




Emerald Fire Brigade

2013 Annual Report

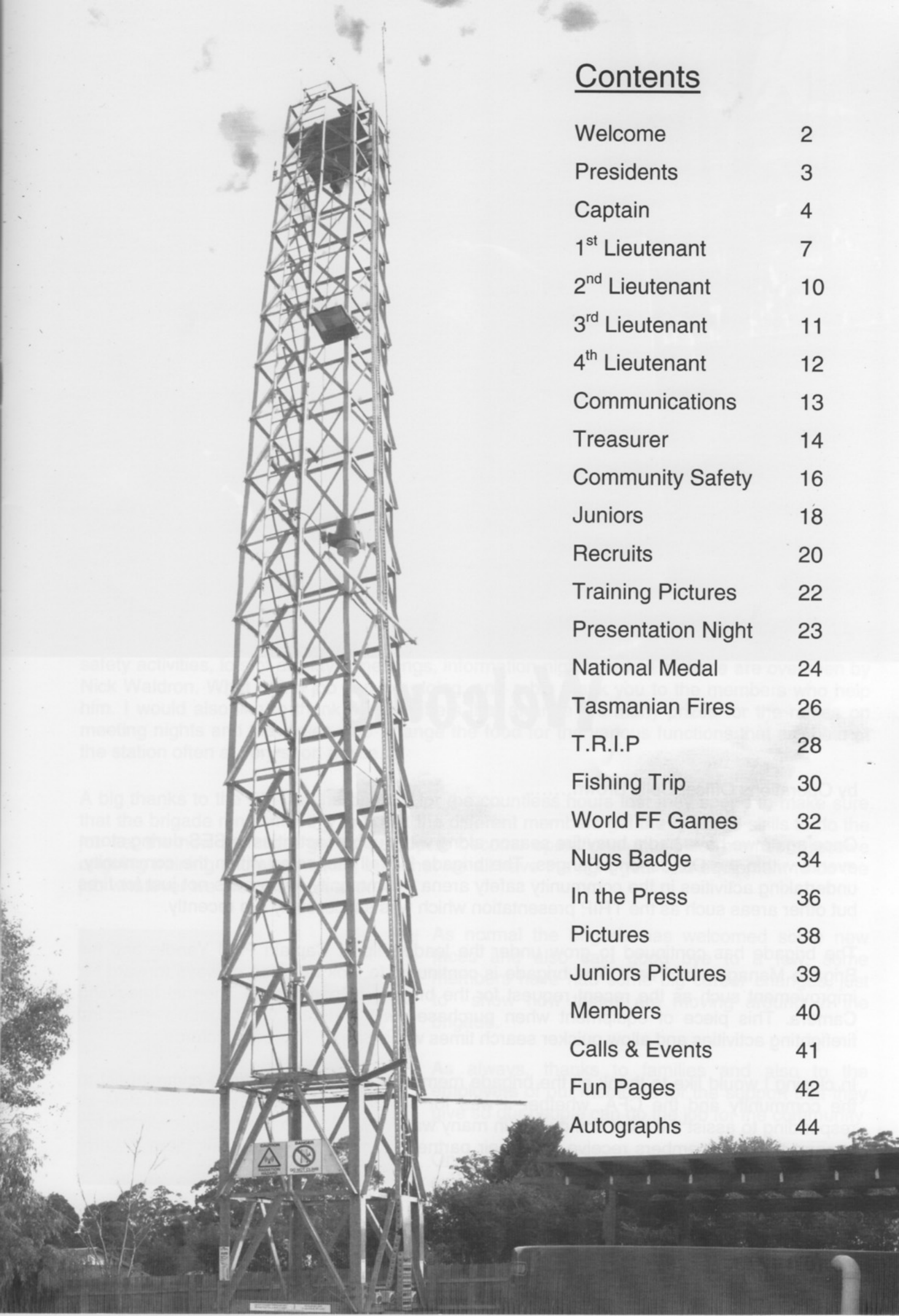


A photograph capturing two firefighters in silhouette against a massive fire at night. The firefighters are positioned in the lower right foreground, their dark forms contrasting sharply with the intense orange and yellow glow of the flames. The fire is a large, bright mass on the right side of the frame, with a thick plume of white smoke or steam rising from it and filling the upper portion of the image. The background is dark, with some faint outlines of trees or structures. The overall mood is dramatic and heroic.

The funny thing about firemen is,
night and day, they are always firemen

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Welcome

by Operations Officer Colin Brown.....

Once again we have had a busy fire season along with support activities to SES during storm events within the Dandenong Ranges. The brigade is well respected within the community, undertaking activities in the community safety arena - community awareness not just for fires but other areas such as the TRIP presentation which was successfully run recently.

The brigade has continued to grow under the leadership of Captain Paul Yandle and his Brigade Management Team. The brigade is continuing to look at areas or ways forward for improvement such as the recent request for the brigade to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera. This piece of equipment when purchased will enhance the brigade's structural firefighting activities and allow quicker search times within smoke logged structures.

In closing I would like to thank all the brigade members for their outstanding commitment to the community and the CFA, whether it was for significant bushfires within the state or responding to assist the local community in many ways. I would also like to acknowledge the support that the members receive from their partners and families who allow them to carry out this very important community based activity.



President's Report

by FF. Richard Van Irsel.....

Welcome to my first Annual Report as the Emerald Fire Brigade President. Thank you for your support in my new role and thanks to Matt for the job he did before me. What a year - it just starts and now it's a blur.

What a fire season we just went through - lots of action for some people and brigades and for us. It seemed it was hurry up and wait and wait and wait and in the end, not much was required of the brigade but as they say, "That's life".



Apart from the turn out side of things, plenty of other things were happening. The community safety activities, lots of displays, meetings, information nights and all of these are overseen by Nick Waldron. What a fine job you are doing, and a big thank you to the members who help him. I would also like to thank the members that arrange the many prizes for the raffles on meeting nights and the ladies who arrange the food for the various functions that are held at the station often at very short notice.

A big thanks to the BMT of the brigade for the countless hours that they spend to make sure that the brigade runs smoothly and that the different members get the required skills to do the job i.e. the new members get trained up to become operational, the older members receive ongoing training and also making sure that we all have the right gear and equipment to do the job whatever we are called on to do.



As normal the brigade has welcomed some new faces and also said good bye to a few, some members have had some big career changes, just to show how things are moving around in the brigade.

As always, thanks to families and also to the employers of our members for the support that they give so our people can do the job for the community

Once again thank you for your support and to everybody stay safe

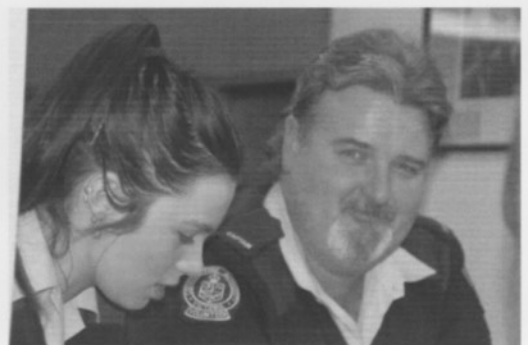


Captain's Report

by Captain Paul Yandle.....

Welcome to this year's Annual Report. I trust it is full of informative reports of the happenings of our brigade over the last 12 months. My sincere thanks to Lt Mat Warby for again co-ordinating the Annual Report.

The 2012/13 fire season was a busy period for CFA with many large fires throughout the summer season. At Emerald we were spared from the brunt of this workload. There was plenty of potential for fires in the local area but luckily we saw no major fire activity on the home front. We also didn't get much of a run to the bigger jobs around the state. Although our members were willing and able to respond whenever requested, it seemed that every time we were rostered on to Strike Team duty *'nothing happened'*. As soon as we were rotated off duty, the Group Strike Team would head off. Although it is great that there were no fires for us to work on, it is always a beneficial thing to be able to send members off on



Strike Team so they can gain some 'real world' experience on the fire ground.

Some of the jobs we did attend are listed below:

Seymour grass fire around Whiteheads Creek

- in early December, I assisted the S/T leader for 1 x day shift.

Lt Clayton Bryant travelled to Tasmania

- with a multi-agency task force and supported the fire fighting crews over there for a week during their devastating fires in early January. – Good job Clayton.

Our Tanker and Pumper were called to a Grass & Scrub fire in Menzies Creek

- in mid-February; this fire was near the Puffing Billy tracks which made access very difficult. Great work by all crews on scene saw this fire rounded up quite quickly.

Our tanker and a crew were responded

- as part of the initial 'make tankers 10' for a large and going grass fire in Officer in late March. They worked at the fire for 4 to 5 hours before being released.

Lt Clayton Bryant also worked as a crew leader

- on a District 13 Strike Team for a day shift at the grass fires in the Donnybrook area.

Community Safety has again been a major and growing facet of the brigade's work. This role has been expanded by the CFA with Community Safety being viewed as equally important to fire suppression duties and operations. CFA are moving towards requiring brigades to elect a dedicated Community Safety Co-ordinator at our next scheduled brigade elections. Our brigade has always given weight to the importance of community safety and community engagement. For many years we have already had Comm Safety as a delegated role, undertaken by a brigade Lieutenant.



With the elevated workload and responsibility required within the increasing role, I decided to offset the Comm Safety role from a Lieutenant and appoint a dedicated Comm Safety Co-ordinator. Nick Waldron has filled this casual position for the past 12 months with many activities planned and completed.

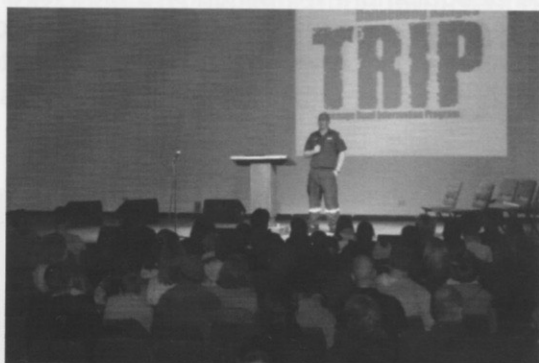
Having had this in place for some time I don't see many things will change in the brigade structure apart from the role becoming an elected position within the BMT instead of an appointed role. Some of the achievements in Comm Safety during the year include the new community notice board at the front of the station, an increased social media presence with our Facebook page and regular brigade attendance at community events including the Emerald Market and the PAVE Festival. A new initiative also saw brigade members assisting the elderly at our various retirement villages to change the batteries in their smoke alarms during the 'Change Your Clock – Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries' campaign. Well done to Nick and those members who have given their time to make these events happen.



Another element to Community Safety was the introduction of the community alerting siren trial. Our brigade was one of many in the Dandenong Ranges to have this infrastructure fitted and although it was not required during the past fire season it does offer a new way to notify the community of any impending emergencies. Part of the trial saw the CFA and local brigades educating the residents in what the siren was all about and the general feeling was that most residents accepted the siren and were supportive of its use – let's hope we never need to use it in anger!

Our brigade also played a big role in the very successful, inaugural Dandenong Ranges Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) event. This night was designed to make teenagers and young drivers think about the choices they make regarding driving or riding in cars. (See full report) Although I may be a bit biased, it would be negligent of me not to acknowledge the outstanding effort that Jody Yandle put in to make this event work.

