



VFBV BOARD VACANCIES

Invitation to ALL CFA Volunteers to apply

Closing date for written applications is 2 September 2024
VFBV advances the interests of all Victorian fire brigade volunteers

Vacancies on VFBV Board will arise when the terms of four VFBV Board members expire on 1 October 2024. 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 **2 September 2024** and must be lodged to VFBV, 9/24 Lakeside Drive, Burwood East 3151; email vfbb@vfbb.com.au; telephone 9886 1141; fax: 9886 1618.

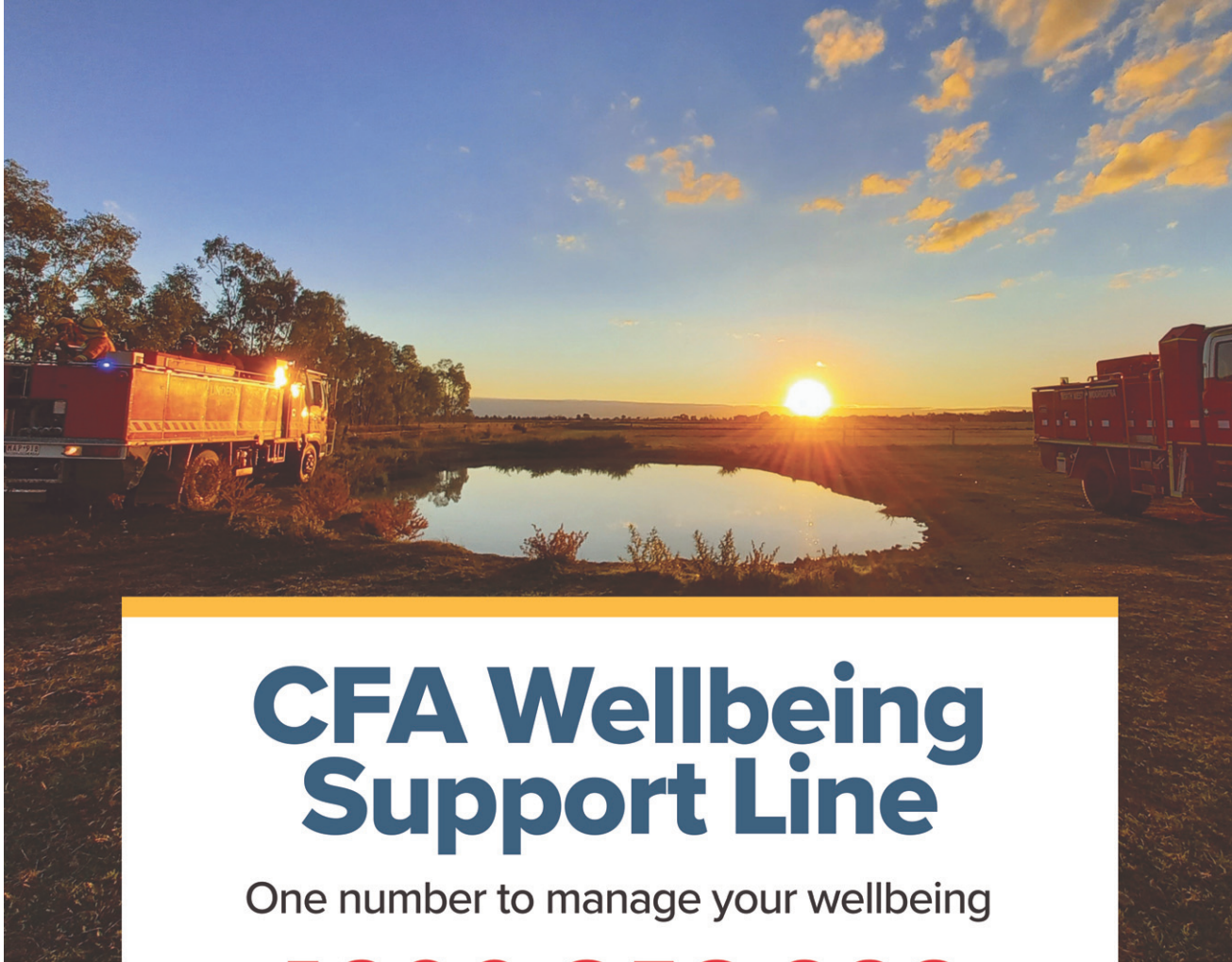
CFA Brigade Trader Facebook page

The CFA Brigade Trader Facebook page has been running since 2017 and currently has more than 2800 members.

This page has been set up specifically for CURRENT CFA members and their Brigades, to buy, sell, donate or trade their ex-Brigade items amongst other Brigades in the state. The page is managed by CFA South East Region Volunteer Sustainability Team staff and is monitored regularly.

We have had many items listed over the years: from Brigade PPC hooks, to excess tables and chairs, even Brigade-owned vehicles and equipment that are no longer required.

