

VFBV POSITION VACANT

VFBV is looking for an enthusiastic Administration Assistant to join our small, dedicated team supporting the peak body work of the Association in representing CFA volunteers to CFA, Government and instrumentalities.

Based at our Burwood office, and under direction of the Administration Officer, you will provide administrative, reception and office support across all business support activities and in many instances be the first point of contact to members, stakeholders and the general public.

We are searching for an enthusiastic team player with initiative and a 'can do' attitude who possess: Solid computer skills including Word, Outlook and Excel; Professional and friendly communication skills and good phone manner; Ability to work independently when given a task; A high level of attention to detail; Proactive with a genuine willingness to learn; Entry level understanding of administrative functions

Driver's licence is essential. A police and working with children check will also be required for the successful candidate. Previous experience in a similar role is an advantage, but training will be provided for the right person possessing enthusiasm and good work ethic.

The position is fulltime and ongoing, with some weekend and after-hours work required to suit a fully volunteer membership. A copy of the position description and key selection criteria can be found on our website or by contacting Cathie Smith via c.smith@vfbv.com.au

Applications close on 15th May 2022.

Emergency services volunteers show dedication again

by Emergency Management Commissioner Andrew Crisp

I have been saddened by the news of further flooding in communities already suffering from the recent emergencies in New South Wales and Queensland.

The resilience of those who have been impacted is so impressive and it is also a testament to the dedication of many emergency services volunteers and paid staff who are impacted yet still make incredible sacrifices to help those in need.

More than 300 Victorian emergency services volunteers and staff have worked so hard to assist our northern neighbours. Thank you again to those who have been deployed and to those who are prepared to travel north as efforts continue. Teams from all parts of our emergency services have really banded together over this past month and I am so impressed by our emergency service sector's resilience and responsiveness in the face of adversity.

While the weather in Victoria has remained fairly stable over the past few weeks and the high-risk fire danger period in Australia is drawing to a close, it is critical we remain vigilant because as we know there are still risks in some parts of the state.

As you know, Victoria is one of the most bushfire prone parts of the world and it is important for FFMVic and CFA, at this time of the year, to undertake planned burns in order to reduce fuels to minimise the impact and spread of bushfire. Keeping communities safe requires significant effort throughout the year and not just during the peak of our high risk weather season.

After a successful season of training and minimal deployment, the CH47 Chinook helicopter has now returned to the northern hemisphere but will return to Victoria's aviation fleet for the next high-risk fire season.

As we head into April, and



with the Easter long weekend fast approaching, I hope everyone enjoys a well-deserved break and thank you again to all of our emergency service personnel for their efforts over our high risk weather season and with support to Queensland and NSW over the past month. Take care.

VESEP GRANTS OPEN NOW

The 2022-2023 Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) is open for applications. These grants help ensure that the State's hardworking emergency services volunteers continue to have the latest, fit-for-purpose equipment and vehicles they require to do their life saving work.

On 5 April Minister for Emergency Services **Jaclyn Symes** announced the popular Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP) is open for applications.

Said Minister Symes: "Our selfless emergency services volunteers are there when we need them most and these grants are all about helping ensure they have the latest equipment to do what they do best – protect communities and save lives."

"These grants have been going strong for 20 years and we're proud to support the vital fundraising work that these brigades do."

"I encourage all our volunteer groups right across the state to apply."

VESEP is an ongoing, annual program that provides emergency services volunteer groups with grants to help fund operational equipment, including the purchase of new vehicles, trucks, tankers, watercraft and trailers.

Volunteer groups can also put the money towards minor facility improvements, including refurbishments and amenities, such as kitchens and change rooms.

In 2022-23, more than \$14.6 million in grants are available to volunteer organisations across Victoria including:

- More than \$10.60 million for volunteer CFA brigades.
- More than \$2.39 million for VICSES units.
- More than \$350,000 for Marine Search and Rescue (MSAR) units, including the Australian Volunteer Coast Guard Association (AVCGA).
- More than \$835,000 for Life Saving Victoria clubs.
- More than \$380,000 for other volunteer agencies.

Groups can apply for a grant up to \$150,000 excluding GST, with the Government providing \$2 for every \$1 of funding contributed by the local volunteer group.

The program offers five categories to CFA brigades and groups; Volunteer amenities \$<5K; Minor works \$<120K; Operational equipment; Specialist appliances and Field Command Vehicles (FCV's); and Tankers.

VFBV has published a help pack that offers practical suggestions and complements the EMV and CFA Guidelines and application forms.

An electronic copy of the VFBV Help Pack is available via the VFBV website – www.vfbv.com.au – or VFBV can post a paper copy by calling the office on (03) 9886 1141 or speaking with your local VFBV State Councillor or VFBV Support Officer.

Applications close on the 31st May 2022, with a ministerial announcement expected in September. Reach out if you need help with your application.

For more information about VESEP and to find out how to apply for a grant, visit emv.vic.gov.au/vesep.

Chief Officer's Commendation . .



– continued from page 4 and all emergency services' response that night.

"Our volunteers from Werribee and Truganina responded with the utmost professionalism and care to this tragic incident," he said.

"No matter the time of day or complexity of the job, when the call comes our volunteers are always on hand to help people in their time of need."

"I am incredibly grateful for the response of our crews and other emergency services who did everything they could in the face of an horrific road crash scene."

All CFA personnel involved in the incident have been offered wellbeing support.

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up against teams from other emergency service agencies. We had 117 staff participate in 23 different sports, and it was a great team-building opportunity in a fun environment.

I look forward to seeing the final standings once all the results are in.

PLANNED BURNING PROGRAM ON THE GO

Comments from Chief Fire Officer Chris Hardman (FFMVic)

March was a busy month for Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) crews with our planned burning program taking advantage of the good weather to ramp up activity across the state.

While we look to burn all year-round when the conditions are right, as you would know typically 80 and 90 per cent of planned burn delivery is carried out during autumn, in particular March and April.

At the time of writing, we had completed 128 planned burns treating 17,249 hectares of public land and we have been able to focus on some of the most important burns that

deliver the most effective bushfire risk reduction. In addition, to that, a further 6,366 hectares has been treated by non-burning methods including slashing and mulching.

With such a busy time in the planned burn space, I would like to thank our FFMVic crews for their hard work and dedication to deliver our program.

And I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those Country Fire Authority crews who have supported FFMVic's planned burn program to date and into the future. Your help ensures we



continue to deliver our bushfire risk management program.

If you haven't already done, I would encourage you to register on the Planned Burns Victoria website to receive planned burn updates for your local area:

<https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/>

With the holidays coming up I hope you will all take the opportunity to explore the state's much-loved network of parks and forests.

We will have increased patrols, engaging with campers one on one as well as rolling out a wide-reaching social media campaign to help spread awareness on the impacts of unattended and abandoned campfires. You can find out more about campfire safety here [https://www.vic.gov.au/unat-](https://www.vic.gov.au/unattended-campfires)

tended-campfires

Remember, it only takes one stray ember to cause a destructive fire.

And finally, I would like to congratulate all of those who recently participated in the Victorian Police and Emergency Services Games. Your sportsmanship and teamwork did you proud.

The annual event that provides an opportunity for those competitive and sports loving Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) staff to go

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