

The CFA Rescue Association held its AGM on 21 July at Wandin fire station at which elections took place. Results were as follows.

President: Lieutenant Kevin Chisholm (Nar Nar Goon); Vice President: Lieutenant Neil Davie (Werribee); Secretary/Treasurer: Micheal Cawthran (Epping); Training Officer: Captain Robert Saitta (Epping).

Executive Members East: John Upton (Lakes Entrance); Simon Schroder

CFA RESCUE ASSOCIATION ELECTIONS

(Monbulk); Lieutenant Wes Ritchie (Nar Nar Goon).

Executive Members West: Keiran Brennan (Epping), Lieutenant David Bolden (Plenty), Captain Mathew Trigg (Cohuna).

Thanks to Wandin Fire & Rescue Brigade for hosting on the day.



Cross border arrangements of benefit to all partners

by CFA Officer Jason Heffernan

Over the last few weeks I have been monitoring the developing fire situation in the northern hemisphere as significant bushfires continue to burn in western Canada. I'm incredibly proud of all CFA members who recently embarked on deployment to assist our international partners.

It's important we continue these cross-border arrangements for sharing personnel and resources. We have an excellent relationship with these countries and I'm pleased we're able to provide support.

The rollout of upgraded CFA equipment and trucks continues across Victoria to further safeguard our communities, with Junortoun, Eaglehawk and Mildura our latest brigades to receive the keys to their new heavy tankers.

Last month I had the honour of presenting Kerang Fire Brigade Captain Ramon Steel with a Chief Officer's Commendation certificate for his leadership and expansive recovery efforts during the 2011 and 2022 major flood events.

As a highly respected community member and CFA leader, I commend Ramon for his outstanding courage and composure alongside multi-agencies and for his selfless acts of leadership and generosity throughout such disas-

trous events.

South Morang Fire Brigade also celebrated its 60th anniversary recently with many members receiving their long service awards, with a special mention to Life Member Adrian Backx who received his 40 year service medal.

CFA also congratulates Edithvale Brigade veteran Phil Jones on his 60 years of service and dedication. Known to be an enthusiastic contributor to the brigade, his significant service has been further recognised with a brigade award commissioned in his honour – 'The Phil Jones Award.' It is clear Phil epitomises the nature of a CFA volunteer and it is no surprise he hopes to reach the 70-year milestone.

This NAIDOC Week in July, it was fantastic to acknowledge and celebrate the partnerships, trust and mutual respect we continue to build with First Nations Australians to improve fire safety and use of fire in our Victorian landscape.

Our CEO Natalie MacDonald had the pleasure of heading to Bunjil Fire Brigade to present the official registration and acknowledge the station extension for our indigenous-led firefighting crew.

The brigade plays an important role educating other crews across Victoria about the importance of recognising



cultural history and traditional sites and we are thrilled to recognise their establishment.

As we approach the upcoming fire season, it has been pleasing to see the success that has stemmed from our refreshed recruitment campaign Give us a Hand and to hear the stories of our new faces within CFA.

The campaign will run through to the end of August to support our brigades who are in need, and we encourage all members to re-engage with their local networks, whether that is a local teacher, neighbour or shift worker to gauge their interest.

Heading into the final month of an important challenge, I encourage all members and their families to continue rolling up their sleeves for a great cause in the 2024 Emergency Services Blood Drive, donating with Australian Red Cross Lifeblood.

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 vfbv@vfbv.com.au; telephone 9886 1141; fax: 9886 1618.

Trio recognised with Unit Citation of Service

The incredible efforts of three of firefighters from Werribee Fire Brigade to assist a woman in need, after being kicked in the head by a horse during a bushfire in 2019, have been recognised at the brigade's annual dinner last month.

Lieutenant Rohan Rizzoli, Daniel May and Josh Finlayson received the Unit Citation for Service award from CFA Chief Officer Jason Heffernan for assisting a woman with critical head injuries. She was helping evacuate four horses from a property during a dangerous bushfire in Bunyip on March 4, 2019.

The three members were recognised for their quick response to a distressing and complex situation and were commended for epitomising the spirit of CFA at its highest level.

Werribee firefighters were the second crew to arrive on scene and immediately jumped into action, creating a make-shift neck collar from a towel to secure the injured civilians head and neck.

