VFBV | VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES VICTORIA

MEDIA RELEASE
May 7, 2017

VICTORIA'S CFA VOLUNTEERS LAUDED FOR PROTECTING THE COMMUNITY

Victoria's 60,000 CFA volunteers are being lauded during National Volunteer Week for continuing a great Australian tradition of protecting their local communities and beyond.

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria CEO Andrew Ford said Victoria's volunteers are essential to public safety and provide a professional service that is effective and affordable.

"Our dedicated volunteers are continuing a great Australian tradition that is well respected in our communities," Mr Ford said.

"This week gives us the opportunity to recognise our volunteers and the work they do and also our communities, employers and families for their support of volunteers."

Mr Ford said volunteers are part of the fabric of society and contribute to community resilience. "All CFA volunteers provide a professional service and are glad to do so because they want to contribute to their communities," he said.

Volunteers make up 95 per cent of Victoria's firefighting force, are trained with nationally-recognised qualifications and are on call around the clock every day of the year.

Mr Ford said the flexibility and strength of 60,000 CFA volunteers allows help to be sent across Victoria and beyond in times of emergency.

"Being one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world, we know how important it is for Victoria to be able to call on large numbers of trained and experienced volunteers for big fires and other serious incidents," he said.

"We can be confident our volunteers are always ready to respond to support communities whenever and wherever disasters occur."

CFA brigades–mostly run by volunteers– protect 60 per cent of suburban Melbourne, regional cities and all of regional Victoria, providing professional services for everything from bushfires and house fires to floods and road accidents.

National Volunteer Week is from May 8-14.

PO Box 453 Mt Waverley 3149 •Unit 9, 24 Lakeside Drive Burwood East 3151•**Tel** 9886 1141• **Fax** 9886 1618•vfbv@vfbv.com.au
Inc. A0043424H •ABN. 110 830 804 03

The capacity of volunteers to respond to major disasters around the state is explained in the VFBV's animated clip found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRcDE6d3ljw

Ends