

**2016**  
**Emerald Fire Brigade**  
**Annual Report**

EMERALD CFA

*Celebrating* **75** **SERVICE**  
YEARS

**TO THE COMMUNITY**

**1941 - 2016**



## WELCOME

Climate change has brought with it an increase in both the number and severity of fire, flood and catastrophic weather events. Australia rightly prides itself on its grass roots, local, emergency response agencies, their capability and expertise. Our national capability has grown out of these volunteer led organizations over many years and we are the envy of many countries now seeking to deal with the consequences of climate change. I believe Emerald



CFA brigade are the embodiment of what a good volunteer led and backed response should be. I've had the privilege of seeing firsthand the care and concern Emerald CFA members have for the community, not only as first responders but also in wanting to help in the recovery effort in any way possible. Our Emerald CFA brigade are truly a Community Based Volunteer movement that we should be proud of, and I am more than happy to welcome you as you prepare to read this annual report. Resist the temptation to skim read it, instead, sit down with a cuppa and spend a few moments trying to really get behind the scenes in order to understand the dedication and hard work that goes on in the background, in order to make sure your property and safety are preserved when it comes to the risk of fire.

Paul Yandle has been a proactive Captain; the new station is an example of years of hard work, and the rest of the team are no different. Why not call into the station one day and just say hello; they'd be happy to show you around.

Enjoy this report and keep them in your thoughts or prayers as they turnout in all-weather at all times of the day or night in order to serve you and I.

**Wayne Collins**  
**Director**  
**Echo Youth and Family services**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne", with a small horizontal line underneath.

Wayne

## THANKS AND CREDITS

Thank you to everyone who contributed written articles and or photos to our 2016 Emerald Fire Brigade Annual Report.

Rear cover photo credit: Graeme Legge OAM

*"The fire photo is dated 1952 from a fire known as the "Dandenongs" fire up Olinda, Kalorama, Sassafras, Mount Dandenong etc. I carried my camera on a short strap around my neck so that it didn't impede either wearing or using a knapsack. From time to time I'd 'park' the hose and nozzle under one of the straps of the knapsack, quickly take the photo and soon was squirting away again."*

The Contents page photo is Firefighter Trevor Ireland, at Belgrave Fire Station around 1985.

## CONTENTS

Page 2	2016 Emerald Fire Brigade Photo
Page 3	Welcome
Page 3	Thanks and Credits
Page 4	Contents
Page 5	President and Vice Presidents report
Page 6	Captains Report
Page 8	1 <sup>st</sup> Lieutenants Report
Page 9	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants Report
Page 10	3 <sup>rd</sup> Lieutenants Report
Page 11	4 <sup>th</sup> Lieutenants Report
Page 12	Communications Officers Report
Page 13	Fundraising Report
Page 15	Treasurers Report
Page 16	Statement of Receipts and Payments
Page 17	Community Education Report
Page 20	2015 Presentation Night
Page 21	Junior Fire Brigade Report
Page 24	Juniors Photos
Page 25	From Recruit to Firefighter – Paul Mycroft
Page 26	From Recruit to Firefighter – Liam Dempsey
Page 26	From Volunteer to Career Firefighter – Lee Cunningham
Page 28	From Volunteer to Career Firefighter – Paris Philippou
Page 30	Photos
Page 31	Photos
Page 32	Member Story – Kate Griffin
Page 33	Member Story – Nick Waldron
Page 36	Life Member Memories – Tony Fairbridge
Page 37	Life Member Memories – Bill Richman
Page 38	Life Member Memories – Graeme Legge
Page 40	Dandenong Ranges Group Exercise
Page 41	TRIP
Page 42	Off Road Driver Training
Page 43	Mobile Prop Hot Fire Training
Page 44	Avonsleigh, Triple Fatality MVA
Page 46	Emerald Village Pharmacy Fire
Page 47	David Hill Road Monbulk Fire
Page 49	Fire Safe Kids
Page 49	Lending a Helping Hand
Page 50	Macclesfield Fuel Reduction Burn
Page 51	Christmas Run 2015
Page 52	ANZAC Day 2016
Page 53	The Tool Award
Page 53	2015 Christmas Dinner
Page 54	Emerald Fire Brigade Membership 2015-16
Page 55	Emerald Fire Brigade Call Statistics 2015-16
Page 56	Historic Brigade Membership: Members 1941 to Present
Page 59	Thank-you to our supporters

## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Good day, another year hammers past and what a year it's turning out to be. I do not want to dwell on the current happenings but I must say that the emails I read from the Captain reflect on my thinking that all parties have a voice and I hope the end is near. Enough said. As this is my last report in my position as President I have enjoyed doing the job when I have been there, I thank Nick for standing in for me when I have been working and the work he does as Com Ed and at Group. Congrats to all the re-elected members and the new ones and I see there is a few new drivers well done.

The training nights I see have been fantastic and there is a good vibe towards them, well done to Andrew and the BMT. I know how hard this is to make it interesting all the time.

On a less happier note one of our older serving members, Matt Cree got injured at work as his healing process has been hit by several setbacks but I know the type of person Matt is and he will recover and get back to full health again.

And finally thanks to all the other members that help run the various things the brigade does during the year and their families that often miss out because of time that the members are doing the task whatever that is.

Again I thank everybody for my time as the President and hope everybody keeps safe on and off the fire ground.

Regards,  
President Richard Van Iersel.



## VICE PRESIDENTS REPORT



In the role of Vice President, I have been asked to write a few words.

It has been unfortunate that our President Richard Van Iersel has had work commitments and hasn't been able to Chair meetings as much as he would have liked.

It has been an interesting two years attending brigade meetings.

Lots of important decisions and plenty of discussions. Was great to witness.

Thanks for electing me as the next Brigade President for the next two years. As we know, the brigade celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. Happy Birthday Emerald Fire Brigade !!!

We are now celebrating this event tonight. Hope everybody has a great time. Thanks to the organisers of this celebration, Tanya Jogan for the great Annual

Report and special welcome to wives, partners and girlfriends for attending.

Enjoy !!!!

Vice President Nick Waldron.

## CAPTAINS REPORT



Another year gone. And another busy period for our brigade members.

The 2015/16 fire season started with lots of preparation as early weather indicators saw the potential for a significantly dangerous fire season. Emerald crews attended and worked at a going Grass & Scrub fire in David Hill Rd in Monbulk in late October, but didn't see much firefighting on bad days during the bulk of the season. On the 19th and 20th Dec The brigade manned the station due to Extreme forecast conditions ironically after 2 full days at the station and shortly after standing down the crews late in the afternoon we were responded on a strike team run to Gladysdale which was called off en route.

Prior to the start of the season the Officers produced a matrix of all the bushfire training and skills maintenance topics we wanted to cover as part of our pre summer preparations. The membership responded well with this and training remained flexible enough to get people ticked off on as many subjects as possible on the nights they attended training. This system worked quite well and will form the basis of our fire season preparation into the future. Alongside the main brigade training the Officers and some senior members also

spent time training on incident management and fire ground control primarily using the FIRM system, both theory and practical exercises were completed.

Although the early part of the fire season was quite busy across the state, the weather eased off after the Australia Day period. Thankfully we encountered no major fires in our brigade area or locally over the summer. Of note were two suspicious grass & scrub fires in Madigan way on total fire ban days. Both jobs were investigated by Fire investigation unit and VicPol detectives.

Other significant fire's the brigade attended were the Chemist shop fire in November and a shed fire in June.

**Chemist shop fire:** The brigade was responded with Clematis support for smoke issuing from the Chemist shop roof, on arrival the building was found to be smoke logged with an intense heat build-up inside the premises. A co-ordinated attack was made with BA, positive pressure ventilation, TIC camera and crews making an aggressive internal attack on the fire. Some difficulty was encountered by the Clematis crew entering from the rear due to heavy security doors and steel bracing. Once inside the fire was located near the counter area and extinguished by BA crews. Although the building and contents were heavily heat and smoke damaged the crews were able to salvage the Chemists prescription lists and patient files that proved instrumental in the staff being able to maintain a service to their regular customers. Units from Menzies Creek, Cockatoo and Bayswater BA also attended for support.

**Shed Fire:** In June this year the brigade attended a shed fire in Heroes Ave with the shed being fully arrived on arrival and threatening the main house as well as a neighbouring home and car next door. Minimal crew during the day meant Menzies Creek and Cockatoo were also responded along with Clematis for support. Crews were ducking for cover during this job as ammunition stored in the shed caused some concern for those on the fire ground.

Of concern over the last year has been the decrease in membership, largely due to members moving out of the area. To address this and to maintain our operational readiness the Officers planned out a recruitment drive to attract new members into the brigade. This included a recruitment flier being delivered to the 3782 post code and placed in shop counters and windows, static displays around town and a social media campaign. At the time of writing this project is going well with some early interest from potential recruits and an information night to be held in early July.

The brigade hosted another Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) event on 16th June this year which was well attended by local young drivers and parents. Supported by our fellow emergency services, The Secondary College and the Emerald Football/Netball club the evening was about helping young drivers and passengers think about the consequences of poor choices and how to plan around not being caught up in dangerous situations around cars and driving. Various presentations were made including a discussion with emergency first responders, a victim of a serious MVA and a demonstration of the ripple effect caused by road trauma. The timing of the TRIP event was carefully considered in relation to the pending 1st anniversary of the Avonsleigh triple fatality accident last year. Plenty of counsellors were on hand to assist any audience members who may have been emotional or stressed. My thanks to Jody for once again driving the project and a job well done.

Fundraising has been ongoing this year with the second year of the diary project, the brigade experienced some issues around timing of the printing and supply of the diaries which caused a delay in getting the diaries out to customers when we would have liked. Klaus was able to negotiate the return of the unsold diaries to the supplier without payment being required. This resulted in the project being profitable this year but highlighted the fragility of the project which has been finished at this stage. Klaus and his fundraising team will be looking at other suitable fundraising options and I encourage all members to assist them when required for future activities.

The brigade continues to thrive in the area of Community engagement, we are represented on the Emerald Emergency Planning Group (EEPG) and via this group we support and assist the Emerald Emergency Support Team (EST) The EEPG continue to work hard in making the community more resilient and prepared for major emergencies whilst the EST are a group of volunteers who have been training to assist the community during and immediately after a major emergency. These guys are the troops on the ground and have recently acquired a trailer to assist them to activate when needed, there is some great work going on here and is a credit to Wayne Collins from St Marks as the co-ordinator. The EEPG and EST is currently working to get further assistance from other community groups in the area.

This year we also, as is tradition for our brigade, attended the Remembrance Day & ANZAC Day services along with the community and the Emerald RSL. We've also done our share of Santa runs, assisted the elderly with changing of smoke alarms, assisted the Junior Footy club by hosing down their scoreboard prior to painting, Cub Scouts visit to the station and other community engagement when required.

As always we have also been busy with Community Safety. This is a major part of the brigades work now and includes Bushfire planning workshops, meetings with Community Fire Guard Groups, a station open day, Primary School fair, Fire Safe Kids Presentations and our regular fire safety displays at the Emerald market. As a brigade we have done very well in the Comm safety area and my thanks to Nick for co-ordinating this over the last few years. His able apprentice Simon has now taken over the reins and I am sure will maintain our strong Comm safety presence around the town.

Training is always a main part of brigade life and is another area that we do really well. My thanks to 1st Lt Andrew Merlo for continuing to maintain a varied and relevant training plan and to the officers and senior members who organise and present the many sessions we do each year – top job to all. It's also been good to be part of larger training exercises and we participated in the Dandenong Ranges Group exercise at the Birdsland Reserve in Belgrave South as well as multi agency training exercises hosted at different times by the Emerald SES and Emerald Police. Several times this year we have had access to the CFA hot fire training props in the local area and these have been a great asset for our members to train with. Sunday and Seasonal Monday training nights have also been beneficial for the membership and will continue into the future.

The junior brigade has grown this year and particularly with female members, it's great to see the continued strength of our juniors after so many years and my appreciation to Tanya, Trevor and all who have assisted during the year. I was pleased to be able to present the juniors with a CFA thank you pin and remind the juniors that they are a big part of our team.

Our brigade could not function if it wasn't for the major input by our officers and BMT and to them I would like to make a special thank you, they put in a mighty effort right throughout the year and their efforts are appreciated by all. This year's election saw Dave Wheat step down from his Lieutenants position, I thank Dave for his service to the brigade and his heavy workload in maintaining the station, vehicles and equipment in good condition. I also welcome Klaus to his new role as our 4th Lieutenant, Klaus will no doubt bring his business and organisational skills to the table and I have every confidence that he will be a great addition to our leadership team.

This year has not been without its challenges and the well-publicised issue regarding the CFA/UFU EBA process has been an uncomfortable period and caused much stress for many CFA members both career and volunteer. At the time of writing, this issue is yet to be resolved but no matter the outcome, I am confident our members will continue to provide the great service we always have to our community.

In closing I would like to thank all the members for the considerable time spent training, at fire calls or doing brigade business, we have had yet another successful year and this can only happen with the great support we get from our members, their families and our community, well done to all.

Captain Paul Yandle.

# 1<sup>st</sup> LIEUTENANTS REPORT



Welcome again to another annual report and in a significant year for the brigade being the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the Emerald Fire Brigade.

Hopefully presentation night on July 16<sup>th</sup> will bring forward a special celebration of the brigade's history.

My role as 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant has responsibilities for brigade training and to ensure that the brigade has appropriately skilled members to meet our risk profile, coordinate delivery of training to all brigade members and ongoing skills maintenance.

Also the maintenance and checks of the brigade Pre Plans which cover various significant infrastructures within our response area. Earlier this year our BASO Kate Murphy had the task of reviewing and amending the pre plans, they are now in a completely new format with updated information and I thank Kate on behalf of the brigade for her excellent work.

The training calendar, training subjects and objectives are a team effort from the entire BMT with inputs also from member's requests and many thanks to all who plan and deliver training.

Subjects covered pre fire season included Live fire training on the mobile props, flammable liquids, structure, hazmat, communications, BA skills maintenance, truck maintenance, driving theory and Officer leadership.

As we entered the fire season beginning October 2015 and onwards the Captain requested specific training on Wildfire skills maintenance, going back to basics and utilising the Wildfire Firefighter learning manual as the standard. To coincide with the training the Captain created a Pre Season training matrix in which members who completed their various skills maintenance were checked off against the predetermined drills.

On November 18<sup>th</sup> a special presentation of Working with Aircraft by SSO Luke Patterson from Rowville and Working with Machinery by DEWLP staff was held at the station.

Captain Paul Yandle presented his Pre Season Intent which in itself is a briefing of what may or may not occur in the coming summer months, including the Chief Officers intent and is intended to ramp up the brigade's readiness for response.

Operationally again it has been a quiet 12 months, the early Grass & Scrub fire at Monbulk on October 28<sup>th</sup> was thought to be an early indicator of a significant fire season locally, but thankfully no major incidents occurred.

Strike team 1333 responded in December to Gladysdale, staged at Wandin but was not deployed.

Throughout the past 12 months I have had the opportunity to be Incident Controller or Crew Leader at a variety of incidents and gaining much required operational and leadership experience.

My role also as Dandenong Ranges Group Training Coordinator has been a vast learning curve of managing requirements of the 15 DRG brigades with training opportunities, facilitators and Dist 13 training requirements.

The DRG exercise was solely organised by DGO Craig Dennis, officers and members from Belgrave South and Upwey and held at the Birdsland Reserve on October 25<sup>th</sup> 2015, on behalf of the Group many thanks for the fine effort by all involved.

DRG elections were held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May and I was elected to the training role for a further 2 years with the deputy position going to Lindsay Parker from the Silvan brigade.

With that I wish to conclude with my thanks again to the Officers and members of the brigade for your support over the past 12 months and look forward to a safe and successful year.

Keep up the good work.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Andrew Merlo.

Well another year has flown by.

I must firstly give thanks to Tamsin and my two boys for giving up their time with me so that I can perform my role in the brigade.

We have just run a major recruitment drive, which will hopefully bolster our membership before the next fire season. This drive has included a mail out to all households in 3782 post code, static displays around town, flyers in shops and recruitment posts on Facebook. I thank the officers and members who assisted with this drive and also to the members who have provided info to potential new members at the Sunday markets.

We have had a couple of new members joining in the last 12 months. Firstly Paul Mycroft joined in August last year, and he was operational by the start of the fire season. This feat of getting trained up in record time is impressive and shows the enthusiasm Paul has in being part of our brigade.

Our second new member is Sam Fredrickson. Sam has just starting his recruit training and it's great to see his enthusiasm in learning the skills to become operational.

Both new members will be great assets for the brigade and I wish them well over the next twelve months as they continue to learn new skills.

The brigade submitted a proposal to purchase a MSA Altaire Gas Detector. Unfortunately it was a long drawn out process. After many emails, phone calls and usual handballing by CFA, we finally received approval to purchase one for operational use. Although we need to have our training course booked in before we can purchase the detector I believe it's a great step forward in improving the safety of members on the fire ground.