It was Jody's initiative to start the ball rolling after attending the Yarra Valley TRIP, recognising the benefit that this event could bring to our local young people. Jody assembled a committee from other local brigades and emergency services and drove the committee towards running a very thought provoking and eye opening night. There were many good feedback reports received from the crowd and some of the comments I heard from young drivers at the end of the night left little to the imagination that the evening had made an impact on the way they think about driving – Mission accomplished! I am extremely proud, not only as her husband, but as her Captain for her organisational and management ability in organising this event – fantastic effort Jody, well done.



After the brigade's large financial outlay for the Salvage unit I saw a need for the brigade to look at its future finances with the view that when we need to replace this vehicle in 15 or 20 years we would most likely be looking at \$300,000 - \$350,000. Therefore, we pretty much need to start the whole vehicle fund again straight away to achieve this. To this end I asked for interested parties to form a fundraising committee and encouraged some of our newer(ish) members to have a go. At the time of this report the new committee headed by Xavier as the co-ordinator have met several times and have come up with some exciting ideas and initiatives for fundraising opportunities in the future.



It has been fantastic watching these members take on a bigger role within the brigade and bring their ideas, business skills and acumen into the brigade sphere. It is great to see these members 'coming into their own' in the brigade and I am sure their work will provide a huge benefit to the brigade in the future. Well done crew.



During the year it was decided that we would like to pursue the idea of the brigade getting a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). It was felt there was a real need for a camera in the local area which could be utilised by all local brigades. The nearest existing TIC to Emerald is in Upwey, and that brigade had been responded to this area many times over recent years at both Emerald and surrounding brigade's fire calls. It was also identified that a local TIC would be utilised much more often than the Upwey camera, as there were many times a TIC would have been quite useful, but didn't really warrant responding it all the way from Upwey. Along with the Upwey camera, the next nearest TICs are located in

Pakenham and Seville and with both these cameras being over 20kms away, a TIC at Emerald will be able to cover a large geographic region and provide an extremely important asset for the whole area. The concept fits in with District 13's guidelines of having 2 TICs per Group area and I believe that our brigade is in the perfect position to hold the second strategic camera for the Dandenong Ranges Group. The proposal has been given the green light from Ranges Group and the District Operations Subcommittee and at the time of writing the brigade has put in an application to the State Government's Volunteer Emergency Services Equipment Program (VESEP). If successful with this grant the financial cost to the brigade will be limited to one third of the approx \$15,000 cost of the unit. The VESEP grant program supplies \$2 for every \$1 the brigade contributes.

The arrival of the camera will have an impact on the brigade in several ways; firstly those members who hold the appropriate competencies enabling them to become TIC operators will need to complete a training course. The camera operators will then need regular training and practical use of the camera and I believe this will see the many uses of a TIC incorporated into our normal training regime.

Operationally, it will see the brigade responding to a higher number of calls when we are responded for TIC support to other brigades. Being such an important piece of equipment we will carry a high level of responsibility in ensuring we respond the camera when required. It will also provide an avenue for our members to further their skills base and pursue an interesting line of work as an accredited TIC operator. The types of uses for a TIC are wide and varied and will no doubt increase the experience and skills of our members. We look forward to this new phase of the brigade's history.

In closing I would like to thank all our members for the volunteer work they contribute to the brigade each and every year. It can be a thankless job at times, but please remember that the work we do is important to the community and each role you fulfil, or contribute to, helps make the brigade the success that it is. As usual I would like to acknowledge the sacrifice our member's families and at times employers make in allowing us to do what we do.

Families rarely get their due recognition but rest assured your generosity is just as important as that made by the members, and is much appreciated by the brigade and the wider community.



Keep up the great work Team.



1st Lieutenant's Report

by Lt. Colin Griffin.....

The past twelve months have gone very fast. There has been a lot happening around the brigade even though in turn out numbers it has been a relatively quiet year.

We have had a very keen group of newer members around the station, all eager to learn the ropes and get involved in all facets of the brigade's operation. This has in itself helped to redirect the training that we undertake into a more varied direction. We have run a few nights where the senior members were focused on more advanced training and the newer members have been focused on the day to day drills where we need very strong skill sets.



With the constant pressure on the CFA to manage with an operating budget that has been reducing each year for the past few years, the funding available for our members to complete training competencies has been and will continue to be reducing. This budget is used to cover first aid courses and updates, leadership programs and some of the specialised courses such as BA to mention just a few. With this happening, the members that are nominated on a course through both Group and District are prioritised further by District using the brigade's classification and Section 29 minimum skill set numbers.

If our brigade already has more than the minimum number of qualified members required for the training course a member is nominated for, and a member from another brigade that does not have the required minimum numbers also applies, their member would be prioritized above ours. As our brigade has a good number of members that have completed a lot of their minimum skills to levels of Structural with Wild Fire skill sets, this may affect our brigade moving forward in the next twelve months.



As this is going to affect a few brigades in our District the training department has said if there are vacancies in courses they will advise members of possible availabilities in these courses either through a direct page to all members or through the brigade's training officers.



Some of the training subjects covered during the past twelve months are:

- Inspections of the Avonsleigh Kinder and Emerald Primary School
- Ventilation
- BA Refresher
- HAZMAT
- Class A Foam
- Mapping
- Size-Up
- Pumping Drills
- Hose Work
- Hose Flaking
- Fuel Loading



This year also saw the re-introduction of brigade social nights on the 5th Wednesday night of any month. These were set up to allow for better interaction of the senior members with the newer members and assist in the brigade working as a stronger team. Thanks must be passed onto Jo Ray for her hard work and effort put into the organising and running of these nights. Unfortunately due to low numbers starting to attend the social nights and the tight time restraints that we face in the ongoing push to train to a high skill level, the social nights have been put on hold for the time being.

The focus of the brigade's training over the next twelve months will be set in a couple of directions. Firstly, we have the challenge of maintaining the current skills of our senior members at an optimum level. We also need to increase the knowledge and competencies of the newer members so they can move from the starting point of Wildfire Fire Fighter through the various steps to being a Wild Fire Structural Fire Fighter, ensuring that we pick up all of our members along this path.



I would like to thank the members of the brigade for your help and support to be able to complete the areas I oversee. A big thanks to both Captain Yandle and Lieutenant Merlo for their additional help over the past couple of months and lastly to my family, thank you for allowing me to spend the time at brigade.

Training Pictures





2nd Lieutenant's Report

by Lt. Clayton Bryant.....

My role as 2nd Lieutenant changed only slightly from the previous year when I was 3rd Lieutenant. I have retained the position of Apparatus Officer for equipment, building and property maintenance, but I have had Assistant Training Officer and Junior Brigade Liaison added as well as Fire Prevention Sector 1.



This year has seen an update of the truck inventories. Thanks to Mat Warby for his help and also Paul Yandle for helping put the check cards together. This is an idea conceived before my time in the brigade, where a member is responsible for a locker on a truck for approximately 3 months to ensure that they get to know the equipment using the check card provided. We have also added some new equipment to the trucks, including two new keys per truck that are a combination hydrant and coupling key.

We also have purchased two AEDs (automated external defibrillators), for the two primary appliances and a wet/dry vacuum cleaner for our Salvage. We have had ongoing issues with the lighting at the front of the station; in particular the lighting on the CFA sign. Big thanks to Warren Fuller for getting this working properly again. The hoses have needed some repairs and some 64mm and 38mm canvas were in need of recoupling.



Late in 2012 I qualified in Wildfire Crew Leadership and recently I was nominated and issued with my National Medal – two achievements I am very proud of. To those who nominated me for the National Medal, a big thank you.

Being 2nd Lieutenant, I have had the privilege of being crew leader on a number of fire calls. It is not an easy task, and I don't always get it right. Hopefully I am learning from my crew leadership experiences.

I would like to thank my wife Vicki for her patience, understanding, and support.

Again, as I have each year when writing my report, I would like to thank the Brigade members and the BMT for their ongoing assistance, support and friendship, and to acknowledge that I am available any time for discussion on any issues or ideas that you may have.



3rd Lieutenant's Report

by Lt. Mathew Warby.....

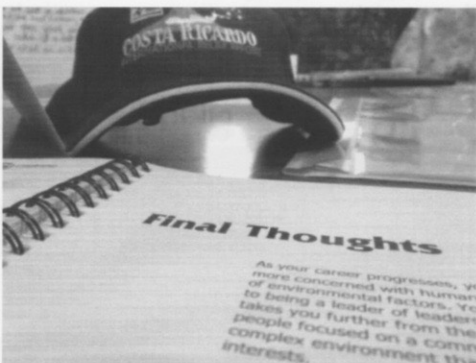
Wow, it's Annual Report time and the last reports I am waiting on included one of my own....

After a couple of years break from an officer's role, a change of towns and a change of brigade, it would seem that I am back in the saddle again..... lol

I am very humbled that I fitted into Emerald so easily and so well and am very thankful to Paul Yandle, the BMT and the members for making it so easy ☺ I enjoyed my time just being a firefighter again, putting wet stuff on the red stuff and just getting to know you all. I have made some fantastic friendships and this brigade is a real family; we look out for each other and we enjoy our times as a team.



Part of how well I was fitting in to my Emerald brigade family was shown last year when the membership elected me to the role of 3rd Lieutenant. The role of Community Education..... Paul discussed with the BMT early on of the importance of maintaining the high standard of ComEd in Emerald and the decision to keep Nick Waldron involved in ComEd was important. I would like to personally thank Nick for his hard work in this role; he really does it well and should be very proud of his work in this not so easy role. There has been a big shift on how the CFA is approaching ComEd and the introduction of an elected position on the BMT in ComEd is a very important step and I have no hesitation getting behind Nick if he is elected to this role. Emerald Fire Brigade has always been very strong and proactive in ComEd and we should all be proud that our community is well informed.



During the year I completed a Fireline Leadership course with Lt. Collin Griffin. I have done previous leader and officer training but this one was a real eye opener. It was without a doubt the best CFA course I have done to date and would recommend that any member complete this course.

During this year we had the Gatortronics Turn Out system installed assisting the brigade on turn-outs as well as displaying relevant information on the displays placed around the station. Recently we have completed an audit of our brigade IT and I look forward to the exciting changes that will come over the next few months, especially the installation of a new server and faster DSL

connection that will give greater access to our brigade information. I would again like to thank Nick for his diligent running of the brigade website and FaceBook page.

I was recently awarded my National Medal; it was an honour to be nominated by this brigade and I enjoyed a great night full of memories being presented this medal in front of my family, friends and peers. I congratulate Clayton, Trevor, Matt and Paul on receiving their medals & bar and was pleased I received mine in good company ☺

In closing I wish you all well, be safe, and be proud of this brigade as we really do shine.

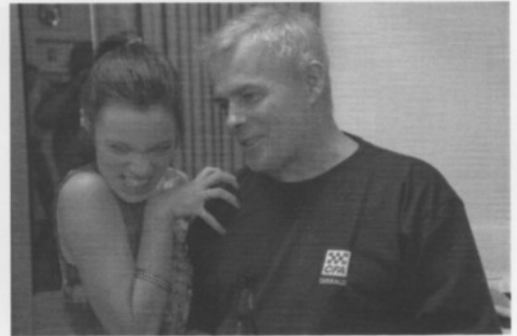


4th Lieutenant's Report

by Lt. Andrew Merlo.....

