

# STAIR CLIMB SUCCESS

Up to 700 participating Victorian and interstate emergency services members climbed the stairs of Crown Metropol in Melbourne on 2 September to raise money and awareness for mental health and cancer research.

The 10th annual Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb, organised by the 000Foundation, raised a total of more than \$605,000.

This year's beneficiaries are Lifeline, Peter MacCallum Cancer Foundation and 000Foundation.

The challenge saw firefighters get into 25kg of protective gear and race up 28 floors of the tower one-by-one.

CFA Deputy Chief Officer **Garry Cook** said it's positive to see emergency services personnel come together in person to support such a worthwhile cause.

"Our members are enthusiastic participants of this event and it's great to see their contributions make a difference by raising money and awareness for mental health programs and cancer research," he said.

Firefighters and emergency

personnel from all over Australia flocked to Melbourne to be part of the stair climb. CFA firefighters climbed alongside members from FRV, FFMVic, Victoria Police, VICSES, Ambulance Victoria and members from Tasmania, New South Wales, South Australia and New Zealand.

Since the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb Challenge began in 2014, the event has raised more than \$3.5 million, benefitting charities and organisations such as Alfred Hospital Burns Unit, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, Lifeline, Black Dog Institute, Emergency Services Foundation and 000Foundation.

People can still donate and learn more about the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb online at [www.firefighterclimb.org](http://www.firefighterclimb.org).



# VALE CHRIS MARIES

Officers and members of Doreen and Yarrambat brigades, as well as many CFA volunteers throughout District 14 and beyond, are deeply saddened by the passing of former Captain **Chris Maries** on 26 August after a long battle with illness.

Chris started his volunteer service with CFA in 2002 with Yarrambat Fire Brigade before transferring to Doreen Fire Brigade in 2006.

He was a prominent figure for Doreen Brigade for the past 17 years. An active member he fulfilled various roles during his service including Captain for 11 of these (2010-2021) as well as service in 2nd and 3rd Lieutenant positions.

Chris was also an active member of Whittlesea/Diamond Valley Group and held the position of 5th Deputy Group Officer for a term. He was also a VFBV delegate for the group and brigade for several years.

During his service to CFA, Chris was the recipient of a 20 year service medal (presented in 2022), National Medal (presented in 2019) and of the National Emergency Medal during the Black Saturday fires of 2009 which he



received in 2014.

His family has been a big part of his life with CFA with wife Jenny and sons Jeremy and Nathan all part of the CFA family at one time or another.

Doreen Brigade extends its sincere condolences to all of the Maries family including daughters Roxanne and Jacquelyn.

# Greg made a huge contribution

The tragic loss of long serving Donald Fire Brigade member **Greg Godkin** is felt by his family, friends, brigade colleagues, CFA and the wider local community. Greg was highly respected by his peers and played a vital role in CFA and the community for many years.

Greg passed away suddenly at the fire station on 8 August after returning from operational duties. He was found unresponsive by another member and despite efforts to revive him, passed away.

Greg leaves a huge legacy to CFA and Donald Fire Brigade - he served more than 58 years beginning as a junior many years ago.

During his service Greg wore many hats. He served as Captain of Donald Fire Brigade for 22 years; was a former Group Officer of Buloke West Group; served as a highly respected fire investigator; and was the brigade delegate to VFBV for many years.

In 2008 Greg passed on the Captaincy to son Matt, this being a very proud moment for all the family.

Fire investigation was a passion for Greg having performed many, many investigations locally, throughout the



district and Region and across the State. His commitment to this role spanned 28 years.

He was held in extremely high regard by those who he come in contact with in CFA as well as the community.

A posthumous presentation of a CFA Outstanding Award was gratefully accepted by Greg's family - wife Jenny, son Matt and daughter Sally.

# CFA PLACES IN BLOOD CHALLENGE

CFA proudly achieved third place overall in this year's Emergency Services Blood Challenge, behind NSW and Victoria Police. Team CFA saved around 3000 lives by making more than 1000 donations.

The overall contribution by CFA members included around 600 plasma, 390 whole blood and 15 platelet donations between 1 June to 31 August.

Greenvale Fire Brigade firefighter **Simon White** made his first-ever blood donation during this year's challenge.

"I've been wanting to do it for a while and being from the UK during the outbreak of mad cow disease prevented me for many years," he said.

"This year, they lifted the restriction and I was excited to help out. If you've got an opportunity to help someone else, such as donating blood, then for me it's a no-brainer."

CFA Chief Officer **Jason Heffernan**, who personally made a donation this year, said members should be proud of the contribution they've made and the positive impact it's had on those in need of blood.

"Our members really get behind initiatives that benefit the community and this is no exception," he said. "While the blood drive has concluded this year, I hope many of our members can keep up these good habits and continue donating blood, if they can."

For more information about the Emergency Services Blood Challenge and how to make a blood donation yourself, visit the Lifeblood website at [www.lifeblood.com.au](http://www.lifeblood.com.au).



Simon White of Greenvale Fire Brigade was one of CFA's many donations made during the Emergency Services Blood Challenge. CFA placed third in this year's Challenge.

# BE A REGULAR READER

"Fire Wise", published monthly, contains a variety of information of value and interest to personnel of the fire service. Quarterly editions, including the VFBV Quarterly Supplement will be mailed to the address nominated, whilst the other eight electronic editions will be emailed to the email address provided, this being the subscription for 12 months. Cost \$37 (interstate subscribers \$45). Please contact the office on 0402 051 412, email [gordon@fire-wise.com.au](mailto:gordon@fire-wise.com.au) or order online at [www.fire-wise.com.au](http://www.fire-wise.com.au)

# FIRE WISE

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# FIRE WISE

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Deadline: last day of the month

## Urban Competition Coaches & Officials Skills Workshop

9.30am, Sunday 15th October 2023  
 Bendigo Competition Track

A Judges and Officials Skills Workshop for Urban Competitions will be conducted and facilitated by experienced Judges, Officials and Coaches, with all brigades encouraged to attend. The workshops are targeted at members who are interested in gaining skills to assist in the officiating of local competitions and the State Championships as well as current and prospective team coaches to gain new skills. Current and future competitors are also welcome to attend to learn from experienced coaches and competitors.

### Judge and Officials Workshop

Judges and Officials workshops will cover skills in the following roles:

- Judge in the box \* Announcers \* On track judging \* Starters \* Recorders
- Marshalling Officers \* Track Masters and Track Marshalling \* Ladder Catcher

### Coaching Workshop

Coaching and competitor workshops will cover skills in the following areas:

- Use of the tray in B Section events \* Rolling on \*
- Safety of competitors \* How to run various events \* Skills and fitness
- Appliance Events \* Marshall Events \* Junior Events

PLEASE NOTE—This year there will also be a presentation on CFA Behavioral Standards



RSVP: to the VFBV Office [championships@vfbv.com.au](mailto:championships@vfbv.com.au) or (03) 9886 1141

By Monday 9th, October 2023

for catering purposes (including any dietary requirements)