Most members should be aware we have now increased our lighting equipment on all three trucks. Items include Dewalt handheld flood lights, rechargeable LED floodlights. I have reminded our neighboring brigades of our capacity to assist with lighting. If we get an increase in calls, then we can look at maybe expanding our range further.

An extra training session has been running on Monday nights over the past year. I believe it has been well received by members. We have covered many topics from draughting, Fuel loading inspections and a couple of sessions down at Narre Warren East utilizing the mobile training props. I would like to thank the members that did attend the extra training nights. I will start the Monday training sessions again during spring.

Righto, that's all folks, stay safe and have a great year ahead.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Adrian Trimnell.



## 3<sup>rd</sup> LIEUTENANTS REPORT



This year has been as busy as always, and while we are not operationally as busy as we have been in previous years, the work outside of that seems to be ever on the rise. There is so much work that goes on from training, comms safety, fundraising and general station maintenance and its great seeing the dedicated members always put their hand up to help out throughout the year.

My roles in this past year have included Quarter Master, Driver Training and maintaining the asset register.

The Quarter Master role is always ongoing, with gear being replaced due to wear and tear and regular cleaning. Coming into the fire season we had several requests sent off to District for replacement gear, including goggles and new wildfire PPC. Give or take a few delays most of the gear we requested was dispatched in a prompt manner and my thanks to District for that. Our Structural PPC gear has also been sent off for its routine maintenance. This turned out to be quite the mission, with issues with the courier picking it up, and then up to a 4 week wait to have it returned to the Brigade. I thank the members for their patience throughout the process. In future I will have this gear sent away in the warmer months so any delay does not directly impact of our firefighters.

Driver Training - It has been a busy year for our learner drivers, with most weekends spent in the truck either locally or down in the suburbs. F/F Harris, Jogan and Arnold have all been involved this year. During the fire season we would do our training in Emerald, I'd hate to think of how many laps around the RSL I have done, each time hoping the driver doesn't clip the kerb or else its back around for another go. Kelly has several kerbs named in her honor as a result!

Once the cooler weather arrived we started to venture down in the busy suburbs, this is a great experience and really helps fine tune their observations. Seeing how cars act around trucks is a big eye opener for them, and shows the importance of defensive driving. Whilst it is rare for us to respond down to these areas, I believe our drivers are better for the experience.

We did plenty of country driving as well, mostly around the Kinglake, Yarra Glen area, including a drive up to the top of Mount Donna Buang. These drives are great and are more of what they will be doing when out and about on Strike Teams.

I've been really impressed with their commitment and how much time they have given up in the training. Each member has put in over 40hrs behind the wheel before they are put up for assessment by the District Driving Instructor. My thanks to you all for your effort! Congratulations to Tanya Jogan and Kelly Harris for gaining their Heavy Vehicle License. I'm sure by the time we have our presentation night Simon will be almost there as well.

As the instructor I've been well looked after, Roast Chickens and lunches along the way, I swear I've put on weight since I started this! Thanks Kelly and Tanya! It's also been a great way to get to know everyone a bit better, sometimes the front of the truck is more like a Oprah Winfrey therapy session!

I've also taken out our Qualified Drivers to gain more time up behind the wheel before they go for their Code 1 accreditation. Thanks as well for their effort in putting in the time to maintain their skills.

Thanks to Doc for his expert instruction and the other drivers who have helped out with sessions.

Thank you to the members for re-electing me once again for another term as 3rd LT. It's an honour to serve the members and help out when I can. I look forward to the next two years and the challenges it will bring.

Finally thank you to my fellow Officers who have been great with advice and ideas, we are a team within a team and your support has been amazing.

3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Calum Bean.

## 4<sup>th</sup> LIEUTENANTS REPORT



It has finally come to that time of year again, when the tax man usually gives you back some money (hopefully) and the annual report comes around.

This is my farewell report as I decided earlier in the year that I won't seek re election as I did not have the available time required to give to the brigade any more.

Also there are members out there who could bring something else to the BMT and thus the brigade; I am glad that Klaus will be the one doing this.

It takes a lot of time, energy and passion to be an officer in a fire brigade, and I was only number 4. I have all the more admiration for Paul and the other senior officers in the BMT because of the passion and professionalism they bring to the brigade. I can now say that I have seen the work load that the members of the BMT

put into the brigade and I can confidently say it is a lot more than I ever thought. If anybody is wanting to be an officer, think of the time you think is required then times it by ten, then you will be close to the realistic figure, but the rewards for being a good leader, learning new skills and serving the community far outweigh the sacrifices given for this task.

I would personally thank Paul for the officer training we did earlier in the year. It was invaluable, not only for the fire brigade but something that can be taken into life outside of the CFA. I would highly recommend any future leaders in our brigade to take advantage and learn as much as they possibly can from Paul.

Finally I would like to thank those people who are outside of the brigade who have been a constant encouragement for me. You know who you are, and good luck Klaus, don't be afraid to learn new things and don't forget to take cheese and crackers to the BMT meetings.

4<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant David Wheat.



## COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS REPORT

And just like that, another year has flown by. I'd really like to thank the brigade for their support during the year and for electing me for another term.

We have had digital fireground channels in use in the district now for 12 months and the feedback on them has been fairly positive overall. It's hard in a mountainous area like ours to have perfect coverage in all areas but considering our topography, they perform as well as could be expected. There has been no official go-live date for VicFire to make the switch to digital at this stage, but when it happens, it will bring about great crew safety tools like duress buttons and GPS vehicle tracking.

Our website and Facebook pages have seen a steady rise in page views and interactions which means that our community is engaging with us well on these platforms. Social media is definitely the way of the future when it comes to communicating with the public and I'm glad to see that we have one of the more active pages in the area. In addition to the Facebook page, I've setup a brigade Twitter account **@emeraldCFA** which will become active in the lead up to summer for those in the community who prefer to Tweet. The two platforms are linked together so both services will show the same posts and information.

My thanks go to Nick Waldron for managing our Facebook page since its creation. We receive many enquiries through this service which allows us to communicate more easily with the community about what we do.

This year's Annual Report will be the first report in our history to be available for download via our website. Over the next two years, I'll be digitising as many of our historical documents and media as possible to preserve them for future members of the brigade and for the wider community to enjoy. Some of these documents will include Annual Reports from past years, early photos/videos of brigade activities, old attendance books etc. Some of these documents date back to the formation of the brigade in the 1940's and unfortunately are deteriorating quite quickly. If left unchecked, they will be lost forever.

I was pleased to see the brigade agree to trial BART for the year. This app really has some great features designed specifically for Australian emergency services. Its main purpose is to provide the ETA of members (down to literally seconds based on your smartphones GPS) to the station in the opening minutes of an incident. This information can be critical to crew leaders who will know exactly who is on their way to turn-out, what competencies they have (BA wearers, drivers etc) and how far away they are.

Even gathering availabilities on hot days is made so much easier with BART. With just a few taps on your phone, you can advise specific times, days or whole weeks that you will be available for calls.

By adding iPads into the appliances, drivers get turn-by-turn GPS navigation to an incident, crew leaders can see nearby hydrants and even the location of other trucks with the vehicle tracking function. It's an extremely powerful system with far too many features to list here, but it relies on members actively engaging with it for it to be of any benefit to us. Remember to hit that thumbs up when you're coming to the station!

While there's a few other little things on the go right now, I've run out of space to write so I'll leave you to read the rest of the report. Congratulations to all award winners and enjoy your night!

Communications Officer, Firefighter Ryan Lewis.



## FUNDRAISING REPORT



The 2015/16 period has been a quite eventful time from a fundraising perspective. Three key fundraising events took place over the last twelve months which have contributed positively to the brigade's financial position.

Our major fundraising project, the 2016 Community Fundraising Diary, has once again delivered an excellent outcome delivering over \$9,000 back to the brigade. The diary concept has now generated over \$20,000 for the brigade over the two year period. The success of this year's diary came about as a result of the fundraising committee completing a review of the 2015 diary. The key learnings from this included streamlining the way in which we sold the diaries, and improvement on how we tracked sales and took payments.

Steps were taken to act upon these outcomes and we upgraded the website which now included online ordering, instant payment platform and we could now review purchase data at the click of a button. We also shifted our focus to targeting individuals rather than brigades so we didn't have to rely on brigades pre-ordering diaries. This involved people purchasing online, selecting a brigade from a drop-down menu and we then donated \$5.00 back to that brigade for every diary purchased. The benefits were immediate with improved ease of ordering for the individuals, instant collection of funds, and also created a fundraising platform for brigades around the state. It was extremely pleasing to see that of the large number of diaries purchased, cheques were sent out to over seventy different brigades, including a Coast Guard brigade, for their own fundraising purposes. Whilst the number of diaries sold outside of our area grew significantly, the late delivery of the diaries from our manufacturer and the non-repeat of Election Day at the Primary School saw us lose a large number of sales locally that we had secured in the previous year. Despite this, we were able to negotiate to have all leftover diaries sent back to the manufacturer at no charge and we finished in the strong position outlined above.



There was one unexpected outcome from the diary project that also came to fruition.

Whilst trying to secure advertising, Kincome offered to donate a high value prize in lieu of payment. Never one to walk away from an opportunity, Captain Paul suggested we hold a raffle to earn even further fundraising dollars. This great idea was enhanced with a Davey Pump and Portable Jump Starter as runner up prizes. This raffle generated a further \$2,500 which was another strong result and saw much assistance by all brigade members is selling tickets.

Between the diary project and the raffle, this gave us great opportunity to increase our visibility in and with the public to talk about fire safety. The collaboration between Community Safety and Fundraising worked very effectively and was beneficial in each other's success in many instances. Our usual representation at local markets and school fairs continued but was further boosted by presence at Westfield Fountain Gate in February which was a great event with assistance from several members who were able to capitalise on the high foot traffic in the centre.

Whilst hard work is the backbone of successful fundraising, sometimes opportunities just fall into your lap which you cannot walk away from. On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Bro Robert Simmons (*ROH Grand Trustee and City Secretary of the City of Oakleigh Lodge No. 23*), from the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, presented a cheque for the amount of \$10,000 to the Emerald Fire Brigade, but also \$10,000 to Cockatoo CFA and Emerald SES. Following the sale of their premises, the City of Oakleigh Lodge No 23 resolved at its April meeting that some proceeds from settlement would be disbursed to key emergency services.



This generous donation will be extremely helpful in the imminent acquisition of our new Gas Detector and subsequent training. This Gas Detector will not only be of benefit to the Emerald community, but can be called upon by several brigades in surrounding areas.

The key reason we need to fundraise is ensure the financial needs of the brigade for the short and long term are met. However, sometimes there are others who need these funds more. Whilst we have benefitted from the support of the Emerald Op Shop (St. Marks) for a number of years, this year the brigade voted unanimously to request the Op Shop divert their funds to our colleagues who needed the funds more than us, Emerald SES. Whilst they are currently one of the busiest units in the state and still operating out of inadequate facilities, the brigade was willing to forego these funds to assist the SES in their journey for a new station. We wish them luck in their venture.

In wrapping up, I am proud to say that I have been elected to the role of 4<sup>th</sup> Lieutenant commencing July 2016 and I look forward to starting in this role. Whilst we will put the diary into hibernation for 2017, I will continue to manage the fundraising aspect in this new role and will look to generate some new fundraising initiatives to replace the diary project. If you have any suggestions, no matter how big or small, please bring them to me so we can discuss. We cannot forget our regular donation partners that have contributed to the brigade over a number of years and these include Ritchies, St Marks Op Shop and Pakenham Op Shop. Please continue to support those who support us and hope that the next twelve months are as successful as the last twelve.

Fundraising Coordinator, Firefighter Klaus Brodeck.



## TREASURERS REPORT

2016 has seen a big change, in that the treasurer's role (fulfilled so diligently by Jody Yandle) was passed over to a new person. I joined the Emerald CFA late in 2014 and underwent rigorous training by Jody, who has been of the utmost support. In July 2015, she passed the reigns over to me and I have tried to fill her very large boots over the course of the year.

Despite me still learning the ropes, and needing to correct myself a few times, the year has been successful. We have been steadily working our way towards an increased level of savings that will one day be used to replace large scale equipment such as our salvage truck, however this year we have invested in better lighting systems for the trucks so that we are in a better position to support crews in situations requiring clear lighting. We have also purchased uniforms and t-shirts celebrating the Emerald Brigade's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, two DeWalt 5 piece combo kits, various items to service the trucks and make them safer (such as seat belt extenders), a new hose, and a pressure cleaner.

The bulk of income raised has come from both fundraising and donations. The diary fundraiser was a concerted effort over many long months with FF Klaus Brodeck negotiating a price that secured the brigade a profit just over \$8250. The coinciding raffle raised \$2639, reaching a fundraising total of almost \$11,000 for the year. Both fundraising events relied on the support and marketing of our brigade members, without which we would not have been able to sell as many tickets and / or diaries as we did.

This year the diary program went online, and those purchasing diaries had the choice to support their local brigade with part of the costs going towards revenue to local brigades. As a part of this Emerald Brigade was able to send out donations nearing \$1000 for brigades around the state, and we are proud to have been able to support our colleagues across Victoria.

Donations have been once again steady from both the Emerald and Pakenham Opportunity shops as well as Ritchie's community benefit, and have raised almost \$10,000. The brigade also felt that their financial position was such that we could support the Emerald SES, and part of the donation from the Emerald Opp. Shop goes to the local SES to support their endeavours.

The Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy) also acknowledged our support throughout the year with donations totalling \$2000, and it is community spirit and support such as this that keeps our brigade financially viable within the community.

The largest revenue for the year was an extremely generous donation of \$10,000 from the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, City of Oakleigh Lodge. The lodge's Secretary and Grand Trustee, Brother Robert Simmons ROH presented the Brigade with the cheque in a formal ceremony held at the brigade on Sunday June the 5<sup>th</sup>. The brigade is honoured to have been chosen as a recipient, along with the Cockatoo CFA and Emerald SES, and the donation equals one year's fundraising efforts for the brigade. It is with extreme gratitude that we accept the cheque.

The next financial year will see the brigade looking for new and exciting ways to fundraise, and with a committed team we are sure to be successful.

Treasurer Christine Davey-White.



## STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

1<sup>st</sup> July 2015 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

### RECEIPTS

#### Donations

<i>Ritchie's Community Benefit</i>	\$3590.95
<i>Emerald Opportunity Shop</i>	\$3227
<i>Pakenham Opportunity Shop</i>	\$3000
<i>Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes</i>	\$10,000
<i>Public Donations</i>	\$340

#### Fundraising

<i>Diary Project</i>	\$8251.20
<i>Raffle</i>	\$2639

#### Grants and Allowances

\$1150

#### Bank Interest

\$1831.29

#### TRIP

\$659.00

**Total Income: \$34,688.44**

### PAYMENTS

Affiliations \$374.91

Catering \$598.39

Community Education and Publicity \$810.00

Equipment \$4563.45

Office Expenses \$1235.77

Petty Cash \$700.00

Social Expenses \$1967.99

Station Amenities \$372.76

Sundry Expenses \$842.80

TRIP \$481.00

Uniforms, Badges and Decals \$1893.89

**Total Expenses: \$13840.96**

### CURRENT BANK BALANCES as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016

EFB Bendigo Account	\$18,153.52
EFB Juniors Bendigo Account	\$ 3,023.95
Bank West Savings account	\$ 82,651.58 (+\$4500 in transit from EFB Bendigo)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$108.329.05</b>

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION REPORT



Blimey! Another year has been and gone. Only seems like yesterday I was writing last years report.

In late March of this year I had the chance to attend the 'Introduction to AIIMS' course in Seymour. Andrew, the facilitator running the course stressed a number of times the importance of warnings to the community and keeping them informed. We have read and heard from former Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and who can forget the great presentations by Deputy Chief Officer Steve Warrington stressing the importance of community education. Calling it our 'core business' for better descriptive words.

On a local level, it is up to every brigade member and officer to educate our community on such things as warnings, prepare and react when the day comes when Emerald and the Dandenongs come under threat of bushfire.

My role for a number of years has been Community Safety and Education. We have come a long way since I took this role on when becoming 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant a few years ago.

From talking to the community, reading and listening to various groups is that the message is finally getting through that when it is a predicted bad fire danger day, people are leaving.

There are still a number in our community that will wait and see what happens and others will stay and defend whatever happens. My personal view is this number has been reduced but more needs to be done to reduce this number even further.

One thing that is really encouraging. New residents to the area are taking the time and making the effort to come and talk to us being it at the Emerald Market, attending Bushfire Workshops or FRV meetings.

Really good to hear the Community Fire guard Groups are contacting new residents to their street and area and including them in the Groups. Well done to them!

What has the brigade been up to regarding Community Education and Engagement?

Here is a brief overview.

### **BUSHFIRE WORKSHOPS**

This is the second year the brigade has run Bushfire Workshops.

Happy to report 50 community members attended three separate workshops.

The Community House hosted another workshop in September with 12 attending

Huge thanks to the facilitators from CFA for the excellent work.

Special mention goes to Phil Cuthbert.



