

FOR SALE: Expressions of interest



2017 Toyota Crew Cab; FCV; 14,000 kilometres; Excellent condition (as new); Full service history; Fully fitted; Four Wheel drive; Fridge, white boards, excellent stowage.

Would suit a multitude of purposes. Has been housed indoors.

Contact Lilydale Fire Brigade: lt3@lilydalecfa.com

Environmental monitoring made possible thanks to EMV grant

Seven sensors have been installed at remote locations across Baw Baw Shire to deliver 24 hour environmental monitoring.

The sensors, with the ability to provide early warnings of bushfire and flood, have been installed at strategic locations in Neerim South, Erica, Noojee, Piedmont, Toorong Falls, Thomson Dam and Mt Baw Baw Alpine Village.

The Shire has said its intelligent local sensing network, known as the Baw Baw Information Network (BBIN), was funded via a \$192,000 grant from Emergency Management Victoria's risk and resilience grants program.

The state of the art Attentis sensors will monitor environmental conditions and enhance community safety. Using real time inputs, the sensors can detect hotspots, changes in temperature, wind and other factors to provide early warning and risk identification of critical natural events.



Viewing the installed sensor at Neerim South are, from left: Cr Keith Cook, Neerim South Fire Brigade Lieutenants Steven Heath and Terry McPhea, Senior Constable Peter Ely, FFMVic District Manager Peter McEwan Senior Constable Stephen Cranston, Deputy Mayor Michael Leaney and Cr Peter Kostos.

Date collected by each sensor includes 360 degree thermal and visual imaging, air quality, weather conditions, fire ignitions and asset conditions.

Baw Baw Shire Mayor **Annemarie McCabe** said the region's lush forests, scenic mountains and plunging valleys made the Shire susceptible to extreme weather events, like bushfires and floods.

"As a Council, we are committed to protecting our beautiful region and the communities that call it home," Cr McCabe said. "Enhancing

early warning systems and our overall resilience to extreme weather events and natural disasters is a key component of our strategy."

Deputy Mayor **Michael Leaney** described BBIN as 'truly cutting edge.'

"The intelligent real time sensing data it provides will be a game-changing contribution to how we detect and prepare for extreme events in Baw Baw," Cr Leaney said. "Ultimately, when used by the emergency services in conjunction with other intelligent sources, it will enhance public safety, contribute to quicker responses and provide valuable and timely information."

Elections completed

by CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan

Over the past month, brigade elections have been completed and our District staff have been busy finalising results. I'm pleased to see many women have been elected to Brigade Management Team (BMT) roles. Even though women have long held leadership roles across CFA, according to current data there is now a record number of 50 women

leading their brigades as Captain. For some brigades, this will be the first time with a woman at the helm.

I'm incredibly proud to see diversity and inclusion continually embraced across all levels of CFA and our ranks growing with passionate leaders, irrespective of gender, who each bring fresh perspectives and skills to the table.

During NAIDOC Week, a week which celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples, we announced the formal registration of the first all-indigenous brigade at Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust.

After considering three potential name options and, following consultation with local Elders, the brigade will be officially known as Bunjil Fire Brigade.

The registration of this brigade is also a reflection of CFA's commitment to supporting and collaborating with First Nations Peoples and ensuring that their stories and cultural traditions are recognised, as we continue to care for Land and Country.

One of the most difficult fire seasons Canada has ever seen remains ongoing, and I want to acknowledge the recent loss of three Canadian firefighters on the fireground, as well as the death of a helicopter pilot working in the area. Our thoughts are with their family and friends, our firefighting partners in Canada, and the broader firefighting community.

More than 700 Australian firefighters and Incident Management Team (IMT) personnel have been deployed to assist since the wildfires started in March 2023. One of those deployed was our very own Nicki Lund, who was initially deployed to



Edmonton, Alberta but was relocated a few days later to Keg River, Alberta.

Nicki was able to share her experiences with us first hand during the July Volunteer Forum, where we embraced technology and successfully made our first ever international live cross.

Even at the early local time of 4:13am, Nicki joined the forum remotely where she busted some myths about bear training and wildlife briefings, as well as discussing interoperability and the benefits of the similarities between Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) and National Incident Management System (NIMS), which is used in America and Canada.

Our monthly Volunteer Forums are growing from strength to strength and are a great opportunity for volunteers to hear directly from senior leaders and ask questions in real time. If you are unable to join live, I encourage you to go back and watch past Volunteer Forums on the CFA YouTube channel, where you can use the index to view topics of interest. I also want to thank everyone involved in the success of these Volunteer Forums – behind the scenes, panel members and guest speakers. I enjoy traveling to different parts of the state and having the opportunity to talk to our members in person and I look forward to meeting more of you over coming months.

New EMV Commissioner appointment

Victoria Police Deputy Commissioner Rick Nugent APM has been appointed as the state's new Emergency Management Commissioner.