As of 10th June 2012 my role as Communication Officer became that of the 4th Lieutenant. The duties involved in this position include Brigade Quartermaster, responsibility for the Recruits within the ranks, Hydrant checks and testing in our response area and fire risk assessment in Area 4.

On the supply of PPC and PPE to operational members there have been no issues throughout the year and I would like to thank our brigade District 13 BASO Kate Murphy and member FF Warren Fuller District 13 Infrastructure Maintenance Officer for their prompt support during the year.



Recruiting has been well supported with 8 new recruits applying for membership in the past 12 months, Jo Ray and Simon Arnold are now operational and the remaining applicants began their recruit course in March 2013. Throughout the year the brigade has experienced many capable members move on from the brigade for various reasons and the need for replacement members is always welcomed.

Hydrant checks and testing is always an ongoing event with many members volunteering their time predominately on weekends, it is a vital function for the brigade to ensure the hydrant's serviceability and also gives members an insight into local knowledge of our response areas.

My additional responsibilities include involvement within the BMT, assisting with training and various other roles as called upon. As the Brigade delegate for the Cardinia Group of Fire Brigades [District 8] which meets every second month at the Pakenham ESP. I report on the number of turnouts our brigade responded to and any significant events that may have occurred, and report back any information from the group to our brigade.

I also am the Brigade delegate to the Cardinia Shire MFMPC Advisory Committee. This role involves the reporting of local issues to the Shire in regard to Fire and Risk Management, Community Safety, Hydrant serviceability and submissions to the FARS program.

Operationally, responsibility for command and control on the fire ground has been a rewarding challenge this past year, with the opportunity to crew lead or be the OIC at various incidents. Our Captain is a firm believer in good leadership and trains his officers and members in such a method where we all should be capable of conducting safe and efficient practices at incidents.

In March 2013 the brigade responded to a structure fire in Lower Grieve Road. Upon arrival the garage was fully involved and threatening the main living area. This was my first major incident and with great assistance from fellow firefighters, officers and adjoining brigade members the structure was saved.

On a personal note I somehow connected with the family involved and shared their grief at their part loss. Occasionally some good comes from bad and following this incident 2 members of the Tahar family joined our junior brigade with their father Lior joining the seniors.



Another highlight of the year was the Captain requesting me to be the Master of Ceremonies at the brigade National Medal Award night in May. The night was well attended, and a great honour to witness the presentation of National Medals to four fine members along with Life Member Jewels to our surviving Life Members.

I would like to close with my thanks to all at the brigade, especially Paul and Collin who have given much support and advice over the past year. I look forward to another 12 months in my role as 4th Lieutenant and please be safe and aware.



Comms Officer's Report

RECEIPTS

by FF. Taylor Ray.....

Well it may have been a quiet fire season, but it wasn't quiet for me. After a very exciting election, I found myself voted in as Communications Officer. What have I got myself into?

It has been a bit of a steep learning curve for me from a leadership point of view. The other officers have been very helpful in helping me develop as an officer, and I have used these skills as the OIC at a few calls.

At times it was a bit hard to juggle my studies with being Communications Officer, but the rewards and skills I have built as a result have all been worth it.

As usual, there's not much to report, other than the 'new pager saga', which I seem to always be preparing for, but have never actually seen a new pager on any Emerald members' hip yet, but I'm sure the time will come. If it was up to me, it would be compulsory that everyone would have to get their pagers 'page-azzled' (blinged) but I have a feeling that wouldn't go down very well at a monthly or officers meeting.

After around a year of being Comms Officer, I have *finally* got the hang of filling out FIRS reports, Comms forms and using the BASO, but I wouldn't have learned without the help of the other officers and the Captain, especially Andrew Merlo. Being the previous Comms Officer means he knows heaps about Comms, and he's been a great help. I'd better thank my Assistant Comms Paris Philippou too.

Also thanks everyone for being tolerant of my naïve approach to being an officer. It's not super easy to attempt to be assertive toward members that have been operational for 100 years when you're 19 and a girl. But you were all pretty good, and I learned how to manage you all. It's all gone pretty well for me so far - let's hope I can keep it up for another year!!





Treasurer's Report

by FF Jody Yandle.....

The past year has shown us again just how fortunate Emerald Fire Brigade is to have such strong support from our community. Despite the slowing of our economy, the reduction of donations from our traditional sources and the continuing price rises of equipment and general expenses, our brigade has had another great year of significant purchases and celebrations.

This year we invested in an electronic turn out system for \$3,565 which provides valuable information for crews; a secure public noticeboard valued at \$2,306 for community education and information; a wet/dry vacuum for the salvage costing \$566 and two new digital cameras for \$455.

Our revenue continues to be a strong mix of donations and fundraising with the financial support of Emerald Opp Shop and Pakenham Opp Shop totalling almost \$9,000 this year.



Donations from the public have also increased this year and I would particularly like to acknowledge the contribution of Carolyn Kruger and her business partner who generously donated \$1,500 to our brigade from their markets stalls – their kindness and support is greatly appreciated by us all. The Elevation Auction Night was another successful event for us, raising over \$7,000 and was a fun night out for those who attended.

It's fantastic to see the development of our new Fundraising Committee and the ideas they have generated already. Comprised of many of our newer members, the committee is investigating a major project to produce diaries suitable to sell by brigades throughout the state and has a number of other ideas on the drawing board. If enthusiasm and commitment count at all, they are sure to make a big difference to our income stream in the future.

You will note that there is over \$3,000 allocated to Sundry Income, which may seem a lot of money to have in a 'nondescript' account code. This account is often used as a 'holding' account for money coming in for payment or reimbursement for items the brigade pays for in bulk such as brigade fleecy windcheaters, extra uniform items and attendance at functions. Payments for these items are then usually allocated to 'Social Expenses' and 'Uniforms' to track where the money is being spent.

You will also notice that the 'Social Expenses' account is quite large this year due to our National Medal celebrations and Presentation Night. As mentioned above, this is mostly offset by member payments (Sundry Income) but we did honour those members being acknowledged and their partners, as well as our guests, by covering the cost of their meals. This was the least we could do for members who have attained Life Membership or given many years of diligent service to the CFA and Emerald Brigade.

We are very fortunate to be able to perform our important role with such outstanding facilities and equipment. We will, however, need to work hard at fundraising and encourage the ongoing financial support of our community partners if we are to enjoy this environment in the future. With the passionate team we are all part of now, I'm sure this won't be a difficult task.

Thank you all again for your help and support throughout the year.



STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS
1st July 2012 – 30th June 2013

RECEIPTS

Donations

Ritchie's Community Benefit	\$ 6,065	
Emerald Opportunity Shop	\$ 5,934	
Pakenham Opportunity Shop	\$ 3,000	
Public Donations	\$ 2,780	\$17,779

Fundraising

Elevation Auction	\$ 7,020	
Great Community Raffle	\$ 670	
Funfest Raffle	\$ 616	
Cockatoo Plant Market	\$ 500	\$ 8,806

Grants & Allowances		\$ 2,194
Input Tax Refund		\$ 3,272
Sundry Income		\$ 3,226
Bank Interest		\$ 1,793
TRIP		\$ 1,850

Total Income **\$38,920**

PAYMENTS

Affiliations		\$ 409
Building Maintenance & Improvements		\$ 744
Catering		\$ 378
Community Education & Publicity		\$ 2,398
Equipment		\$ 4,955
Motor Vehicle Expenses		\$ 268
Office Expenses		\$ 2,372
Petty Cash		\$ 276
Ration Packs		\$ 83
Social Expenses		\$ 4,383
Station Amenities		\$ 93
Sundry Expenses		\$ 136
TRIP		\$ 1,850
Uniforms, Badges & Decals		\$ 1,362

Total Expenses **\$19,707**

NET RECEIPTS (PAYMENTS) **\$19,213**

CURRENT BANK BALANCES as at 30th June 2013

Bendigo Bank Cheque Account	\$ 19,776.03
BankWest TeleNet Saver	\$ 43,555.57

TOTAL **\$ 63,331.60**



Community Safety

by Nick Waldron.....

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Firstly, as with all reports, I'd like to thank my wife Cassy for her continued support.

Community Education and Engagement is an ever-growing part of brigade life. As we all know now from the Royal Commission, recent changes to brigade classification and statements over the last period from the Chief Officer and others, greater commitment from brigades right across the State is expected. More lives can be saved educating communities than on the back of a truck.

This year we have had very successful Bushfire Workshops at the Community House with CFA facilitators. Congratulations to Lisa Bloore at the Community House for putting in the hard work organizing the sessions. I have had the pleasure of attending all the Workshops to present and discuss local issues and concerns. Each session has been well attended and I look forward to working in partnership with Lisa and the staff at the Community House on future Bushfire Workshops and other projects.



The past year has been very busy for the brigade with Community Education. On the next page are some highlights of the brigade in the community. Huge thanks to the brigade members who have given up their valuable time to come out and help on displays, distribute flyers and spread the word on behalf of the brigade to the community we protect.

The social media side has been very successful. The Facebook page is fast approaching 900 likes with plenty of material being posted and seems to be a great hit throughout the local and indeed the worldwide community. The website has been going for a number of years. With the introduction of the new server at the station in the near future, the site will be far more flexible without restrictions on how much content and more importantly, more images can be published.

BRIGADE IN THE COMMUNITY

Community Meetings: Two Community Meetings were planned during the fire season. The first in December was not very well attended. The second meeting arranged at the beginning of February had a different result. Flyers were sent out to the most vulnerable locations and a variable sign placed outside the Emerald Hall. Even with the rain pouring down on the evening, around 150 community members attended. Next fire season, only one meeting is planned for the beginning of February.



CFA Sunday: The event has been going for two years with the brigades throughout the State opening their doors to the Communities they serve. Our brigade has taken an active role with free sausage sizzle, information and fun for the kids. This year we had the Mobile Education Unit at the station as an additional attraction. At this point in time, there is some doubt whether CFA Sunday will continue. If not, the brigade may have an event locally.

Funfest: The brigade again decided to take an active role in the event. Fortunately the weather was kind for the day and our display comprised of a marquee with full literature display with a fundraising raffle (thanks to Jo Ray for organizing). This was also an opportunity to hand flyers out for the upcoming TRIP event.

Thank you all again for your support and support throughout the year.



Junior's Report



Emerald Market: This is the first year the brigade has attended the Emerald Market with a display on a regular basis over the fire season. The times the brigade attended has been very successful with handing out literature and general advice on bushfire safety not only to local community members but visitors to the area and from other parts of the Dandenong Ranges. By the time you read this, the brigade will again have been at the Market giving out advice on home fire safety.

TRIP Event: As part of the organizing team for the event it was a privilege to work with such a dedicated team from all the emergency services in the Dandenong Ranges. Thanks to this dedication, the

event was a success. Not going to say too much more as a report is being written. Just to say that huge appreciation and thanks goes to Jody for getting the project off the ground and carrying it through to the final event.

Emerald Primary School Summer Fair: Another successful fair with a full display of literature and plenty of community engagement. This year the Community House decided to have some Bushfire Workshops on the day. This had limited success.

