

EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE



2018 ANNUAL REPORT





Welcome.

This edition of the Emerald Fire Brigade Annual Report is a special one.

It marks 20 years since the Brigade first decided to capture and archive the years events into a document that could be enjoyed by not only the Brigade membership, but the community as a whole for generations. The report shows life inside the Brigade, the people that make it such a great place and some of the significant incidents that we have attended.

Back in 1998-99, then Lt Paul Yandle suggested to the BMT that the Brigade should create some kind of historical register to serve as a record of the years events.

As we do now, each officer put together an overview on what roles they had within the BMT, their responsibilities and the activities that had been completed during the year.

We commenced a program of scanning and making past editions available on our website over the past couple of years and as you will see as they come online, our reports have come a long way from the humble photocopied, black and white beginnings to the professional colour, interactive document that you see today.

So enjoy this special 20th edition of the Emerald Fire Brigade Annual Report and I hope we look back on this edition in another 20 years and see how much further we have come.



Ryan Lewis
Communications Officer
Annual Report Co-ordinator

Thanks.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed photos and articles to this years Annual Report. These reports serve as an important historical record of the activities undertaken by Emerald Fire Brigade during the year. Digital copies of previous years reports can be found on the Brigade website. Special thanks to Glenn Snashall for graphic design assistance and Andrew Merlo at Maccand Graphics for printing. Cover image: FF Arnold at Gembrook grass & scrub fire taken on 17/3/18.



USING QR CODES

This report contains QR codes on some pages. These codes contain links to videos, images or websites that contain more information. Download any QR code reader from your preferred App Store and scan.



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President.

BM Nick Waldron

As President of the brigade, I would like to welcome special guests, brigade members and partners to the 2018 Annual Presentation Night at the RSL Emerald.

I hope everybody enjoys the evening and congratulations to the award winners whoever they maybe.

Firstly, I would like to thank my partner, now wife Trudy for her great support over the past year.

What a great effort on the Annual Report from Ryan Lewis. I, for one know how much work goes into this document having done it myself on a couple of occasions. Great work Ryan!

This is my final report as Brigade President. I decided not to stand for re-election. Handing the baton over to a much younger person, Trevor Ireland. I'm sure he will do a great job and remember everyones names!

Recently on one of my trips up to Emerald, I was sitting in Zest watching the demolition of the old station. So many great memories. However we now have have great station to see us well into the future.

As for me, as you know I have been stepping back over recent times since moving out of Emerald and becoming non operational. I will continue to support the Brigade in doing the FIRS and helping out with Comm Safety or other events.

I will be seeking re-election as Group Secretary for another 2 years and on a Working Party in the Victoria Reference Group organising the State Forum. So still very busy.

Finally, would like to thank all members for their support over my term as President of this Brigade. It has been a privilege and honour.

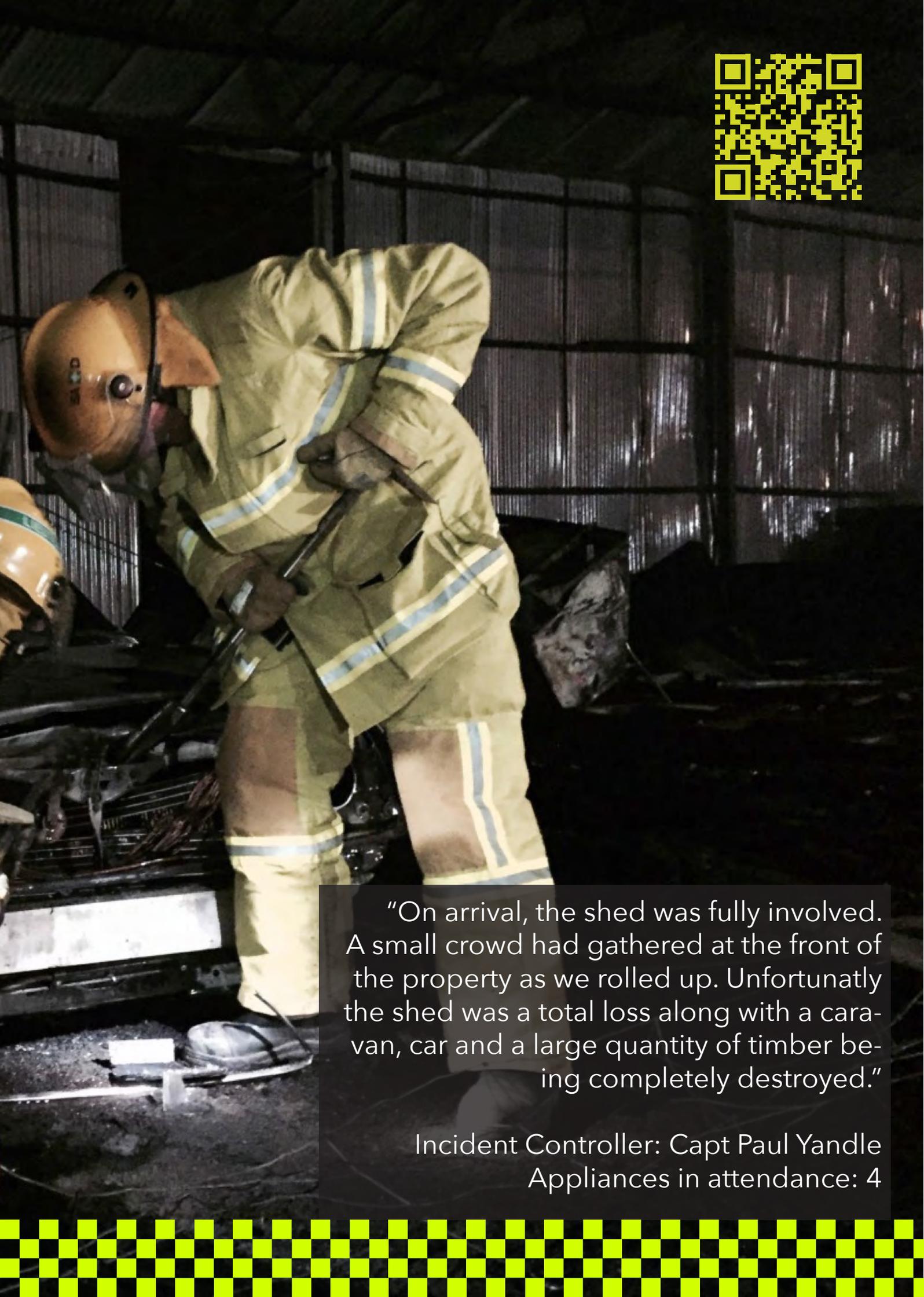
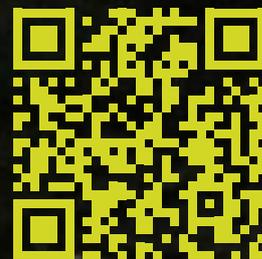
Over to you, Trev!

PINNOCKS ROAD

02/09/17 20:13HRS

ALERT F170901245 EMLD4 STRUC1 CARAVAN FIRE INSIDE SHED
PINNOCKS RD EMERALD /WALNUT AV //DUKE ST M127 C3
(622012) CCLEM CEMLD [EMLD]





"On arrival, the shed was fully involved. A small crowd had gathered at the front of the property as we rolled up. Unfortunately the shed was a total loss along with a caravan, car and a large quantity of timber being completely destroyed."

Incident Controller: Capt Paul Yandle
Appliances in attendance: 4



Captain.

Capt. Paul Yandle

Welcome to this year's annual report, this being the twentieth year the brigade has produced an annual report. It has come a long way since the first version which was a black and white photocopy affair.



The report has become much more professional in its content and presentation over the years and has certainly been a great way to capture not only the great work done by our members, but also providing an important tool to be able to present to visitors to the station, new members and other community groups.

Various members have worked as the annual report coordinator over the years bringing their own individual design, style, humor and flair and it never fails to be an interesting read and a great snapshot of the work done by our members. Many brigade members have contributed with stories, reflections and thoughts on all topics of brigade life from reports about significant jobs attended or the transition from junior to senior F/F or F/F to Officer Positions, new member's stories, funny moments and many other items of interest and some great photos. I hope you find it interesting, informative and a great insight into what happened over the last year. I encourage our newer members to have a read through previous year's reports, and my thanks to Ryan Lewis for putting this year's edition together.

The big news item this year is the fantastic results of our ongoing recruitment efforts. In the last few annual reports I expressed concern at dwindling membership numbers and spoke of the need for new blood. This year has seen a big influx of 8 new members becoming operational in May 2018 and at the time of writing another 5 undergoing recruit training. What we are experiencing at the moment is a generational change within the brigade. New members from just a few years ago have increased their skills, knowledge and experience and are now senior firefighters helping train the next generation, with great results.

It has been fantastic from my point of view since tasking Klaus to 'go find some new members' to watching that process work, seeing new people start at brigade, go through their recruit training and eventually see them on the fire ground at their first few calls. I congratulate all our new members, welcome you to the CFA family and hope you have many years' enjoyment and friendship during your service to the community. I encourage you to continue to train hard, learn the skills you need and be a valuable member of our team. We also welcome your families to our CFA family; we hope they also come along during social activities and events.

TRAINING

Our brigade spends a lot of time training to ensure our members both learn and importantly maintain the skills required for any incident that we need to respond to. Emerald brigade members are given many opportunities to participate in a wide variety of subjects throughout the year including a mix of theory and practical based exercises and drills as well as Group or District based training when possible.

With our recent influx of a large number of new members our priority and focus this year was to get the new recruits up to speed and get them operational in a shorter time frame than usual. To achieve this we pooled our resources with the Clematis brigade and ran a combined recruits course which worked extremely well, with the new members becoming operational in a little over four months compared to the usual 6 month course. My thanks to Captain Jarryd Miller and the team from Clematis for their assistance.

It has been a whole of brigade focus to train up these new members and most training nights and Sunday sessions during this period were devoted to recruit training. I congratulate the new members for undertaking the heavy workload to become operational and would also like to thank the rest of the membership for being so giving of their time and experience.

Big thanks also to Recruits coordinator Lt Klaus Brodeck for an excellent effort and to Lt Tanya Jogan for ensuring the recruits were given plenty of Sunday training opportunities each week. Job well done to Adrian as our training coordinator and each of the Officers and senior fire fighters for preparing and running some great training nights throughout the year.

OPERATIONS

We attended 124 callouts for the financial year to 30th June 2018 with the usual mix of calls we receive. The 2017/18 fire season was fairly quiet for us with no major bushfires – a good result. The brigade has been to a few larger structure fires during the last year with several fully involved house fires as well as 3 large shed fires which saw some great fire ground work by our Officers and fire fighters on scene.

STATION GENERATOR

During the course of the year the brigade was able to install a large capacity stand-alone diesel generator to power the station during black outs. This was largely funded by a grant from Emergency Management Victoria. The generator project came to fruition after the difficulties we encountered during a high impact storm event in October 2016 when the station and LCF were being used in conjunction with the SES. Crews manning the LCF found it very difficult to operate when the power went out taking all station radios with it. The new generator will allow the station and LCF to remain operational at all times and will increase efficiency during busy events. Big thanks to Lt Adrian Trimnell for managing the whole project and for installing the wiring and switches to finish off the project.

