, listened to a wide variety of queries, concerns and suggestions from the audience. Topics discussed included training, fire services reform and volunteer wellbeing.

The day was well received, with volunteers appreciating the opportunity to learn from each other, take home new ideas, meet new people, and shared their experiences with senior members of CFA.

Thank you to those who attended, many whom travelled large distances to be there.



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. One member has advised they will not be re-applying; all other 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