There are only a few general rules that are advertised on the page. But in short: You MUST be a current CFA member and provide your membership number to join the page, articles are generally advertised for trade or free, with exceptions to items of monetary value and must be ex-Brigade owned items.



CFA Wellbeing Support Line

One number to manage your wellbeing

1800 959 232

Providing CFA members and their families access to free and confidential wellbeing support

MEMBER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM <small>(COUNSELLING)</small>	PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM	CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM	ORGANISATIONAL WELLBEING TEAM
OPTION 1	OPTION 2	OPTION 3	OPTION 4

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cfa.vic.gov.au

OUR VOLS BUSY IN MARCH

by CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan

March has yet again proved to be a busy time for our volunteers. The bushfire at Bayindeen in the west of the state spread to more than 20,000 hectares of land but the hard work of our crews paid off. I'd like to thank everyone who took part in the prolonged effort to bring the fire under control. We're immensely grateful for your dedication to protect nearby communities and their properties.

I'd also like to give everyone a gentle reminder that support is always available to those that need it. CFA members and their families have 24/7 access to trained professionals who can provide immediate and ongoing support. I encourage anyone needing support to call our Wellbeing Support line on

1800 959 232. It's been a very busy start to the year so please look after yourselves and those around you.

Recently we announced the delivery of the Radio Replacement Program which will see more than 18,000 new radios distributed across the state. We conducted a three-month pilot program in March last year which involved 15 brigades. The program assessed a range of radios in everyday operational activities, installation processes and training materials.

We then used the feedback from the pilot brigades to find the preferred radios. The new radios will have multiband capability which allows direct communication with our partner emergency service agencies here and interstate. They also have an inbuilt GPS which will improve firefighter safety on the frontline. We're expecting the radios will be rolled out over a 15 to 18-month period from the middle of this year.

It's been an exciting end to March with the 2024 CFA/VFBV State Firefighter Championships taking place over the last two weekends of March in Mooroopna.

Congratulations to Melton A, the team taking home the title of Urban Junior Champions over the first weekend and a big thank you to all the juniors that took part. It's

great to see the enthusiasm and passion live on through the next generation.

Our Seniors didn't disappoint either. We had 45 brigades compete over the second weekend of the championships and we were excited to have two new women's teams debut their skills after months of training. Congratulations again to Melton A for winning the Urban Seniors and Eldorado A, Truganina A and Eldorado D for winning their respective divisions in the Rural Seniors.

Champs is an important event on the CFA calendar and serves as a time to catch up with old mates, meet new people and show off your firefighting skills. It's also a time for us to give back to regional and rural communities that are the lifeblood of CFA.

A special thanks goes out to Mooroopna for hosting us all again this year.



Keep the conversations respectful and of course, Admin reserve the right to moderate posts that do not meet the rules. So, look us up and grab yourself a bargain! For further information, join the page or email us at ser.vst@cfa.vic.gov.au

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CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS

by Emergency Management Commissioner Rick Nugent

Last week I had the opportunity to join CFA, SES, councils and other agencies at round two of the CFA/VFBV State Firefighter Championships in Mooroopna.

I was really impressed by the skills shown by firefighters on the day – who have all worked hard over many weeks and months to train for the various drills at the championships. Well done to all the winners, including Ascot and District A for taking out the Rural Juniors and Melton A for taking out the Urban Seniors championship. My thanks to CFA for having me.

My congratulations also to the winners of the Emergency Services Foundation's Diversity and Inclusion Awards, held last month at the 2024 'Inspire Inclusion' International Women's Day event. While I wasn't able to attend on the day, it is wonderful recognition and a celebration of winners from across our agencies, including CFA's **Beth Taylor**, who won the Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award.

As you know it was a hot and dry start to autumn, with much of Victoria experiencing severe heat wave conditions. Before that, we had several weeks where there were a number of hot days, with fires in the west of the state, including in Pomonal and Bayindeen. I want to thank our emergency services personnel, especially all our volunteers, who worked hard to keep the community safe during this time.

The clean-up work continues in those areas impacted by fires, storms and flooding over the past few months. Emergency Recovery Victoria, local government and partner organisations are working hard to deliver support programs to people in these areas.

Last month I visited the communities of Yea, Seymour and Rochester with the Victo-



rian Governor, Her Excellency, Professor **Margaret Gardner AC**. It was great to see how many people continue to work tirelessly to support their community as they recover from the floods in October 2022. Listening to how the community managed these emergencies and their insights into future improvements was extremely valuable.

For our amazing volunteers, the Victorian Rotary Emergency Services Community Award nominations are open until the end of this month. These awards are fantastic recognition of the work people do in communities. I encourage you to nominate any emergency services worker you feel lives by the motto 'Service above Self' and does their part in keeping the community safe.

I hope you are able to take a break over the school holidays and spend time with your family and friends. My thanks – as always – for what you do each and every day to keep your community safe.

Take care,
Rick