

# From The Chief Officer.....



Number 89

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

19th August 2013

## Increasing Participation Planned Burning:

Key achievements to date are as follows:

- A survey of the availability and attitudes of CFA volunteers to planned burning was launched last month and is being extensively promoted by both CFA and Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV);
- Key CFA and DEPI personnel are being consulted on the issues and opportunities for increased involvement in planned burning;
- A gap analysis of the skills, systems and equipment required to support increased participation in planned burning has been completed and is currently being documented;
- A report on the legislative framework as it applies to planned burning has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office; and
- A report on the operational risks associated with planned burning has been drafted and is undergoing internal review.

## Over the coming months:

- The project Steering Committee will meet to discuss the findings of the above review. The Steering Committee includes representation from CFA, DEPI and VFBV.
- Work will commence on a report to Government on the opportunities, barriers, resource implications and strategies to increase CFA involvement in planned burning on private and public land.

The project is on track to deliver a report to Government by the end of 2013.

## Entries now open for the 2013 Fire Awareness Awards!

The Fire Awareness Awards are the perfect opportunity to recognise a wide variety of projects that reduce the effect of fires in Victoria. Projects can focus on any fire type, including structure fires and bushfires. This year we hope to again have more exciting project entries across all 12 categories. There are also **two types of grants** on offer; the **RACV Insurance Fire Innovation Grant** of up to \$10,000 and three Special Incentive Grants each valued at **up to \$2,000**. The grants are available for new projects or to further develop an existing fire project. Entries close on **30 September**. Recipients will be announced at a presentation evening at the RACV City Club on 4 December. For info go to [www.fireawarenessawards.com.au](http://www.fireawarenessawards.com.au)

## Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross invites you to a **special panel event for emergency services professionals** interested in working overseas. The panel explores the challenges involved in international disaster preparedness, showcasing career pathways into humanitarian aid sector.

When& Where: Thursday **29 August, 6pm – 8pm at Rydges North Melbourne**

Registration via email **COB 17 August** to [amperry@redcross.org.au](mailto:amperry@redcross.org.au)

For more information, [www.redcross.org.au/intl-volunteers-events.aspx](http://www.redcross.org.au/intl-volunteers-events.aspx) or (03) 9341 7589.

## Review of the Role of the Group

Since the release of the Role of the Group Discussion Paper and endorsement of all the paper's recommendations a range of feedback has been received. This has resulted in the **need for further consultation**. In the next few weeks **Deputy Chief Officer Alan Ellis and I** will be visiting a number of locations (including the North East and Gippsland) to listen to further concerns and if necessary make changes. It is an important project and we need to get it right. An **implementation plan** will then be developed that clearly articulates the role of the Group in CFA.

*"There is no persuasiveness more effectual than the transparency of a single heart, of a sincere life."*  
- **Joseph Berber Lightfoot**