Rick will commence on 11 September for a term of five years and succeeds **Andrew Crisp**, who has served as Victoria's Emergency Management Commissioner since 2018 and will complete his term on 4 August.

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Recently appointment Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent will commence in this role on 11 September.

A RISE IN GARAGE FIRES A REMINDER FOR HOUSEHOLDS TO BE ATTENTIVE

A surge in garage fires across the state has Victorian fire services encouraging residents to clean up their garage and consider installing smoke alarms inside.

Many of the reported garage fires in the last year were caused by faulty electrical equipment or related to fuel spills.

CFA Chief Officer **Jason Heffernan** said CFA firefighters have already responded to 26 garage fires this year compared to the 28 in total from last year.

"We're expecting to see a rise in rechargeable battery and car fires this winter season," the Chief Officer said.

A garage fire at a Mooroolbark home last month was a timely reminder about the

importance of households inspecting their appliances, devices and vehicles regularly.

The Mooroolbark family escaped from their home after their refrigerator in their garage caught on fire due to an electrical fault that quickly engulfed the entire residence.

"The family could have been alerted sooner had an interconnected or long-life battery smoke alarm been installed in the garage and in the nearby hallway," according to Chief Officer Heffernan.

"It is essential that smoke alarms are installed in all areas containing electrical devices, as they have the potential to catch alight."

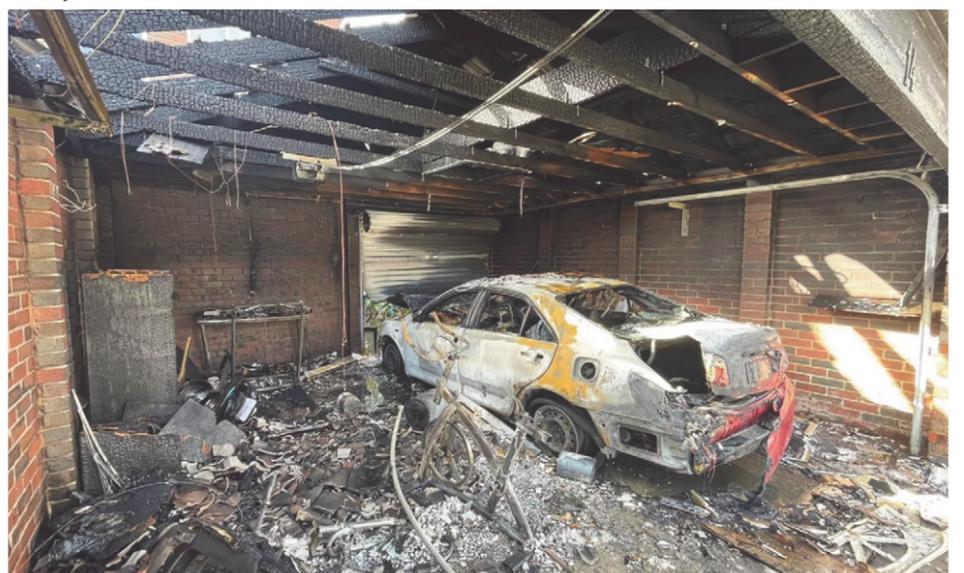
Fire Rescue Commissioner **Gavin Freeman** said the inci-

dent also calls for Victorians to check the condition of all electrical appliances in their garages.

"Inspect the condition of your electrical items and if you notice any damage, ensure they are repaired by a certified tradesperson," Commissioner Freeman said.

"When it comes to items powered by lithium-ion batteries, such as e-scooters and e-bikes, only use chargers and cords that were originally supplied with that device. Using chargers with incorrect power delivery can cause damage or overheating that can lead to fires.

"Finally, keep all garages free of clutter, so if an electrical item catches fire it will be less likely to spread."



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Fire Wise is the official publication of Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria.



VFBV BOARD VACANCIES

Invitation to ALL CFA Volunteers to apply

Closing date for written applications is 28 August 2023

VFBV advances the interests of all Victorian fire brigade volunteers and VFBV BOARD POSITIONS

Vacancies on VFBV Board will arise when the terms of four VFBV Board members expire on 1 October 2023. Of the four members whose terms are expiring, two are eligible for reappointment. VFBV invites applications from any CFA volunteer who is motivated by the prospect of making a difference and believes they have the skills to contribute to the VFBV Board.

The role of a board member involves contributing to VFBV direction, policy determination and monitoring the performance and governance of the Association. This includes actively contributing to policy discussion, consulting with CFA volunteers and contributing to the identification and management of strategic issues.

VFBV is seeking applications from gender and culturally diverse candidates in addition to a diverse range of skills and experience including applications from diverse brigade types and classifications.

Members should familiarise themselves with the VFBV Board member role statement and key selection criteria available from the VFBV website or via the office at (03) 9886 1141.

Applications close on Monday **28 August 2023** and must be lodged to VFBV, 9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151; email vfbb@vfbb.com.au; telephone 9886 1141; fax: 9886 1618.