### **FRV COMMUNITY MEETING**

The only disappointing and concerning thing to report is only six turned up for the Community meeting. Well advertised on Social Media and a variable message board in town for a week of advertising. Can't really say the community didn't know about the meeting.

### **EMERALD MARKET**

The brigade had a display on bushfire safety at November, January and February markets with plenty of interest shown by community members and visitors.

Special mention goes to Non Blair at the Community House for cancelling the December Market because of a Total Fire Ban. Took a lot of courage to make the call. Well done Non!

## **COMMUNITY FIREGUARD**

The brigade hosted the Community Fire guard Leaders meeting in November to update and brief them on the upcoming fire season. Seven attended.

Attended a Community Fire guard meeting in Carramar Court in Emerald.

A very enthusiastic and active group. Thanks for making myself and facilitator Phil Cuthbert feel really welcome and the hospitality.

## **STATION OPEN DAY**

In November the brigade opened it's doors to the community to come and look round the station, climb on the trucks and get useful help and advice on preparing for the Summer.

Around 20 families attended the day.

Thanks to the members that helped out on the day.

Other events we have attended over the past year:

Display at IGA Supermarket

- Emerald Primary School Summer Fair
- Display at the Co-op 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. (Proceeds from sausage sizzle went to the brigade. Huge thanks).

The brigade has had visits from the Kinder Garden and Fire Safe Kids presentations. Thanks to Kate for taking this on and big thanks to Kelly for her past commitment.

Recently had a look at the brigade website. What an awesome job. Great work by Ryan to get this all up and running.

Finally, a few words about our Facebook page. This has grown since its conception with our page being mentioned and put forward for others to follow if there brigade wishes to go down the road of having a Facebook page.

Our local community has benefited enormously with information posted on fire safety, preparing and keeping safe. One item that was added this year are the 'Recall Posts'. This has proved to be very popular with plenty of shares and likes when one is posted.

And is a great way to share posts and information with other brigades not only state wide but countrywide. Even worldwide.

At this time, we have well over 2,500 likes for our page and growing every day.

Must admit I get great satisfaction and enjoyment overseeing our Facebook page and hope to continue doing so into the future.

As you all know I have moved house to Koo Wee Rup. With this in mind, travel for training and early starts together with not being able to turn out, I decided, reluctantly, to go non operational. This doesn't mean I won't be active within the brigade. Far from it.

I have been Community Safety Coordinator for a number of years and have enjoyed meeting and talking to the community and feel we have made great progress in getting the message across and will continue to do so but not as the brigade Coordinator. I felt it is time for me to stand aside and let someone else have a go with a fresh look and new ideas.

The great news is my co worker Simon Arnold has been elected to the position which I'm very pleased about and look forward to assisting him when required.

Thank you to the small band of members (and I mean small) that have helped out over the past year and in particular a special mention to Simon for his assistance. A number of times it has only been the two of us on displays. Great support Simon!!

Finally. I have to ask the question. Are we not in the CFA and this brigade to save lives?

This day and age that doesn't mean sitting on the back of a fire truck any more. The game has changed with a greater emphasis on Community Education and Engagement.

We all have a responsibility, Officers and Fire fighters to our community and gets frustrating when asked for support and help at events or on displays the same people coming forward.

It's not fair on them having to carry the can all the time.

We all have busy family lives, work and other commitments. Who doesn't? But if every member did just a little bit. Maybe only an hour or two a year, how much easier would it be for all when members are required at, for example the Emerald Market?

So I'm asking if Simon asks for help at events or displays let's see plenty of members come forward.

One final ask. Can we not commit this brigade to events and when the crunch comes when needing members nobody comes forward. Then I/we have to say we can't attend which doesn't look good for this brigade. Think before we commit!!

Nick Waldron  
Brigade Community Safety Coordinator



## 2015 PRESENTATION NIGHT



L-R: FF Tony Van Wageningen, FF Nick Waldron, FF Trevor Ireland, Capt Paul Yandle, OO Ian Cross, FF David Davidson-Little, FF Clayton Bryant, FF Jo Ray

Our annual Presentation Night was held at Emerald RSL on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> 2015.  
 Congratulations to award winners and everyone who contributed to make the night one to remember.

New Member Certificate	Liam Dempsey Christine Davey-White Tyrone Boi
Captains Appreciation Award	BM David Quinless
Merit Award	FF Paris Philippou Communications Officer Ryan Lewis
Marg Johnson Encouragement Award	FF Tom Dawe
Best First Year Firefighter	FF Ricky Coniglione
Runner-up Firefighter of the Year	FF Tanya Jogan
Firefighter of the Year	FF Simon Arnold
Officer of the Year	Lt Adrian Trimnell
National Emergency Medal	Lt Calum Bean
5 Year Service Certificate	FF Jo Ray FF Tony Van Wageningen
15 Year Service Medal	FF Nick Waldron
20 Year Service Medal	FF David Davidson-Little FF Clayton Bryant
30 Year Service Medal	Captain Paul Yandle
35 Year Service Medal	FF Trevor Ireland
Tool of the Year	FF Paris Philippou
Special Guests	Operations Officer Ian Cross and Lorraine Cross



L-R: FF Ricky Coniglione, FF Simon Arnold, FF Tanya Jogan, Lt Adrian Trimnell, Capt Paul Yandle, OO Ian Cross, Comms Officer Ryan Lewis, FF Tom Dawe, FF Paris Philippou

## JUNIOR FIRE BRIGADE REPORT



In our Brigades 75<sup>th</sup> year I find it amazing that our Juniors are in their 29<sup>th</sup> year and that we are as strong as ever and have a great bunch of Juniors and it's even harder to think that I have been helping with Juniors for the last 17 years, and over those years our Junior program just gets better and better and this is because of the help that is given to the juniors through the seniors.

Over the last year we have again had a great training program and just some of the activities we took part in are as follows: CFA car prop (no fire), truck checks and familiarisation, fun day practise, team work and games, burns table demo, PowerPoint presentations, comms, 1000 steps walk, visit to Cardinia Reservoir, Cub Scout visit to us, RSL visit and talk, support services talk by Jody, phonetic alphabet, house fire /structure talk, medal and awards talk, ventilation PowerPoint and prac activity using PPV, first aid awareness and many other subjects were covered over the year.

Our Junior presentation night saw our meeting room filled with Juniors, parents and senior members and the awards went as follows:

*Junior Firefighter of the Year: Molly White;*

*Paul Yandle Runner-Up Junior Firefighter: Tara White*

*Peter Whitehead Encouragement: Jaxon Burdette*

Congratulations and well done again and we look forward to this year's Presentation Night which promises to be a big one.

Of the activities we took part in over the year a few stood out and they are the car prop at Narre Warren East station where the Junior Leaders got to show the Juniors how to attack and safely put out a car fire, with a few comments from the Juniors saying WOW and wasn't the flames near you and weren't you getting hot. It was good to show them that we do that as they don't get a chance to see it and then after it was turned off we gave them a chance to pretend and they had a ball.

The Fun Day at Silvan went really well and see Tanya's report in full detail, we then had a burns demo at the rear of the station showing how quick fire can travel up slope etc and this was a great teaching example instead of a PowerPoint display (well done Tanya and her bath).

The Puffing billy trip was as fun as always and having a ventilation night at the station where the meeting room was filled with smoke and then using the PPV was a great teaching night.

The old 1000 steps walk was again a good night with all making it and in a record time, must be the seniors are getting fitter (not).

Cardinia excursion was great and the site of mummy deer and two babies on the same track as us was good to see and having a look around was informative.

The Cubs visited our station and it was a great night and it was all in thanks to Tanya who organised our Juniors to talk about different aspects of the station and by feedback it was fantastic.

Our RSL visit went off really well with the President Peter Maloney explaining what and who the RSL is and his part in it and how he was sent to Vietnam and then Herbie Lamb spoke about Ash Wednesday and how he saved a few people and trucks. Thank you to both Peter and Herbie for their time and also helping with our Junior Elections which saw Tara Volk become our new Junior Captain and Rhys Kennett became our 1<sup>ST</sup> Lt.

During the year we said good bye to Molly White who was our Captain and we wish her all the very best for her future.

Again a big thank you to the Senior Brigade for all their help when required and a very big thank you to the one and only Junior Leader F/F Tanya Jogan who without her help Juniors would not be as well run as it is today.

Junior Coordinator, Firefighter Trevor Ireland.



**Junior member responses to why they joined or what they like about Emerald Fire Brigade Juniors Program:**

- JAXON I Like Juniors because we do really fun things and learn lots ☺
- ALISHA I wanted to join CFA because I like helping the community. It has been a fun experience so far.
- RUSSELL CFA is not just like a sporting club or a spelling club, it is a fun, helping and rewarding activity.
- KATIE Juniors is an extremely fun and educational experience. I am extremely glad to be part of Emerald Juniors and have made many amazing friends.
- MOLLY I joined Juniors first because my Dad was in the fire brigade but after being there for a while it wasn't because my Dad was in the CFA but because I enjoyed it so much, and I couldn't thank everyone enough for being the best Junior Fire Brigade. Being Captain of the Junior Fire Brigade was the best experience. I miss everyone so much, you guys are like my family and I will never forget you guys, especially Tanya and Trevor.
- TALLARA I joined Emerald Juniors 3 years ago and I love it! I am currently Captain of Emerald Junior Fire Brigade and hope stay and join Seniors one day.
- MITCH This year of Juniors has progressed really well. We have gained a new member which will be a good addition to the team as we continue to grow.
- TARA I joined Juniors because I want to become a Senior when I get to 16 because I want to be able to help out the community, but now that I am in the Juniors I have made many friends and I really enjoy the activities that we do and the skills that I have learned.
- GIL I was inspired to join Juniors after a fire occurred at my house.
- RHYS Hey, I'm the current 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Emerald Junior Fire Brigade. I've chosen to join and stay in the CFA and hope to go on to Seniors when I can.
- LIVIA I joined Juniors because it sounded interesting and fun. I enjoy teamwork activities with the hoses and indoor activities also
- HAYLEY I like being in Juniors because I've met new people and have become closer to the other Juniors and I also like learning about all the new things about fire.



## Junior Hills Fun Day 2015

We, Trevor and myself, were very impressed with the way all of our Juniors practised and prepared for Junior Hills Fun Day 2015 (AKA Kalorama). Traditionally we practise for Kalorama at the rear of Emerald Primary School because there's more room than at the station, this year the on-going school renovations limited our access and the available training area – but we made do. Big thanks go to our truck drivers and helpers, Andy, Doc, Jack and Big Dave.

On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2015 Trev and I met at the station, packed everything we thought we might need then headed off to Silvan Reservoir. Emerald had 15 Junior members compete against other Junior Brigades from Ranges Group in the standard four events: Hose bowling, Dry draughting, the Turn-out race and the Target race. Crowds were down a bit on previous years, but those of us who did cheer did so with great enthusiasm! This year the 'fun event' was an obstacle course... which actually was fun! Special thanks to Kat for scoring, assisting and officiating for the entire day.

Formalities followed the competition events, thanking the sponsor community groups and everyone else involved for their participation and contributions. It was with absolute delight that we watched our Junior teams receive 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the Turn out race, 1<sup>st</sup> prize for Dry draughting, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for the Target race, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for Hose bowling and Junior Captain Molly White prize for Best Individual.

Thanks to our Juniors and their families' for their commitment and for attending training and events. Trev, myself and all of Emerald CFA are so proud of our Junior Brigade – and Juniors, you should be very proud of yourselves too, such a fantastic outcome, all the practise and effort you put in certainly paid off. Well done everyone, you're all awesome 😊 😊

Junior Leader, Firefighter Tanya Jogan.





## FROM RECRUIT TO FIREFIGHTER – PAUL MYCROFT



Having lived in the Dandenong Ranges for over a dozen years, the value of the CFA was always obvious. Having recognising the need to join my local brigade during all of that time, circumstances didn't allow my joining till last year. Seeing online that the CFA was recruiting in July 2015, I had no reason left for not getting involved.

Once recruited, I was given contact details for the Emerald brigade and the time table for the recruit training program. Meeting with one of the lieutenants at Emerald showed how serious the CFA was about preparing its recruits. The recruit training, held on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings was conducted at different brigades in the Dandenong's.

First impressions were of the very high quality of the people delivering the recruit training. Having worked in industry for many years; the experience, the solidity and the sheer high calibre of those delivering the course was very impressive. When you have worked with many mediocre, average and often less than impressive managers in industry, being trained by people of such capacity was humbling.

Having had experience training people in industry, I am able to evaluate the training methods and materials that the CFA uses to train recruits from a professional point of view. In training people you always have one single problem before all others. How much knowledge and experience do you share with the learner? Do you try to explain and show them everything that they will ever need to know or be able to do? Or do you explain and show the minimum such that they can then start practising under supervision or under controlled conditions? While the answer to this is quite simple, creating the training to do this is not simple at all.

The next problem then becomes what ratio of theory to practice is the right ration? When you want to train someone to be a butcher, common sense says that you spend 95% of your time showing them and letting them practice what to do. For example, how to sharpen a knife, where to make the cuts, etc. Only 5% of the time would be spent on the theory necessary for a butcher. For example: how to choose the right knife, or the different breeds of animal and there qualities, etc. If you want to train someone to be a tax accountant it would be lots of book learning and some practice in filling in tax returns.

The CFA has a much more difficult training problem to solve than these simple examples. Its recruits are volunteers and come in all ages, sexes, levels of ability, both physical and intellectual and capacity to attend. As such CFA training can never be complete or right in every aspect. Having said all this, the balance of practical and theory training the CFA uses is right. The material supplied in written and pictorial form is as good as any I have seen. When delivered by its trainers, usually current or ex captains, it becomes a superb tool for the transmission of knowledge and experience. At all times during my training I felt I was in the hands of highly competent individuals. The practical training is of the same high calibre.

Recruit training is exactly what the training is. It is not everything you ever need to know. It is a fragment in time and will always need revision and updating. It only prepares you to join the brigade with a basic understanding and basic ability. For me, the time between finishing the recruit course and being able to spend time training with the brigade was too long. Skills only recently acquired soon degrade and by the time I was officially a member I had lost some of my training. Fortunately senior and junior brigade members made me very welcome. Always enquired as to my needs and were patience personified in allowing me to do things many times over till I got the hang of them.

While I still don't consider myself a fully effective member of the brigade after 3 months training and then 3 months with the brigade, I know that I have the help around me to be able to get there.

Firefighter Paul Mycroft.



## FROM RECRUIT TO FIREFIGHTER – LIAM DEMPSEY



Throughout the recruit course I learnt many valuable skills that will help me in my day to day life and throughout my hopefully long adventure with the CFA.

In the 13 weeks it took to complete, I met many wonderful people that helped each other to get to the point that we are all at now.

In these 13 weeks, I learnt everything I need to know to get my wildfire outfit so I can help out the community and those that I care about.

When I had finished the recruit's course I had only known a few of the people there from when I was part of the junior brigade, but know about a year since becoming operational, I consider these people to be lifelong friends.

Firefighter Liam Dempsey.



## FROM VOLUNTEER TO CAREER FIREFIGHTER – LEE CUNNINGHAM

“Take your correctly numbered bib and line up on the line” said the woman from CFA running the Beep test.

I was in the state netball centre with a couple hundred other hopefuls for the first stage of the fire-fighter application test praying that I wasn't about to make a fool of myself. It had all started around October 2014 when applications opened for CFA fire-fighters, not being happy at work and always wanting to have a go saw me apply with Jack Cohen, at the worst I thought it would give me a reason to get fitter and go to the gym, constant practise of the Beep test ensued, I still can't hear the words “the multistage fitness test will start in 5 seconds, ready” without cringing.

So there I was lined up along with the other 10 people in my group, ready to run/stop/turn/run again, remembering how I had never done better than 8.6, well short of the 9.6 required. So we began run/stop/turn/run/stop/turn/run/stop/turn... a significant amount of pain later and we had reached 9.6, except for one guy who got a warning and stopped to argue about it with the head of recruitment during the test. Once my breathing had returned to normal from whatever hell it had gone to in the test I prepared for the next stage, being the written exam involving mechanical reasoning, arithmetic and English. This test saw us try to work out which way a cog or lever would go if a weight was applied to another section of clockwork, mathematical problems and trying

to work out if the damn Pootle bird can or cannot eat a particular type of bug that only exists on a certain tree that the Pootle bird doesn't like while the wind is blowing from the south during summer, possibly on a Tuesday. After sitting in this exam listening to people (and whispering myself "what the hell?") we were released and told we would be informed of our results in due course.

A couple weeks later the letter arrived, inviting me to attend a screening interview at the South Eastern training ground, Monday 9am, awesome I thought. Til I realised the Sunday night before was my first night of night shift, working from 11pm to 7am, meaning I would be going into the interview with no sleep! The morning of the interview I checked out of work dressed in my wedding/ funeral suit and drank 3 strong espressos, thus fortified I drove to SETG, arriving about 45 minutes early, sitting in the foyer waiting for my turn I progressively got more and more nervous, wait no, that's the coffee, a visit to the rest room later and the nerves are still going. I get called into the interview and struggle to string 2 words together, rambling and off point. Once I was put out of my misery and allowed to leave I walked out thinking to myself "well that's it, time to look at another option" confident that I hadn't passed.

