# Junior Leader Forum online

**On Thursday 17 June CFA Junior leaders from brigades across Victoria came together online to network and share ideas at the 2021 Junior Leader Forum.**

Due to COVID-19 related restrictions in place the forum was hosted online for an interactive, two-hour session.

This was an opportunity for junior leaders to hear about what's happening in the youth engagement space, as well as the work CFA directorates are doing to support young people.

The forum kicked off with an introduction about the Youth Engagement Working Group which included representatives from Child Safety, Inclusion and Fairness, Community Engagement and more.

The session shared several resources available to junior leaders on CFA Members Online including, the Junior Brigade Group Agreement Toolkit, JuniorsLIVE and the Disability Inclusion Guide. These can all be found on the youth page of the intranet.

Child Safety Project Manager **Greg Davis** and Child Safety Manager **Linda Franco** spoke about the work their team is doing and how it supports young people in CFA. Inclusion and Fairness Coordinator **Libby Symons** presented on what Inclusion and Fairness is and does, including how to make people feel accepted and welcomed.

The session was an opportunity for Junior Leader **Denise Jordan** to share an 'Amazing Race' activity that Swan Hill Fire Brigade recently took part in. The activity involved junior members being split into teams to work strategically to complete tasks and collect the most points. Feedback from this session was overwhelmingly positive and Denise shared some tips for other junior leaders to take on board.

**Samantha Barnard** from headspace attended the forum and provided insight into the mental health and wellbeing of young people and how junior leaders can support youths who may need help.

Volunteer Programs Leader (Youth) **Jen Clement** then kicked off the Q&A session where members were able to ask about and discuss a range of topics. This was an opportunity for junior leaders to ask questions of the different directorates supporting youth engagement, especially child safety.

Jen said it was great to see junior leaders from across the state connecting with one another.

"It was a shame we couldn't host this year's forum in person, but it was great to see so many members online," Jen said.

"It was a really productive opportunity to hear directly from our junior leaders. The Q&A session really allowed members to speak up about what they might need help with and relate to other brigades across the state.

"The impact of COVID-19 has affected all of us including our junior members. It was great to hear from Samantha about how we can best support young people. She provided junior leaders with some great advice and tips."

# FARMERS URGED TO APPLY FOR DEFIBRILLATORS

**Following a near-death experience earlier this year, which was reported on in June edition of 'Fire Wise', Captain Scott Selle (Spring Hill) is urging rural communities to apply for life saving equipment available in a Victorian Farmers Federation competition.**

Captain Scott suffered a cardiac arrest while attending a call and was revived by fellow firefighters using a defibrillator from one of the fire appliances.

"Defibrillators save lives; it is that simple. The defibrillator brought me back to life within two minutes and I'm so grateful we had them available to us."

The Victorian Farmers Federation *Making Our Farms Safer* team has partnered with St John Ambulance Victoria to give away seven automated external defibrillators to support Victorian farming communities.

VFF President **Emma Germano** said this giveaway would provide farming communities the resource and support they need.

"Farm safety is our highest priority and I strongly encourage Victorian farmers to apply for an AED if they don't have one in their local community," she said.

To enter the giveaway, complete the application form online at bit.ly/3gFNhQD before 24 July.

Winners will be announced and contacted on 17 August.

# Updates at Maiden Gully

**At Maiden Gully Fire Brigade's recent annual meeting, Captain Peter Dole reported that the brigade had responded to 44 calls for the year with 26 being in Maiden Gully.**

Like many brigades, the number of incidents attended was well down on the previous year when a total of 74 calls were recorded.

While summer was quiet, Tanker 1 responded on two Fortuna Group Strike Teams to Kyneton and Graytown within the same week. Despite some initial apprehension to the change, the high level of support received from what is now FRV Station 73 (Bendigo) has not changed.

Covid-19 restricted many of the brigade's normal activities from training to fundraising. No sausages were burnt for a whole 18 months! Over the past few months, the Brigade conducted several Covid-safe events that began with our Reverse Torchlight (see photograph below) at Easter. Normally, Maiden Gully would have marched in the Easter Torchlight Parade and the community could stand and watch. This year, due to Covid restrictions, the community could walk past the front of our station and view the lights and the kerosene torches. Nearly 200 people visited and more watched online. The Station was bathed in blue in to support of the Police and a silhouetted soldier stood guard at dawn on ANZAC Day.

Maiden Gully has continued to grow with any new residential land being snapped up as soon as it goes on the market. A new $7 million combined Kindergarten, Childcare and Maternal and Child Health Centre has opened, a third Child Care Centre is opening in August and the Great Stupa has now reached its full height of 45 metres!

The brigade has made significant improvements to the station over the past 12 months with the installation of a full height roller shutter covering two of the bays at the rear that has significantly enhanced safety along with a powered security gate and new fencing at the side of the station.

Largely funded by an Australian Government Grant, 6.6 kW of solar panels have been added along with a battery. This state of the art facility has significantly reduced the brigade's carbon footprint as well as dramatically cutting the power bill. A side benefit is a back-up power supply that has already proven to be very useful.

From this month the new Brigade Management Team comprises of Chair: **David Patterson;** Captain: **Peter Dole;** Lieutenants: **Holly Franchina** (1st), **Daryl Bunton** (2nd), **Nathan Bennallack** (3rd), **Josh Dole** (4th). Communications Officer is **Sofia Leat-Hagart, Sam Falkingham** takes on Training with **Andrew Howlett** continuing as Treasurer and FEM, Secretary is **Damien Vaughan-Niven** and **Craig Waters** returns to the Management Team with the Community Safety portfolio. Retiring are **Adam Brough** and **Nick Isaacs** who have done several terms as Lieutenants along with **Andy Donnellan** who has stood down after 17 years as Comms Officer. All have made a real contribution to the brigade and remain very active members.