JUNIOR BRIGADE

Tanya and Trevor have continued to manage the junior brigade and are doing a great job with the young'uns, The junior brigade remains to have good weekly attendances and provides a great activity for young people in the community, thanks Trev and Tanya.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & ENGAGEMENT

Under the watch full eye of Simon Arnold Comm Safety has remained an important part of our work in the community with plenty of fire safety displays undertaken around the town. It has been great to also see the newer members getting involved in this work and helping Simon out when required. We have also conducted our annual program of FireSafe Kids presentations at the Emerald Primary School which is always a big hit with the kids, my thanks to Kate for her work coordinating the visits as well as Kelly and other members who have assisted, it is important work!

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is such a big part of our lives in this day and age, and it has proven to be a valuable tool for the brigade in various ways to engage with the wider community. As our social media coordinator, Ryan Lewis and his IT helpers have put some fantastic content on social media winning praise from far & wide. Our social media presence has allowed us to get the word out there, be it for Comm Safety and education, recruitment drive information, general non urgent messaging or general interest stories. It has been very effective and significantly assisted to create a positive image of the brigade within the community. Some of Ryan's initiatives along with Nick and Glens drone work was outstanding in providing first class social media content, well done guys.

THE FUTURE

Our brigade's future looks good; we have a dedicated and proactive Officer group and a growing membership which brings new enthusiasm and vibrancy to the brigade. Our new members are as keen as mustard and looking forward to putting their new skills to good use next fire season, which at this stage appears to have some potential for a busy year. All our members will continue to contribute to the brigade and work as a great team which means our future is looking rosy. We also welcome Kelly to the Officer ranks with her election to the Comms Officer role as well as Ryan stepping up to a Lieutenants role.

In closing I would like to thank each and every member for the work you have contributed to the brigade this year, and please remember that the work we do is important to the community and your role contributes to making the brigade a continuing success.

I would also like to acknowledge our member's families and employers for allowing us to do what we do. Families rarely get their due recognition but their generosity is just as important as that made by the members themselves, and is much appreciated by the brigade and the wider community.



1st Lieutenant.

Lt. Adrian Trimnell

Another year down and another report to write.

By the time you read this our new BMT will be in full swing and a big thank you to our membership for giving me the opportunity to continue to represent the brigade in my position as 1st Lieutenant/ Brigade Training Officer (BTO).



It has been a very busy year for the brigade in a number of areas, including the in-house training of our newest recruits, the never-ending number of courses that our enthusiastic members are enrolling and completing and also an increase in firecalls.

Due to the ever-increasing training requirements, a suggestion was made to move our Brigade monthly meeting from the first Wednesday to the first Monday of the month. This was primarily to free up an additional 11 training sessions per year. Hopefully everyone is happy with the decision that the brigade has made.

Our training over the last 12 months has been a mix of theory and practical training nights with good numbers attending. Although our training has largely been back to basics, the longer serving members can always do with a refresher.

I would like to thank the Officers who have all done a great job with their training sessions. It's always challenging to try to make training interesting and fun, but I believe we have succeeded in this. This in turn will hopefully ensure that members new and old, can learn and refresh their skills and knowledge and will keep them eager to learn more.

Late last year a suggestion was made to see if we could use Emerald Hall for a BA exercise before it was demolished. I accepted the task and started on the roller-coaster of emails and phone calls trying to seek permission to hold a large-scale training exercise. The day before the exercise I finally received the written permission we needed. We managed to get approx. 40 members through the exercise, which was a great result. To top off a great day we also had some fantastic drone footage taken and edited to produce a fantastic video.

It has been a very busy year for our members completing various courses. Including 1st aid, Low Structure, Chainsaw, BA, Class A Foam, Crew Leader and Monitor Hazardous Atmospheres. Members need to keep their attendance up, so they don't forget the new skills that they have learnt.

After discussing at a BMT meeting we decided that the current Ranges Group recruit training program wasn't really suiting our needs. So, at the next BTO meeting I suggested that perhaps the current course was not really relevant to a lot of members and maybe it could have been tweaked and shortened a bit. Well that suggestion went down like a lead balloon.

It was then decided that due to an extremely successful recruitment drive we would return to in-house training of our recruits. Klaus has done an exceptional job in running and completing this.

For the first time the Chief Officer required all operational members to complete three preseason training components. Wildfire firefighter, Hazardous Trees Awareness and Burnover Drill. All the records were entered into LMS for an up to date record of our members that were summer season ready.

Unfortunately, CFA's LMS system is still having a lot of problems in managing data, to the point it is currently creating an excessive workload for BTO's. I have passed on my suggestions and issues to the project team, so hopefully it might get better in the future.

We finally received our generator late last year and after some great physical work by our members we managed to have it operational before Christmas. The total cost for the project was just under \$25,000, of that amount the brigade funded \$2643.29 and the balance being supplied by EMV as a grant.

Thanks for reading my report and hope you enjoy yourself in OUR brigade over the next twelve months.



The new generator

2nd Lieutenant.

Lt. Calum Bean

My role this year mainly consisted of driver training and like most years, this kept me busy throughout the year.



Congratulations to Kelly Harris, Tanya Jogan and Simon Arnold for completing the Code 1 Assessment and becoming operational Code 1 drivers in the brigade.

The assesment is a two part exam, which includes a theory section which covers legislation and CFA guidelines for driving as well a practical demostration of the Tanker which involves the candidate demonstrating knowledge of equipment location and pump operation. This exam is difficult and the standards the brigade and the CFA expect are high, so I congratulate you all for your hard work. My thanks to Captain Paul Yandle for his assistance in running these exams which is not an easy task.

Klaus Brodeck and Sam Fredrickson have under taken driver training throughout the year and I'd like to thank them both for the commitment and time they have given in learning new skills. Learning how to drive the big red truck is no easy task and it is great to see how quickly the trainees pick up and develop as drivers.

Due to certain circumstances I moved out of the area to Tecoma in March, this combined with my new role doing interstate driving with my company meant that I had to resign as a Lieutenant and my involvement with the brigade has dropped off in the last few months. I would like that thank my fellow officers for picking up the slack and covering for me over the last few months, I've felt guilty for not being there and I apologise for not being present in the last few months of my position.

Thank you also to the members of the brigade for having the faith in me and having me as an officer in the brigade for the last few years, I've really enjoyed watching members and fellow officers develop into great assests to the brigade and playing a role in keeping the CFA machine rolling along. Whilst I remain a member and will turn out from Tecoma I hope to return to Emerald and become more of an involved member in the near future.



FF Harris gaining her HR licence



3rd Lieutenant.

Lt. Klaus Brodeck



The last twelve months has seen a real turning point for our brigade. We, like many brigades, have suffered from declining numbers over the last few years. This is primarily a result of members moving out of the area and others who have a reduced ability to commit to the brigade due to busy lifestyles and other priorities. This is totally understandable and is commonplace not only in CFA, but also across the world with volunteer organisations.

After taking on the role of 3rd Lieutenant, my primary task was to accelerate our recruitment to rebuild our brigade membership for now and the future. My objective was to introduce ten new members – five daytimers and five general members. An element of this was to also broaden the diversity of the brigade, in particular by introducing more female firefighters. If you read my report from last year, I mentioned several activities that we initiated to boost our membership numbers. And I am glad to say those efforts have been successful.

In the second half of 2017, we saw Glenn, Frank and Nick become operational which was a great start. These guys have also gone on to complete additional training courses since becoming operational and regularly attend callouts and training. We then have had another eight members – Amy, Mick, Leanne, Bevan, Thomas, Liv, Cassie and Alan join up with the brigade. With such a large group ready all at once, we made the decision to work in partnership with our close neighbours, Clematis Fire Brigade, to complete a recruits course between ourselves. After plenty of hard work and commitment, the eight new recruits completed their minimum skills course and have now become operational. And just in case you thought some of them may have lacked enthusiasm, four of them attended a significant house fire as their first call out. I think they will be Emerald members for life now.

On top of this great group of recruits, we still have Daniel, Brendan, Jesse, Sarah and Leigh who have also commenced their recruits course and will become operational before the next fire season. That totals sixteen new members in just over a 12-month period which is a phenomenal result. Welcome to the team, your enthusiasm is already rubbing off on other members of the brigade and we look forward to a long and prosperous career with Emerald for many years to come.

Unfortunately, ongoing recruitment is the new norm. We still need to build our membership, especially during the day. The recruiting will continue, and your support will be called on again for various initiatives to bring new highly motivated members to the brigade.

So, when I touched on this as being a turning point for the brigade – our brigade has changed significantly and the influx of enthusiasm which is highly welcomed, is also offset by a reduction in experience that can only be learned over time. This means we need to address how we train, how we manage and how we run the brigade based upon the new brigade make up. Half of our current operational firefighters now have less than two years firefighting experience.

It is pleasing that most of our new recruits are extremely eager to learn and have already submitted for a wide range of training courses to develop their skills further. This will also be enhanced by a complete training program from Adrian that will ensure we have a strong, competent and motivated membership for years to come

We were also successful in attracting more female firefighters to the brigade as they now make up 22% of our operational members, up from 13% ten years ago. On top of this, females make up 33% of our Brigade Management Team. Both very rewarding outcomes and not something we are looking to move away from. Once again, these are positive factors contributing to the strengthening of the brigade for future years.

This year I have found myself as crew leader or incident controller for a larger number of jobs than last year which has been enjoyable and a great learning experience. Some of these jobs included the Christmas Eve House Fire in Menzies Creek as the crew leader on the Pumper, crew leader on the tanker for the Gembrook Cottage Fire than subsequently the bushfire only a few hours apart. The Gembrook fire was a great learning as we were on the fireground for eight hours before being relieved. This was my first job at a decent bushfire and you do get to see what can go wrong and it is easy to judge from afar when you don't have the pressure on you. I certainly took a lot away from that job.

A big thank you must go out to Jarryd, Mat and the whole Clematis brigade who assisted with our recruits, and to our brigade who spent a significant amount of time assisting in training, guiding, mentoring, helping, assessing and just taking the time to make the recruits welcome as part of the brigade, but also sharing their wisdom to bring them to the level required to become operational.

Lastly, I would also like to thank the membership for voting me in as 2nd Lieutenant for the next term. Whilst it is never ideal to see someone step down as an officer with Calum's experience and high level of respect he has within the BMT, it does give somebody else an opportunity to come in and make an officer's role their own. Congratulations to Ryan, you will no doubt do a fantastic job.

Enjoy another safe and prosperous 2018-19.

4th Lieutenant.

Lt. Tanya Jogan

An entire year of me being a Lieutenant at Emerald Fire Brigade has gone by. I still wonder how that happened – how did I get to be a lieutenant?

I'm quite aware that I don't have the knowledge or experience the title deserves... yet here I am.



My 4th Lieutenant portfolio has included station maintenance; trucks maintenance; procurement of consumables for the ration packs, First Aid kits and truck equipment; hose pressure testing; water plugs; and the smoke alarm battery change-over program.

This year there have been many things to organise and manage ... and I admit I haven't quite gotten everything done exactly when it has been meant to be done, but I have always tried...