About a week or so later I heard that I had passed the screening interview, I couldn't believe it you couldn't get the smile off my face, at this point I needed to wait for a challenge test, an obstacle course of common fire fighting tasks that needed to be completed in 10 minutes, then a final interview in front of a panel.

I was on 2 weeks leave from work when the email came through, due to time constraints the CFA had open limited spots for final interviews in the next week, due to the late notice they were asking for volunteers for these spots to do their final interview before their challenge test, I was lucky enough to secure a spot and so found myself at HQ in my wedding/funeral suit sitting across a table from 3 officers of Operations Officer or above, a representative from recruitment and a woman sitting in the corner taking notes on a laptop who said nothing (I found out later she was a psychologist) in a room approximately 3m by 3m, that is a nervous position to be in! I can't recall how I answered the questions but I must have done ok as two days later I was driving in the gates at Fiskville for the challenge test.

Most of the people there were doing the challenge test and final interview on the same day, myself and one other was only doing the challenge test having already passed the final interview, logic would state we would go first so we could leave, sadly no we were both very last so had to wait around all day to finally have our run. I got through my challenge relatively unscathed (they don't tell you your time sadly) and left, hopeful I would hear good news.

When I got the news I had been appointed to Squad 2/2015 I was a combination of overjoyed and terrified, I drove in the gates of Craigieburn campus and was immediately thrown in the deep end along with my squad mates, over the next 18 weeks we were taught myriad different subjects from Water sources to Hazmat to Flammable gases. We conducted practical drills at all hours of night and day, were continually tested physically and mentally through ongoing fitness testing, assignments and exams. There never seemed to be enough time to complete the tasks we were given. We learnt how to march and the history of the CFA, attending Anzac day dawn service in Lilydale. At the end we graduated and moved on to our first stations to begin our careers.

It was a hard and intense experience and I would recommend it to anyone who has an interest, I have learnt so much even in my short time in the career ranks and have no doubt that will continue through my career.

Firefighter Lee Cunningham.

## FROM VOLUNTEER TO CAREER FIREFIGHTER – PARIS PHILIPPOU

Joining the Emerald fire Brigade was one of the best decisions I have made. It introduced me to new skills I could learn and employ to the best of my ability, and opened my eyes to taking a place in a group that served their community well.

The decision to join came by accident, with my year 12 teacher deciding what courses to apply for after school, and next to 'fitness', was 'Fire Technology'. And then it got me thinking, and before long, I went up to the old station and had a meeting with Nick, signed some papers and then it started. I wasn't old enough to have a license so getting lifts to sessions in minimum skills with Chris Scott was the go, until 5 days after my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday I got my license, then shortly after I could turn out.

I worked hard and did more and more courses and got my low structure, search and rescue, and BA tickets, then the brigade put me through my MR truck license and I did Fire line leadership. Before I knew it I had been to more jobs than I could think of, experienced my first big bushfires, internal attacks, lead crews, gone on an interstate strike team to the blue mountains, seen firsthand the horrible result of irresponsible driving, and then turned my passion into a career.

It took me two attempts to get into the staff ranks. The first time I worked hard and got fit for the tests, I smashed the fitness and showed them I wanted to be there, however I entered the final interview with little to no interview experience, and didn't shape up. But positive feedback and encouragement to try again I practiced my interview skills, continued training, got more life experience and was successful.

VEMTC Craigieburn where the recruit course was held is an MFB run facility, and for 19 weeks we had a ball running around all the props and urban firefighting environment. From the Ship fire prop, to the Burnley tunnel, to 4<sup>th</sup> storey apartment fires we became very proficient in firefighting, even if it was only gas fire not real fire (ha ha). In the 19 weeks we jammed more courses into it then I would care to remember, so I wrote them down:

- Health and Fitness
- Preparation & maintenance of Equipment, appliances and Facilities
- Occupational Hazards
- Personal Protection 1
- Occupational Stress
- Casualty Assistance
- Fire agency awareness 1
- Work team Communication
- Writing skills for work
- Driving Vehicles 1
- Alarms and Sprinklers
- Map Reading 1
- Building Structures 1
- Fire Suppression 1
- Personal Protection 2
- Ventilation
- Fire Science
- Administer Oxygen in an Emergency Situation
- Check installed Fire Safety Systems
- Drive vehicles under operational conditions
- Employ personal Protection at a Hazmat Incident
- Fire Safe Kids Presenter
- Hazmat Awareness
- Manage injuries at an Emergency Incident
- Plan & Conduct a public awareness program
- Provide emergency care
- respond to urban fire
- Wildfire Behaviour 1
- Wildfire Suppression 1
- Vehicle Rescue
- Search and rescue
- Breathing Apparatus (open circuit)
- Emergency care
- Communication systems
- Inspect and Test Equipment
- Emergency Life Support Techniques
- Occupational Hygiene
- Fire Agency Awareness 2
- Drive Vehicles Onroad (legislation)
- Operate Life support equipment
- Salvage & Overhaul
- Dangerous Substances 1
- respond to urban fire
- Community Education Firefighters
- Operate Enhanced forcible entry equipment
- Participate in a rescue operation
- Render Hazardous materials incidents safe

so safe to say, along with multiple fitness tests, PT sessions, exams, assignments and very long days using steel cylinders over and over, rookies was exhausting.

However, I made some amazing memories, like the search and rescue day 60m down in the Bendigo mine, teamwork exercises in Bendigo state park and VEMTC Huntley.

With 30 awesome recruits, from all different walks of life, we had a banker, a nurse, wine maker, amateur boxer, rescue helicopter crew member, mines rescue operator, arborists, chocolate maker, carpenters, plumbers and many more. But we came together as a team, learned and developed together, and learned how to be recruits, so we could learn how to become career firefighters.

After being Assigned to Springvale Fire Brigade, my Career Path had taken direction, apparently much to everybody's surprise, who thought I was destined for Mildura. Graduation day marked the end of the pre-apprenticeship, with a salute to the chief, and some spot on marching lead by the right marker, yours truly, we were about to break the 30 and go our separate ways.

After graduation day there was no break, within 4 days myself and one other were on station at springy, mid- December, in the heat, responding to calls for assistance as career firefighters. We learned pretty quickly that life on a busy station can be very fast paced. You can plan out your day as much as you want, but you will end up having a very different day. Ranging from very quiet days to up to 6-8 calls in a shift; Springvale is a great place to start your career. My introduction to EMR was a change in the role I knew from a volunteer. Being responded to not conscious- not breathing patients with Ambulance Victoria was something I hadn't experienced before, but after a few jobs and multiple cracked ribs, id gotten the idea. I've by now probably been to 6 working EMR jobs on shift, and out of that send 2 people to hospital with a heartbeat, which is a win for us.

Starting on station its drills after drills to prove yourself good enough and show you can retain information and training. But there is no better training than going to jobs.

From after our first leave block we started working on our truck increments, firstly the 3.4c Heavy Tanker, then the Type 4 Heavy Pumper. When you obtain your increments you have proved you can drive it, pump it, know the lockers inside and out, and be in charge of it... and the fun bit, respond it code 1!

Now I'm qualified as a level 1 Firefighter, and can be used as minimum manning anywhere in the state.

I love my job, and I'm grateful for anybody and everybody who helped me to where I am today.

Firefighter Paris Philippou.







## MEMBER STORY – KATE GRIFFIN



I joined Juniors the week before my eleventh birthday, some twenty five years ago. CFA is an amazing organisation and I've gained so many things from it.

I've been trained to be calm in an emergency, to be compassionate to a stranger, to be level headed and to look at the whole picture so I can make educated and informed decisions. I was trained to use each vehicle, know where every piece of equipment is stowed and how to use it. Even now that I'm no longer operational, I am still being trained to compose effective business letters and documents, to engage and educate our youth and to work in an ICC or DCC during incidents.

I have been lucky enough to gain employment with the CFA which has taught me so many things. Administration and finance, conflict resolution, giving information to the public, how to use important CFA systems so I can assist in ICCs and DCCs and how to work in a office environment.

The biggest thing I've gained from my time with CFA is life long friends and a sense of family. People who are with you thick and thin. People you can call at 2 am for a chat. People that have your back no matter what. For that I will forever be thankful for my time in the CFA.

Secretary Kate Griffin.



## MEMBER STORY – NICK WALDRON

As you all know, I'm a Pom.

When I arrived in Australia on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1999, little did I know I would join a volunteer fire brigade, driving a 13 ton red truck and fighting bushfire.

Bushfire in the UK doesn't exist. Have grass fires. Remember going up to Ashted Common near where I lived as a kid and helping the fire brigade put out grass fires regularly in the Summer where someone had been careless and dropped a cigarette butt.

So how did I get mixed up with Emerald Fire Brigade?

When I arrived in Australia, I lived in Boronia for a few months with my future wife Cassy.

Decided we wanted to live somewhere up in the hills and travelled up to Emerald for a go see. Loved the place and decided to find a house up here.

Settled upon a place in Anne Street. However it needed a lot of renovation and decided to extend which is where Dave Cleator came on the scene.

Dave was the builder we employed to do all the necessary work on the house.

During the first week or so working at my place, he spoke about the fire brigade a fair bit and mentioned they were looking for members especially available during the day as being a volunteer brigade was difficult to get manpower out during the day.

Decided to go down on the Wednesday to see and meet the other members.

Liked what I heard and saw so decided to join up.

The rest as they say is history.

My first PPE was a plastic helmet, a pair of second hand overalls and rigger gloves. Boots were steel toe capped Blundstones I think.

At the time, minimum skills recruit training didn't exist. You trained with the brigade for a certain time and when the Captain thought you were ready, he signed you off to get on the truck and turn out.

All that changed of the Linton tragedy.

The first minimum skills I have recorded is February 2000 and became a qualified Wildfire fire fighter in November 2000.

If my memory serves me right was in the first group pass all the minimum skills in the brigade (sure somebody will correct me if I'm wrong).

Over the years, have attended many courses. Most of them I enjoyed and learnt a lot. But one part of fire fighting I did avoid was doing the Breathing Apparatus course. Hated wearing it.

Finally persuaded to do the course. Only wore it once in anger at a car fire and in training when a cylinder needed to be blown.

The last course I attended was up at Seymour. 'Introduction to AIIMS'. Really enjoyed and learnt a lot. Recommend to anybody to do this course if they get the chance.

Had a look at my call out records. Was really surprised over the years I have been to 1678 call outs. My first was on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2000 and my final one was on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2016.

There are many call outs I have attended that come to mind but will only dwell on four. (don't want to bore you to tears).

The first two were both in Stewart Road.

In 2010, a year after Black Saturday, we attended a bushfire around the dam in Stewart Road. It was a Total Fire ban day and was really hot and windy.

My role was a Sector Commander on the Northern Sector.

Even though this fire burnt 4 hectares, it had real potential to put lives and property at risk. But thanks to aggressive

fire fighting and a change in the weather with rain, the size was kept to a minimum. Further up the road, in October 2011, we were called out initially to a structure fire in Stewart Road. Upon arrival, found to be a Grass and Scrub fire with structures under threat and about to jump over Stewart Road. The fire was caused by the owner lighting large piles of garden and tree waste and lost control. Fortunately no structures were seriously damaged. Again a learning curve for me as I was Incident Controller. The third is the Black Saturday fires. I don't think anybody, fire fighters or community members will forget. I don't want to dwell too long on this as to this day, it still has a profound effect on me on what I saw and experienced. Catching up with Marcus and Joanne Blyth at Kinglake after the fires was a very moving moment. This was the Thursday after Black Saturday and I was Crew Leader with Nugs driving. On a patrol we decided to try and get through down Power Road. Most of the houses were gone which didn't look promising for them. We managed to reach the house and besides outbuildings being damaged or gone, the house was still standing. Marcus and Joanne came out and was a very emotional moment seeing us. We were the first fire truck they had seen since Black Saturday. Marcus told us the story on how they survived the fire as it came through their property. To my knowledge the family now live in Gippsland.

Other memories include the burning tree falling on Gael Collins. A near tragedy that shows how dangerous our work can be, the initial fire in Upwey then the Emerald Service Station catching fire in the same afternoon. The list goes on.

Outside of Grass and Scrub fires, the call out that really tested me as an Incident Controller was the Cafe Marte fire. This was a difficult fire to access in the ceiling and stop the spreading into the Emerald Medical Centre. Great work by all concerned.

Moving on, I have been the Brigade Community Safety Coordinator for a number of years. This part of my years with the brigade has been very satisfying personally. Not only making lifelong friends within other brigades, District and Headquarters but within the Emerald Community.

This election I have stepped down from the role. I felt it was time to step back and let someone new have a go with new ideas and hopefully get more brigade members engaged with the community on fire safety.

That's not to say I wouldn't be available to attend events and man displays if required.

I love talking to the community and have seen a change of attitude towards fire plans and taking responsibility for themselves.

Looking back there are a number of events I have been involved in over the years that have given me pleasure and satisfaction.

Locally, the two Bushfire Expo's held in Emerald were a huge success. I hope someday another one will be organised. Unfortunately when brigades were approached to organise another, had negative or no interest. Very disappointing personally.

Another couple of things that come to mind is the brigade website and Face book page. The website has had a recent redesign and looks great.

The Face book page has been the greatest success. Gives me great satisfaction being Administrator passing on tips and other information from a huge source via other brigades not only here but all over the world.

Outside of brigade but still on Community Safety, I was fortunate enough to go to the NSW State Forum in Wollongong around 6 years ago. Following the success of the event, the CFA decided to run a State Forum of their own.

I was invited to sit on the Reference Group as one of the District delegates.

The members in the Reference Group were from all over the State and work very hard for 4 years putting together the State Forum and making this event basically the success it is today.

After 4 years, new members were brought into the Reference Group and most of the 'old hands' had to stand down. This year 2016 will be, reluctantly, the first State Forum I will miss.

As you know by now, my ex wife Cassy moved back to the States. Having to sell up I moved to Koo Wee Rup last December into a great new build on a new estate.

After serious consideration, I decided to become a non operational member of the brigade.

Considered transferring but felt it was time to step down operationally and concentrate on new things.

I will still be involved in brigade life at Emerald and within Group.

At the recent brigade election I was elected Brigade President. Good reason to come to monthly meetings. Would have still attended anyway.

I was also successful at the Group elections and will serve another two years as Group Secretary.

Over the years I have had the pleasure to meet so many new people through the CFA at all levels.

Firstly, Marg Johnson. Most of us older members certainly remember Marg. A great lady who taught me a lot when I first joined. Someone I could talk too if I had problems.

Was a sad day for everybody when she passed away suddenly. Will always remember the CFA funeral for her. Don't think the town will see another like it.

I think she would still have a great influence on new fire fighters in the brigade if she was still with us. Certainly never took any crap from anybody. Good old Marg !!

The Reference Group I had the pleasure of being a part off. Each and every one of them I consider as dear friends for life.

Finally one other person I like to mention that I had the pleasure of meeting on a number of occasions and conversations. Former Chief Officer Euan Ferguson. A lovely bloke who cared passionately for the volunteers. Was a huge loss when he left. I think he saw what was coming in the future.

Over the years, I have witnessed many changes within brigade and CFA. Seen brigade members come and go for many reasons which to me is really sad but new members come in to the brigade adding new blood and ideas. We have seen a new station built and and a new Salvage vehicle in last few years. I will certainly remember the opening of the station. Marching from the old to the new station and the marching training we all undertook with Warren Fuller in command.

Was a very proud moment for me marching in full dress uniform with a huge crowd watching on.

The new Salvage vehicle has proved to be a success being a very adaptable for various situations. However my views I expressed when the vehicle was being decided upon hasn't changed and never will.

CFA is going through major changes at the moment. This has been well documented so I won't dwell on the subject except to say the sooner the dispute is settled, the better for the benefit of all.

In closing, there has been many good times, and some not so good but on the whole have enjoyed being up at the sharp end as a fire fighter, Crew Leader and an Officer.

My time in Community Safety has been the most rewarding. Protecting and helping the community.

This is the only reason I became a CFA volunteer. It nice to get recognition for good work etc. over the years and never went out of my way to seek it as some people seem to think I was doing. Accusations without foundation or substance.

Everything I undertook within brigade and any other activity was done for the benefit of the brigade, community and the CFA.

Over the years I will admit that I have been outspoken on a number of issues and not afraid to say what I think which in some quarters hasn't gone down too well. That's okay. I'm thick skinned.

Here's hoping the present recruits campaign is successful, the present dispute with the State government which has potentially devastating implications for years to come is quickly settled and communities stay safe this and future Summers

Ex Fire-fighter

Ex Lieutenant

Brigade President

Brigade Member

Nick Waldron.

## LIFE MEMBER MEMORIES – TONY FAIRBRIDGE

Emerald Fire Brigade, as recalled by Life Member Tony Fairbridge.