FUTURE EVENTS

Newsletter: Since starting this role, it has been a long term desire for the brigade to have a community newsletter. This would be not only a community engagement tool for getting information out on fire safety but also an opportunity for the community to keep in touch with what the brigade is up to in such things as training, fire calls and recruitment.

Expo 2013: After the hugely successful 'Bushfire Awareness Expo' in 2011, it has been decided to have another Expo this year. At this point in time as I write, the first meeting is just coming up so I haven't any details of how and what form it will take but the brigades that will be involved in organizing the event will be Emerald, Clematis, Menzies Creek, Macclesfield and, for this Expo, a huge welcome to Cockatoo.

FINALLY....

As for me, it has been a busy year in this role and will get busier leading up to the elected BMT role at the next election.

Not only being involved in some form with the already mentioned events, the role has also included:

Member Engagement Reference Group: This is a group of members from brigades representing Regions state-wide coming together with ideas for community education and engagement. The main task each year is organizing and executing the very successful State Forum.

Emergency Recovery Plan for Emerald: I attend, with Paul, meetings with St Mark's Church, other emergency services and community groups on the Emergency Recovery Plan for Emerald.

Other notable events and meetings I had the privilege to attend were:

Ridge Top event at Olinda, 20th Anniversary event of Community Fireguard at Kalorama and attended a workshop at CFA headquarters on a review of the Operational Field Guide, Pocket Book and Community Education Pocket Guide.

The brigade has a lot to look forward to in the coming year with the Expo and other events.

Thanks again to the members for helping out with support at events and thanks to the Officers for your support.





Junior's Report

by FF. Trevor Ireland.....

Well where did that year go?? So many things to do in just a year, but we managed to do it.

Starting off with our Presentation Night which was well attended and the Juniors even put on a display for the parents after the awards, which went down very well and they did a great job.

The awards for the night went to the following junior members:

Junior Fire Fighter of the Year

Ricky Coniglione

Paul Yandle Runner Up Junior Fire Fighter

Luke Hoffman

Peter Whitehead Encouragement Award

Tara Hamilton

Congratulations and well done to the winners and also a big thank you to all the Juniors who attend every week and put in a great effort in training and taking part.

I must say a big thank you also goes to the parents/guardians who show support for their children attending Juniors every week.

Our training for the last year consisted of the following:

- Pumping exercises
- Extinguishers
- Electrical dangers
- Kalorama training
- Davey pump training
- Draughting
- Hose work
- Tanker drills
- Branch work
- Pressure flows
- Truck checks
- 5-man fog attack
- Visit to Monbulk Fire Station
- House fires
- RECEO
- SES visit
- Search and rescue
- Aircraft talk
- Communications



These are just some of the training topics we have covered. I believe this year was one of our best in training and we are going to continue that with more hands-on training and more chances to get them wet.



Recruits Training

Some of the highlights were:

- The chance to use extinguishers in real life and a big thank you to Colin from Kalorama for his help on the night. A big thank you also to Jamie for the use of his property.
- Blindfolding the Juniors and having a team bonding exercise was great fun and showed some future leaders in the juniors.
- The annual Puffing Billy trip is always good fun and a little break from normal Juniors training.
- Training with the pumps from both the tanker and pumper and letting them experience the pressures and control of the branches.
- The 1000 Steps walk at Upper Ferntree Gully was a great night with all making it to the top and even showing team spirit in coming back down part of the way to help out one of the members which was great to see.
- A games night held by Jo Ray went down very well and was great fun.
- A visit to the SES was well received and the SES members even took the side of a car off just for the Juniors, which they were very impressed with. A very big thank you to all the SES members who helped out that night.
- With the purchase of the new brigade smoke machine we had a search and rescue night at the primary school in the unused portables and this was a great night for all that attended, even for some of the parents as well.
- An aircraft talk held by F/F Warren Fuller and a visit from the Cockatoo Comms vehicle – our thanks to Lt Chris White from Cockatoo Fire Brigade.

What we can't forget is how well the Juniors performed at the annual Kalorama Fun Day and we even came first in the turn out race and came second overall. Well done again and thanks for the parents and members who came up and supported them on the day.

As much as we enjoy having training every week, this is not possible without the help of members who come up and assist so in no particular order I would like to thank the following:

F/F Richard Van Iersel, F/F Kelly Harris, F/F Chris Scott, F/F Jamie Bazley, F/F Jo Ray, F/F Stephen Fuller and a very special thank you to Tanya Coniglione for her help with the Juniors.



Last but not least I would like to thank the brigade in whole for their support of the Juniors and hope that support continues into the future.



Recruits Training

by FF Jo Ray.....

I've been in the brigade for a few years now. I started off with the Juniors helping out Trevor when I could. When Taylor turned 16 and became an operational senior, I went to Juniors less and less, then not at all. After about a year of not going to the brigade I got a letter giving me the option to become operational. At first I struggled with "getting into it". The more I went the more I really began to enjoy it and the more involved I became.



The recruit training was good because I got to meet other recruits from other brigades (of which I have run into at many events) The "death by PowerPoint" was a bit hard some nights, but I did learn a lot. I really enjoyed practicing with Taylor and Mat Warby. Draughting was good and I liked going to Silvan and doing the prac, but the early Sunday morning starts were a bit hard.

I am still learning new things every time I go to brigade and like at recruits training there is always somebody keen to help me out and teach me something new. At the end of our recruit course we got to go to SETG and play with real fire. My favorite part to this day was the "Temple of Doom" - I think Simon and I found the most bodies.

On the last Sunday of our recruits assessments, when Simon and I got back to the station, we got an amazing welcome and congrats. We got our new pager and Paul sent us our first pager message. Then Andy took us for our clothes sizes and got our uniforms for us. I was pretty keen to get rid of that 'new' look from my turn out gear.



Since becoming operational I have been to two controlled burns which I really liked because I got to practice some of my new skills with real fire and feel totally safe. I got to experience the two fires that had totally different fire behaviors..... interesting. I got to experience a fire that was not under control in Pakenham and found out what it's like to get smoke in my eyes. OMG the water chopper was amazing to see so close.



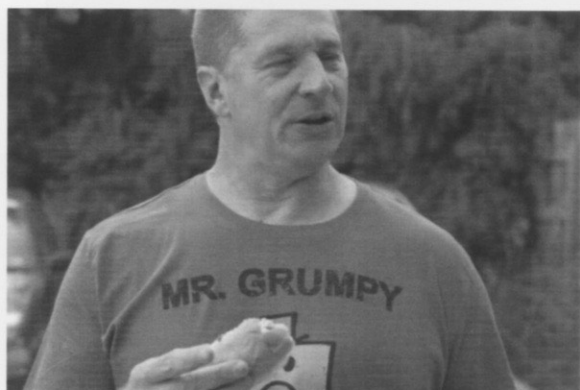
I have been able to make it to the truck numerous times for lots of different call outs. I feel relief when it's a false alarm, or they have to put a 'stop' on the truck, knowing everything is OK. But when we are on a job I like to be able to help and always feel my 'bros' on the truck with me will teach and guide me well and most of the time give me a fair go. I love being part of Emerald Fire Brigade and would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome into the 'fam' xo



by Simon Arnold.....

I've heard the saying numerous times that "it's not as simple as putting the wet stuff on the hot stuff" - how true that is!

I spent around 3 months attending weekly training days / evenings at the station before the formal recruit training program started. On one of the first training evenings I was in the Salvage on the way to Emerald Lake when the trip was interrupted by a sharp jab in my side and a very energetic woman saying "Hi I'm Taylor's mum, isn't this exciting?" Jo and I were the Emerald CFA mid year recruits for 2012.



Official recruits training started on 11th July, and it was time to blow the cobwebs out of my brain as it hadn't been used for 'learning' for many years. The topics ranged from Safety, Combat Fire Theory to Comms, hand tools, showing water, boosting and drafting, this involved getting wet and using the infamous but highly specialized tool - the 'rakehoe'! All

in all the training is thorough, comprehensive and provided by very knowledgeable CFA members, and the message of safety, safety, safety is drummed into you.

On Sunday 3rd Dec 2012, once back at the station after passing the last of the four assessments, the Emerald Captain (Paul) congratulated me and acknowledged that I was now operational, whereupon I was given the 'sort after' pager. I'm not sure which emotion was stronger, 'pride' as I was now officially part of the Emerald CFA brigade or 'panic' as it could go off at any second and did I absorb enough info during the recruit training.

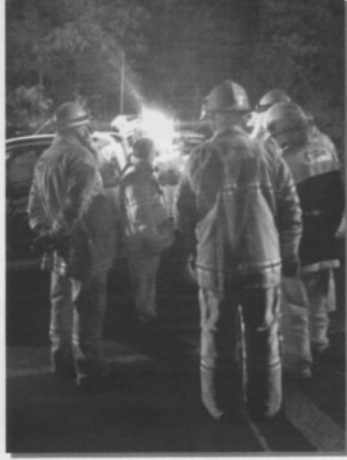
Got home with my pager in its prime position on my hip. 30mins later off it went - the adrenaline kicked in, I ran out of the house, jumped into the car, sped up the road (oops sorry Paul - drove leisurely up the road), as I got to the station Jo was 'driving leisurely' from the other direction, we both jumped out of cars to find everyone else at the station going quietly about their business. Yep you guessed it; my first turn out was to a 'message'.

SETG - this is where everything that had been learnt over the last 6 months had been put into one fun filled exciting day and the saying "it's not as simple as putting wet stuff on the hot stuff" was clearly demonstrated. It will take years of practice, training and commitment to be a superior firefighter and if this is what it takes, then this is what I'm prepared to do.

I have been part of the Emerald CFA for over a year now and I have enjoyed every second, and I'm proud to be part of the community that is willing to assist others when called upon.



Training with Clematis



Presentation Night



David Quinless
Firefighter of the Year



Lt Clayton Bryant
Officer of the Year



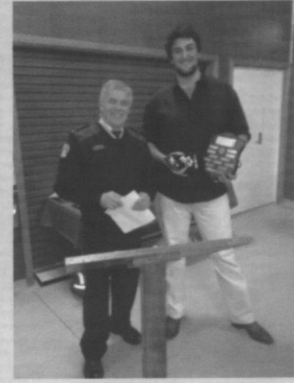
Taylor Ray
Runner Up FF of the Year



Stephen Fuller
Best 1st Year Firefighter



Chris Scott
Paul Bendall Merit Award



Paris Philippou
Marg Johnson Encouragement



David Wheat
5 Year Service Certificate



Lee Cunningham
15 Year Service Medal

Held 14th July 2012
at Emerald Fire
Station



Graeme Legge
60 Year Service Medal



Passing of the Helmets
2012/14 BMT



Klaus Brodeck
New Firefighter Certificate



National Medal

by FF Trevor Ireland.....

It was a cold and wet Monday night when they came to Elevation at Emerald to witness the presentation of four National Medals and one 5 year clasp as well as the presentation of four Life Member jewels.

Over 100 people were there on the night and it was a fantastic evening with great food, drink and company. A special thank you goes to the owners and staff of Elevation for providing the venue for the night.



As one of the National Medal recipients I was very pleased to see so many people there and even a few I had not seen for quite a while. The speeches went very well and were very well received and it was great to hear the history of our members receiving the awards, as this was why they had been nominated in the first place.