- I have tried to keep up to date with everything
- I have tried to support our experienced members and I have tried to encourage our newer members
- I have tried to learn how to better communicate and delegate instead of feeling overwhelmed about having to do everything myself
- I have tried to lead by example and be proactive and involved with station chores
- I have tried to support and work with other local community groups
- I have tried to manage the Junior Brigade and keep the program interesting and the kids involved
- I have tried to make sure there's always biscuits in the kitchen and toilet paper in the toilets

Some people might say that I am very trying!

I would like to pass my thanks to all who have contributed and helped with everything, from the never-ending truck checks, to vacuuming and cleaning toilets, to BMT and BASO support and to our DMOs – and just everyone for making it a year to remember.

A few of my most memorable moments from the year just finished include:

- Blowing bubbles for the group of new firefighters when they were presented with their new wildfire gear.
- Seeing Trevor finally have the confidence to drive the trucks around station (he does have a licence!)
- The amazing ember rain and Glenn asleep in the wheel barrow at the Gembrook Fire
- The sky glowing orange and being first on scene at the Westlands Road house fire
- The happy smiles from everyone at our Christmas dinner, and
- Watching new firefighters experience their first live fire training at SETG

I really believe that being part of the CFA is much more than just getting on a truck when there's a call out. I believe in the camaraderie and support, being part of the community and the extended family feeling. I hope I've encouraged a few other people to see this too.

Thanks to Emerald membership for voting me in as 3rd Lieutenant for the next 2 years, for giving me more chances to learn and more opportunities to keep trying.

My 3rd Lieutenant portfolio includes all that I had as 4th Lieutenant – plus the addition of Driver Training.

I wish everyone many laughs and happy times in the coming year.



5.04
Competence: The ability to efficiently undertake the task required.

EMERALD PUMPER

City: _____ Test requirements: _____ Done: _____
Completed By: _____

EMERALD TANKER

City: _____ Test requirements: _____ Done: _____
Completed By: _____

Emerald Fire Station
Truck Check List
TANKER

TANKER						
LOCKER	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)
2	2			3	1	2
4		4	1			

PUMPER						
LOCKER	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)	30mm CARVAK (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)	30mm DURALINE (200 length)
3 & 4		2	3			
	6		3	1	2	

Communications.

FF Ryan Lewis

This report will mark the end of my role as Communications Officer, with the reins being handed over to Kelly Harris at the start of the new Financial Year. My sincere thanks to everyone who assisted me during the last few years in the role, please know it's greatly appreciated.



I know I keep saying it, but digital radios ARE coming. As we go to print, we are looking at a February 2019 go-live date however due to the massive amount of physical infrastructure to be installed, expect the possibility of further delays. The reason for the new towers? Given the overall number of blackspots that significantly effect the performance of our radios mean that there is no choice but to add more repeaters. This will be a huge benefit for brigades in the hills who have suffered greatly with poor radio coverage since the technology was introduced. Digital radio offers many great benefits including duress signalling and better audio quality. When it's switched on, we'll wonder how we ever managed without it!

Many of you may have noticed we now have Mobile Data Terminals (MDT) installed in all appliances. A big thank you to Paul and Colin for leading the installations themselves, they look fantastic. Some background: around mid-2017, the Brigade moved a motion to purchase three iPad tablets with associated mounting hardware to enable firefighters to have access to a whole range of critical information such as mapping and pre-plans at the touch of a finger. The MDTs are connected with BART (member turnout confirmation, availability manager and cross-device communication platform) so that we can track where the appliance(s) are in real-time, communicate with them and see exactly who is assigned to that truck.

Members can get turn-by-turn GPS navigation to an incident, access internal documents like pre-plans, contact lists and maps, conduct video calls, access CFA online for sending pager messages and virtually a million other possibilities all from the comfort of the Crew Leaders seat.

Remember there are always hardcopy backups in the truck if a data connection is not available but members should try and use the tablets whenever possible.

I hope you are enjoying the annual report so far. This report serves as the 20th edition produced by the Brigade and I've tried to make it one to remember. The process of scanning and uploading previous year's reports is still in progress. It's a painstaking task but will be worth it for generations to enjoy. I really hope you enjoy looking back on this year and everything we've accomplished as a team.

Massive thanks to Glenn Shashall and Nick Wwhiley for assisting me with the design. As you can see below, we've had a few sessions in the shed putting it together.



Like I said, this report will be my last as Communications Officer. I wish Kelly all the best with Spectrum Testing which I'm sure she's going to learn to love. And she'll be amazed at how fast we chew through pager batteries.

Special mention to my beautiful wife, Stephanie for her constant support of my involvement with this Brigade. For understanding that the time I give to the fire service isn't wasted and that we all do what we do here for the greater good of the community.

By the time you read this, I'll be a new dad so forgive me if I look like I haven't slept in weeks when you're conversing with me tonight. With a bit of luck, I'll be bringing up a new recruit to the station in the not so distant future!

Speaking of recruits, this year saw one of the largest intakes of new members the brigade has seen in quite a while. Spectacular effort from all involved but especially Lt Klaus Brodeck. He has really taken recruitment and run with it and the results speak for themselves. It's inspiring to see such high quality people stepping up from within our community to help keep it safe.

Enjoy tonight and best of luck to all members for awards.

Treasurer.

BM Chris Davey-White

The brigade received almost \$13000 of donations in the last financial year. These have been from our regular donators the Emerald Tourist Railway, the Pakenham Opportunity Shop, and St. Mark's (Emerald) Opportunity Shop. We have also received donations from the community, and from the band, The 7.30 Thursdays.

The brigade is thankful for the contributions made by these organisations and community members, as the bulk of our income is from these sources. Cash donations have also contributed to the incoming funds, and these have been collected at community events and via the collection tins located around the community. The Brigade thanks any community member who has donated through any of these means. Lastly, the Brigade is fortunate to have an anonymous donator who has contributed, and we are grateful to this person seeing the Brigade as a valuable and worthwhile organisation to support.

The bulk of the purchases for the Brigade has been upgrading equipment to enable us to support the community. We received a grant to purchase a large generator to ensure the Station remained powered in an electrical emergency, and there were some associated installation costs. We have also upgraded some of our technology in the trucks and, this too, was a significant investment. There has also been some ongoing costs associated with the technology. However, both of these purchases will ensure the Brigade can more adequately support the community in an emergency.

The Brigade has had a significant recruitment drive, and signage on the door has brought in a number of new members, as has a leaflet drop within the local community. The costs associated with this has been both signwriting and printing, however, both methods proved successful. This has also resulted in a large uniform order to ensure the members have safety equipment that will enable them to attend emergencies. Upgrading the truck supplies; ration packs, first aid equipment and water, also contributed to the year's costs. Regular maintenance costs to the trucks and hoses has also contributed to the outgoing expenses for the year.

The Brigade finished their trial of BART, an emergency management communication tool, and determined that it was a worthwhile investment for the future. These costs are new outgoing financial needs, however, the benefits are worthwhile as the brigade is able to communicate and be contacted in emergencies using smart phone technology.

The largest movement of money was a transfer of \$15000 from the Bendigo Bank account to the Bank West savings account. This is in line with the Brigade's long-term financial plan for inevitable Salvage appliance replacement.

Statements.

Statement of Brigade bank accounts taken between 01/17/17 to 30/06/18.

BENDIGO BANK

Incoming	(\$)
Interest	160.91
Donations	12,866.76
GST Reimbursement	1,654.61
Presentation Night	1,040.00
Overpayment Reimbursement	148.42
Bendigo Reimbursement	52.10
Total	15,922.80

Outgoing

BankWest Transfer	15,000.00
Signage	594.00
Phone	1,165.50
Flowers	180.00
Sundry	762.14
Uniform	1,803.40
Internet	449.91
Trophies	706.40
Presentation Night	696.00
Juniors Petty Cash	500.00
Stationary	414.71
Catering	587.47
First Aid	202.98
Station Supplies	781.11
Postage	170.11
Equipment	8,959.68
Affiliations	82.50
CFA	1,016.86
Printing	1,455.00
Subscriptions	333.50
BART	755.00
Photography	327.50
Ration Packs	102.05
GST Payment	771.04
Total	37,816.85

Opening Balance	27,639.69
Closing Balance	5,745.79

BANK WEST

Incoming	
Interest	1,158.44
Deposits	15,000.00
Total	16,158.44

Opening Balance	95,166.91
Closing Balance	111,325.35

Fundraising.

Lt Klaus Brodeck - Fundraising Co-ordinator

2018 has been a quieter year on the Fundraising front, but not to say that it hasn't been an eventful year in this space. Every year, we have been incredibly fortunate to benefit from several very generous donations from the public and community groups and this year has been no different.



To secure some of the larger items we required, we looked at different options and identified that seeking funding from government grants was an opportunity that we needed to investigate further. Driven by Adrian, we secured over \$19,000 from a government grant to assist in the purchase and installation of a large generator to supply power to the station. For those who assisted during the significant wind event in October 2016, you will know the importance a generator can play. This generator is a wonderful asset for the community and the brigade for years to come.

We also submitted two proposals to the Enhancing Volunteerism Grants Program – one for a request of \$3,000 to purchase new LED light bars for all our firefighting vehicles, replacement LED floodlights for the Salvage light mast, and two Pelican Area Floodlights to replace the aging tripod floodlights on the Salvage. The purpose of all this new equipment is to improve fireground lighting; improved quality of lighting, reduced time to set lighting up, and overall enhancing firefighter safety.

The second proposal was seeking \$10,000 for station upgrades. The items included CCTV system for station security, two defibrillators, washing machine to keep wildfire PPC clean without members having to take them home to wash, plus replacement meeting room chairs and laptop to enhance meeting and training facilities for all our members.

At the time of writing this report, we had received communication that we were successful in receiving funding for our first proposal on the lighting equipment, and our second proposal on station upgrades has been deferred to the second round of consideration by the selection committee. Fingers crossed we are successful here also. After successfully receiving these grants for the generator and lighting equipment, this means that we can continue fundraising at the brigade level for our long-term goal of replacing the brigade-owned Salvage.

Our Brigade Financial Plan is a fluid document, and by receiving grants for some of these regularly used items within the brigade, allows us to stay on course for the main fundraising objective.

Once again, if you have any great ideas or initiatives that you think would assist the brigade in achieving our long term financial goals, please come and have a chat with me.

Fire Safe Kids.

BM Kate Griffin - Fire Safe Kids Co-ordinator

We had two fire station visits by Emerald Pre-School in December. Kelly and Tom (and Bruce from Clematis Fire Brigade), and I did the other session. The kinder kids love visiting the station!



They are so full of life and ask so many amazing questions. The children enjoyed looking at the station and the fire trucks. They especially loved looking at themselves through the Thermal Imaging Camera and getting to knock a safety cone over with the live reel on the tanker.

In May, Kelly and I conducted thirteen home fire safety FSK sessions at Emerald Primary School. We ran sessions for the foundation, grade 2, 4 and 6 classes. This is approximately 325 students!

The topics we covered were:

- Calling 000 – how to call, when to call, when not to call and the information you need to give the 000 operator
- Stop, drop and roll – we talked about how to do it properly and each child got to show us how they would do it
- Get down low and GO, GO, GO! – we talked about why this is so important, especially in a structure fire and we used the FSK parachute as our 'smoke level' so each child got to practice how they would do it
- Smoke alarms – why they are so important, where they are in our homes and how to test them
- Home fire escape plan –we talked about the importance of knowing what to do and where to meet if there is an emergency in your home

The children were fantastic, asking lots of really good questions and having fantastic discussions amongst their classes and with their parents when they got home.

