

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.

Prototype enhances training of fire aviation personnel

A prototype training simulator developed by CFA's aviation team has supported the training and accreditation of hundreds of airborne volunteers and staff from all agencies.

The trailer-based prototype is designed to enhance the training of fire aviation personnel such as Air Attack Supervisors and Observers, allowing them to undertake mapping, air attack missions, direct aircraft and practice communication and radio skills in a mock environment.

Replicating the interior of an aircraft, the trailer uses photo realistic mapping software and communication technology to immerse pilots and students in the flight experience, with large screens providing a 180-degree view of the surrounding landscape.

The assessor or scenario leader coordinates each mission from a control area, feeding the pilot and student communications just as they would if they were in the air.

It can be programmed to train students in any scenario in any of the aircraft used for aerial firefighting in Australia, including re-enacting past operations for After Action Reviews and pre-season training.

The simulator was designed and developed by CFA Commander Operational Response and Coordination **John Katakouzinis**, who started the project in his garage during the COVID-19 lockdown in 2020.

With the help of CFA training staff **Paul Cockrill** and **Chris Thom**, John was able to finesse the final concept utilising CFA Training's virtual reality technology, a prop trailer and existing audio and visual equipment.

John said the simulator has provided real-world training and skill testing in a safe, controlled environment as well as the ability for training to be tailored to suit a student's needs.

"In addition to enabling airborne firefighters to train prior to completing their practical sky-based assessments, a simulator of this kind allows for reaccreditation of aviation personnel in situations such as during the pandemic where restrictions meant in-person training couldn't take place," John said.

Over the last few years, 220 Air Attack Supervisors, Air Attack Observers and Airborne Mission Commanders were trained or reaccredited using the prototype simulator.

The simulator has also been used to train pilots and ground staff in team resource management.

John said that this simulator is the first fire aviation trailer-based simulator of its kind in Australia.

"Our goal now is to seek funding to develop one fixed and two of the trailer simula-

tors with the view to sharing these across the emergency services sector - similar to how we book and use our CFA trailer-based props across the state," John said.

Chief Officer **Jason Heffernan** recently had the opportunity to try out the simulator before it was presented to leaders from across the emergency services sector.

He commended John and the team for the development of the trailer, saying it would be a vital asset for aviation training across the sector.

"Aerial firefighting plays a pivotal role in supporting our firefighters and personnel on the ground during a fire," Jason said.

"It was great to sit in the seat again and put my skills in mapping, radio communication and air observation to the test.

"It's important that we have training options such as this available to increase the experience and skills of our people and ensure we are as prepared as possible for our fire seasons.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK: 'BETTER TOGETHER'

Update by Chief Officer Jason Heffernan

National Volunteer Week, which runs from 16-22 May, is a chance for us to celebrate and recognise the vital work of our volunteers and to say thank you. Together, we are changing communities for the better.

The theme this year is "Better Together" and that holds true for CFA. During my travels I have seen and heard firsthand the difference our members make, and the impact volunteering has on these communities. "Our Community" really is "Our CFA".

Over the last three years Australians have experienced major fires, floods and a pandemic. Our members have been called on to assist local, Victorian and interstate colleagues and have supported them in some harsh and try-

"The ability to review previous missions and assess different attack scenarios using a simulator is also extremely beneficial for continuous improvement and learning - and it's not something you can replicate to this level of detail in a sand table environment."

The prototype has been approved by all agencies to proceed, with a funding model to be developed over the coming months.

ing conditions.

From prevention and community engagement to incident response and recovery, CFA demonstrates constantly that we are better together. The skill, leadership and knowledge our volunteers bring, as well as the benefits they gain from their time at CFA, cannot be underestimated. Our combined efforts alongside our partner agencies in the sector, we truly do work as one to make a significant and critical difference in some of the most challenging conditions.

One of the key ways we can ensure that we are, and work, better together is to ensure that we are living the CFA behavioural standards expected of us as one of the largest and most recognised volunteer emergency services in the world. Our culture and creating a positive environment is critical to retaining and attracting our future and current volunteers and supporting them during their time with us.

That's why we're currently rolling out the behavioural standards and supporting brigade, group, district and regional conversations (as well as in Headquarters) to explore some of the cultural issues we may come across and how to deal with them. I encourage every volunteer to familiarise themselves with



these important standards, to take part in conversations about how we can improve and to step up where behaviours by others are not in line with the standards we expect.

As I write this column, we are awaiting the final report of the Independent Culture and Issues Management Review which will provide a roadmap for further action we can take to support a positive and progressive CFA into the future and to ensure all members are respected, safe and included.

We will be publishing this report and be reporting on the progress of implementation.

I am proud to lead this world-class emergency service and I think you all for your ongoing commitment and service.

COMMUNICATION MESSAGE

Return of "Statement of Attainment" for Operate pumps

Affected members received correspondence from CFA dated 3 March 2021 requesting the completion of three questions and to return the letter provided.

Firstly, thank you to all members who have been able to respond.

CFA is still accepting letters from its affected members and encourage members who may not have yet responded to do so. There are several options available to members to communicate with CFA including

- returning your letter (and certificate if you have it) in the reply-paid envelope provided back in March 2021;
- returning it to your district office or returning the letter to your local brigade;
- emailing training@cfa.vic.gov.au to advise.

Should you have any specific questions, you are able to email training@cfa.vic.gov.au.

CFA thanks you for your continual assistance with this important matter.

CFA brigades pay respect

CFA brigades across the state have paid respect to Australia's defence force personnel, both past and present, for this year's ANZAC Day.

CFA members across the State attended services throughout the day, laying wreaths and taking part in a moment of silence to remember those who have fallen.

Geelong West Fire Brigade was one of the many brigades that attended an ANZAC Day service, taking part in the annual Geelong ANZAC March.

Captain **Paul Cockrill** (Geelong West) said it's an important event in the brigade's calendar each year.

"We have been attending the Geelong ANZAC March for quite some time - as long as I remember - and after being unable to for the last two years it's been nice being back," Paul said.

"A number of District 7 brigades attend the march

including Geelong West and Grovedale."

Paul said that as well as paying respects, many brigade members have a family connection to the event as well.

"We go along to be respectful, but also for me it's a bit more personal than that. My grandfather fought in World War 2 and I always marched with him as a kid. When he passed away, I wanted to keep the tradition going by participating with CFA.

"It allows other members to do the same. Many of us had grandparents who fought in the war, and this enables us to carry on that tradition set by them by marching with CFA.

"We feel honoured to take part in the march," Captain Paul said.

"Lest we forget."

At left: This impressive ANZAC display was erected at FRV Station 66 by Ocean Grove Fire Brigade volunteer Gillian Britt. CFA members from all around the State attended local services on ANZAC Day.

Emergency products you can rely on

GAAM Emergency Products is an exclusive distributor of Morning Pride's Kore Kooler™ Rehab Chair - a highly effective solution to assist in preventing heat stress by being able to quickly lowering the body's core temperature to within its safe range.

Heat stress is particularly prevalent among firefighters who are regularly exposed to extreme temperatures. The Kore Kooler™ Rehab Chair promotes cooling by conduction.

*All technical information obtained from manufacturer's product brochure.



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