The National Medals were awarded to:



2nd Lieutenant Clayton Bryant



Leading F/F Matthew Cree



3rd Lieutenant Mathew Warby



Fire Fighter Trevor Ireland



Captain Paul Yandle
National Medal 1st Clasp

On behalf of all nominated on the night I would like to thank the brigade for the honour and privilege of receiving such an award and we will all treasure this for the rest of our lives.

By Ex Captain Graeme Legge.....

Life Members were honoured at the Brigade's National Medal Night in May, 2013

A summary of each Life Member's service to the Brigade was presented before the recognition was given. Judging by the attention given by fellow members and guests, the accomplishments of these members were not only of high interest but were also quite inspirational in areas such as duration of faithful service, the acceptance of additional responsibilities and the undertaking of extra duties.

Ian Woodhouse:

The overview of the history of Ian Woodhouse noted his 45 years' service (especially as many people present had not yet reached that age); his background as a local plumber which explained his expertise on pumps and hydraulics; and that he served as Lieutenant and as a Deputy Group Officer for sixteen years with DRFBG. Ian has previously received a National Medal.



Tony Fairbridge:

Looking on the service of Tony Fairbridge, it was noted that he came from a background of service in the British Royal Air Force. Tony built a career in the computer industry before starting a local business with his good friend. Tony always acted calmly yet swiftly. He served as Communications Officer as well as 4th, 3rd and 2nd Lieutenant and was Delegate to DRFBG. He was qualified in first aid and has been presented with his National Medal.



Graeme Legge:

Graeme's service spans 60 years including five years with Geelong City Fire Brigade where he earned Champion Fire Fighter. Graeme has served as Lieutenant, Captain and Secretary. He has been awarded Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, National Medal and Clasp and was State Champion in Fire Brigade Rope Climb Competition Event.



Bill Richman:

Had Bill been able to attend, his listed service would have mentioned his 30 years' service and his being a recipient of the National Medal and Clasp. Bill was a most respected individual with superior bush fire knowledge and fire service record. Bill's membership of brigades included Macclesfield and Ferny Creek and Bill had been elected as Lieutenant, Secretary and Communications Officer. In his interesting life Bill worked variously as farmhand, shearer, rabbit trapper, plant nurseryman and builder. He was also in the army for six years. Bill's proud boast was that he'd served under thirteen captains.

The Life Member Jewel presented to Life Members has the wording 'LIFE MEMBER' on a gold bar with the initials embroidered in gold on red ribbon and with 'EMERALD' on a gold bar beneath. Suspended below is a medallion of gold, white and blue enamel fire equipment representing (helmet, hydrant, hose, branch, axe and ladder). On the back is personal wording 'Presented to . . . from Emerald Fire Brigade in Appreciation of Outstanding Service 20 May 2013'

May the Life Member Jewels given to fellow members be an encouragement to all members.



Tasmanian Forest Fires

by LT Clayton Bryant.....

6/1/13 to 11/1/13

We were taken to Tullamarine by bus from Belgrave. On arrival, the media approached Craig Lapsley and asked for permission for a photo shoot before we boarded the plane for Hobart.

We arrived at approx. 1500hrs and were briefed by the Chief of the Tasmania Fire Service and then bussed to TAFE Tasmania, Clarence Campus, which was to be "home" for the next 5 days.

Next morning we were taken to headquarters in Cambridge where we were allocated vehicles from the depot. The appliances allocated of two Landcruisers, a 3000lt 3000lt Pumper, and a 1500lt Strike Team Leaders were given Rangers and all vehicles were Clematis Captain Shane Miller allocated a Pumper/Tanker from Prospect, just South of Launceston.



TFS where we engineers' consisted Tanker, a Tanker. Ford 4WD. and I were the town of

We became part of Strike Team 3 that consisted of 6 Parks Victoria and DSE personnel and CFA members including myself who were all members of brigades in the Dandenong Ranges. We drove to Dodges Ferry Fire Station which was the Staging Area for the duration of our tour. Here we were to experience hospitality and amazing friendship from the Tassie people.

We were given our tasks and drove to Primrose Sands where we carried out asset protection, whilst our team leader went with TFS to see where else we could be of assistance in the area. Then we made our way back to Dodges Ferry, had dinner and returned to our accommodation.



On Day 2 we returned to Dodges Ferry and proceeded to blackout bush that was burning on to farmland near Forcett and then to blackout along dozer tracks. These tasks took the best part of the day, then back to Dodges Ferry where we were served dinner that was thoroughly enjoyed by all of us at the end of a long and busy day.



Day 3 found us returning to Dodges Ferry and to the area that we had been the previous day. The Pumper/Tanker I was driving was unable to tackle the bulldozer track we were working on, so instead it was in the 1500lt Tanker which was called Kingston 4.1. We got called to escort the Prime Minister's official convoy that was inspecting fire damaged areas. We remained assigned to the convoy whilst Prime Minister Julia Gillard continued to see the damage caused by the fires.

We re-joined our strike team and proceeded to a farming property to try and stop the main fire from entering a logging coup that belonged to Gunn's Timber. We spent the remainder of the day blacking out where we could and at the end of another long busy day, we had dinner and returned to our accommodation.

On Day 4 we returned the logging coup and saw that the main forest fire had got past where we had been working the previous day. We put more work in to trying to hold back the fire. It was just too big for us and we tried to get support, which included more personnel and air assistance as well as concentrating on back burning. At first we had some success with the assistance of air support, but it got the better of us and beat us.



By late afternoon the fire had got around us, and although we had slowed it we had finished for the day and returned to Cambridge. As it was our last day on the fireground we handed over our vehicles to the TFS engineers, said our goodbyes and returned to Melbourne the following day.

A big thank you to the Tasmanian Fire Services and the people of Tasmania for their hospitality, generosity and friendship...

Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) in the Dandenong Ranges

After attending the Yarra Valley TRIP in August 2012, I strongly believed that the TRIP message was just as valuable to inexperienced drivers & young passengers wherever it was delivered and the Dandenong Ranges was no exception.

The anticipated goals of the TRIP included:

- Personalising the impact serious car accidents have on our community
- Encouraging young people to think about the choices they make and the consequences of those choices
- Encourage young people to develop a 'pre-plan' for times when arrangements to get home change for the worse
- Have a positive influence on the youth of our community
- Highlight the skills of our younger members by involving them in the event
- Promote the valuable role emergency services play in the community
- Strengthening our relationships with schools, clubs, community groups and the younger members of our community
- Attempt to reduce the number of young people dying on our roads, particularly the over-represented demographic of young men aged 18 – 25 years.

After a presentation to the Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigade Group, we established a strong committee of members from all emergency services in the Hills with each member bringing to the team many valuable skills and contacts. We developed a high public profile and professional image thanks to some fantastic graphic and web design and plenty of interest from the local and metropolitan media. Every committee member took on a responsibility and it was carried out more than capably, which made the whole journey a pleasure and much easier than I anticipated.

Financial support was sought and showed us again how supportive the community was of our project when our applications for funding were successful and donations from sponsors plentiful. We had appliances from each emergency service set up displaying their equipment in front of the venue entrance, which gave the impression of approaching the scene of a car accident. It looked great and really set the scene for the night.

The evening comprised of a combination of guest speakers and interactions with the audience. We demonstrated the 'ripple effect' felt by a community after a fatal or serious motor vehicle accident by asking audience members to stand and represent different groups impacted. Practically the whole audience of 200-plus was upstanding by the time everyone touched had been identified.

Our guest speakers ranged from the amazing Peter Hall from Upwey Fire Brigade who lost two sons in a MVA at Cockatoo in 1995 and was brave enough to share his story with a room full of strangers, to Wayne Collins from ECHO who spoke about the development and limitations of the teenage brain. We talked about the importance of families having a discussion about what their teenagers would do if their plans to get home safely were compromised – who would they rely on to call; what would they say to 'save face' with their peers if they *didn't* want to get into a car with someone no longer capable of driving; what would be a safe place to bail out and wait for help? All of these things are helpful if getting home from a night out doesn't go to plan, and by thinking about what they would do *before* the situation arises they will be in a much better position to get home safely.

I was very proud of our first Dandenong Ranges TRIP and I know the next one will be even better as our confidence grows. It is not easy to stand in front of hundreds of people and communicate a message you feel so passionately about, but it is an extremely important message and we will be back again in the future with the same important message offered to another group of young people.

If we can influence the actions of *one person* in a positive way, it will all have been worthwhile

F/F Jody Yandle

Facilitator

Dandenong Ranges Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) Committee

Turning point on drink-drive culture

BY DANIEL TRAN

The hour is late and the party is winding down. The music has faded and the drinking is done. You organised a lift but the designated driver, your mate, could not help himself. He reckons he can drive but he reeks of alcohol. But he is the only way to get home.

Like speeding and drink driving, refusing to ride with a drunk driver has become one of the cornerstones of road safety education. Yet to the dismay of road safety advocates, it still happens. For emergency workers like Jody Yandle, the carnage has reached unacceptable levels.

In an effort to reduce the number of young people killed on the state's roads, Mrs Yandle helped create the Dandenong Ranges Teenager Road Information Program to send a message to younger drivers about the dangers of risk-taking. Known as TRIP, the program is expected to be confronting.

"What we're trying to do is get the kids to stop and think about some of the choices that they make," she said. "This is a reality. It doesn't just

happen to other people. It can easily happen to anyone."

The event, which will be held at the Belgrave Heights Convention Auditorium this month, will include guest speakers from all emergency services and discuss topics such as distraction while driving. Those touched by the road toll, like the parents who lost their son, and the local footy coach without his full-forward will also discuss their experiences.

"We're trying to give young people an idea of how road trauma impacts everyone in their community, not just themselves and their immediate family," Mrs Yandle said. "For a community, it's a really tough thing. We all do the best we can, but if we can make one person just stop and think a little bit more about the choices they make, that'll be a win for us."

Mrs Yandle concedes that the problem of road trauma will never be completely solved, but she hopes to spark some change. Her advice for young drivers is "just stop and think. Think about what you're doing and think about the choices you make and how the outcome of those choices



Emergency service: Firefighters Jody Yandle and Nick Waldron will be taking part in a program that aims to educate young drivers about the risks they take.

can impact on not just you but other people that are important to you." The Dandenong Ranges TRIP will be held at 6.30pm on May 22 at the Belgrave Heights Convention Auditorium on 3 Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights.

Connecting people and communities

Mail | starcommunity.com.au

Tuesday, 28 May, 2013

Program aims for a safer TRIP

By EMMA SUN

DANIEL van der Hoek knows the consequences of drink driving all too well.

At 18 he ploughed his car into a 14-tonne truck in Wandin eight years ago, changing his life forever. He suffered a broken jaw, fractures to four of his thoracic vertebrae next to his spinal cord, a dislocated and broken shoulder, six broken ribs, which punctured his lung and a shattered hip.

His knee was cut to the bone through his car's dashboard, and was "hanging by a thread". He had only had his licence for 26 days and had a blood alcohol reading of 0.051. Now 25, Mr van der Hoek makes a conscious effort to get the message through to young drivers, and did so at the Dandenong Ranges Teenager Road Information Program (TRIP) held at Belgrave last Wednesday evening.