Volunteerism in the Community.

Life Member Graeme Legge

From the outset, the spirit of early members was that of 'self-help'. I can't push my car by myself, but two of us can. A personal experience of mine was that of three fires being started on my neighbouring property in summer. Despite being prepared with a filled knapsack on the tank-stand ready for instant wear and use, I couldn't overcome the flames. Although I extinguished some, their 'spread' was greater. How relieved I was when the Brigade arrived! Whenever the siren sounds someone is in trouble and needs a hand. It was a natural, neighbourly response to care and help. Some people boiled kettles to produce hot water for billies of tea for those at the fire-front. Others cut sandwiches and supplied slices of cake. Others provided transport for relief crews. And able-bodied members tackled the fires. In the early days, the community spirit was such that almost all able-bodied men in the district were registered as members because it could never be known when they could become involved in fire-fighting.

In 1980 the Brigade benefitted when it gained a female member who undertook Secretarial duties. Mrs Chris(tine) Skinner preceded Mrs Rhonda Rogers before Mrs Heather Maxwell and Mrs Marg Johnson came two years later.

I make the social observation of single-incomes once were largely sufficient for families to pay mortgages, provide food, shelter, warmth and clothing which enabled children to come home from school to an adult (usually, mother). Many ladies supported local organisations especially those that met during the day (e.g. CWA, School Mothers' Club, a local William Angliss Hospital Auxiliary) and a greater neighbourly support for the sick, elderly and injured. A lot of social dynamics changed when households came to require two-incomes.

Emerald's first hall was paid for by locally-raised money. Emerald's second hall was largely paid for by residents who themselves voted to pay an extra Council rate for 20 years – nowadays, many in the community expect 'Council' and 'the government' to pay for and then provide our local facilities. Early Emerald brigade members built their own fire station. Note all the self-help! I also think there was an appreciation and acceptance that the community was enriched by its having a Hall Committee, an Emerald Lake, a Kindergarten, a Library, a Fire Brigade . . . Residents paid nothing towards these organisations yet all benefitted from their existence. I think there's an argument that says that it's fair and appropriate that all who are able to do so should contribute to these self-help assets. Could it be argued that not to do so could be seen as somewhat 'parasitical'?

It is my opinion that present-day living has competing attractions and interests of varying importance. It seems to me that we all rank these activities in some sort of importance to ourselves (yet there may be room to consider what the wider community needs). Beyond our family needs I think there is room for adults and younger community members to deliberately contribute to at least one community organisation.

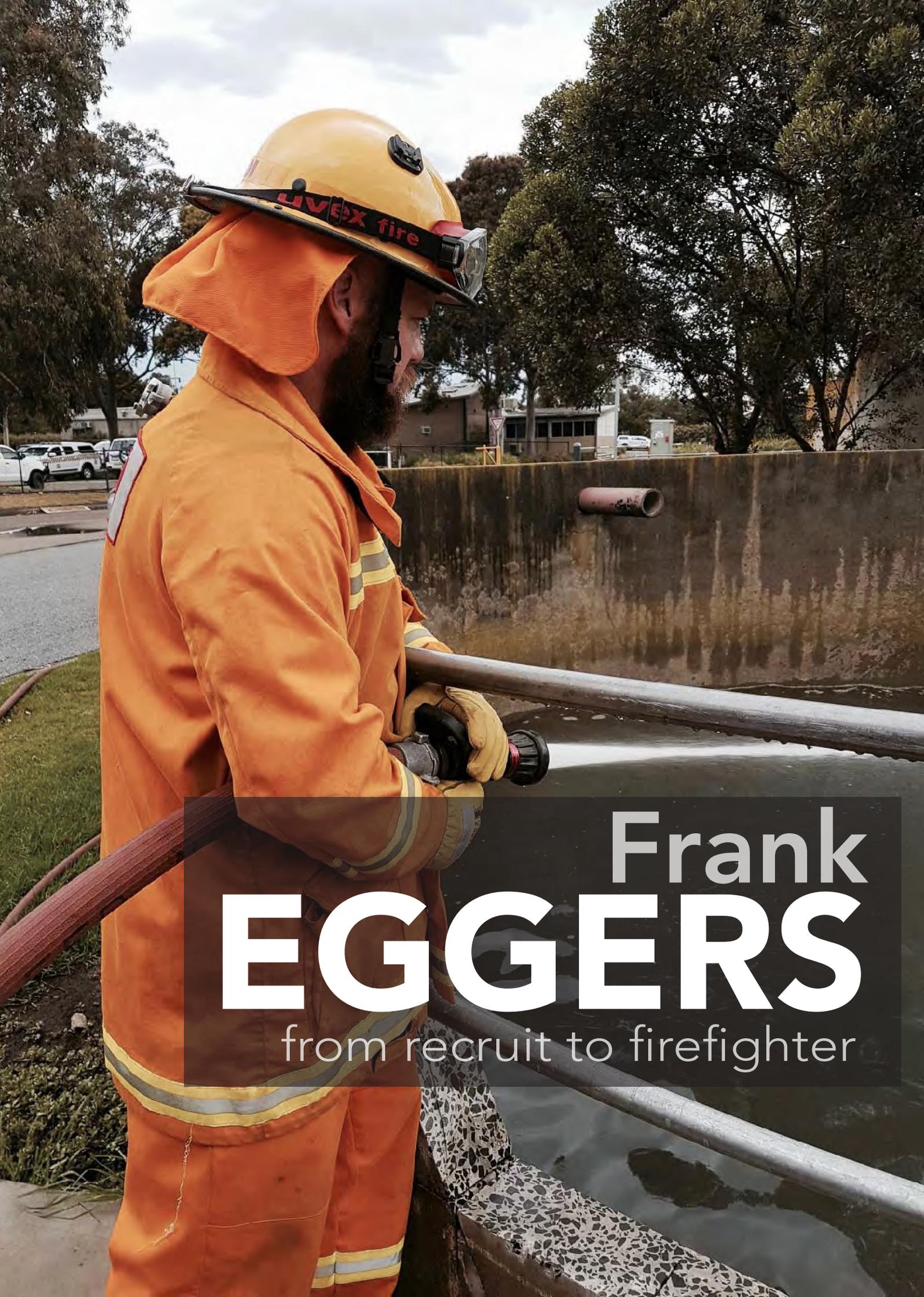
It may be a sporting team or an 'interest' club; it may be a service organisation, a church group, a youth group, a 'Friends' group . . . An interesting outcome is not only do residents strengthen their community but they usually experience personal growth, pride and satisfaction.

We diminish ourselves if we leave alone organisations such as the Fire Brigade, 'because it's going all right and doesn't need any more help'.

Since we all have days of 24-hours and competing interests we do well to list our interests, prioritise them as some being of greater importance than others, and then make thoughtful and generous decisions as to personal support and involvement.

I think the 'self-help' concept ('volunteerism') is enriching to the community and for individuals, besides effectively supporting where we live.





Frank EGGERS

from recruit to firefighter

Growing up in the hills and now raising my family here in Emerald, I felt a need to be active in my community to help and protect the beautiful place we live in.

I had no idea what to expect when I walked into the Emerald CFA. Initially I was nervous but was welcomed by a supportive family of passionate people.

I have thoroughly enjoyed every aspect so far of the CFA. From the recruit training where I learnt for the first time just how confronting and complex a fire can be, to the BA course and class A foam course. Maybe not so much Communications, sorry Ryan!

Also, I'm looking forward to my new role as Health and Safety coordinator for the brigade.

I remember riding in the tanker for the first time and having a smile from ear to ear. So I'd like to thank Tanya for her support, Klaus for signing me up, Ryan for helping me get through communications with extra training on a Saturday, my sidekick Nick who I completed the recruits course with and the rest of the Emerald crew for making this happen.

The Emerald CFA has enabled me with skills and training, not only in fire-fighting but in general day to day life. I wear my CFA hat with pride and look forward to a long involvement with the Emerald CFA family.

FF Frank Eggers



HEATHER AVENUE

15/09/17 20:45HRS

ALERT F170906461 EMLD6 STRUC1 HOUSE FIRE ACACIA CR
EMERALD M 311 B6 (654000) CCOAT EMLD [EMLD]



IMAGE: DAVE TANGY





“After some initial confusion on the actual incident location, crews were confronted with a fully involved double storey barn on arrival. Local residents had been able to move a caravan that was resting up against the front doors, saving it from destruction.”

Incident Controller: FF Ryan Lewis
Appliances in attendance: 6





Recruits Frank Eggers and Nick Whiley receiving their first set of Wildfire PPC



X DO NOT HANDLE WITH CARE

BOOTMAKERS
OLIVER
SINCE 1887
by Honeywell

EMERALD FIRE DEPARTMENT

CFA

Juniors.

FF Trevor Ireland - Junior Leader

Well here we are again and it only seems like 365 days ago that I was typing last year's report, but how time flies when you are having fun and looking after a great team of Juniors.

The last year has been a very busy, rewarding and interesting with lots of things happening to make running Juniors even more special. We started the year with a few new members and one which stood out was a French exchange student named Clara who joined along with her host Peta, this made for a very interesting time as our English is not the best at times, but Clara's English was very good and even better with that French accent.

We held the Junior Presentation Night which was very well attended and the awards went to the following:

Junior Firefighter of the year: **Russell Gledhill**

Runner up Junior Fire Fighter of the year: **Tara White**

Encouragement Awards: **Tallara Volk, Elouise Sadler** and **Jayden Hughes.**

At our Christmas break up at Elevation Restaurant we said farewell to Tallara and Rhys as they had both recently turned 16, and Rhys has already transferred to Cockatoo Fire Brigade and is now an active senior member. It is so rewarding to see our Juniors continue onto to seniors as well as seeing our ex Juniors out and about working at local shops. Tanya and I were very lucky to be at a Debutant Ball recently and saw two of our ex Juniors, Tallara and Livia there too.

We have done so much over the last year and here is a list of just a few subjects we covered: Draughting, Communication, Structure fires, History of Emerald Lake and tour, Truck checks and truck wash, visit to the Ash Wednesday Memorial Centre, Bushfire Information night, fuel types, hoses and couplings, home safety, the phonetic alphabet, lighting, ventilation and filling a room with theatrical smoke and using the PPV fan, also our yearly visit to Cockatoo Fire Station where we saw how Officer Fire Brigade use their gas flare off equipment which was very informative, and last but not least, lots of training for Kalorama (Hills Junior Fun Day) competition.

Speaking of the Hills Junior Fun Day, our Junior Brigade took part in the event and even though it was a wet and cold day they participated in the events as a team and cheered on other teams and ended up winning the overall trophy on the day as well as the Individual Team trophy as voted by the judges. Myself and Tanya couldn't be more proud of the way our Juniors conducted themselves on that day and they deserved the trophies they won.

Tanya and I also attended a state wide Junior Forum held at Myrniong near Ballan, which was a great way to meet other Junior Leaders and see how we are going compared to other Junior Brigades - and I must say we came away knowing that our program is one of the best and that the Juniors are getting the best possible training.

We held our Junior Elections at the end of June for positions for the 2018/19 year, and the results are as follows:

Captain: **Tara White**
1st Lieutenant: **Russell Gledhill**

Congratulations to both the new officers and a big thank you to all who put up their hand and nominated for the positions.

