

# From the Chief Officer

Number 131 - 24 December 2014



## My CFA

*My CFA* encourages members of the public to register online ([cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/my-cfa](http://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/my-cfa)) to receive localised fire safety information and find details regarding community meetings and Neighbourhood Safer Places. *My CFA* sends targeted information to those registered.

So far this year targeted email correspondence has been sent to *My CFA* members on:

- Vegetation Management: The 10/30 and 10/50 rules explained
- Property Preparation: How to prepare a property prior to the fire season.
- Personal Preparation: How to personally prepare yourself and your household prior to the fire season.
- Warnings and Advice: Understanding warnings and advice and where to find further information.
- Community Alerting Sirens: What to do if you hear a siren.

No more “preparedness” messages will be sent until after the fire season. Communication has now turned to messages about:

- Commencement and conclusion of a Fire Danger Period (by municipality)
- Commencement and conclusion of a Prohibited Period (by municipality)
- Mobile Bushfire Education Unit visits and other major community events.

It's important that you and your teams are aware of *My CFA* and the messages being sent to communities. I urge you to sign up to *My CFA* (<http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/my-cfa/>) and encourage community members to do the same. Questions about changing or updating detail can be directed to [communityprograms@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:communityprograms@cfa.vic.gov.au) or 1800 068 611. Other questions about the program can be directed to the **Manager Community Capability Service Delivery, Ray Fritz**, on 9262 8505.

## AFAC Conference 2015 – Call For Abstracts

The 2015 AFAC and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC Conference, will be held in Adelaide in September. The AFAC and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC Conference is Australasia's premier emergency management conference, staged by the industry, for the broader emergency management community. The 2015 Conference, themed "**New Directions In Emergency Management**", will build on and provide an opportunity to discuss and share new approaches in an all hazard emergency management environment, and work together to examine sector reform, the challenges and opportunities of a “Shared Responsibility”, and seek out new and engaging ways to partner with the community, researchers and the sector to foster and build disaster resilience. For more information or to submit an abstract, please visit the conference website at <http://www.afac.com.au/events/conference2015/home>

## Extension Of Consultation Period On Fire & Emergency Management Design:

Due to the recent fire activity, it has been decided to extend the consultation period on the Fire and Emergency Design by 2 weeks. Comments on the design will now close on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015.

## The Chief's Christmas Message

On behalf of Claire and the CFA Board, and Mick and the CFA Executive Team, and the Fire and Emergency Management team, Kristin and I take this opportunity to **wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year**. There should be a time to take advantage of the lull from cooler moister weather conditions. After the intense activity from lightning fires in the last week, so many of you have earned a solid rest. We hope that you are surrounded by dear friends and happy, joyous family. Over the Christmas – New Year period, whilst many Victorians are having a well-earned holiday, we all know that fires and emergencies do not take a break. Across Victoria CFA women and men will be ready and will turn out to a variety of emergencies. You will go to the aid of Victorians in times of danger, tragedy and emergency. We thank you for your commitment to what we do at this special time of year. We acknowledge that, yet again, the community is better off because of your sacrifices. **Thank you all**. Christmas is a time to reflect on the worth of humanity. It is a time to celebrate our faith, whatever form that may take. It is a time to appreciate the rich diversity that makes up our society and is reflected in CFA. **At Christmas we value the strength that comes from spreading the message of love and peace, throughout the whole world**. Reflect on the true meaning and value of Christmas. Be safe and stay positive. Regards, Euan.

*“Peace on earth and goodwill to all mankind.”*

- Luke 2:14