We had recently moved up from the city and were new to the hills community, and I looked around for something that I might become involved with. I had spent some time in the Royal Air Force, and while I didn't miss much of it when I left there was one thing which I did miss, and that was the easy-going camaraderie of the services. Anyone who has spent time in the forces will know that this is unlike anything to be found outside. I thought that an organisation such as the CFA might well provide something similar while at the same time allowing me to contribute in some way to the community in which we now lived.

At that time, 1978, training was an on-the-job business, so I went on my first call almost the first day of my service, a housefire at the Avon Rd end of Phillip Rd. It was a brand new house, built by a professional footballer. They had just moved in and a fire had started in the linen press, which acted like a blast furnace. The house was completely destroyed. After this baptism of fire, so to speak, the learning curve was quite steep at first. At that time there was a far more relaxed attitude towards burning off and road-edge cool burns, so these formed the basis of much of our hands-on training. At one of these I noticed that everybody seemed to be laughing at something. Then I realised that I was the only person present who didn't know that my gumboots were on fire.

Exposure to the more advanced techniques such as B.A. hydraulics, radio procedures and such were covered by a series of training drills, each of which had to be performed and ticked off every quarter. By the time you had covered all the drills you were fairly conversant with the basics of bush firefighting. The CFA had a reputation as something of a cowboy organisation at that time, but while that may have been true of some brigades in the more rural areas of the state it certainly didn't apply in the hills. We prided ourselves on our professionalism and standard of training.

That is not to say that there weren't lighter moments. Brigades had a more relaxed attitude and a healthy sense of inter-brigade rivalry, and it was not unknown to give neighbouring brigades a thorough hosing down when you drove past their station. I was introduced to the group/region/zone structure in due course, and when the incumbent of the period moved away I took over the position of group delegate and occupied it for the next 20+ years.

As I grew in experience I became firstly comms officer and later a lieutenant, and served in various lieutenant positions over the years. I was 4<sup>th</sup> lieutenant at the time of the Ash Wednesday fires in February 1983. Meg and I had only returned from overseas a few days before, so it was a very rude welcome back. I was at work in the city and couldn't get to the station until after 6.30. Ian Woodhouse had brought his truck to the station, and when we heard from a passerby of smoke in Wright Forest we set off with a crew of passer-by volunteers with knapsacks and beaters. All the local fire appliances were off at South Belgrave, and with only the civilian volunteers and no equipment there was little we could do. When the wind change came through the fire just swept over us like a wave and hit Cockatoo. To this day I believe that if we had just one fire truck we could have knocked that fire out. It might not have saved Cockatoo, but it would have lessened the blow. Getting out was a bit desperate for a few minutes.

Over the years there have been other fires too numerous to mention, but some that stick in my mind were the fire at the Emerald Lake kiosk and the loss of the old church hall at the junction of Church and Anne streets, where the Evergreens buildings now stand. I remember this one because the power to the building was still live and if I closed down my fog branch to a solid stream I got an electric shock. During the large fires of 1997 I worked as a radio operator in the group MCV, initially at Kalorama oval and then after a very quick move, at Sassafras. It was a night that I will never forget, very intense indeed.

The brigade, and indeed the CFA generally have evolved considerably since I first joined. The most significant change is the acceptance of women as members. When I joined women were not often seen in brigades and some brigades had a total prohibition of women as members. This was a change that had to come, and at Emerald we welcomed it. Our own Chris Bendall was one of the first female officers in the CFA and our neighbours at Macclesfield have had a female Captain for many years now. The other very welcome change was the move to standardised training, which has vastly improved the efficiency of the service. The evolutionary process is continuous, and who knows what manner of service our children will inherit.

I have always believed that unless you are fit and fully mobile you should not be on the fireground. When health problems affected my mobility I reluctantly had to step down from the brigade. I have always had a dread of becoming one of those old farts who won't go away, so I decided that my firefighting days had come to a close.

Going back to the beginning of this scrawl, did I find the camaraderie that I was looking for? I most certainly did, and much more besides. My days with the Emerald Fire Brigade were some of the most fulfilling of my life, and I have made friendships that will be with me forever. The volunteer brigade is a unique part of the fabric of Australia. When you put on the uniform, you become part of an unbroken tradition of honourable service that goes back to the earliest days of man's civilisation. Wear it with pride. May good fortune go with you all.

Tony Fairbridge.

## LIFE MEMBER MEMORIES – BILL RICHMAN

The first time I “turned out” was with the Emerald CFA in either 1953 or 1954.

I was in the Army (Royal Australian Signal Corp) at the time and lived in Avonsleigh.

After I was discharged from the army I worked at the Nicholas Institute, the Ferny Creek Brigade was nearby and so I volunteered there at which time they registered me with the CFA.

I was still volunteering with the Emerald Brigade at the same time.

After another change of work location I transferred to the Emerald Brigade and became Secretary for a period of time. At one time there was a slight “hiccup” and I moved to Macclesfield where I became communications officer.

I started work at the Puffing Billy workshop in Emerald and moved back to the Emerald Brigade.

When I reached retiring age “Puffing Billy” said goodbye.

As I no longer lived or worked in the area, sadly, I also had to say goodbye to the Emerald CFA.

During my 40 years with the CFA, I attended a number of major and many minor incidents and fires.

I am a lifetime member of the CFA and received the National Medal.

My certificates and helmet are hanging on the wall for all to see, my boilersuit hangs in my shed.

Bill Richman.



### A Life Member's Recollections

By Graeme Legge OAM

One of the oldest local organisations in Emerald is its Fire Brigade. Attaining its seventy-fifth anniversary in 2016 is a wonderful anniversary and worthy of celebration. I'm confident that the Brigade will continue to serve as younger members continue to join and train and become part of the vital community service.

Emerald Fire Brigade was just ten years old when I joined and became a member in 1951. In those days members had already gained a fair understanding of how fire behaved (didn't they have to light fires at home for cooking, heating and warmth?). Besides, they watched fire behaviour in paddocks and backyards and had a considerable appreciation of weather.

Of the Brigade's 75 years I'm proud to have been part of it for almost 65 years -- that's a bit more than 85% of its existence. It's always been the way: neighbours help neighbours in times of trouble. And when the siren goes, someone's in trouble so 'neighbours' put themselves out to give relief.

Well do I remember Emerald's first fire-truck which had been in military service until the end of World War II in 1945. Bench seating on the truck ran up each side of the square water-tank anchored in the middle of the tray. Given that the former army truck hadn't been built to carry the standing weight of water, a 'Trewalla jack' was placed at the rear of the tray, and 'levered up' to lessen the weight on the springs and tyres – especially over winter.

Emerald's enterprise had gained it its own brick fire station (currently Emerald U3A). – which was more handsome than most. Hand-tools for the fire ground included beaters, heavy rakes and slashers stored on the truck and ready for prompt use. Filled knapsacks were stored under the seats (initially filled by water from the rainwater tank at the back of the fire station). Before the ex-army truck was issued, transport to fires was by courtesy of members' private vehicles – usually trucks with hand tools and knapsacks loaded on board just prior to departure.

Dress of the day was 'As you were!' Most members wore heavy clothing – shirt, trousers, a hat of some sort and boots. A woollen jumper was often a practical addition. Because fire pumps were not powerful, and because water tanks were smaller than is often carried nowadays, and because there was no reticulated water supply in the district, much fire-fighting had to be done right up close to the flames. So, there were times to retire from excessive heat, but being ever ready to move in close with branch, beater and knapsack.

My first fire turn-out was to a bushfire at Avonsleigh. I'd been at Scouts on Friday night and the siren went off. Two of us ran to the Fire Station to find out where was the fire. Upon finding its whereabouts, one of the members on the back of the truck called out, "Well, are you coming or not?" I asked my friend to go back and say that I'd gone to the fire. The Captain had me at his side throughout the night as I was given his torch to carry for him. In that way, he knew exactly where I was all night. We'd call that Health and Safety something these days. I reckon that skilled leaders have always been aware of it.



In due course, I was awarded the “Queen’s Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal” ‘for at least twenty years of exemplary service’. What a thrill that a local organisation was of itself of sufficient quality as to provide the environment in which such service could be recognised. It happened many years later that I was visiting the Tower of London and saw a framed display of the Queen’s Medals; one of which was the one I had. Since I’d also become a Queen’s Scout I was all in favour of serving the community because, whenever the siren sounded, someone was in need of assistance. This outlook seemed appropriate for a citizen wishing to serve the Queen. Besides, it reflects the message of the “Good Samaritan”.

The first fire siren was an electric-horn on the Service Station about fifty metres from the Fire Station. Unfortunately, its tone closely resembled that of a truck-horn so many a time Emerald’s brand new member ran from his home on Old Beaconsfield Road thinking during the night that there was a fire call. Keen? There were times on a really hot summer’s night when I slept in my hike tent on the back lawn, the better to hear the siren if it should be set off.

Walking in a line of firefighters wearing knapsacks and extinguishing the edge of a bushfire (it worked like this, the first firefighter squirted and knocked down the flames a bit; the next firefighter did the same and so on. The last man saw that the fire edge was completely blacked out. Empty knapsacks left the line for refilling before rejoining the crew. I was walking behind the Captain when a burning gumleaf floated down and landed on his cotton beret and setting it on fire. What more natural than for me to extinguish the blaze by squirting it. On the other hand, imagine the natural response to being squirted on the back of the head when there was fire to be put out on the ground.

On that same day I was questioned by the Police at age fifteen years after I’d been part of the action (the fire had started on the property next door to where I lived and burned across the boundary line). “Do you smoke?” ‘No.’ “Did you light the fire?” ‘No.’ “Do you carry matches?” ‘Yes!’ “Why?” ‘Because I’m a member of the Fire Brigade and if the Captain asks to start burning back from the roadside, then I’m able to do it because I carry matches in my pocket.’



My longest absence from home took place at a bushfire at Bruthen in Gippsland. We departed Emerald on Saturday morning (‘for the weekend’) but returned on the following Friday night. We slept on straw-filled paillasses on the floor of the Bruthen Hall between ‘shift work’. Emerald’s second crew slept during the day and worked at the fire at night. CSIRO tried ‘seeding’ the clouds in an effort to bring rain to the parched bush. On the very last morning, the crew commented on the ‘shiny’ gum leaves, which was deemed to be a sign of rain. And by mid-morning rain was falling heavily, crews were drenched on the back of open fire trucks as they returned to the Bruthen base. Red Cross supplied dry clothing before fire trucks were released from duty in batches of six and school children lined the road with their blackboards on which were written in chalk “Thank you fire fighters all.”

This year I gain my Service Badge for “65 Years” (or should that be “70 Years” on account of being a member of Geelong City Fire Brigade for five years?).

I’ll wear my ‘Sixty-five Years’ Service Badge with considerable pride.

## DANDENONG RANGES GROUP EXERCISE

Each year it is a requirement that the DRG conducts an annual training exercise.

Following on from the most successful previous exercise held in the Cardinia Reservoir in January 2015 (which was delayed by inclement weather from December 2014), this year DGO Craig

Dennis from Belgrave South & Heights Brigade offered to plan and manage the 2015 exercise. Fellow Belgrave South & Heights officers and members, and also officers and members from the Upwey brigade assisted in the overall planning and staging of the event.



Many thanks are extended to all who assisted on the day, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

Instructions for all appliances were to stage at the Belgrave South FS and form up into our predetermined strike teams, being 1332, 1333 [Emerald tanker] and 1334

Pager messages were transmitted to the various strike teams and they responded with the relevant FCV's in the lead.

Emerald tanker was crewed by Lt Andrew Merlo, driver Lt Calum Bean, FF Simon Arnold, FF Tanya Jogan and recruit Paul Mycroft

Captain Paul Yandle and FF Kat Cree assisted the group at various locations.

Our first task was to respond to Ryan's Road and Lanes Track in Belgrave Heights, within the boundaries of the Birdsland Reserve, where we were briefed on asset protection of a particular residence that was under threat during the 2009 Nixon Road fire.

Next onto the location where the Upper Ferntree Gully tanker was involved in a burn over which completely destroyed the vehicle with only minor injuries to the crew, this presentation of the events was a real highlight of the exercise and certainly increased everyone's awareness of how dynamic situations can develop.

Next onto Dargon Track for a simulated grass and scrub fire, then we proceeded to the retarding basin within Birdsland Reserve for water resupply. Upwey Pumper and the new Narre Warren East Big Fill were positioned here.

Granite Track was the next destination for a running grass fire attack from the rear deck of the Tanker, in which during this scenario a Red Flag warning was issued indicating a weather and fire behaviour change. It was circle the appliances around the FCV's and Ultra Lights and go into a full burn over drill.

This signalled the completion of the exercise and all appliances returned to the Environment Education Centre for an AAR and barbecue lunch provided by Group Feeding and the SES.

Overall the Group Exercise was a successful learning experience, Calum as driver negotiated some challenging tracks in low range 4 x 4 and all members appreciated the awareness of visiting the reserve and brushing up on skills maintenance.

1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Andrew Merlo.



## TEENAGE ROAD INFORMATION PROGRAM (TRIP) 2016

The second Dandenong Ranges Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) was held on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at Emerald Secondary College (ESC). With the assistance of Emerald SES, ESC staff and CFA members from Emerald and other Dandenong Ranges brigades, we offered an important educational opportunity to our community. We were very fortunate to have the use of Emerald Secondary College's Performing Arts Centre donated by the college, which reduced the cost of running TRIP significantly.

This year's event was pared down slightly from the original presentation but still included terrific guest speakers and valuable messages about road trauma, aimed at the younger members of our community. It presented the reality of road trauma from many different perspectives – something that I believe made all attendees stop and think.

Speakers at TRIP included members of each of our local emergency services – CFA, Ambulance Victoria, SES and Victoria Police – who explained to the audience what they thought about on their way to a motor vehicle accident, what their role was on scene and how they managed the personal psychological impact of road trauma.

We demonstrated the 'Ripple Effect' using members of the audience, depicting the enormous number of people impacted when a single person dies in a car accident. By the time I had worked through the list of people from the eye witnesses through to school and work colleagues, hundreds of people had been identified – far more than we had in the venue that night. It was a visual representation that really hit home.

Wayne Collins, Director of ECHO and Chair of the Emerald Emergency Planning Group, shared the things bereaved parents wanted others to know, including reading a heartfelt letter from Kim Walker, whose daughter, Sharn, died in the triple fatality at Avonsleigh last year. Wayne also spoke about the importance of having a 'Plan B' in place that could be relied upon when a young person no longer felt comfortable going home with the person they had intended to. Attendees were encouraged to discuss this plan with their friends and family to make sure they all knew what to do if that situation arose.

We heard from Sam Howe, who has an acquired brain injury as a result of a serious car accident in 2009, and his long and painful recovery to a life that is far from the one he had planned. His powerful video and simple message of "You don't want this" struck a chord with everyone in the room. Despite the challenges Sam has faced, he has managed to retain his sense of humour and lightened the mood a little with his quirky view of the world and a few jokes... but the seriousness of his message was always there.

Peter Hall, 48-year member of Upwey Fire Brigade, spoke about his very personal loss of two teenage sons, Anthony and Travis, in a motor vehicle accident at Cockatoo in 1995. After twenty one years the pain is no less. Peter particularly acknowledged the support and friendship of his brigade colleagues who were, and still are, beside him every step of the way. Without them he doesn't think he would ever have survived the overwhelming grief he and his family have had to live with since then.



I have to admit that in the weeks leading up to TRIP I was both extremely anxious and excited about being MC of the night. It is a really important event for me and I wanted it to go well, but I was terrified of messing it up. What I found was, once I had made a start and spoken for a couple of minutes, I felt a whole lot better. The messages I wanted to share were so valuable and resonated so strongly with me that I just spoke... from the heart, and shared how I felt with the audience. I guess if I didn't care I wouldn't have felt nervous, so being nervous was actually a good thing.

Finally, I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' to Paul, Ryan, Tanya, Trevor, Paris and Jack Coenen for their help and moral support on the night – it's always nice to look out and see a friendly face in the crowd 😊

Firefighter Jody Yandle.

## OFF ROAD DRIVER TRAINING

In November last year I participated in Off Road Driving which was held over two weekends. This particular course was run by state training rather than District. After a great sleep in a motel in Bendigo on the Friday night, we headed up to CFA's off road track at Huntly training ground. We had a mix of participants on the course both volunteer and staff with a huge variety of skills and experience. We were lucky enough to have CFA's Chief Driver Trainer, Glenn Jennings training us on the first day.



After a quick theory session in the classroom we headed out to the track. After brushing up on the basics, we were off. I reckon the track is fantastic as you have every possible type of terrain we could encounter out in the real world. From moguls, a sand trap, rock steps, steep climbs and descents through to water crossings.

Our course had various vehicles for us to use, which included an old 2.2D tanker, a 2.4D tanker, and Ford Ranger manual and also a Nissan Patrol auto. I did try to persuade Glenn Jennings numerous times to let me take his brand new CFA Prado through the water crossing, but no such luck.

Some of the highlights of the first day were; driving along the cross slope track it was a great way to feel the trucks leaning over on a very small angle.

Having an impromptu competition of who could get the 2.2 tanker the furthest in the sand. (I didn't win that one.)