In closing I wish to say a very big thank you to 4Lt (by now 3Lt) Tanya Jogan for running the Junior Program with me, and a thank you to the Senior Brigade and Captain Paul for their support when we ask for it.

Thank you to all the families who support and encourage their children attending Juniors, Tanya and I hope they take home happy memories and valuable information that will help them in their future.





PETA – I have found CFA a surprising adventure. The friendships we've formed and skills we've learned will be alongside memories I treasure forever. The competitive Kalorama, and the few and far between powerpoints that send you to sleep are the friendships are the reasons I enjoy CFA.

KAIDEN – I joined 2 – 3 years ago and I have done many awesome stuff like riding on Puffing Billy.

SIENNA – I've been in Juniors for about a year and a half now and it's been a wonderful experience and it still is. It's a whole load of fun and laughter and learning too. My favourite thing we do is when we go on excursions because they're a lot of fun.

AMOS – I joined Juniors because my Dad is a volunteer for EFB and I thought that was cool.

JAYDEN – Juniors has been great. I have learnt many things since I've been here 3 or 4 years, made many friends with fellow Juniors and we have all had a great time.

RUSSELL – Since I joined CFA it has not changed, it is still a great and exciting experience with many new activities each week.

LILY – I joined CFA because my Dad thought it was a good idea, and yes it was! I have enjoyed most activities and recommend CFA for everyone.

TARA – I have been in Juniors for roughly 4 years now, and I have enjoyed every single minute. It has been very challenging but also a lot of fun. I have made many friends and am happy with my decision to join.

SARAH – I joined CFA because I want to help people.



Junior Leaders Lt Tanya Jogan
and FF Trevor Ireland



VEMTC

Bangholme



(L-R) FF Cranston, LT Jogan, FF Arnold,
FF Sadler, FF Fredrickson

OXFAM TRAILWALKER



FF Cassie Patford

The hundred kilometre Oxfam walk was certainly the most difficult challenge I have achieved. When our team began training for the event I perceived a twenty kilometre hike as a significant distance. As we hiked further distances each weekend my perception quickly changed. I soon came to believe that a thirty-five kilometre hike was just a stroll through the woods, as one would say.

Throughout our training I did not only gain leg muscle, I also gained valuable friendships. The long hikes allowed us to understand and appreciate each other's uniqueness, which was essential when it came to event day.

Suddenly event day arrived and we were eagerly waiting to begin the hundred kilometre walk. I knew it was going to be the hardest challenge I had ever faced, but it was beyond anything I had imagined.

Day one of the walk was a scorcher and in order to avoid dehydration I consumed vast amounts of water and electrolytes. Although it was a sweaty day, I still felt comfortable and energetic at the fifty kilometre checkpoint. At the half way point, with the support of friends and family, I thought the rest of the walk would be straightforward.

It was not to my awareness that the next twenty kilometres was going to be a grueling mental challenge. We hiked for endless hours in the dark and when we reached the sixty kilometre point I was mentally exhausted. Within the distance of twenty kilometres we lost three team members due to unfortunate injuries, which impacted my mental well-being.

However, their strength and ability to continue with pain, motivated me as they demonstrated the possibilities of the human body. I had to continuously remind myself that through a positive mind the Oxfam was achievable. Though, at times I found it tremendously difficult to think positively. I had expected that once sunrise appeared I would feel regenerated, instead I was crying due to an emotional breakdown and immense amount of pain.

I was ready to throw in the towel at the seventy kilometre point at the Woori Yallock Primary School, therefore it was to my surprise that I would further push my limits and continue. The encouragement of my team mates, support crew, boyfriend, and boyfriend's mother, made the finish line possible. My boyfriend was kind enough to walk the remaining thirty kilometres with me. His presence was extensively supportive, and if it wasn't for him I would not have reached the finish line.

I remember arriving at the ninety kilometre checkpoint and considering ending the journey. At this point I had not slept for over thirty hours, I could hardly walk, and was more exhausted than I have ever been. Astoundingly, through the support of others and self-motivation, I kept walking.

As I was considerably close to the finish line I became overly excited to complete the Oxfam. My motivation to achieve the challenge grew and with my boyfriend by my side, the last ten kilometres were reasonable. When I reached the end I was hallucinating and was physically damaged, nonetheless, it became worth it when I walked through the finish line with my team mates and was congratulated by friends and family.

The Oxfam walk was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I am now mentally and physically stronger than ever before.

Also I have the assurance that I am surrounded by inspirational, strong, and supportive people.

Community Education.

FF Simon Arnold - Community Education Co-ordinator

The red and blue flashing lights, siren blaring, racing towards a column of smoke, then returning back to the station all dirty and tired - what could be as rewarding as this?

It's the look on someone's face after you provide them with information that could help save their property or their life.

This year we engaged face to face with over 730 members of the public and with over 3000 followers on Facebook.

The stats for the events held during the year are:

1x Bushfire information session

1x CFA Open Day

5x Community engagement sessions at Woollies and Avonsleigh Preschool
Bush Fire awareness (summer message) and home fire safety (winter message)

10x Fire Safe Kids programs (FSK)

38x Fire Safety Kits for new residents

130x staff members at my work (Davey) on home fire safety

Regarding the FSK, an outstanding effort by Kate Griffin and Kelly Harris for their hard work, this resulted in:

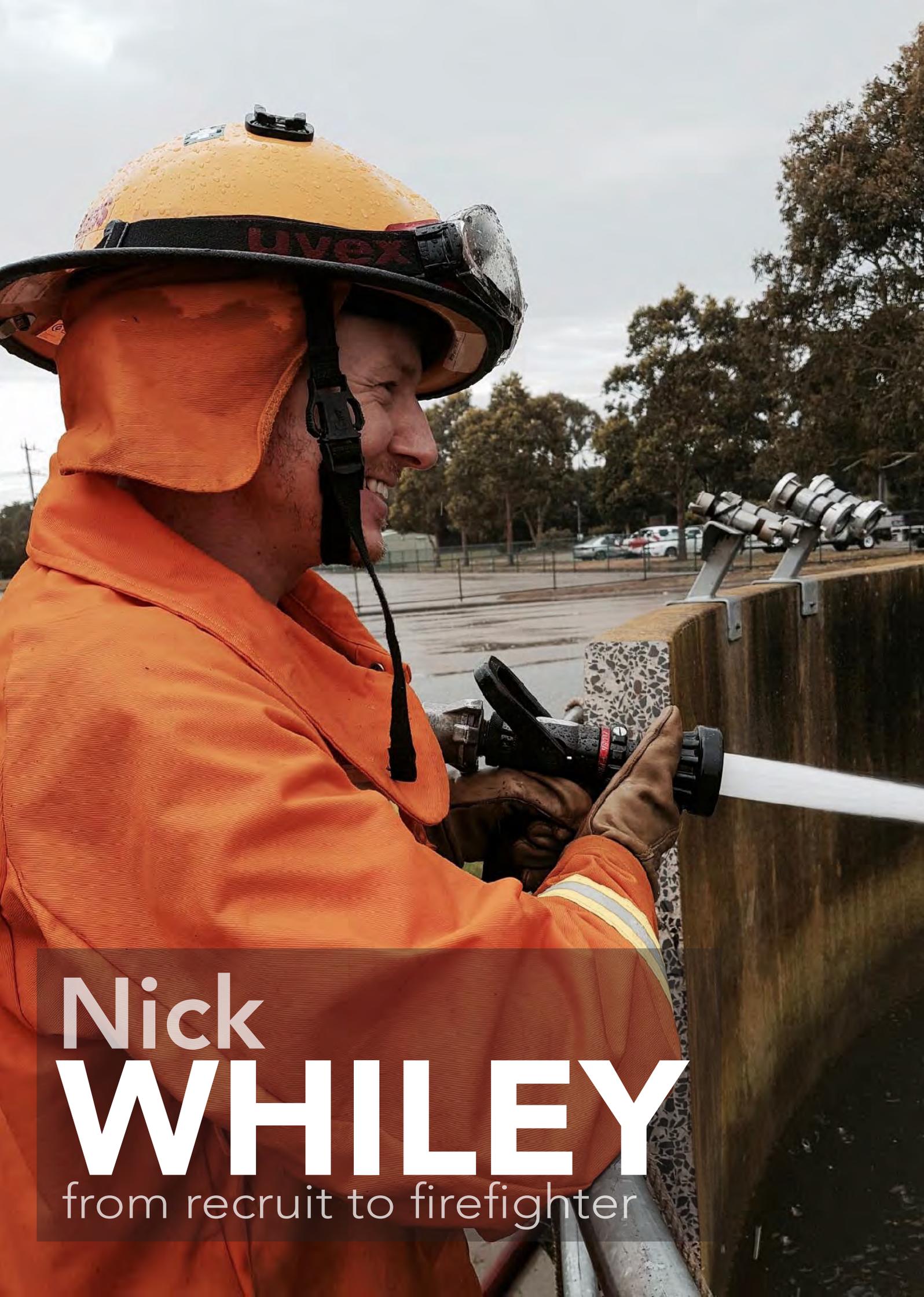
A staggering 325 members of the public over 10 sessions.

With the influx of the new fire-fighters we have a burst of energetic volunteers helping out during the events, this helps to reduce the load on the same members that assist time and time again at each event.

Community safety awareness can not be achieved by only one person, its a team effort by the whole brigade. Whether we are at a CFA information stand or standing at a coffee shop in our CFA T-Shirts, the public feel confident and at ease to chat to any of us on any fire safety topic, as our knowledge is extensive and our passion endless.

To everyone - thank you for helping to make our community a safer one.





Nick
WHILEY
from recruit to firefighter

Nine months ago when I walked into the Emerald CFA brigade for the first time, I had in mind joining a group of people who (like me) wanted to protect the community and be part of a volunteer organisation that's been supporting the Emerald community for 75 years.

I knew there would be training involved and a level of social interaction which I was looking forward to. In a way I was wrong. While training and social interaction are certainly a part of what I've enjoyed, more importantly, I've learnt new skills and made new friends.

I can't understate how amazing it's been to spend my Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings in my early 30's when I thought the education part of my life was over learning skills I never thought I'd have.

From tying knots to firefighting theory the six month recruit course lead by Alex Felich and the team of Instructors has left me with the skills required to fight bush fires as well as countless ancillary skills involved in being a part of the CFA.

It shouldn't really have come as a surprise but the level of comradery and friendship in our brigade and the CFA as a whole has been a huge positive to this whole experience. From making new friends at the station before my formal training began to the great friends I've made in our brigade and other District 13 brigades through the recruits course. It's been a real pleasure getting to know other Emerald locals, like-minded people and even better NOT-like minded people!

These last nine months have been eye opening, educational, fun and exciting. I can't wait for the coming years!

FF Nick Whiley



The Wet Stuff.

Life Member Graeme Legge

Firefighters are taught the usefulness of water to extinguish fires. Early Brigade members were taught "One Volume of Water can extinguish 300 volumes of burning fuel if properly applied." It's also self-obvious that heavy rain quickly extinguishes bush fires. At the 'campaign fire' at Gippsland (Bruthen) 1965 (lasting seventeen days), Emerald contributed two crews (day time/night time) and its tanker for one week.

