

From the Chief Officer

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Thank You, Farewell & Good Luck

The next weeks will be significant for a number of long serving CFA employees who have chosen to leave CFA to start the next phase of their life.

Regional Directors Don Kelly and Alan Davies both have their last day with CFA on the 4 July. Don has had nearly 43 years service, starting as a volunteer at Woodend in November 1971. Key appointments include as a District Officer at Ballarat and Melton Regional Offices, then as Area/Regional Manager/Director of North West Metro, Wimmera and now Grampians Region. Alan commenced with CFA as a reserve at Dandenong in May 1968 and leaves with 46 years of service. In 1975 Alan joined the CFA staff as a Regional Officer and he has served in a variety of field locations. Since 1995, Alan has been the Area/Regional Manager/Director of the North East / Hume Region. Over the coming weeks, we also see a number of very experienced Operations Managers (O/M) and Operations Officers leave the service through retirement.

O/M Gerry Verdoorn at District 7 in Geelong, retires (but he will keep on running) after 46 years service. He started as a volunteer at Linton and served at a number of locations including in Districts 2, 13 and 7.

O/M Barry Foss, the Foss family has a proud tradition in CFA. Barry started as a Junior Volunteer at North Geelong in 1968, joining the staff as a career firefighter in 1974 and serving at a number of locations including Ballarat City, Geelong City and Norlane. He has been a District Officer at Portland and Corio, Operations Officer in District 7 and is currently the Operations Manager embedded into the Protective Equipment Section at North Geelong.

O/M Tony Bearzatto, Tony joined Eltham CFA as a volunteer in 1981 and has served at Boronia, Dandenong and Springvale stations. He has been an Operations Officer and Acting O/M in District 13 and is currently the O/M Manager CAD Operations.

O/M Malcolm Fallon, currently on extended leave, has also signalled his intention to retire. Mal joined Warrnambool as a reserve in 1974 and staff as a career firefighter in 1976. He has served at Springvale, Dandenong and Eltham. He has had a variety of field management appointments including as Operations Manager for Districts 4 and 6.

Deputy Chief Officer Alan Ellis will also be retiring on 29 August, the same day his nephew, Andrew graduates from his recruit course at Fiskville. The Ellis name is well known in CFA around central Victoria. Alan volunteered at Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat and Ballarat, then as a District Officer / Operations Officer at District 2, O/M at Fiskville, North West Metro and most recently as a DC/O in Fire and Emergency Management.

All of these long serving staff have given diligent service to the community in a variety of roles. They take with them a wealth of experience and achievement and leave a strong legacy in the next generation of emergency managers. We thank them sincerely for all they have brought to CFA and to the community.

Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre

The new Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre, situated at 284 Hume Hwy, Craigieburn will be officially opened on Sunday, 29 June at 10am. The official opening will be followed by a Family Open Day from 11am - 2pm that includes live fire demonstrations, interactive displays and children's activities. The 10 hectare facility provides access to real life firefighting training scenarios including road, rail, tunnel and marine fires, as well as urban search and rescue. The facility will be used by all Victorian emergency services agencies and will provide the best possible training opportunities for Victoria's emergency services including MFB, CFA, Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria and VICSES. The world class facility supports a vital move towards interagency training and an all-hazards approach to emergency management.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

- **Helen Keller**