# CFA stalwart will be missed

**It is with great sadness that officers and members of Wallington Fire Brigade, and members of the local community, learned of the passing of esteemed colleague and good friend Peter Sewell (aka Sewelly).**

In 1967 Sewelly joined Blackwood Fire Brigade where he began his long association with CFA, which included a period as 2nd Lieutenant.

Over the next few decades Sewelly also spent time as a member of Balliang and Coimadai brigades. When he retired from full time employment he and wife Lindy (deceased) moved to the Bellarine Peninsula and transferred to Wallington Brigade in 2005.

Sewelly's involvement in and around the brigade was inspiring, constantly involving himself with both operational and non-operational activities. His knowledge and reputation preceded him particularly when driving the brigade's fundraising activities.

BBQ fundraisers were his speciality – he could always get a crowd into the sausage sizzle line and glean a gold coin for the brigade. Peter contributed significant time to the community in his retirement and the Wallington community can be extremely grateful that he chose to continue his involvement there.

You could always rely on Peter when it came to operations always offering his time and skills particularly when doing the radio sched or on hot weather days – his distinguished dulcitones can be heard "… this is Bellarine Group Headquarters listening, over and out . . ."

Peter passed away peacefully surrounded by family and friends.

On behalf of officers and members of Wallington Brigade " . . . we salute you Peter Sewell (Sewelly)."

# SERVICE AWARDS

**10 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant I. Emerson | Drik Drik |
| Lieutenant J. Overton | Linton |
| Firefighter L. Croad | Sorrento |
| Firefighter K. Seeley | Sorrento |
| Firefighter T. Helliwell | Sorrento |
| Firefighter C. Emerson | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter J. Lovell | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter B. Oakley | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter P. Rodgers | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter T. Green | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Green | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Murray | Talgarno |
| Firefighter R. Bliim | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Cross | Sunbury |
| Firefighter G. Fewings | Linton |
| Firefighter L. Howard | Linton |
| Member J. Miller | Talgarno |

**15 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Captain A. Kerr | Drik Drik |
| Lieutenant J. Green | Talgarno |
| Lieutenant B. Mason | Glenlyon |
| Firefighter S. Axup | Sorrento |
| Firefighter R. Dunlop | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter F. Emerson | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter G. Harvey | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter L. Klausen | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Schorobura | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Hough | Linton |
| Member N. Gormly | Talgarno |
| Member J. De Hennin | Talgarno |
| Member C. Smith | Talgarno |
| Member J. Stephenson | Talgarno |
| Member J. Mason | Glenlyon |

**20 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter L. Spencer | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter S. Cunningham | Glen Alvie |
| Firefighter A. Kelly | Linton |

**25 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Lieutenant B. Kew | Glenlyon |
| Firefighter A. Larkin | Glenlyon |
| Firefighter S. Redman | Talgarno |
| Firefighter H. Dunche | Talgarno |
| Firefighter B. Pope | Linton |
| Firefighter H. Verdoorn | Linton |
| Member A. Stephenson | Talgarno |
| Member P. Wood | Talgarno |
| Member G. Gormly | Talgarno |

**30 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter M. Gage | Glen Alvie |
| Firefighter R. Spencer | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter A. Woodall | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter A. Myer | Talgarno |
| Firefighter J. De Hennin | Talgarno |
| Firefighter R. Medwell | Talgarno |
| Member M. Merkell | Talgarno |
| Member A. Redman | Talgarno |

**50 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Captain M. Elliot | Talgarno |
| Firefighter G. Hayes | Talgarno |
| Firefighter D. Croad | Sorrento |
| Firefighter C. Stirling | Sorrento |
| Member A. Nettlefold | Sorrento |
| Member G. Hayes | Talgarno |

**40 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter C. Cowland | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter N. Emerson | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter P. Star | Talgarno |
| Member C. Bolton | Glenlyon |

**45 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter I. Brown | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter G. Holmes | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter P. Holmes | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter R. Liddle | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter S. McLean | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter G. Redman | Talgarno |
| Lieutenant K. Merkel | Talgarno |
| Firefighter S. Wood | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Wood | Talgarno |
| Firefighter M. Bolton | Glenlyon |
| Member R. Kerr | Drik Drik |
| Member T. Bolton | Glenlyon |

**55 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter T. Cooke | Linton |
| Firefighter N. Kerr | Drik Drik |
| Member I. Kerr | Drik Drik |

**60 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter G. Coffey | Glenlyon |
| Member H. Green | Talgarno |
| Member D. Elliot | Talgarno |

**65 YEARS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Member B. Elliot | Talgarno |
| Member I. Schubert | Talgarno |

**CFA LIFE MEMBERS**

| | |
|---|---|
| Firefighter T. Cooke | Linton |
| Firefighter N. Kerr | Drik Drik |
| Firefighter D. Croad | Sorrento |
| Firefighter C. Stirling | Sorrento |
| Member A. Nettlefold | Sorrento |

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD**

| | |
|---|---|
| Member J. Fleming | Glen Alvie |

# VFBV BOARD VACANCIES

## Invitation to ALL CFA Volunteers to apply

**Closing date for written applications is 30 July 2021**

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, Libby Hay, Jan Cleary and David Sidebottom expire on 1 October 2021; all members are eligible for re-appointment.

The term of appointment will be to 1 October 2023 (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/VFBV activity including the names of two referees.

Applications must be lodged with VFBV by **Friday 30 July 2021** to:

VFBV, 9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151

Tel: 9886 1141; Fax: 9886 1618

Email: vfbv@vfbv.com.au