On the last Friday morning, having just applied a load of water on the fire's edge as part of the blacking-out, a colleague commented that the 'gum leaves were looking very shiny' (Carl had been told by Captain Frank Grattidge that this was a sign of rain). Meanwhile, crew members observed a small aeroplane from CSIRO 'seeding' clouds with silver oxide or dry ice in an effort to bring on rain. And although rain was eagerly sought, it wasn't promised. Emerald tanker returned to its blacking-out role, (having been re-filled and hoses re-attached). Shortly afterwards really, really heavy rain poured down and orders soon came to return to base. Most brigade vehicles were soon released and headed home.

Lower Coonara Road runs from Olinda to Beagleys Bridge at Kallista. In 1962 three crews were to operate at the top of the road; while three other crews were to proceed to the lower end and work from there. Householders along the route had evacuated and Monbulk residents were travelling to shelter in Emerald Hall.

All six fire trucks were to be positioned so as to be able to exit immediately if gross danger threatened. Emerald's fire truck was amongst those to go to the lower end. On the way to the allocated position the crew noticed one solitary house with someone still there. The fire front still some distance away and it roared and glowed high above our position.



So, having time before it became within our reach, it was agreed that I should walk the short distance to that house and suggest that the occupant should reconsider evacuating. The lone resident looked me confidently in the eye and said that "the mackerel was in the sky, so it would be all right." I returned to the crew and joined in the long wait. But then it started to rain. Heavily! So heavily that crews on the backs of trucks became drenched, were 'released' from duty and sent home.

Although buckets are useful to carry water they are not efficient in distributing it over a wide area. Knapsacks with four gallons of water (weighing 15 kg), carried on shoulder straps came with their own manually operated hand pumps. They were worn on members' backs to the flames and put into action. They were extremely effective personal equipment.

Then came trucks carrying water tanks of up to 1500 litres (400 gallons) providing a ready supply of water at the fire ground. When their water supply was exhausted they departed the scene to refill from a creek or dam. Often this required some kilometres of time-consuming travel.

Reticulated water came to Emerald in the late 1960s and immediately this impacted on the Brigade's water supply provision. Journeys to refill tankers became shorter having to reach the nearest water plug. This water from McCrea Creek (Beenak Forest) was piped by 30 cm pipes to a 1,500,000 litre storage at Gembrook, and then in 20 cm pipes to a 300,000 litre water tank at Emerald. The flow could be boosted by a pump at Avonsleigh.

"This is a marvellous opportunity to get water into the hills. It's the only scheme from which we people in the hills can get water." Sir George Knox commented "I think you people will be doing something you'll regret if you don't (subject to discussing with the consulting engineers at a subsequent meeting adopt this scheme in some form or other. You have no hope of getting water from the Metropolitan Board.

Emerald Brigade recognised its lack of pumping capacity in its new circumstances so we purchased a Land Rover (ex-Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme) with a pumping capacity of 1,300 litres per minute. This vehicle served us well until the CFA ultimately issued a pumper with appropriate capacity.

But this Water Supply was dependent upon the supply of electricity to operate the pumps at Gembrook, (and power interruptions were fairly frequent), 'Gembrook-Cockatoo-Emerald Waterworks Trust' (GCEWT) recognised that our bushfire-prone area was vulnerable to loss of water in the danger season of summer. A diesel generator was installed and tested regularly. Never was this provision more greatly appreciated than with the events of 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires in February, 1983.

Water in the big mains kept flowing throughout the time of emergency despite the incredible drain upon it with fire-fighting vehicles drawing upon it and householders using it. By coincidence, Emerald Captain was 'chair' GCEWT and superb communication with the Trust's Engineer was maintained which enabled immediate decisions to be made and executed. The Brigade, now in its seventy-seventh year, still puts on 'the wet stuff'.



IMAGE: ANNIE BEACH

ANZAC DAY 2018



BA Training Exercise.

Lt. Adrian Trimnell

With Emerald Hall due for demolition, the idea was floated to see if we could conduct a BA exercise in the hall, similar to the one held at Sally's old supermarket. After months of emails, phone calls, lots of handballing and even some lost paperwork, I finally managed to obtain permission to conduct a multiple brigade training exercise.

After Vicfire was notified, we fired up the 3 smoke machines and the hall complex quickly filled with smoke and the action began.

Visibility inside was extremely low, you couldn't see your feet and getting down low wasn't any better. There were also lots of 'hazards' inside the hall, from tables, ladders, marquees, stairs even the old stage area was utilised.

Upon entering the building, crews had to rely on proper search techniques and careful foot placement to find their way around the hall and hopefully locate one of the rescue dummies. The exercise also allowed for members who were not yet qualified in BA to experience wearing BA, (utilising their wildfire PPC). These newer members were paired up, mentored and supervised inside the building by a qualified wearer. For some it was even their first time in a smoky environment.

In the control point area, we had Bayswater BA, Yellingbo Rehab and Emerald Salvage who were running the BA cleaning station. Bayswater BA filled 42 cylinders and Yellingbo Rehab looked after the welfare of participants especially with the warm humid weather conditions we experienced on the day.

As the hall is in a highly visible location on a busy roundabout, we had also conducted a Facebook campaign advising the community about the possibility of 'smoke' in the area in the days leading up to the exercise.

Overall the exercise ran very smoothly and was a great learning experience for a lot of members performing roles that they had not previously done. As crews were exiting the building we certainly noticed plenty of smiles and a sense of accomplishment from participating in the exercise.

I appreciate all the members for participating on the day. Which ultimately made it a successful training exercise.

An extra big thanks to;

- Tanya and Trevor for helping setup and running the entry point.
- Paul for running the equipment table.
- Ryan, Glenn and Nick for the fantastic work with all the cameras and drones.

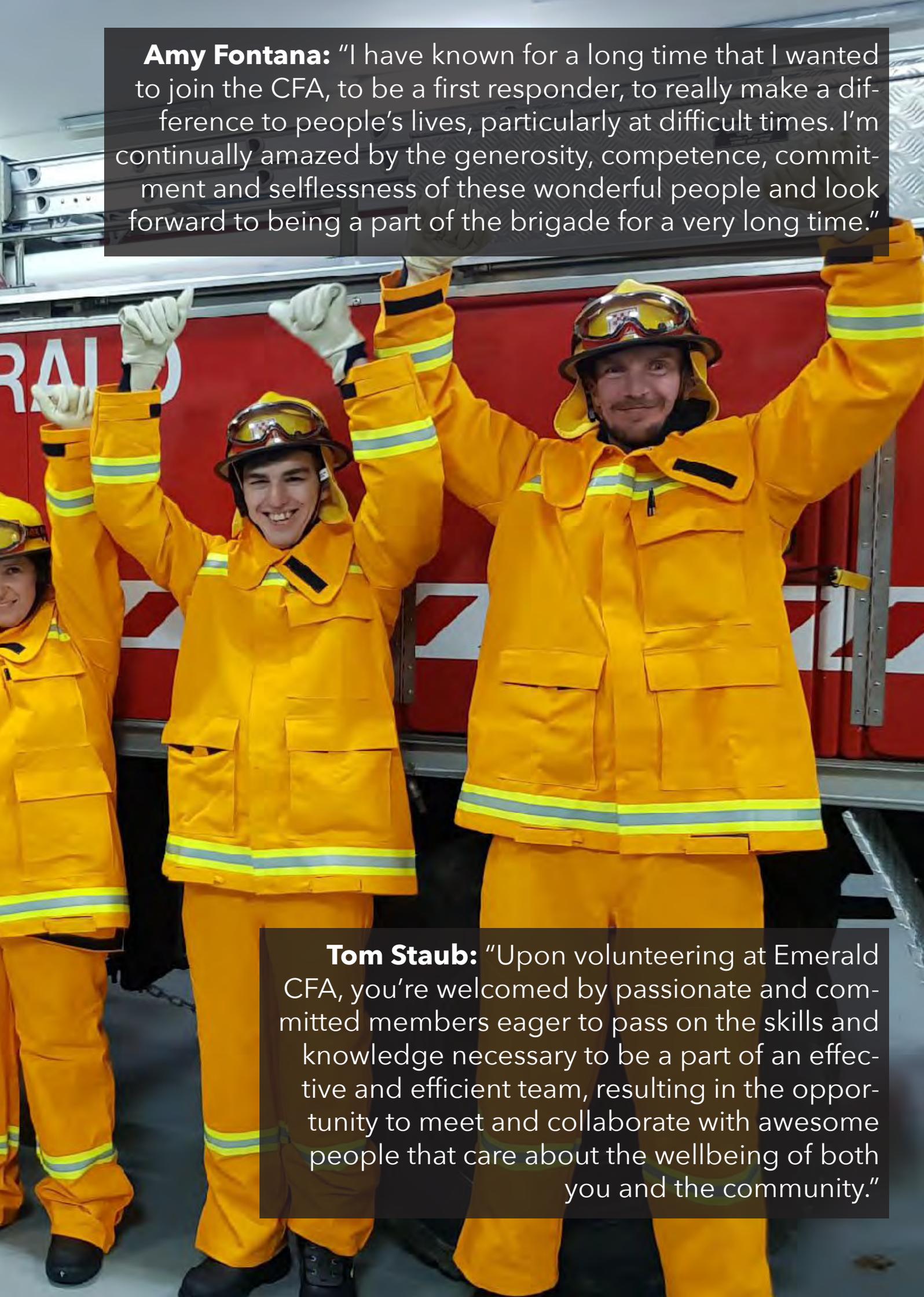
Brigades that participated included; Emerald, Cockatoo, Menzies Creek, Sassafras-Ferny Creek, Kallista- The Patch, Bayswater and Yellingbo.