The program was run by local emergency service members including firefight-

ers, police, the SES and paramedics, all of whom see first-hand the effects of road trauma, in a bid to make youths and their families more aware of how distractions could lead to serious accidents.

More than 200 attendees heard the stories of speakers Jim Waring from the Emerald SES, Ben Draffin from The Basin CFA, Detective Leading Senior Constable Wayne Reynolds from the Major Collision Investigation Unit and paramedic Josh Warren from Ambulance Victoria.

The ripple effect of road trauma was a major discussion point, with speakers highlighting that an accident would not only affect the driver and their family, but witnesses, emergency services personnel and the broader community.

Upwey Fire Brigade volunteer Peter Hall, who has been a firefighter for more than 45 years, spoke publicly for the first time about the devastation that rocked his family when his two young sons were

killed in an accident in Cockatoo in 1995. The boys, Anthony and Travis, were 15 and 13 at the time.

"Luckily, a lot of the young ones in the brigade took our daughter under their wing because it wasn't until a number of years later that I realised she hadn't just lost her brothers, she'd lost her mother and father as well, for quite a while," Mr Hall said.

"The nightmares, the grief, the tears, just keep going.

"Some of the things that are very hard to put up with are things like birthdays - Travis was born on Mother's Day, so you can imagine what that did to my wife and to me on that day.

"The reason I've come here tonight to tell you all this is to try and save even one family from going through what we are going through, what we still go through."

For more information on TRIP, visit home.vicnet.net.au/~drtrip/



Dandenong Ranges TRIP speakers Tim Lennox, Jim Waring, Wayne Reynolds, Ben Draffin, back and Peter Hall, Josh Warren and Jody Yandle, front. 99690

Picture: EMMA SUN



Emergency workers Jordan, 17, Judy Deloryn, Wayne Collins, Jody Yandle, Jim Waring, Nick Waldron, Bryan Macdonald, Lahni, 16.

Safety message for at-risk drivers

A GROUP of emergency workers in the hills are warning teen drivers that poor decisions can kill. The Teenager Road Information Program will hold an information night in Belgrave Heights on May 22 aimed at young drivers in the Dandenongs.

Emerald CFA firefighter Jody Yandle will be one of the emergency services speakers who will give some insight into what happens to road-crash victims and the far-reaching effect of trauma on family, friends and communities. She said it was often

worse in the hills where communities were so close-knit. Road-crash victims and family members will also speak on the night. Ms Yandle said all were welcome, especially teenagers and young adults. Details: Wednesday, May

22, Belgrave Heights Convention Auditorium, 3 Convention Avenue, Belgrave Heights. Emergency vehicles will be on display from 6.30-7.30pm with the main presentation from 7.30-9.30pm. Free entry. Details: jody.0412.527.497.

Connecting people and communities

Mail | starcommunity.com.au Tue 14th May 2013

Make it a safe trip

By JESSE GRAHAM

WINTER is coming - frosty, foggy mornings, rain and reduced visibility on the roads can often mean peril for even experienced drivers.

This year, a team of emergency services workers from around the Dandenong Ranges have put together an information program to help reduce trauma for youths on the road.

The Teenager Road Information Program (TRIP) was established to give young drivers insight into road trauma, presented by those who see it first hand in their work.

Volunteer fire-fighter at Emerald CFA and co-creator of TRIP Jody Yandle said there are many dangers on the road, particularly in the Dandenong Ranges in the wetter months.

"Getting your licence and a car or motorbike is a liberating experience for young people - we all know that, because we've all been there," she said.

"But we also know that freedom comes at a cost to our community, in terms of death and injury.

"For many families, it can be an altogether brutal one."

Speakers at the TRIP sessions will be emergency services workers who have seen the devastation of road trauma and families of road accident victims, in order to make the presentation "real".

"Sadly, for the police, ambulance



SES Controller Jim Waring, fire-fighter Jody Yandle, Echo Youth and Family Services Director Wayne Collins, Leading Senior Constable with Monbulk Police Peter Edyvane and fire-fighter Nick Waldron hoping to reduce youth road trauma. 98754

Picture: STEWART CHAMBERS

know the people involved personally."

The program has previously been run in other areas of the Yarra Ranges and will come to the hills for the first time on May 22 at Belgrave Heights.

The night will begin at 6.30pm with an emergency vehicle display before the main presentation from 7.30-9.30pm. For more information, contact dandenong.ranges.trip@gmail.com



Fishing Trip

by FF Dave Quinless.....

It was a lovely sunny day and suffice to say it was a great day out with lots of good fun and laughs had by all. It's always great to see people from all different backgrounds mix and interact with one another.

I suppose seeing that this is a report about the fishing trip I should talk about the actual fishing. We had it on good authority that fish live in water and seeing that we were on a boat we were reasonably confident that we were in the right place.

After a slow start with no one getting any bites, Jo Ray got the ball rolling when she caught a good-sized snapper. Apart from the joy of catching the first fish of the day, the title of having the biggest fish of the day was short lived because soon after Chris Scott caught an even bigger snapper and for a good while I thought that this fish was going to take the title of the biggest fish of the day, but unfortunately for Chris this was not to be. The laughs, smart comments and sarcastic remarks were interrupted with a catch of 11 fish in total and another few fish that got off their hooks.

At the start of the day it was decided that we all put \$10 in a pool and whoever caught the biggest fish would get the total pool of \$140. I not only had the pleasure of catching the biggest fish - I also got the money. I can't remember how big the fish was other than it was really, really big and I worried my car would not be able to take the weight of it on the way home. Other than a bit of suspension damage, the car managed fine.

Robbie went topless for the day and I think this made Taylor jealous because I heard she lifted her tee shirt and flashed at a few guys on another boat. Jo quickly grounded her for the rest of her life. "Mothers". Taylor did seem a little embarrassed at the end of the day when we were mooring the boat and the lads on the other boat were mooring alongside us. Also it must be said that Jo and Taylor went to the shop before we boarded the boat and ensured we had plenty of snacks for the day

There was only one downside on the day and that was when Paul broke the screen on his phone. Fishing days and phones do not seem to go well together as over the years there have been a few phones damaged.

One of the funny moments was when Robbie moved from his spot at the back of the boat because he was getting no bites and Clayton moved to that spot and caught a fish there very shortly after.

I would recommend that if you have the day free and there is a fishing day in 2013 that you go and have a good laugh.





World Firefighter Games

By FF Jody Yandle.....

Sydney, October 19th – October 28th 2012

I remember seeing a small advertisement about the World Firefighter Games in a local newspaper last year and thinking what a great experience it would be to participate, particularly when they were being held in Sydney and to get there was relatively easy.

After trying to drum up some interest from brigade members and not being very successful, Paul & I went anyway and had a warm, sunny, touristy weekend based at Pyrmont, on the shores of Sydney Harbour.

We stayed at an old renovated wool store within walking distance of the Games 'Village' at Pyrmont Park, which was not much more than a small fenced-off area of grass and a few marquees, but was the starting point for most activities. There were many events including the standard track and field, team games, some fun ones like the Amazing Race and the more serious events like the stair climb and World's Toughest Firefighter.



Although you'd never guess, neither of us are particularly sporty and so Paul and I entered as a team in the Amazing Race and Paul entered both the Bay and Deep Sea Fishing events. I am very proud to say that Paul came a not-too-shabby fourth *in the world* in the Deep Sea Fishing and we completed the Amazing Race well before dark (although I'm not prepared to admit to our actual placing other than we weren't last). The Amazing Race was a lot of fun and we made our way around to many of the sights of Sydney on foot, on the monorail, by bus and by ferry and even had lunch on the beach at Manly.

The organisation of the Games was pretty ordinary, and I recently found out that the original World Firefighters Games Inc. contracted the Sydney 2012 Games out; much to the disappointment of many athletes. They are now trying hard to save their reputation amongst competitors and have a large disclaimer on their website.

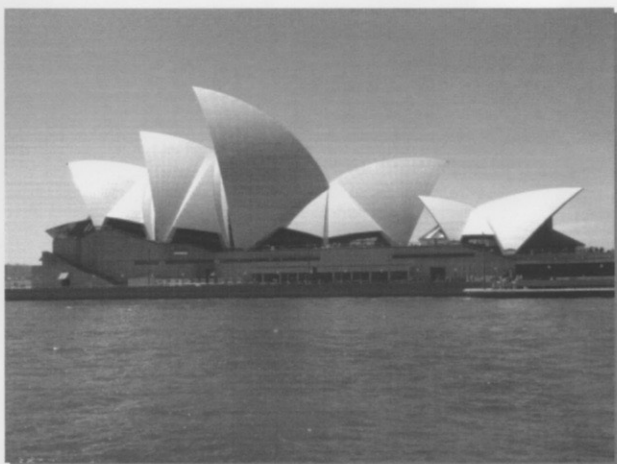
Many firefighters from around the world actually use their annual leave to attend the Games each year, alternating between the World Firefighters Games and the World Police & Fire Games. They are extremely dedicated and although the competition is fierce in some events, everyone still sets out to have a fun ten days or so. It was great to meet firefighters from other countries and we were reminded of how unique the CFA model is. Many didn't really understand the enormity of volunteering in the fire service here.

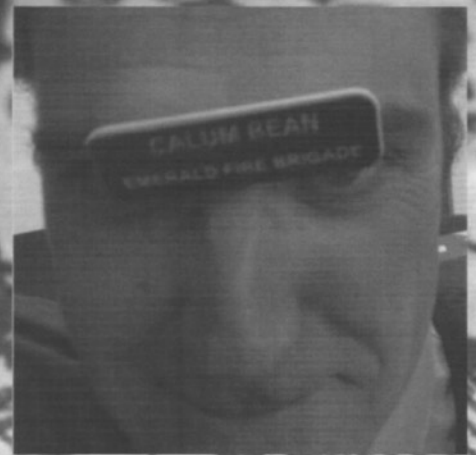
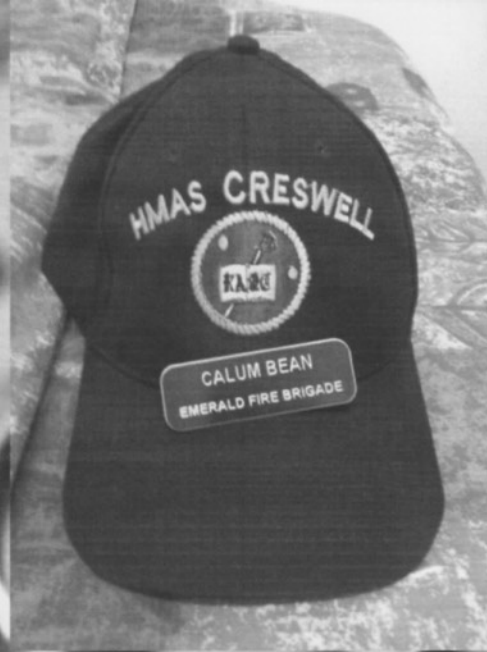
We met some firefighters from Norway who explained that one incentive to become a firefighter in their country was to gain a truck licence for free which would normally cost tens of thousands of dollars in Norway.

The Brazilian team was a lot of fun, as were the South Africans. Everyone was very friendly and, although there were quite a few athletes from the NSW Fire Services, there would have been no more than 10 representatives from CFA. I thought that was a bit surprising out of our 55,000 members.