Performing stall stops on the steep inclines. This is one that all drivers **NEED** to know.

Two weeks later on the Friday night I Headed to Broadford motel for the night. After everyone caught up the next morning we headed off to Tallarook State Forest for the days driving practice. We had two different instructors this time, a SSO from State training and a SO from Eltham. Both were fantastic over the course of the weekend. VicPol also use Tallarook SF for their entire off road training.

Although most of the tracks were recently graded due to a recent fire, I personally had a ball that day. Putting all my skills to the test over the ever changing terrain. I particularly liked a section of track near Mt Hickey Fire tower, it involved negotiating significant rock steps over approx. 100mts all done without a single scratch on the FCV.

After a great social night at the local, we once again hit the tracks in Tallarook. We had the chance to brush up our skills before assessments in the afternoon. Everyone was deemed competent by mid afternoon; we said our goodbyes and hit the road home.

I think I spent a significant amount of time quizzing the instructors on other things in CFA like, the future of our tankers, mercury switches to indicate side slope warnings, and lots of pumping questions.

All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed the three days, and would recommend the course to all our drivers to complete. You never know when you'll need off road skills.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Adrian Trimnell.



## MOBILE PROP HOT FIRE TRAINING

I'd like to begin with the greatest of thanks to 1Lt Andrew Merlo, our Brigade Training Officer, for organising the Mobile Props for our use. Andy well manages all the behind the scenes work, liaising with Group, District and CFA, arranging the prop sites, re-filling the gas bottles, rostering other brigades use of the Props and so, so much more.

The Mobile Props give us the chance to train locally with hot-fire in a simulated, controlled environment – we don't often have such opportunities; it's only at official training centres like Bangholme (SETG) that we can access similar experiences.



In late June and early July 2015 Andy secured for us a Mobile Car Prop which was situated at Narre Warren East Fire Station.

Captain Paul sent a brigade pager message asking for volunteers to assist with Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July Officer training. It was to be a Car Prop familiarisation and train-the-trainer session. Surprisingly I was the only one to respond. At our station before we left for Narre Warren East I thought 'what have I gotten myself into, why has no one else volunteered? ... perhaps this will be way out of my league' but I stood strong, gathered my girl-courage and off we went.

At the Officers' session I got to do a lot of hands-on work – it was interesting too - each officer has a slightly different approach and each gives instructions their own way. I don't have much hot-fire training or real fire experience and at that stage I had absolutely no car fire experience at all, so at the end of the night when my self doubt had eased, I concluded that it was the Officers who were lucky – they were lucky to have me, I was their blank canvas to practise on 😊

We were fortunate to have a couple of brigade training sessions at the Car Prop, each time we worked on our firemanship skills, we learned and practised, and because of this we're all now better prepared for real life situations.

In February 2016 Andy secured for us a Mobile Domestic Prop which was again situated at Narre Warren East Fire Station. The Domestic Prop simulated a house, it had 3 individual burners: a TV, a couch and a stove.

It was Andy who sent a brigade pager message seeking volunteers to attend a training session to become Domestic Prop Facilitators ... not me, no one, not one person responded. Facilitators and facilitating hadn't entered my thoughts at all at the Car Prop; I was so keen on the practical stuff that I just didn't think about that role. Andy needed to be at a meeting in Lilydale, so he asked if I could and would attend the Domestic Prop Facilitator Training Session on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February – our brigade needed a Facilitator for us to be able to train with the Prop ... and of course my initial reaction was 'can I do this, am I competent and capable enough to be a Prop Facilitator?' The self doubt again. At this point Adrian kindly pointed out that I should be fine as I am indeed very capable of pushing buttons.

The Mobile Domestic Prop Facilitator Training began with a history of CFA Mobile Props, their scope, engineering, costs, training benefits and safety features and then moved on to the particulars of this Prop. We learned how to start and run the burners and lighting, and the steps to take if the Prop was being difficult and not working properly. There was no prac or theory assessment at the end of the session... it was that was easy, I was now a Mobile Domestic Prop Facilitator – yay me!

I took my role as Facilitator quite seriously when we trained at the Domestic Prop – I was not confident and a bit nervous at the start, thankfully all went well. A while into our training I felt more comfortable, I relaxed and really quite enjoyed putting our firefighters through their paces, challenging them with different combinations of burners and flame levels in external and internal attack scenarios.

Every bit of training that we do, every time we take ourselves out of our comfort zones it makes us better, stronger, more knowledgeable, more prepared and more capable firefighters. Emerald Fire Brigade, we are an awesome team and I'm very proud to be part of it.

Oh, I mustn't forget to say thank you to Trevor Ireland. Trevvy, thanks for tipping the bottle of water over my head. NOT!

Firefighter Tanya Jogan.

## AVONSLEIGH, TRIPLE FATALITY MVA

The brigade attends many motor vehicle accidents, our local environment with its narrow, windy roads and, at times wet and slippery conditions and high traffic load means motor vehicle accidents (MVA's) make up a fair percentage of our call outs. At times these calls come through as a Rescue with possible persons trapped. (MVA - PPT) These are not unusual for us and in fact we respond to them many times a year.

An MVA rescue call out usually gets the heart rate going a little quicker as it may be serious and our arrival can be time critical to ensure the safety and care for any patients involved. There are so many variables involved with a serious MVA that you can never entirely plan for, once arriving on scene the Officer needs to quickly assess the situation and start managing the scene. Often we are first to arrive at an MVA and as well as providing fire security we also have the added pressure of managing initial first aid and traffic management until the other emergency services arrive.

On 30th June, 2015 the brigade was responded to a motor vehicle accident with possible persons trapped in Phillip Rd Avonsleigh, the call coming late on a Tuesday afternoon. As the tanker responded, the further information from VicFire stated that it was a single vehicle MVA with driver trapped and that people had been ejected from the vehicle.

What awaited all the emergency crews on scene was a shocking scene, a high speed, single vehicle, side on collision with a tree that had claimed the lives of three young local teenagers, a fourth occupant was lucky to escape with relatively minor injuries.

1st Lt Andrew Merlo was the tanker crew leader and on hearing the further thought to himself with trepidation: "this will be different" the crew on the back of the tanker, not being able to hear the radio were unaware of what awaited them on scene. F/F Jody Yandle, living nearby, responded direct to the scene and also not having heard the further information from Vicfire, arrived as the first emergency responder on scene and was confronted with a truly horrific situation. No amount of training or prior experience can fully prepare our members for rolling up on a scene like this.

On hearing the impact many of the local residents had emerged and were shocked to see what had transpired in front of their homes, these residents were clearly traumatised and this added another layer of complexity for the emergency responders on scene as they too needed to be cared for and looked after.

Our usual practice for such an incident is to limit exposure to the scene to the minimum amount of personnel required to manage the scene, this was an important factor to consider for the Avonsleigh accident, as such the Salvage as the second appliance responding was tasked with a road closure well back from the scene itself. The tanker crew set about their work at the scene and while maintaining fire security also liaised with and assisted the other emergency services with first aid, scene security and other unsavoury tasks as required. The brigade was on scene for several hours before being released to return to station to meet with the peer support team.

It had been organised with the police for the brigade to be called back to the scene at a later time to perform a biological wash away and assist cleaning up the scene. This presented me with a dilemma, do I send a fresh crew for the second call and expose even more members to the scene? Or do I re send the same crew, if so would they handle it or had they already had enough? After a discussion with the initial crew and carefully considering their reactions and thoughts I decided to send the same crew back to finish the job. Admirably they agreed that it didn't make sense sending a different crew and that they wanted to finish the job they had started, this also offered them a sense of closure by seeing the job through. In my opinion, a pretty brave and selfless decision on their part.



The second phase of the job also lasted several hours and although unpleasant was a particularly important aspect of the brigade's involvement at this accident. A thorough clean-up of the scene was important because we know these days family and friends gather to leave flowers, pay their respects and mourn together at the site of a fatal accident, in this instance where three young local teens had died; we knew this would certainly be the case.

On returning to the scene the following morning with Jody to hand out some road trauma support brochures and support the residents in the area, it became fully apparent to me just how important our clean-up of the site was with a large crowd and media presence gathering right where we had worked in the darkness earlier that morning. As emergency workers we accept that we will see and do things that are unpleasant and put us outside our comfort zone, it affects us, but we do these things to spare the family and friends, so they don't have to see the things we do. Being there that morning I was extremely grateful that the crew had done such a thorough job and later reinforced to them how important that part of the job actually was.

Understandably this accident had an enormous impact on the local community, With Sharn, Felisha, Jason and Jake all being local, students at Emerald Secondary College and 3 of them being involved with the Emerald Football/Netball club it was hard to find someone that didn't either know them personally or new of their families. The ripple effect was felt hard through the community, but in typical Emerald fashion there was a massive amount of support on tap for their families and friends. Support came in buckets from the Football/Netball Club, Emerald Secondary College, St Marks Church, the RSL and many other community groups and individuals. I even witnessed people hugging each other in support amid tears in the streets. From the brigade's point of view, many members attended the site to pay our respects on the Wednesday night, many road trauma support brochures were supplied and the Avonsleigh accident was a major motivation for running a second Teenage Road Information Program (TRIP) which was successfully held recently with many local teens and parents attending.

I thought long and hard about how, or even if this incident should be included in our annual report, but at the end of the day we are an emergency service and in that capacity we are required to attend these incidents. The Avonsleigh MVA is now a part of the brigades history and it needs to be recorded as such, It also serves as a reminder to current members or new members in the future that may read this story that even as volunteers we are required, at times to attend and experience significant incidents and deal with the fall out it creates on a brigade or more importantly on a personal level.

We must acknowledge the possibility of attending traumatic jobs such as the Avonsleigh accident and prepare our people for the impact this may have on them personally, likewise we must look after each other and ensure our welfare and mental health are looked after.

None of us who attended this job in any capacity thought this was how our day was going to end, it's an example of the nature of being a CFA volunteer that we go from living our normal daily lives at work or being with family, then within minutes we are attending a situation that can be life changing for our members and our community.

As Captain I am sorry our members have to attend these jobs at all, but I am also extremely proud of the way our responding crews handled this very difficult incident, the professionalism they showed at the scene and importantly the support that was there for everybody, from everybody was amazing. Our members can be proud of their efforts during and after this job.

Captain Paul Yandle.

## EMERALD VILLAGE PHARMACY FIRE

Late one Sunday afternoon in November 2015, the brigade was paged to a structure fire in Kilvington Drive. A column of smoke had been reported coming from the rear of the row of shops and, on arrival, Emerald's pumper crew found a well-developed fire and a heavily smoke-logged building.



Due to the scene being in the centre of Emerald's commercial shopping area, police were responded for traffic control and because of the required forced entry, but, unfortunately, they failed to arrive. We were very lucky that the Emerald SES Unit was just returning from a job of their own when they saw us on scene and stopped to see if they could assist. They kindly offered to take over the traffic control which freed up our members for firefighting duties. This kind gesture proves once again that Emerald emergency services work brilliantly together and have each other's backs whenever possible.

Clematis Fire Brigade had also been responded and arrived promptly. They were tasked with ventilating the building from the rear entrance, but this proved difficult due to the reinforced security doors fitted over the standard doorways.

Our pumper was situated at the front of the pharmacy and a crew in BA set about carefully opening the front glass doors and preparing to start ventilating from the front to the back of the structure using the PPV fan. Until the smoke was dispersed, firefighters were unable to attempt any form of extinguishment.

Once ventilation had begun, crews could begin work locating and extinguishing the fire. The thermal imaging camera (TIC) came in very handy to find the location of the highest temperature in the store and, therefore, the seat of the fire. This turned out to be the area just below the pharmacy counter, about two thirds of the way into the building.

Another crew worked on top of the building where they removed roofing to investigate any fire that may have found its way into the ceiling space. The TIC again came in handy to find any 'hot spots' and the SES helped out by using their skills and equipment to replace the roofing and secure the roof of the building.

An enormous amount of smoke and the intense heat had caused extensive damage to stock and medications, much of which had to be destroyed securely. Incredibly, most of the pharmacy records and prescriptions were salvageable and crews spent a good deal of time removing them from the premises and into pharmacist Louise Lammers' car where they could be relocated safely.



Cockatoo and Menzies Creek Fire Brigades attended for BA support and Bayswater's BA Van was called to refill BA cylinders promptly. Blacking out and mopping up continued for some time, fire investigation was called and we assisted with securing the premises as much as possible.

The job was a great example of teamwork and how CFA manages to provide sufficient resources for all manner of fires and incidents using the support of neighbouring brigades and specialist appliances as necessary. It also highlights the ease with which the Emerald emergency services work together to get the best result possible.

Within a couple of days the pharmacy was operating from a makeshift stand in front of the fire-damaged shop using our brigade marquis, returning prescriptions to customers and explaining the processes Louise had put in place with the support of the Belgrave pharmacy to ensure her customers could continue to obtain the medications they needed. Not long after that they had moved into two other shops in Kilvington Drive and were back in business.

Although it was a very unfortunate incident for our town, no-one was injured and the generosity and resilience of our community shined through once again.

Firefighter Jody Yandle.

## DAVID HILL ROAD MONBULK FIRE

I had just arrived with my boys at Emerald Lake Park and decided to have ice creams when we heard the fire siren. Gut feel said that this one was for something out of the ordinary, so leaving the boys to their flavour decisions, I raced back to the car and headed to the fire station. It was a warm day, and the breeze through the car window just couldn't cut through the sweatiness as I drove up Emerald Lake Road.

I arrived at the station and was the only one there. The tanker had already left. I didn't have my pager, and with minimal phone signal at the lake, I didn't get details of the alert call until I got into the station, but, I had seen the column of smoke rising from the next hill to the north. Big! Fire! Monbulk! Clematis tanker doing the flash and dash past the station enroute.

While waiting to see if more crew would come, Emerald were paged again. This time specifically requesting the pumper for structure fire, code 1. Kelly arrived somewhere around then, and as we were climbing into the pumper, another page came through, this time for an alarm operating at Woolworths. Unanimous decision to get the Woolies call sorted so they can get trading again, knowing that there were lots of appliances being thrown at the Monbulk call.

Cool. Turn out to Woolies, check alarm panel, check out activating detector. All good and clear so far. Quick check through the store to verify the all good. Wordback of false alarm, and store back to trading. Awesome. Now to jump back across to station and grab wildfire gear (just in case). Brilliant! Ricky was walking past the station on his way home from school.

"Grab your gear and get in", we said as we shoved our wildfire gear into the truck. Ricky pulled his gear on, with the promise that we'd explain the situation on the way. I don't think he had his pager with him and was therefore none the wiser to the rising plume of smoke to the north.

On arrival at our destination on David Hill Road, we were required to proceed to number 156 and provide asset protection. In this area of David Hill Road, the native vegetation away from any actual houses is untouched and as it would be in its natural state. Pulling into the driveway of 156 we found ourselves facing a wall of flames to the tops of the trees, bushland on fire right to the edges of the narrow driveway.

"\*Expletive\* Hell" breathed the voice in the back. He was right. This was a pumper, and the only crew protection it offered other than cab, were woollen blankets and crew knowledge not to go into dangerous situations. We tried to get clarification on the situation, advising the incident controller what we were seeing, and were instructed to proceed onwards to the structure for asset protection.

Hmm. Didn't really help us with what we were looking at. Quick 'campfire' discussion with my crew and we were in agreeance to proceed forward with caution and make continual risk assessments. Approaching a hidden bend in the driveway, the picture became clearer. Fire was only on one side of the drive and Kallista tanker were in active attack mode. So thick was the bush and smoke, we could not see the tanker or its flashers. We squeezed past and continued onto the dwelling. Ripppa! They had a dam. As we were assessing access to the dam, some fireys advised us that there was an L-type hydrant around the back of the house. Odd, but I checked it out and sure enough, there it was. Hydrant covers apparently make great driveway bollards, but, I still confirmed with the owners that it was ornamental only, so back to the dam idea.

Meanwhile, back at the fire front, seems it was downhill, downwind and coming straight for us. Kallista were working well to try and head it off, but we were starting to enjoy an ember shower.

I reversed onto the dam verge, and we set up our draught (thank goodness for recent draughting training), but the wet end was not quite deep enough. Time to grab hold of a tree, slide down to the water edge and stomp on the hose end. Score! Home run for team Pumper.

We got the draught up and running, and provided water to two appliances in asset protection mode, as well as to Kallista tanker. Ricky was providing back up to a Monbulk member on an attack line on the other side of the dam, Kelly was keeping an eye on him and helping hook up hoses and stuff, and I was keeping the pump running and in contact with Sector Command. Got my own personal protection line ready to go should my efforts of sternly staring down the fire front coming towards me fail. Cue the red flag warning: Mine shafts in area. Great, let's dial up the level of difficulty shall we!

During all of that hurry up and putting wet stuff on the hot stuff, Kelly and I managed piece by piece to change into our wildfire gear. We provided dam water to trucks and bottled water to fireys. I know our tanker was working on the frontline somewhere, and was hoping they were doing ok as it was hard to work out the size and scale of the entire job. But I know our guys were there and working hard.