Lea Johnson & Mick Hamilton: "The willingness in sharing knowledge has been overwhelming and the dedication each member demonstrates is a credit to the brigade. A special thank you to Klaus and those who provided additional training for us on Sunday's"



RECRUITS

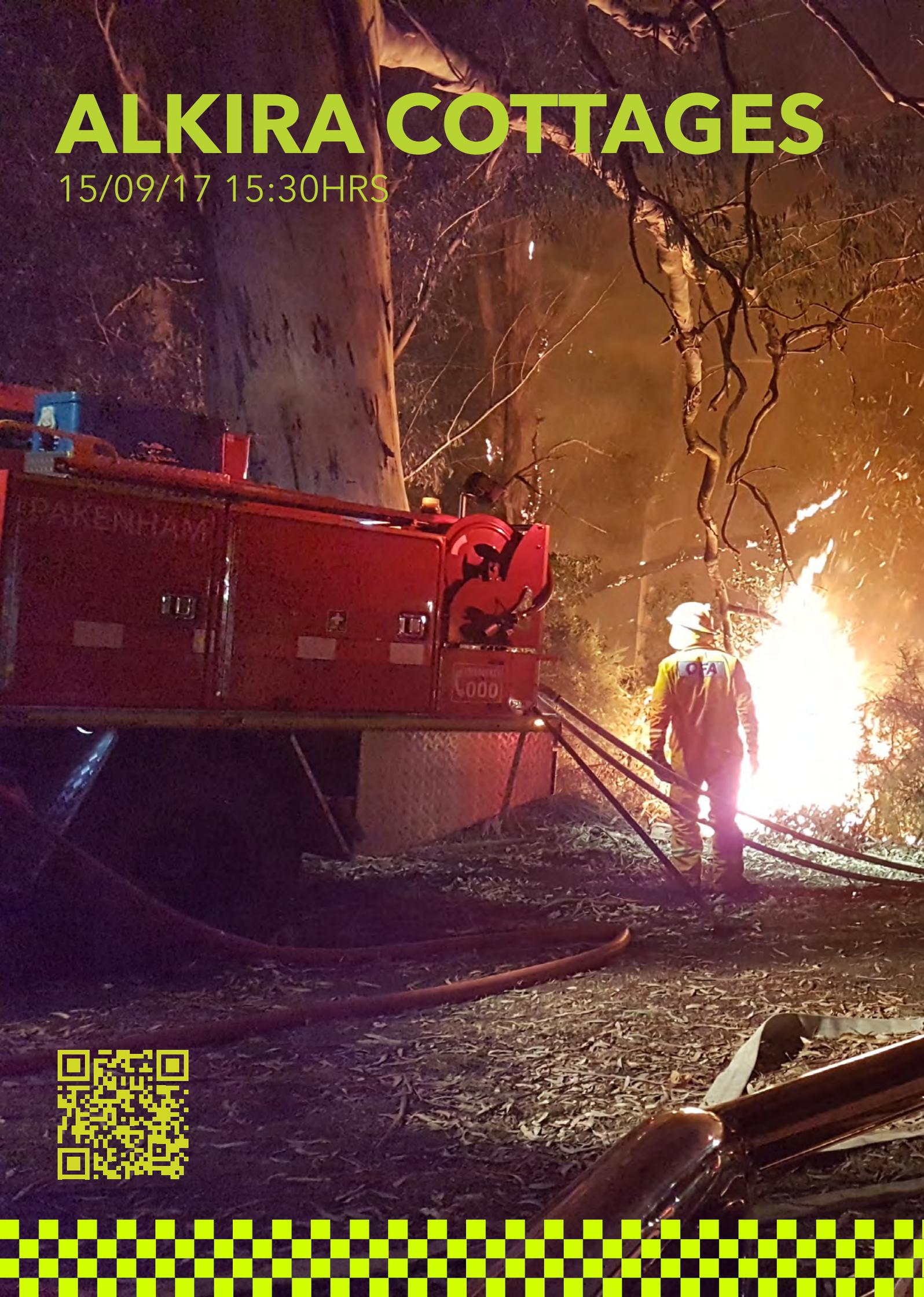
A photograph of three firefighters in bright yellow turnout gear, including helmets and gloves, standing on the side of a red fire truck. They are all smiling and have their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. The fire truck has white and red reflective stripes and the word "RAIL" is partially visible on its side.

Amy Fontana: "I have known for a long time that I wanted to join the CFA, to be a first responder, to really make a difference to people's lives, particularly at difficult times. I'm continually amazed by the generosity, competence, commitment and selflessness of these wonderful people and look forward to being a part of the brigade for a very long time."

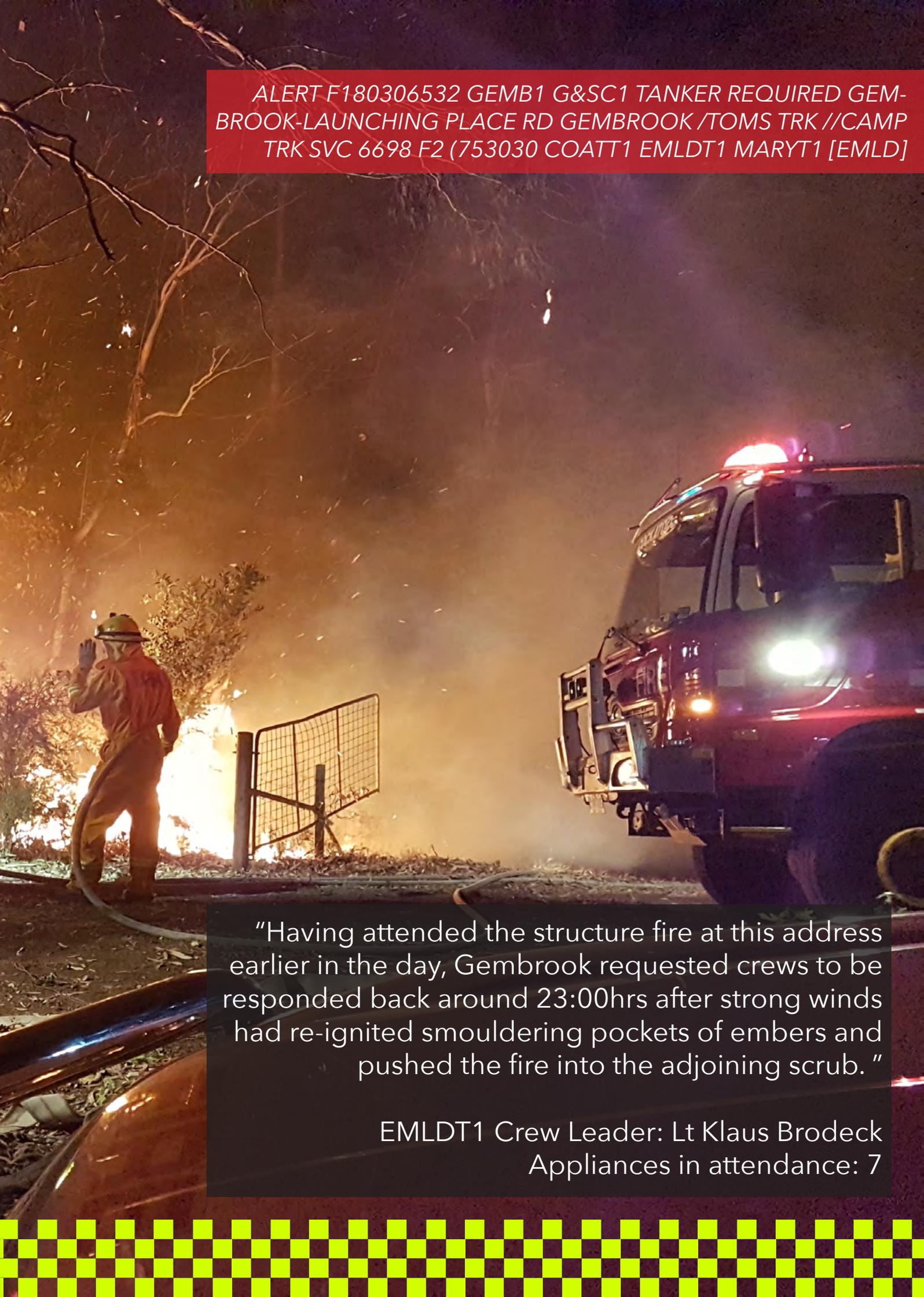
Tom Staub: "Upon volunteering at Emerald CFA, you're welcomed by passionate and committed members eager to pass on the skills and knowledge necessary to be a part of an effective and efficient team, resulting in the opportunity to meet and collaborate with awesome people that care about the wellbeing of both you and the community."

ALKIRA COTTAGES

15/09/17 15:30HRS

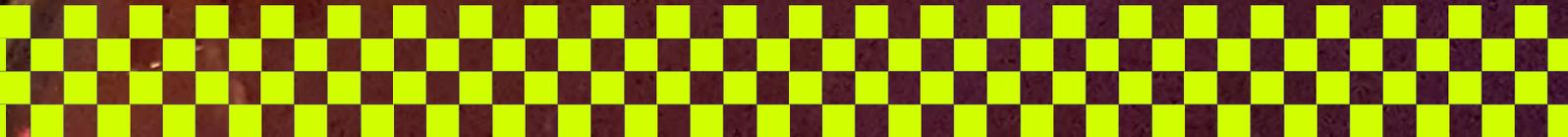


ALERT F180306532 GEMB1 G&SC1 TANKER REQUIRED GEMBROOK-LAUNCHING PLACE RD GEMBROOK /TOMS TRK //CAMP TRK SVC 6698 F2 (753030 COATT1 EMLDT1 MARYT1 [EMLD])



"Having attended the structure fire at this address earlier in the day, Gembrook requested crews to be responded back around 23:00hrs after strong winds had re-ignited smouldering pockets of embers and pushed the fire into the adjoining scrub."

EMLDT1 Crew Leader: Lt Klaus Brodeck
Appliances in attendance: 7





LT Jogan & FF Lewis cooling a structural fire in Gembrook



During construction works at the new Hills Hub, exhaust from a generator caused panic for residents thinking the library roof was on fire.



Annual Brigade Christmas Photo (2017)

The old fire station was demolished this year, making way for the Hills Hub Community Centre



LT Jogan, FF Ireland, FF Woodhouse and Capt Yandle at the Ash Wednesday Memorial in Cockatoo

Recruits FF Hamilton, FF Fontana and FF Johnson inspecting the local area



Crews attacking a grass and scrub fire in Gembrook



*ALERT F180606205 EMLD4 STRUC1 HOUSE FIRE
WESTLANDS RD EMERALD /RUSSELL ST //ANNE ST
M127 D5 (625004) CCLEM CEMLD CMENZ [EMLD]*

"The house was well alight when the brigade arrived on scene. After securing a water supply, firefighters aggressively defended neighbouring properties which were already being impacted by the intense radiant heat."

Incident Controller: Capt Paul Yandle
Appliances in attendance: 6

IMAGE: TIM SWAN



WESTLANDS RD

8/06/18 05:44HRS



PRESENTATION NIGHT 2017



WINNERS

Firefighter of the Year:
Runner Up Firefighter of the Year:
Officer of the Year:
Best 1st Year Firefighter:
Captains Appreciation Award:
Merit Award:
Tool of the Year:

FF Simon Arnold
LT Tanya Jogan
LT Klaus Brodeck
FF Sam Fredrickson
FF Ryan Lewis
FF Kelly Harris
LT Tanya Jogan



Officer of the Year
LT Klaus Brodeck



Best 1st Year Firefighter
Sam Fredrickson

Fire Calls.