I haven't thought much about the Games for a while, until recently when I was looking at the shields on the wall outside the station office. One of them is an old shield from a tug o'war competition between Emerald and Cockatoo Brigades from many years ago. Hmm... anyone interested in a bit of healthy competition???





Nug's Travelling Name



In The Press Firey moves like Jagger

EMMA SUN

VIDEO of an Emerald Fire brigade member busting his moves while hosing the truck gone viral. Paris Phillipou showed who had the moves like Jagger when his brigade pals filmed his dance and posted it online. Paris said it was just like any normal training day where the truck took the truck out for a practice drive. The video has caused a huge reaction among his friends and family in the community.

"There was music on and I did it because I was in front of my friends, having fun and being silly," he said. "They loved it because they were watching it over and over and then it just went nuts. It went from being on Facebook to being played at training the next night and then the CFA website." The self-proclaimed joker wasn't sure how to handle his newfound fame and said he wouldn't be doing it again. But he said he was glad the video allowed other people to

see the casual and light-hearted side of the fire brigade, rather than just the serious side. "People should be allowed to have fun, and the CFA is all about the camaraderie and being with the people you love," he said. "It's more than just a serious job - you learn to trust these people with your life. So if you don't make friends you're doing something wrong and when you have good mates you've got to let loose sometimes. But I'm definitely not doing that again."



Paris Phillipou from the Emerald CFA jugged his way to Facebook hilarity. 90631
Picture: DONNA OATES

It's no fire sale

EMERALD CFA will hold a major fund-raiser for the next month and is appealing for members of the public to help. The brigade's auction night will feature all sorts of items including LED televisions, audio-visual equipment, tools and paintings. Money raised from the night will go towards much needed equipment for the brigade. Jody Yandle from the CFA asked anyone with new items still in packaging that could be auctioned off to contact the brigade. She said Scoresby artist Thalie Davids recently made contact after she saw an auction and offered a bronze firefighting sculpture. "When I visited her to collect it, she said she also wanted to donate one of her beautiful

paintings, which was a most generous offer." Ms Yandle thanked everyone involved in the auction night for their support and said she hoped to see many people at the event. "We've received terrific support from both local and metropolitan traders, who have also generously donated goods and services to auction," she said. "It will be a fantastic night so we encourage everyone to come along for dinner or drinks and enjoy the excitement of the evening's auction." The auction night will be held at Elevation@Emerald on Thursday 6 September from 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Dinner costs \$35 per person for two courses. To book, call 5968 2911.



Jody Yandle, Ken Billman from Elevation@Emerald and Doc Davidson-Little encourage all to get involved with the fire brigade's auction. 85946
Picture: MEAGAN ROGERS

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Medals for frontline mettle

FIVE Emerald firefighters received national medals as part of the brigade's presentation dinner recently. The event also included life membership medal presentations and was attended by surrounding brigade members from Clematis and Cockatoo, other CFA personnel, other emergency services and family and friends. Lieutenant Clayton Bryant, Lieutenant Matt Warby, firefighter Trevor Ireland and leading firefighter Matt Cree received a national medal and brigade Captain Paul Yandle was presented with the 25-year National Medal clasp. The medals, which are given to members who provide more than 15 years of diligent service, were

presented by CFA board member Paul Denham, assisted by regional manager eastern metropolitan region David Baker and operations officer Colin Brown. Capt Yandle then presented life membership medals to the long-serving brigade members including Graeme Legge, Ian Woodhouse, Anthony Fairbridge and Bill Richman. "This evening gave the opportunity to acknowledge the dedication of volunteers in the brigade and their long service protecting the local community," Capt Yandle said. "I'd like to thank all who attended this important evening and the staff at the Elevation restaurant."



Emerald Fire Brigade's firefighter Trevor Ireland, Lieutenant Matt Warby, Lieutenant Clayton Bryant and Leading Firefighter Matt Cree received a National Medal and Captain Paul Yandle a National Medal 25-year clasp.



7 Celebrating
60
years

8 Taking
a
stance

22-23 Local
sports
wrap up

Tuesday, 19 February, 2013

A Mail Newspaper Group publication

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Blaze of memory

By RUSSELL BENNETT

TODAY'S 30-year commemoration of Cockatoo's Ash Wednesday fire fight meant many things to many people.

For some it was a haunting reminder of everything they lost. For others, it was a celebration for all that was saved.

But for about 200 people who gathered at Alma Treloar Reserve on Saturday evening, it was a reminder of a small town's resilience through annihilating adversity.

The blaze had a lasting effect on many people outside the town's borders - those who dropped everything to join the fight, and those who would be forever changed by what they'd witnessed or heard.

Six lives were lost, more than 300 buildings destroyed and about 18 square kilometres of land charred.

Ian Woodhouse is a 62-year-old active CFA volunteer with the Emerald brigade. He remembers 16 February 1983 as if it was yesterday.

He was on the first crew to come from outside of Cockatoo on the day to join the fight.

Mr Woodhouse attended Saturday's service on board a restored 1957 Austin fire truck - the same model then still in the CFA's 1983 fleet.

With him on Saturday were accidented and Moonbulk firefighters Ian Hall, Colin Sturtz and CFA Living Legends Ken Hall and John Drafkin, who all fought the iconic blaze.

Mr Woodhouse vividly remembers the wind change that transformed a small fire on the edge of Wright's Forest into a deadly inferno.

"It was just like a sheet of continuous flame," he said.

"We knew it was coming but it hit us like an express train.

"There was nothing we could do."

Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Brett Owen spoke at the packed commemoration service on Saturday, as did Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley, local pastors Owen Frost and Peter Crawford, and Cockatoo Fire Brigade's captain in 1983, Graham Simpson.

A poem was also read from *Baked Apples on the Tree* - a locally-produced book featuring Ash Wednesday stories from local residents.

A minute's silence was observed at 7.28pm - the exact time the fire ripped through the town 30 years prior. A plaque, to be housed in a future memorial on the site of Cockatoo's famed symbol of Ash Wednesday survival, the McBride Street kindergarten, was also unveiled.

Each speaker highlighted Cockatoo's resilient spirit, with Mr Simpson paying an emotional tribute to the brave firemen and women who fought alongside him.

Mr Crawford, the senior pastor at Cockatoo's St Luke's Church, was due to marry a young couple who perished in the blaze.

He, like many others, will never forget the unspeakable tragedy.

But he urged local residents to focus on what is left, not what was left behind 30 years ago - to "accept what can't be changed".



Above: Fire trucks like this restored 1957 Austin were used to fight Cockatoo's 1983 Ash Wednesday blaze.

Right: Cardinia Shire Council Mayor Brett Owen and former Cockatoo Fire Brigade captain Graham Simpson unveiled a plaque to mark the 30-year milestone of the Ash Wednesday fires.

Pictures: RUSSELL BENNETT



Emerald's Katrina Cree loves her job. Picture: DONNA OATES

Challenge is just so rewarding

JUGGLING a son, a day job and maintaining a family of firefighters, Katrina Cree insists that moving through the heavy workload has its own rewards.

The Emerald mum, who has been a volunteer firefighter for 14 years, said that she joined the CFA after hearing her partner Matt talk about his work.

"I thought it was such a great idea and such a great institution," she said.

"I really wanted to give it a go, I thought it would be a great adventure."

Fourteen years on, and she and her husband now share not only a workplace but also a son, though she said it works well for them.

"It works because we understand what the other goes through," she said.

"You're able to bounce ideas off of one another."

"We also share the same group of friends, which makes things easier."

Mrs Cree said that the CFA has

so much to offer volunteers and her work has shown her new life to herself.

"I once ran two kilometres down a road at midnight to get back to truck and didn't even think about she said.

"You go outside your comfort zone and realise you can manage with life, that there's an answer and a way to deal with it."

"That's something the CFA taught me."

Mrs Cree encourages anyone interested in volunteering for the CFA to sign up and give it a try, saying that the work is flexible and rewarding.

"I love going out in truck doing what I do," she said.

"But as a volunteer, it's instilled in us that it's family first, then work then the CFA."

"You just give what you can you give what you're willing."

For more information about volunteering for the CFA, visit cfa.vic.gov.au or call 1800 232 232.

Tue 12th Feb 2013 Trader Mail



Asad Ali ready to make lots of pizzas to raise money for Emerald CFA this weekend. 90204
Picture: DONNA OATES

Fund-raiser's got the lot

FOR most people, eating a pizza takes no encouragement, but Emerald CFA is hoping residents will buy pizzas in bulk to raise money for the station.

On the Friday and Saturday nights leading up to CFA Sunday on 25 November, Big AL's pizza shop in Emerald will donate \$1 from each large pizza sold to the CFA.

Jody Yandle from the brigade said the idea was the brainchild of new member and Irish national Robbie Saunders, who is in Australia on a working holiday.

"He thought it would be great to get involved in the community he is living in by joining the CFA - something they don't have an equal to in Ireland," she said.

Mr Saunders and his boss Asad Ali, who is also new to the town, decided donating money from pizza sales would be a good idea.

Ms Yandle encouraged everyone to get involved with the CFA by buying large pizzas on the weekend.

"The more pizzas people buy, the more money the brigade will get." - EMMA SUN

Teens told: Avoid the fatal ride

By DANIEL TRAN
May 14, 2013, midnight



On call: Dandenong Ranges TRIP volunteers Jody Yandle and Nick Waldron. Picture: Rob Carew

THE hour is late and the party is winding down. You'd organised a lift home but the designated driver, your mate, couldn't help himself - he had a few beers. When it's time to go, he says he's right to drive, but he reeks of alcohol. He's the only way to get home - so what would you do?

Like speeding and drink-driving, refusing to ride with a drunk driver has become one of the cornerstones of road safety education. Yet to the dismay of road safety advocates, some people still don't say no.

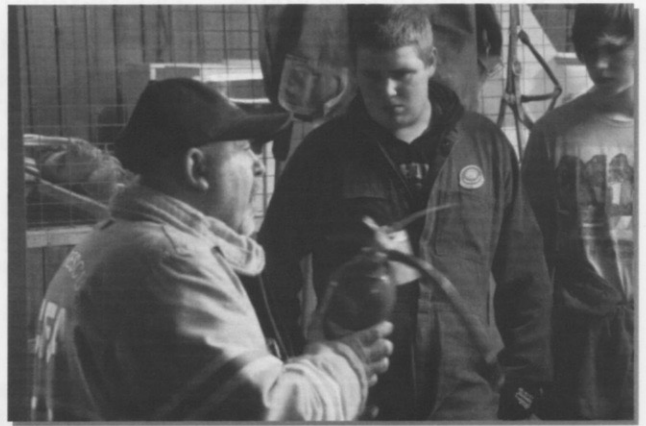
For emergency workers like Jody Yandle, the carnage has reached unacceptable levels.

In an effort to reduce the number of young people killed on the state's roads, Mrs Yandle has helped establish the Dandenong Ranges Teenager Road Information Program to send a message to younger drivers about the dangers of risk-taking.