"We heard radio transmissions from a nearby crew and we were just down the road from them and responded without hesitation. Once we arrived at the scene, we saw the woman laying there motionless and knew that she was in a bad way. We didn't have a great deal of time to think," Lieutenant Rohan Rizzoli said.

"Our crew, alongside volunteer firefighters from Yarrambat, Whittlesea and Doreen brigades (all of whom were recognised for their efforts earlier this year), worked together to bring the situation under control to ensure an ambulance could be escorted into the firefight to treat the women and get her to a nearby football oval for transfer to hospital.

"We did what anyone else would've done. We used our skills that we are taught and we put them into action that night," said Firefighter Daniel May.

The citation was also presented to five members of Doreen Fire Brigade, one from Whittlesea and one



Pictured with the Unit Citation for Service award are Firefighter Daniel May and Lieutenant Rohan Rizzoli. Absent from photograph is Josh Finlayson.

The trio received this award in recognition of their combined efforts at an incident during a bushfire in Bunyip in March 2019.

from Yarrambat brigades. It reads:

"Every now and then, CFA members are required to attend incidents that are considered more complex than others; and the early hours of 4 March 2019 during the Bunyip Fire proved to be one of those times.

"Personnel from Doreen ULT, which formed part of SDT1425, were tasked with escorting a civilian vehicle and horse float into a fire affected area to recover four distressed horses from a property. This process became far more complex when one of the civilians received a kick in the head by a horse during loading.

"The civilian lost consciousness and received serious head injuries as a result of the impact. Due to difficult radio communications and an initial delay to the arrival of the ambulance the two members of Doreen ULT were joined by the three members of Doreen FCV, along with Daniel, Rohan and Josh from Werribee FCV and also two off-duty nurses from a nearby strike team to administer vital patient care.

"Amidst an active fire and in difficult conditions, this coordinated and effective response resulted in the best possible response and care for the patient.

"The combined actions of these individuals demonstrate to the highest level the Spirit of CFA."

Prototype light tanker unveiled

In a landmark development for firefighting technology, CFA has unveiled its latest truck: the prototype light tanker.

This vehicle represents a leap forward in firefighting capabilities, combining cutting-edge features with tried-and-true functionality.

The unveiling of this vehicle signifies more than just a technological triumph; it heralds a new era in firefighting capabilities.

With its blend of innovation, safety and adaptability, this vehicle stands poised to redefine the landscape of firefighting operations – a symbol of progress and resilience.

The journey began with the formation of the Light Tanker Working Group in late 2020. Comprising representatives from a range of backgrounds including operational volunteers, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, Operations, Fleet Engineering and district mechanical officers, the group set out to redefine the standards of firefighting vehicles.

With a keen focus on safety, manoeuvrability and versatility, the prototype was conceptualised to serve as a cost-effective replacement for its predecessors.

The appliance went on a roadshow around the state to give firefighters the opportunity to examine the vehicle up close and offer valuable feedback. From rural communities to bustling urban centres, the vehicle was praised for its adaptability and potential to revolutionise firefighting operations.

Built on the sturdy Isuzu NPS crew cab chassis, the prototype light tanker boasts an array

of impressive features. Its low profile and 4x4 capability ensure optimal manoeuvrability, whether navigating through congested urban streets or rugged rural terrains.

Safety remains paramount, with the crew cab equipped with advanced driver assist features and ample seating for four firefighters. Other additions include a protected crew operation platform, pump and roll capability, and a generous water carrying capacity of 2,000 litres, with 500 litres dedicated to crew protection.

In an ever-evolving world, the need for innovation in firefighting technology has never been more pressing, and with this prototype light tanker, CFA has reaffirmed its commitment to excellence and safety.

Key features

- 2,000 litre capacity including 500 litres for crew protection
- Crew cab with seating capacity for four crew and a fridge
- 8 tonne GVM
- Automated manual transmission
- 4x4 high and low range
- 450 litres/minute at 700kPa main pump
- 20 litres/minute 100 bar ultra high-pressure pump
- Customised cabin handles and crew steps
- Improved crew deck safety:
- latching crew doors with alarms
- one-metre high side shielding
- deck camera, awning and intercom
- In-cabin touch screen controls