1/7/17	Support Upper Beaconsfield	15/2/18	Undefined Fire
10/7/17	Support Cockatoo	16/2/18	Illegal Burnoff
13/7/17	Support Upper Beaconsfield	17/2/18	Illegal Burnoff
16/7/17	Powerlines Sparking	18/2/18	People Stuck in Elevator
19/7/17	Washaway	19/2/18	Powerline Sparking
21/7/17	Powerlines Sparking	20/2/18	Explosions Heard
28/7/17	Child Locked in Car	28/2/18	Car Fire
30/7/17	Motor Vehicle Accident	28/2/18	Strike Team Duty (Yellingbo)
11/8/17	Support Monbulk	10/3/18	Motor Vehicle Accident
11/8/17	Support Monbulk	10/3/18	Investigation Only
16/8/17	Support Macclesfield	12/3/18	Illegal Burnoff
19/8/17	Motor Vehicle Accident	12/3/18	Illegal Burnoff
30/8/17	Motor Vehicle Accident	17/3/18	Support Gembrook
31/8/17	FIP Alarm	17/3/18	Support Gembrook
2/9/17	Structure Fire	19/3/18	Smoke Sighting
3/9/17	Support Upper Beaconsfield	25/3/18	Illegal Burnoff
4/9/17	Support Cockatoo	29/3/18	Support Monbulk
5/9/17	FIP Alarm	31/3/18	False Alarm
5/9/17	Support Cockatoo	31/3/18	False Alarm
12/9/17	Powerlines Sparking	31/3/18	False Alarm
15/9/17	Structure Fire	3/4/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
2/9/17	Support Macclesfield	5/4/18	Support Cockatoo
23/9/17	Tree Fire	5/4/18	Investigation Only
26/9/17	Tree Fire	6/4/18	Grass & Scrub Fire
1/10/17	Motor Vehicle Accident	7/4/18	False Alarm
1/10/17	Child Locked in Car	8/4/18	Grass & Scrub Fire
5/10/17	Child Locked in Car	10/4/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
10/10/17	FIP Alarm	12/4/18	Child Locked in Car
11/10/17	Support Cockatoo	14/4/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
17/10/17	Powerlines Sparking	14/4/18	FIP Alarm
19/10/17	Support Macclesfield	18/4/18	Gas Leak
27/10/17	Support Monbulk	19/4/18	Gas Leak
5/11/17	FIP Alarm	23/4/18	Washaway
6/11/17	Support Macclesfield	23/4/18	Support Monbulk
11/11/17	Tree Fire	24/4/18	Support Monbulk
18/11/17	Support Clematis	24/4/18	Support Cockatoo
18/11/17	Grass & Scrub Fire	25/4/18	Support Monbulk
18/11/17	Support Clematis	25/4/18	Illegal Burnoff
24/11/17	Smoke Sighting	26/4/18	Support Cockatoo
25/11/17	Support Monbulk	27/4/18	Illegal Burnoff
26/11/17	Illegal Burnoff	28/4/18	Grass & Scrub Fire
2/12/17	Motor Vehicle Accident	1/5/18	Grass & Scrub Fire
9/12/17	Non Structure Fire	2/5/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
14/12/17	Support Macclesfield	3/5/18	Support Macclesfield
16/12/17	Burnoff Out of Control	3/5/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
19/12/17	Support Monbulk	3/5/18	Burnoff Out of Control
19/12/17	Tree Fire	9/5/18	Tree Fire
19/12/17	Support Gembrook	8/5/18	FIP Alarm
20/12/17	Non Structure Fire	9/5/18	FIP Alarm
24/12/17	Support Menzies Creek	12/5/18	Motor Vehicle Accident
1/1/18	Illegal Burnoff	15/5/18	Support Cockatoo
6/1/18	Support Cockatoo	16/5/18	Support Cockatoo
12/1/18	Washaway	17/5/18	Car Fire
17/1/18	FIP Alarm	22/5/18	Hazardous Material Spill
24/1/18	Support Clematis	30/5/18	Unattended Burnoff
24/1/18	FIP Alarm	2/6/18	Non Structure Fire
29/1/18	Child Locked in Car	7/6/18	FIP Alarm
29/1/18	Rubbish Bin Fire	8/6/18	Structure Fire
7/2/18	Car Fire	8/6/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield
10/2/18	Oven Fire	12/6/18	Unattended Burnoff
12/2/18	Support Upper Beaconsfield	18/6/18	Washaway
14/2/18	Assist SES	19/6/18	Animal Rescue



FF Arnold and FF Lewis inspecting a powerpole fire on Lawsons Rd



Lt Brodeck and Lt Bean attend an MVA at the infamous Mary St corner

Performance.

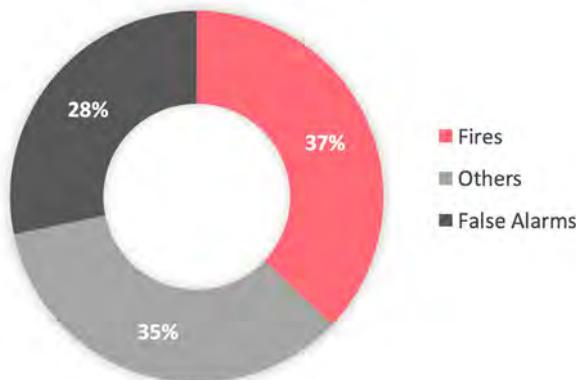
During the F17/18 period, the Brigade responded to a total of **124** incidents, made up of **74** primary and **50** support calls. This was the highest callout rate of the past **3** years.

Of these calls, **46** were fire related, **43** were other incidents (motor vehicle accidents, gas leaks, community service requests etc) and the remaining **35** calls were false alarms.

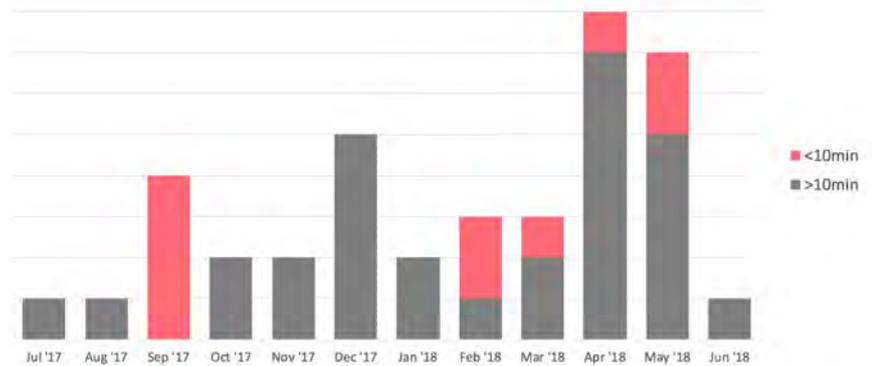
CFA require Brigades in our classification to respond and arrive at an incident within **10** minutes from being paged. This is referred to as a *Service Delivery Standard* (SDS). This measure only applies to life and/or property threatening (Code 1) events.

Over the year, we arrived on scene within **10** minutes in **71%** of all Code 1 events.

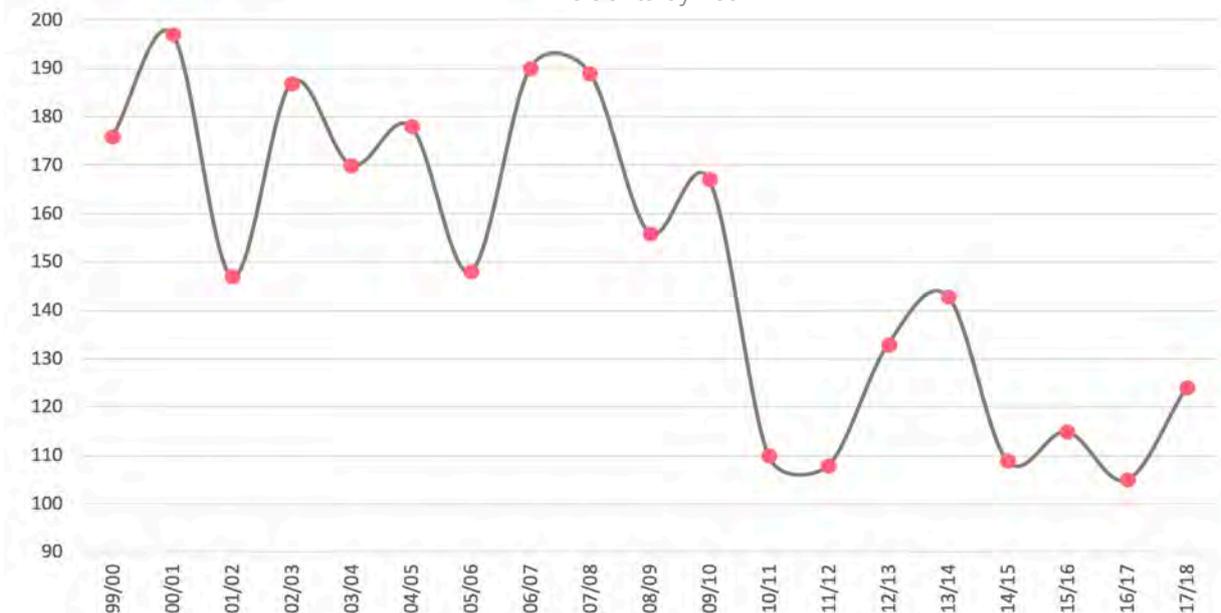
Incidents by Type



Response Times



Incidents by Year



Membership.

Captain	Paul	YANDLE	Life Member
1st Lieutenant	Adrian	TRIMNELL	
2nd Lieutenant	Calum	BEAN	
3rd Lieutenant	Klaus	BRODECK	
4th Lieutenant	Tanya	JOGAN	
Communications Officer	Ryan	LEWIS	
Firefighter	Simon	ARNOLD	
Firefighter	Tyrone	BOI	
Firefighter	Ricky	CONIGLIONE	
Firefighter	Anthony	CRANSTON	
Brigade Member	Katrina	CREE	
Brigade Member	Matt	CREE	
Treasurer	Chris	DAVEY-WHITE	
Firefighter	Bevan	DAVIS	
Recruit	Jesse	DAVIS	
Brigade Member	Thomas	DAWE	
Firefighter	Liam	DEMPSEY	
Firefighter	Frank	EGGERS	
Brigade Member	Tony	FAIRBRIDGE	Life Member
Firefighter	Amy	FONTANA	
Firefighter	Sam	FREDRICKSON	
Firefighter	Colin	GRIFFIN	
Secretary	Kate	GRIFFIN	
Firefighter	Ian	HALL	
Firefighter	Michael	HAMILTON	
Brigade Member	Sue	HANFORD	
Firefighter	Kelly	HARRIS	
Firefighter	Trevor	IRELAND	
Firefighter	Leanne	JOHNSON	
Firefighter	Darren	KRUGER	
Brigade Member	Graeme	LEGGE	Life Member
Recruit	Brendan	MANNING	
Firefighter	Andrew	MERLO	
Firefighter	Shane	MERRETT	
Firefighter	Cassie	PATFORD	
Firefighter	Alan	QUADLING	
Brigade Member	Bill	RICHMAN	Life Member
Firefighter	Shannon	SADLER	
Firefighter	Glenn	SNASHALL	
Firefighter	Thomas	STAUB	
Firefighter	Olivia	TOVEY	
Firefighter	James	VAN DYK	
Firefighter	Richard	VAN IERSEL	
Firefighter	Tony	VAN WAGENINGEN	
President	Nick	WALDRON	
Firefighter	Kyle	WARFORD	
Firefighter	Luke	WHEAT	
Firefighter	David	WHEAT	
Firefighter	Nick	WHILEY	
Firefighter	Ian	WOODHOUSE	Life Member
Brigade Member	Jody	YANDLE	

Brigade Management Team.



Paul **YANDLE**
Captain



Adrian **TRIMNELL**
1st Lieutenant



Calum **BEAN**
2nd Lieutenant



Klaus **BRODECK**
3rd Lieutenant



Tanya **JOGAN**
4th Lieutenant



Ryan **LEWIS**
Communications



Kate **GRIFFIN**
Secretary

Financial Support.

The Brigade wishes to express their sincere thanks and gratitude to the following organisations for their ongoing financial support:

Richies IGA Supermarket
Emerald Village Meats
Emerald Fruit Barn
Pakenham Opportunity Shop
St Marks Opportunity Shop
The greater community of Emerald

Emerald Fire Brigade wishes to thank the entire community for their ongoing support.



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