We worked on our sector for quite a while, and with the efforts of all, managed to knock back the fire front until we were ordered off the fire ground due to incoming air support. Hooray! The green clad fireys also came in with their bobcats and chainsaws and created a firebreak which made our job even easier.

I find there is a curious phenomenon that often happens at intense incidents. Without any specific defining event or action, suddenly, everything is calm, and the job is effectively done. Just some bits and pieces to black out, and hose to roll. That's what happened here. At least at our pointy end of the job.

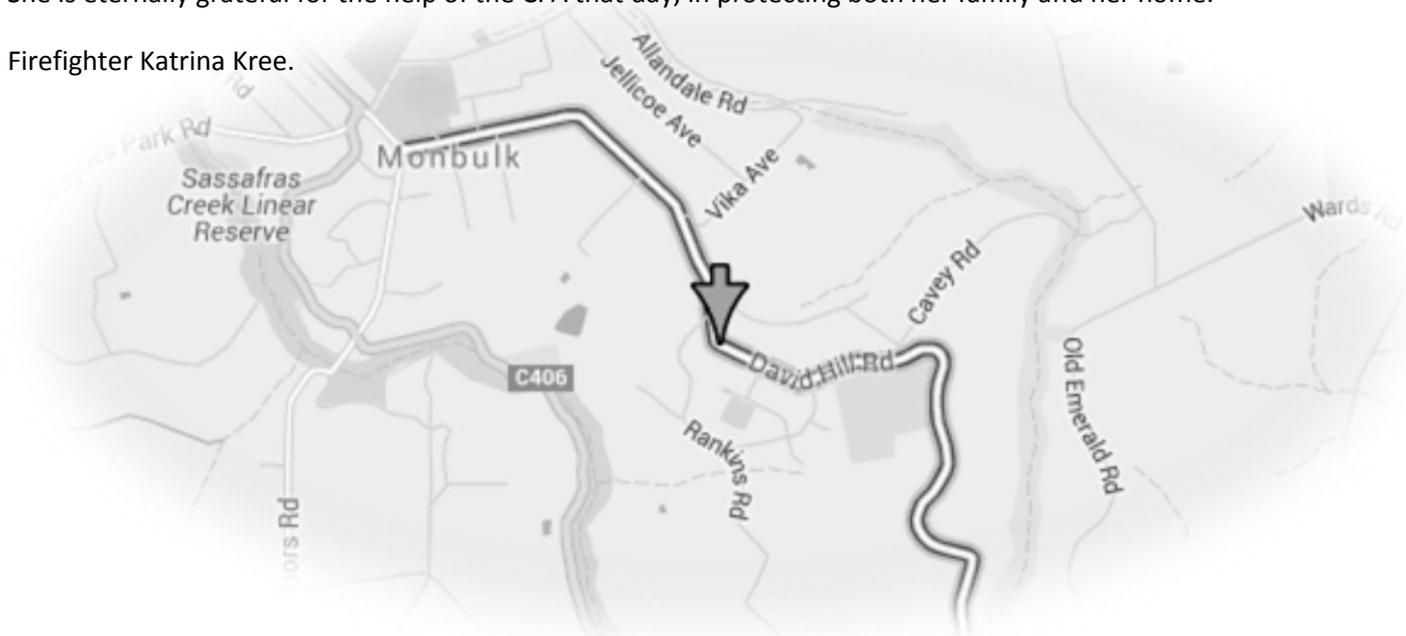
Media arrived and took their pictures, their news choppers wokka wokka'd their way overhead, but for me, it was now calm.

It was only once we had packed up and been released that we realised that the Pumper was bogged. Not sinking as such, but with all the excess water draining out over the course of the afternoon, the rear tire dam side was spinning on slick mud. Not wanting to make the situation worse by sliding the pumper into the dam, I called for aid, and with the help of guys from Maccy and Monbulk, eventually the pumper was freed.

Not long ago, I caught up with the property owner at Kurunga Nursery and asked how everything was. She reported that the bush was bouncing back, and slowly masking the fires path.

She is eternally grateful for the help of the CFA that day, in protecting both her family and her home.

Firefighter Katrina Kree.



## FIRE SAFE KIDS

I completed my Fire Safe Kids training in May 2015.

I was excited and a little bit scared to conduct my first session as it was Zara (my daughter) and Alex's (Matt and Kat's son) kinder class and I knew if I got anything wrong I would be found out!!

We had two kinder classes come and visit the fire station. The kids were fantastic! Asking lots of very interesting questions like 'why is he wearing a bikini?' when Jack put on a flash hood. I was very lucky to have help from Kat, Matt and Jack over the two sessions. The kids all loved going over the trucks and squirting water.

The classes were very different, one class was inquisitive and asked lots of questions and loved our training dummy and the other class was a little bit more serious and loved listening to our firefighters tell them about the trucks.

I am looking forward to running the program through the primary school later this year!

Fire Safe Kids Coordinator Kate Griffin.



## LENDING A HELPING HAND

We are a troop of happy helpers, the Brigade is part of the Emerald Community and that involves lending a helping hand to assist our current and former members when they're in need and the community as a whole. The camaraderie we have from volunteering and working together is unparalleled.



## MACCLESFIELD FUEL REDUCTION BURN

Fuel reduction burn at Macclesfield 23/3/16

On a lovely evening Andrew, Simon, Paul M and myself attended a fuel reduction burn (FRB) at Macclesfield.

Upon arrival we found Yellingbo, St Andrews and Monbulk also assisting with the FRB.

After a quick walk around and safety briefing and identification of habitat trees, we got stuck straight into it.

Emerald tanker was tasked to the western flank; I headed to the southern and eastern flanks, as I was on the light up crew under direction from Eric Bast. I was paired up with a Yellingbo member for ignition. We tried a few spot burns, which weren't burning great. Further instructions were to light up entire southern and eastern flanks to get it going. Now we had some decent flames! We progressed into the burn and started strip burning all the way to the first fire break. I haven't lit up a decent fire for ages, so I had so much fun with this one. By the way I refilled the drip torch 3 times!

Whilst I was having fun with the drip torch my remaining crew members including Paul Mycroft's baptism of fire, were monitoring the western flank. They used very little water, as instructions were to let it burn as much as possible.

I had since moved along to the northern flank and continued to light up. We had increased fire intensity along this flank. We had numerous spot fires now inside the burn area and I estimate 90% of trees were burning right up the top. As I was watching out for spots on the other side of control line, I was observing embers dropping outside of the control line, once they were about 4-5mts off the ground they were being drawn back in the fire. Some really good fire behavior was witnessed along the northern flank.

Overall the FRB succeeded in its objective and it was a great FRB for us to participate in.

Overall the FRB succeeded in its objective and it was a great FRB for us to participate in.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant Adrian Trimnell.



## CHRISTMAS RUN 2015



When Lisa came home after the CFA Christmas Party and mentioned that she had put her hand up for the gig of being Santa for the Santa run, I was somewhat surprised. Hence, I put my hand up to being Santa's Elf (or slave as it turned out to be).

I have never seen anyone so keen to fill the role. Generally, there are a lot of hands kept well down when we are looking for volunteers to be Santa. So I don't think there were too many disappointed faces in the room when she volunteered.

After 'priming up' Lisa took to the role like she was made for it. It

made for a very entertaining couple of hours – singing Christmas carols on the back of the tanker. At every stop Santa would click her fingers and her loyal Elf would get her a chair and attend to her every need. Lisa probably enjoyed the experience too much if that is possible. The children certainly couldn't complain that they didn't hear the "Ho, Ho, Ho" all the way down their street. Our 'Lady in Red' mentioned a few times how much fun she had and if I think the brigade will let her do it next year. Somehow I think her job is safe!

The appreciation shown by the kids, the parents and the goodwill generally from the members of the public made for a really satisfying couple of hours.

Firefighter Shane Merrett.

Santa Claus swapped his sleigh for the fire truck last year. The annual tradition of visiting the member's houses was upheld for another year. It was a most impressive Santa this year who spent the journey singing songs and waving to the locals who had come out to see.

Firefighter Kelly Harris.



## ANZAC DAY 2016

It's 5am and it's a nice chilly morning with our members slowly turning up and waking up, once we get on the trucks we head down to the RSL where it looks like most of Emerald is converging and with the full moon giving a little light you can see people everywhere, and the Anzac projection on the Puffing Billy shed added to the occasion.

As we are mingling and getting a position the bag piper is playing in the distance and it brings a different atmosphere to the previous years where they had the sounds of war.

So the ceremony begins, with a stirring welcome and talk from the Emerald RSL President Peter Maloney with some history of the start of ANZAC and how 50 years later we were to see the Australian and New Zealand forces join up again in Vietnam.

It is this year we see the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the battle of Long Tan in Vietnam and Warrant Officer 1<sup>st</sup> Class Robin Bryant gave a speech on the battle of BinBar in which Australia had a successful battle.

Next was speeches from the School Captains then two peace time medals were awarded and one was to a member of the British National Fire Service who unfortunately passed away 14 days prior to receiving his medal.

As usual the Kookaburras had their time and the chilling Puffing Billy whistle rang out to bring in the morning. A great rendition of the National Anthem and a couple of songs saw the end of the dawn service.

We then returned to the station for some egg and bacon sandwiches mostly cooked by the hard working Merrett girls and we invited the SES and Police to come by and have a cuppa and food and a good time to mingle with them as well.

Then it was the morning service which saw mini-mokes taking the veterans at the head of the march and various clubs following in behind.

The service was very similar to the dawn service and at the end a few went to the RSL and had some refreshments and lost at two up.

Another great day and I thank all members who attended that day.

Firefighter Trevor Ireland.



## THE TOOL AWARD

Every Firefighter loves to win awards - as each one has its pride of place in the 'Pool Room'.

This is my story of the award that nobody wants!

Started of one sunny Sunday morning:

**Capt:** Today we will wash the CFA and other signs at the west side of Emerald (near the Puffing Billy railway crossing).

**Capt:** Put some truck soap in a bucket and get some sponges, we will go in the tanker.

Off I go to get the bucket put some soap in it, grabbed a couple of sponges and put the bucket on the back of the truck.

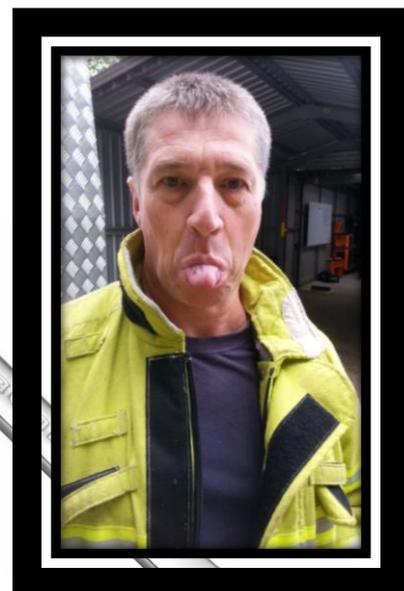
**Me:** (In a concerned voice) - where will we get water once we are there?

**Capt:** Pointed at the truck and reminded me that it carries 3,000 litres of water.

**Capt:** That comment deserves the Tool Award!

So - I'm now the proud owner of a large Kinchrome spanner which hangs off my hook with pride (not).

Firefighter Simon Arnold.



## 2015 CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December we held our Brigade Christmas Dinner at the station, members and families were warmly invited and it was great to have a large attendance. We munched our way through nibbles, devoured pizzas, casually socialised, we merrily sang 'Happy Birthday' to Lee Cunningham and members enjoyed the excitement of the lucky ticket Christmas Raffle. It was a nice informal get-together at a very busy time of year.



## EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP: 2015 - 2016

### OFFICE BEARERS

Yandle, Paul  
Merlo, Andrew  
Trimnell, Adrian  
Bean, Calum  
Wheat, David  
Lewis, Ryan  
Griffin, Kate  
Davey-White, Christine  
Van Iersel, Richard

### LIFE MEMBERS

Mickleborough, Horace  
Coles, Owen  
Grattige, Frank  
Ryberg, Gus  
Jones, Ron  
Legge, Graeme  
Richman, Bill  
Fairbridge, Anthony  
Johnson, Marg  
Woodhouse, Ian

### BRIGADE MEMBERS

Carter, Rodney  
Davey-White, Christine  
Fairbridge, Anthony  
Griffin, Kate  
Legge, Graeme  
Quinless, David

### JUNIOR BRIGADE MEMBERS

Arad, Gil  
Badenhorst, Alisha  
Baumgarth, Hayley  
Burdette, Jaxon  
Dempsey, Emily  
Gledhill, Russell  
Hughes, Mitchell  
Kennett, Rhys  
Lawrence, Katie  
Loeschenkohl, Josh  
Mackie, Livia  
Ray, Krista  
Riddiford, Dylan  
Sims, Jayden  
Tahar, Keshet  
Volk, Tallara  
White, Molly  
White, Tara

### RECRUIT

Fredrickson, Samuel

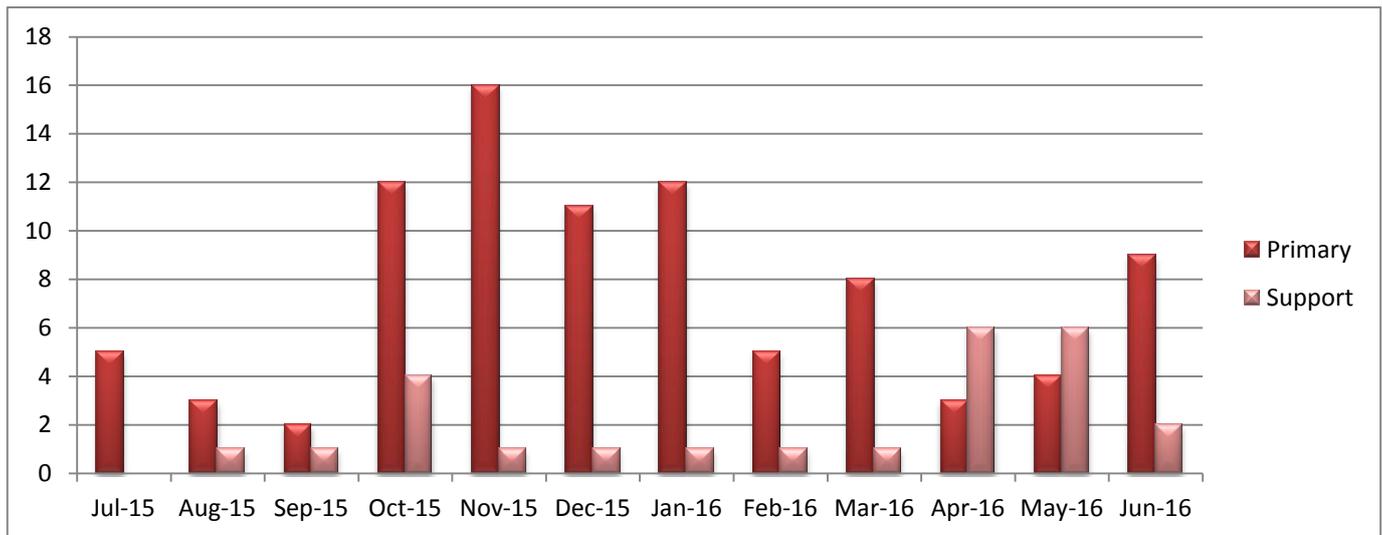
### ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS

Arnold, Simon  
Bean, Calum  
Boi, Tyrone  
Brodeck, Klaus  
Coenen, Jack  
Coniglione, Ricky  
Cree, Katrina  
Cree, Matt  
Cunningham, Lee  
Davidson-Little, David  
Dawe, Thomas  
Dempsey, Liam  
Griffin, Collin  
Hall, Ian  
Harris, Kelly  
Ireland, Trevor  
Jogan, Tanya  
Kruger, Darren  
Lewis, Ryan  
Merlo, Andrew  
Merrett, Shane  
Mycroft, Paul  
Philippou, Paris  
Ray, Taylor  
Trimnell, Adrian  
Van Dyk, James  
Van Iersel, Richard  
Van Wageningen, Tony  
Waldron, Nicholas  
Warford, Kyle  
Wheat, David  
Wheat, Luke  
Woodhouse, Ian  
Yandle, Jody  
Yandle, Paul



## EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE CALL STATISTICS 2015 - 2016

The brigade attended a total of 115 calls from 1.07.15 to 30.06.16, comprising of 90 Primary and 25 Support.