Pictures



Juniors Pictures





Call Outs & Events

Total Call outs:	133
Primary:	99
Support	33
Grass /Scrub	21
Structure	15
Non Structure	26
Incidents	22
False Alarms	14
Stopped on Route	7
Alarm Operating	10



Noted Callouts

03.7.12	Primary: Two car accident and horse float. Corner Mary Street/ Bel Gem Road.
27.8.13	Primary: Structure Fire Kings Road.
05.9.12	Primary: Support Emerald SES assessing storm damage.
18.10.12	Primary: Structure Fire. Elm Crescent Emerald.
24.10.12	Primary: Pole fire. Lower Grieve Road Avonsleigh
05.11.12	Primary: Smell of burning. Jolly Jumbucks Childcare.
07.11.12	Primary: Structure Fire. Margaret Road Avonsleigh.
12.11.12	Primary: Tree fire. Majestic Drive Emerald.
19.11.12	Primary: Explosions heard in the area of Steel Road.
10.12.12.	Captain attended on Strike Team. Whiteheads Creek fire. (Seymour)
01.1.13	Primary: Grass & Scrub Fire along Puffing Billy line.
05.1.13	Primary: Grass & Scrub Fire. Corner Cloverleigh Avenue/Beaconsfield Road.
06.1.13	Lieutenant Bryant deployed for Task Force - Tasmania.
09.1.13	Primary: Gas Leak. Wonghee Road Emerald.
17.2.13	Primary: Grass & Scrub Fire by Puffing Billy line near Packing Shed.
18.2.13	Primary: Car leaking fuel. O/S Commonwealth Bank Emerald.
08.3.13	Primary: Grass & Scrub Fire along Puffing Billy line. Pinnocks Road
18.3.13	Primary: Gas leak. Corner Princess Street/Ferres Road.
24.3.13	Primary: Persons stuck in lift. Woolworths Supermarket.
27.3.13	Tanker deployed to Lecky Road Officer.
04.4.13	Primary: Structure Fire. Lower Grieve Road Emerald.
10.4.13	Support: Re-ignition of DSE burn. Wrights Forest.
16.5.13	Primary. Car leaking gas. Coles Express Service Station.

NOTED EVENTS

27.7.12	Junior Presentation Night at the Station
18.8.12	CFA round of the Yarra Valley Footy League. Crew attended Healesville/Emerald match.
09.9.12	FF Nick Waldron attended Community Safety Leaders Forum Eastern Met Region.
10.9.12	FF Jody Yandle attended Grant/Funding workshop at Woori Yallock ICC.
10.11.12	Display at the Emerald Primary School Fair.
25.11.12	Replaced Smoke Alarm batteries for residents at Chestnut Gardens.
25.11.12	CFA Sunday
06.12.12	Community meeting at Station.
06.01.13	Trucks and crews inspection tour of Cardinia dam.
22.03.13	Tanker attended SETG with crew.
31.03.13	Brigade assisted with trolley hire for the Cockatoo Plant Market.
21.04.13	Fire Awareness display at Funfest.
25.04.13	Brigade attended Anzac Day Services
05.05.13	Brigade assisted at the Puffing Billy Race.
13.05.13	Inaugural meeting of the Fundraising committee.
20.05.13	National Medals and Brigade Life Members Presentation Dinner held at Elevation
25.05.13	TRIP event. Belgrave Heights Convention Centre. Salvage attended with crew



Fun Page's

Word Search

k t w t o r b e g p f d k t s
 c x e p n r a n r i u c l a i
 a m c m a e i d r i u m r n r
 b m t n l t d e i r f d p k e
 d s c b f e f i t o b x d e n
 r h a a z i h w s a p j l r r
 o l r l g t n a n e t u e i l
 w d j t v n c o v e r a l l s
 d c h h n a c o m m s p s s e
 c e h d p a g s t o o b n e m
 r x j t o r r e c i f f o v e
 s t a t i o n d q m e n c o r
 x i r l s l a v y p s w a l a
 n p e r t i s r d h o b e g l
 q g d a z r r i m e h o b x d

- | | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| beacons | boots | branch |
| captain | comms | drafting |
| emerald | fire | firefighter |
| gloves | helmet | hose |
| hydrant | lieutenant | officer |
| overalls | president | pumper |
| radio | salvage | siren |
| sitrep | station | tanker |
| truck | wordback | |

Word Match

We didn't all start our volunteer service at Emerald. Match the member to their first brigade:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Belgrave South | Graeme Legge |
| Myrniong | Tim Penketh |
| Macclesfield | Clayton Bryant |
| Belgrave | Dave Wheat |
| Geelong City | Trevor Ireland |
| Yarragon | Ian Hall |
| Beaconsfield Upper | Adrian Trimmell |
| Currawa | Ian Woodhouse |
| Belgrave | Mathew Warby |

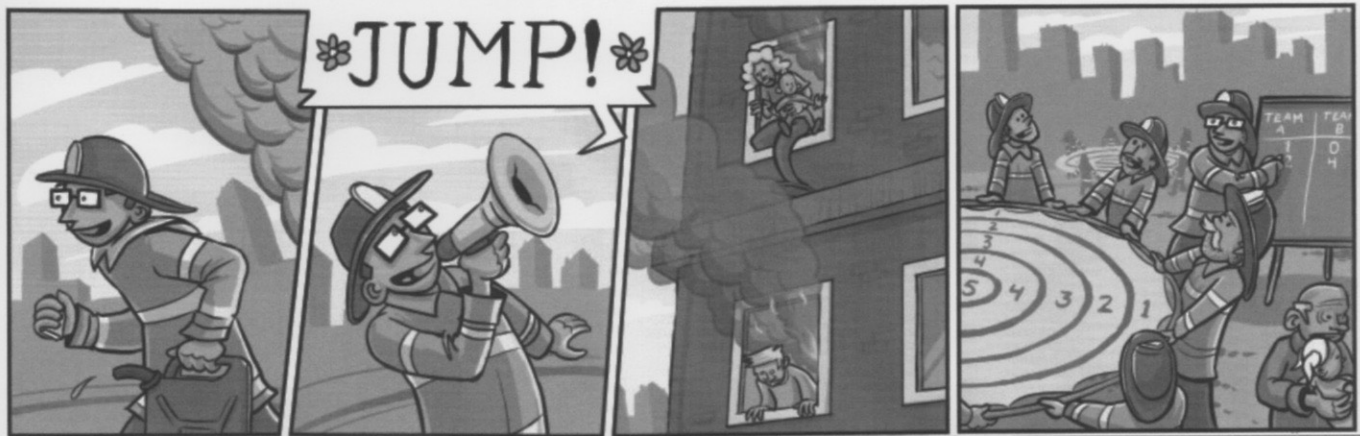
Two fellows were sitting in a coffee shop...suddenly the fire siren went off, one jumped up and headed for the door and his friend shouted, "Hey, mate, I didn't know you were a fireman!" Old mate replied, "I'm not, but my girlfriend's husband is..."



Who is this handsome fella?



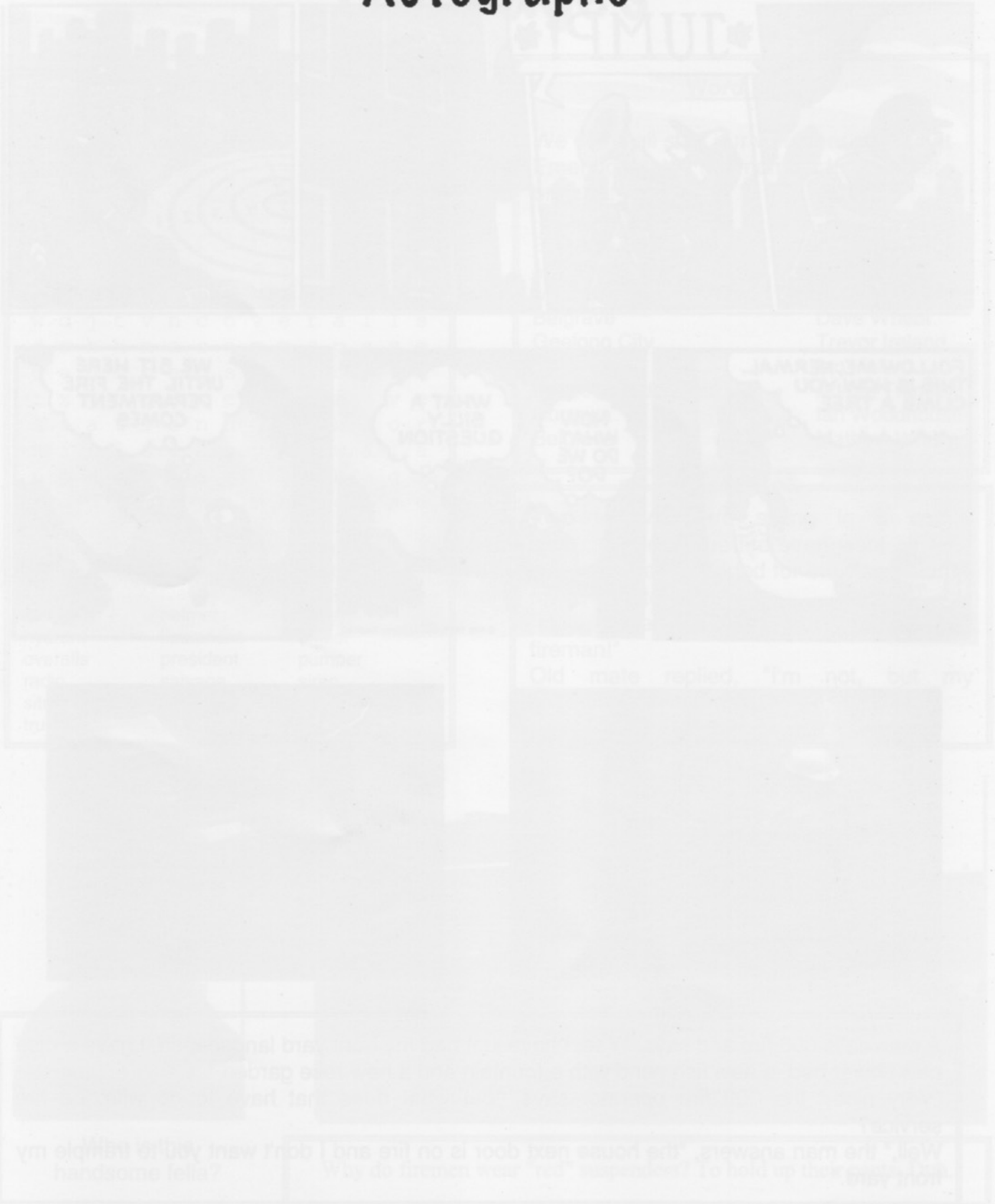
Why do firemen wear "red" suspenders? To hold up their pants. Duh.



A man calls 000 fire and says, "Yes, I have just had my front yard landscaped, I have a nice new flower bed, a new fish pond with a fountain and a new rose garden."
 "Very nice," the 000 fire operator says, "but what does that have to do with the fire service?"
 Well," the man answers, "the house next door is on fire and I don't want you to trample my front yard."



Autographs



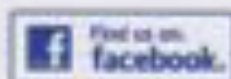




Emerald Fire Brigade wish to thank the following
for their ongoing support:

Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Fund
St Marks Church Emerald Op Shop
Elevation at Emerald
Pakenham Op Shop
Emerald Village Meats
Emerald Fruit Barn
Gingers Hairdressing

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