

# From The Chief Officer.....



Number 114

*"Our mission is to protect lives and property"*

5 May 2014

## **Group Elections**

Groups would be aware that the project on Local Command & Control within CFA, more generally known as "The Role of the Group" contains proposals that will enable Groups in the future to identify (where seen as appropriate) Functional Officers who may be elected into Group Management Team positions. This project will not be completed in time to broadly communicate all options available to Groups prior to the 2014 election period. Therefore the status quo will remain for those Groups due to conduct elections this year i.e. 2014. Groups due for election in 2015 will have the option to transition across to the new structure, classifications and roles. New election forms for Groups will be developed at this time to support the process. By 2016, all Groups will have transitioned across to the new Group structure. Support tools will be available to assist Groups during the 2015 & 2016 elections including a range of role descriptors.

## **Community Engagement and Fire Awareness State Forum**

The fourth annual Community Engagement and Fire Awareness State Forum will be held at Bell City, Preston in August and [registrations of interest](#) are now open. Led by the Member Engagement Volunteer Reference Group, the theme for this year is *'Working together to prepare our communities'*. A large focus of this year's event will be to support brigade members undertaking a community safety role within their brigade. Community Safety will be a mandatory function on Brigade Management Teams (BMTs) as per the new Brigade and Membership Classification changes at brigade elections in 2015 and 2016. As an attendee in 2013, I really encourage those who are interested in engaging their community with fire safety and awareness information to attend as this event aims to unite, inspire and motivate all CFA members to build on their community engagement knowledge and share their local initiatives. [Register by clicking on this link now.](#) or call the Member Engagement team on 9262 8851. Registrations of interest close 10 June 2014.

## **Challenge 2015 – Building CFA Leaders**

Applications for the *'Challenge 2015 – Building CFA Leaders'* program are currently open. The Challenge program is a 12 day leadership development program that provides volunteer brigade members an opportunity to realise their leadership potential, practise leadership, fellowship and team work in a range of confronting environments. Through applying these skills in different situations, participants benefit from the first-hand experience of how adaptive and responsive they need to be in dynamic circumstances in order to achieve individual and team success. The benefits gained from participating in the program not only advance them as a CFA leader, but also in so many other aspects of their everyday life. Information on the Program has been posted to each Brigade Secretary and District Training Department. Members can also obtain further information through the Brigades Online home page by selecting the Challenge 2015 link, contacting their District HQ Training Department or OT&V HQ Coordinator Training & Development, Robyn Dempster on 9262 8583 or [r.dempster@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:r.dempster@cfa.vic.gov.au). Applications need to be submitted to Brigade Captains by 30 June 2014. The Program will be held from Saturday 10 January to Wednesday 21 January 2015.

## **Shine a Light on Road Safety**

Road Trauma Support Services Victoria (RTSSV) is a not-for-profit organisation contributing to the safety and wellbeing of Victorian road users by providing counselling and support to people affected by road trauma, and addressing attitudes and behaviours of road users through education. RTSSV run monthly seminars where emergency services personnel, including CFA, speak to participants about their experience attending crashes on our roads. RTSSV has invited CFA to participate in their 'Shine a Light on Road Safety' Campaign by:

- turning on headlights on 16 May in recognition of road safety
- attending a community walk on Sunday 18 May at Jells Park. Those interested in participating in the walk need to complete the online entry form. The entry form and more information about the Campaign is available from [www.rtssv.org.au](http://www.rtssv.org.au).

"The most basic of all human needs is the need to understand and be understood. The best way to understand people is to listen to them."  
*- Ralph Nichols*