Monthly call statistics (Primary and Support calls combined)

	Jul 15	Aug 15	Sep 15	Oct 15	Nov 15	Dec 15	Jan 16	Feb 16	Mar 16	Apr 16	May 16	Jun 16
Alarm/FIP premises				2	1	3	2	1	1	1		1
Assist Ambulance												1
Assist SES storm damage											1	
Car fire									2	2		1
Child locked in car						1					1	
Child stuck in verandah	1											
False alarm											2	
Gas leak												
Grass & scrub fire				3		1	1		1	3	4	
Illegal burnoff					1	1	1	1	1			
Investigate explosives heard	1											
Investigate smoke	1				2	2	1	3				
Investigate/extinguish burnoff					8		1			1		
Kitchen fire												1
MVA		1										
MVA - PPT	1								2		1	
Non structure fire						1	1					
Power lines arcing/fire		1			1							1
Rescue (stuck in lift)									1			
Strike team response						1						
Structure fire		2	2		1	1				1		3
Tree fire			1	2								1
Trees and powerlines				2		1	3					
Washaway				4				1	1	1		
Washaway result of MVA	1			3	3		3				1	2
<b>Monthly call totals:</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>

# HISTORIC BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP DETAILS: MEMBERS 1941 TO PRESENT

With thanks to all Emerald Fire Brigade members, past and present, both Juniors and Seniors, for your contribution and for making us the Brigade we are today:

ALGRA	ERIK	BREEN	EDWARD	COLLINS	ALLISON	EATON	FRANK
ANDERSEN	KARINA	BREEN	THOMAS	COLLIVER	A	EATON	ROBERT
ANDERSON	BARRIE	BRETNALL	PHILLIP	CONIGLIONE	RICKY	EDNIE	MITCHELL
ARAD	GIL	BRETERON	SAMUEL	CONNELL	MARK	EDYVANE	PETER
ARAD BADASH	AMOS	BREUKEL	BRODEE	CONNELL	MONIQUE	ELDER	JARROD
ARNOLD	SIMON	BRODECK	KLAUS	COOMBS	PHILL	ELDRIDGE	JAMES
ASHFIELD	PAUL	BROOKES	FRANK	COPP	EMMA	ELLERTON	ANDREW
ASLING	J.	BROOKES	GORDON	COSTELLO	GEORGE	ELLIOTT	AARON
ASLING	RONALD	BROWN	STEPHEN	COUTIE	EDWARD	ELLISTON	PETER
ATKINS	RONALD	BROWN	JAMES	COUTTS	D	ELWOOD	GEORGE
AULT	H	BRUCE	DON	CRANMER	C.	EMERSON	GRANT
A'VARD	GEORGE	BRYANT	VICKI	CRIVEN	GEOFF	EMERY	CHARLES
A'VARD	GEORGE (jnr)	BRYANT	CLAYTON	CREE	MATT	EMERY	JOHN
AVDYL	RASIM	BUCKLEY	HELEN	CREE	KATRINA	EUDEY	J
AYERS	PHILLIP	BURBRIDGE	GORDON	CROSS	KIRSTIN	EVANS	FRANCIS
AYRES	BOB	BURDETTE	JAXON	CUMMOCK	SYDNEY	EVANS	T
BADENHORST	ALISHA	BURNELL	PHILLIP	CUNNINGHAM	IAN	EVERETT	JOHN
BAGULEY	MALCOLM	BURNELL	EMMA	CUNNINGHAM	LEE	EXLEY	DAVID
BAGULEY	WALTER	BURNELL	MELISSA	DALE	JOHN	FAIRBRIDGE	ANTHONY
BAGULEY	ROBERT	BURNS	PATRICK	DALGIEL	T	FAIRBRIDGE	MARGARET
BAILEY	JOANNA	BUSBRIDGE	RONALD	DALGLEISH	BRUCE	FANECO	RYAN
BAKER	J.	BUTTERWORTH	R.	DALTON	DEREK	FARAM	GARRY
BAKER	ROBT	BUXTON	PAUL	DALTON	DANIEL	FERRER	GEORGE
BARBER	STUART	CAIRNDUFF	JAMES	DALTON	MIRANDA	FERRER	SYDNEY
BARBER	IAN	CAIRNS	CHARLES	DALTON	BRENTON	FLETCHER	S
BARBER	W.	CAMERON	DON	DANN	STEVEN	FLORIO	G.
BARLOW	STEFANIE	CAMERON	THOMAS	D'APRANO	R	FLOYD	GEOFFREY
BARLOW	CHRIS	CAMP	ROBERT	DARRON	CEDRIC	FODEN	PETER
BARNES	CAMERON	CAMPBELL	ROGER	DAVEY	ALBERT	FORREST	J
BARNES	MICHAEL	CAMPBELL	WENDY	DAVEY	ALBERT	FOSTER	MICHAEL
BARTHOLOMEUS	FREDERICK	CAMPBELL	IAN	DAVEY-WHITE	CHRIS	FOSTER	KENNETH
BARWICK	MICHAEL	CARATZAS	JAMES	DAVIDSON-LITTLE	DAVID	FOSTER	REBA
BARWICK	KYEYA	CARR	PATRICK	DAVIES	GREGORY	FOWLES	J
BARWICK	ANNALISE	CARR	DANIEL	DAVIES	KEVIN	FOX	RAE
BAUMGARTH	HAYLEY	CARTER	RODNEY	DAVIES	ROWAN	FRANCK	JACQUELYN
BAZLEY	JAMIE	CARTER	ARTHUR	DAVIES	SHANE	FREDRICKSON	SAMUEL
BEAN	CALUM	CARTER	ANTHONY	DAVIES	KELSEY	FREWIN	J
BEAZLEY	HAROLD	CARTER	JOSEPH	DAVIES	S.	FRYER	ROBERT
BEEKMAN	BERNARDUS	CASEY	GEORGE	DAVIS	JOSHUA	FULLER	WARREN
BEGGS	ANDREW	CASON	WAYNE	DAWE	THOMAS	FULLER	STEVE
BEKKERS	H	CATTANACH	MARTIN	DE GROOT	CHRISTOPHER	FURLONG	L.
BENDALL	PAUL	CATTANACH	KATHY	DEERY	J.	FURLONG	NEIL
BENDALL	CHRISTINE	CATTANACH	RICKIE	DELATTRE	XAVIER	GALEANO	RICHARD
BENDALL	NICOLE	CATTANACH	ELVA	DEMPSEY	JACK	GALLAGHER	AODIN
BENNETT	ASH	CAULFIELD	SCOTT	DEMPSEY	LIAM	GALLENTE	DESIARDIO
BENNETT	W.	CAVALIER	RONALD	DEMPSEY	EMILY	GALLETLY	TREVOR
BERGWERF	B	CEPELLINI	ROBERTO	DESCHEPPER	HARRY	GARNER	NICK
BERGWERF	H	CHAMPION	GEOFFREY	DITTERICH	ASHLEY	GARSED	NEIL
BERRY	PATRICK	CHANDLER	P.	DJUROVICH	ANDREW	GATES	SIMON
BERRY	RAY	CHANDLER	A	DONALD	LYNN	GATTIDGE	FRANK
BEVAN	RONALD	CHARMAN	EDGAR	DONALD	ERIC	GAYWOOD	JAY
BEVERLEY	IAN	CHARMAN	PERCY	DOUGLAS	MAURICE	GEMMELL	ANDREW
BEYNON	G.	CHILDS	MICHAEL	DOUGLAS	A	GERRARD	MARK
BLACK	GRACE	CHIPPERFIELD	RORY	DOUGLAS	MORRIS	GESTHUIZEN	BARRY
BLACK	A.	CIANTER	FREDERICK	DOUGLAS	RODDAM	GILLARD	JAKE
BLAIR	ANDREW	CLARK	LAWSON	DOUMA	ANDREW	GILSON	SYDNEY
BLAIR	ADAM	CLAUSING	ADRIAN	DOUMA	ANDREW	GLEDHILL	RUSSELL
BLIGHT	ALFRED	CLEATOR	DAVID	DOWNIE	PHILLIP	GLEDHILL	RONALD
BOI	TYRONE	CLELAND	GEORGE	DREWETT	SALLY	GOETZE	JASON
BOTTCHER	MICHAEL	CLOWES	JEAN	DRUMOND	RYAN	GORDON	MICK
BOTTOMLEY	BASIL	COATES	LESLIE	DRYDEN	IAN	GRADY	JOSEPH
BOURKE	JOHN	COENEN	JACK	DRYDEN	GRAHAM	GRAHAM	
BOURKE	DUANE	COLE	PETER	DRYDEN	BARBARA	GRAMBERG	J.
BOURKE	W.	COLES	OWEN	DUNCAN	CLIFFORD	GRAY	HAYDEN
BOYD	KEITH	COLES	ARTHUR	DUNN	CRAIG	GRAY	T
BOYSE	DARRYL	COLLINS	CAELEUSE	DUNOVAN	GARRY	GRAY	THEODORE
BRAND	ROBERT	COLLINS	GAEL	DYWER	PHILLIP	GREEN	NICHOLAS-JON

GREEN	AMY	HOULDCROFT	WILLIAM	LEGETT	THOMAS	MOSS	WAYNE
GREEN	DAVID	HOWELL	PAUL	LEMMON	GREGORY	MOSS	EDWARD
GRIFFIN	KATE	HOWELL	SHIRLEY	LEWIS	GAVIN	MULCAHY	DAVID
GRIFFIN	COLLIN	HOWELL	CLINT	LEWIS	RYAN	MULCAHY	J
GRIMMER	LANCE	HUGHES	MITCHELL	LINTON	I	MULLER	MAXWELL
GROCOTT	SHANNON	HUGHES	JAYDEN	LITTLE	CLIFFORD	MURDOCK	MICHAEL
GROCOTT	RYAN	HUNT	WILLIAM	LOCK	DERYK	MURDOCK	WARREN
GROCOTT	AIDAN	HUNTLEY	BRONWYN	LOCKYER	R	MURESAN	JOSH
GROCOTT	CORRYN	INNES-WARDELL	IAN	LOESCHENKOHL	JO	MURRAY	ROBERT
GRUNDMANN	COREY	IRELAND	TREVOR	LOESCHENKOHL	JOSH	MURRAY	GEORGE
GUNN	CHARLIE	IRELAND	BRYCE	LOMAS	WAYNE	MUSCH	SHANAE
HAINES	BRUCE	IRELAND	MADDISON	LOMAS	ANTHONY	MUSCH	JOEL
HAJRULLA	QEM	JACKSON	RYAN	LOMAS	MARK	MUSCH	TONY
HALL	IAN	JACOB	MARTIN	LORD	JACQUELINE	MYCROFT	PAUL
HALL	RACHELLE	JACOBSEN	DALE	LUBIN	CHELSEA	NAUGHTON	PETER
HALL	WILLIAM	JAMES	ROBERT	LUCAS	DESMOND	NAUGHTON	FREDERICK
HALLEY	JOHN	JANSEN	REBECCA	LUCAS	TERENCE	NAYLOR	F
HAMILTON	JAYDEN	JAY	BEN	LUCAS	NIGEL	NEESON	D.
HAMILTON	TARA	JEFFERIES	KENNETH	LUCAS	DESMOND	NEJTEK	GEORGE
HAMILTON	D.	JEFFERY	ALBERT	LUCAS	F.	NELSEN	JENNIFER
HAMPTON	NICOLE	JOGAN	TANYA	LUCAS	T	NEWTON	ALAN
HANNAN	BRIAN	JOHANSEN	GERALD	LYON	NORMAN	NICHOLLS	MICHAEL
HARMER	RONALD	JOHNSON	IAN	MACGREGOR	SCOTT	NICHOLLS	RONALD
HARRIDANE	NORMAN	JOHNSON	SNOWY	MACKAY	PETA	NICHOLLS	WALTER
HARRIS	HOLLY	JOHNSON	MARGARET	MACKIE	LIVIA	NICOLS	ERAN
HARRIS	COLIN	JOHNSON	KEVIN	MADIGAN	JAMES	NOBELIUS	ARCHIBALD
HARRIS	SHANE	JONES	GLEN	MADIGAN	TIMOTHY	NOBELIUS	CLIFFORT
HARRIS	MEAGAN	JONES	RONALD	MADSEN	LEE	NOBELIUS	RUPERT
HARRIS	TRAVIS	JONES	MONICA	MAHER	KYLIE	NODIN	PETER
HARRIS	ASHIRA	JONES	GREGORY	MAHONEY	PAT	NORDSTREAM	C
HARRIS	KELLY	JONES	ALBERT	MAIORINO	G	NORRSTROM	GUSTAF
HARRISON	KENNETH	JONES	HENRY	MALONEY	DANIEL	NORTHFIELD	JESSE
HARTIGAN	KEVIN	JONES	JOHN	MALONEY	KIMBERLEY	NOVAK	GARY
HARTIGAN	BRAY	JONES	MARK	MANN	R	NURSE	FRANK
HARTNELL	EDWARD	JORDAN	MAREE	MAORINO	ANTHONY	OLERHEAD	PHILLIP
HARTNELL	J.	JORDAN	KELLIE	MAORINO	GIUSEPPE	OMAS	ANTHONY
HARTNELL	WILLIAM	JORDAN	DANIEL	MAORINO	LUIS	O'NIELL	RAY
HASTINGS	G	KEHOE	RICHARD	MARLANE	PETER	O'REILLY	ANTHONY
HAWKINS	MICHAEL	KELLY	DAVID	MARR	JOHN	O'REILLY	MYLES
HAYWARD	COLIN	KELLY	KAY	MASSEY	WALTER	ORSZACZKI	VICKI
HAYWARD	PAUL	KENNETT	RHYS	MAXWELL	HEATHER	OSBORNE	CAMERON
HEARN	PRUDENCE	KENNON	BELINDA	MAXWELL	RONALD	OSBORNE	MICHAEL
HEITMAN	JUSTIN	KERR	IVAN	MCBAIN	IAN	OSBORNE	JACINTA
HENARE	THOMAS	KESTLE	TREVOR	MCBAIN	JACQUELYN	OVENDEN	ADRIAN
HENSHAW	DAVID	KEWISH	MALCOM	McCONIGLE	BRIAN	OVERDEN	JOSEPH
HERMANSEN	PER	KEY	CHRIS	McCONIGLE	S	OVERDEN	MAX
HERMAWSEN	PAMELA	KING	ADRIAN	MCCRACKEN	RILEY	OVERDEN	PETER
HESTER	PAUL	KLAASSEN	JYE	MCDUGALL	NIKKI	PALMER	STEVEN
HILMI	BARRI	KLOB	MARTIN	McELVIE	R	PALMER	ROBERT
HILMI	MICHAEL	KNIGHT	JAMES	MCGOUGH	JON	PARTRIDGE	ERIC
HIRST	JOHN	KORP	H	MCKAY	MARTIN	PARTRIDGE	HARRY
HIRST	JOSEPH	KRUEGER	MATHEW	McKELVIE	RON	PARTRIDGE	MISS A
HISCOCK	PAUL	KRUGER	DARREN	McLACHLAN	H	PARTRIDGE	SINCLAIR
HOARE	DAVID	KUYS	NATHAN	MCLENNAN	CONNOR	PATERSON	CALLUM
HOBBS	NICHOLAS	LAKE	ROBERT	MCLENNAN	CAITLAN	PATERSON	CAITLIN
HOCKING	THOMAS	LAMENDOLA	JOSEPH	McLEOD	GERALD	PATERSON	DONALD
HOEK	PAUL	LANCASTER	CASSANDRA	McMAHON	GLEN	PAYNE	TERRENCE
HOFFMAN	LUKE	LANE	DESMOND	MCRAE	STEWART	PAYNE	EDWARD
HOFFMANN	MITCH	LANG	JEREMY	MERCIER	ROSS	PENGELLY	JOANNE
HOGAN	PHILLIP	LATTER	A	MERLO	ANDREW	PENKETH	TIMOTHY
HOGAN	LEO	LATTER	B	MERRETT	SHANE	PEPI	SAMUEL
HOGAN	DANIEL	LATTIMER	L.	MICKELBROUGH	HORRACE	PERCEC	MICK
HOGAN	FRANK	LAUGHLIN	AUSTIN	MICKELBROUGH	JOHN	PERRY	JOHN
HOGAN	KEVIN	LAVERY-BELLMAN	DWAYNE	MILLER	SYDNEY	PETERS	NATHAN
HOGBEN	ROSLYN	LAWRENCE	KATIE	MILLS	STEVEN	PETERSON	RACHEL
HOGBEN	ROWAN	LAWSON	ALBERT	MITCHELL	GRAEME	PETERSON	DALE
HOGBEN	EDWIN	LEGGE	DAVID	MITCHELL	ROBERT	PETERSON	CHRISTIAN
HOGEBOOM	ERIC	LEGGE	GRAEME	MITCHELL	T	PETERSON	DONALD
HOLDSWORTH	MICHELLE	LEGGE	JENNY	MOCHON	ANDREW	PETTIGREW	ALAN
HOLZER	WILL	LEGGE	CRAIG	MOLD	HAROLD	PEUTRILL	CALLUM
HOOK	STEVEN	LEGGE	FIONA	MONTONERI	ROWAN	PHILIPPOU	PARIS
HOPE	B.	LEGGE	ALBERT	MOORE	HELEN	PHILLIPS	KATIE
HOSKIN	SIMON	LEGETT	CHARLES	MOORE	ALLEN	PHILLIPS	DAIRE
HOULDCROFT	CHARLES	LEGGETT	PETER	MORSSINKHOF	BARRY	PIECHOWSKI	HENZ

PIKE	SYDNEY	SASANOV	SASHA	SWEEP	KIRA	WARFORD	KYLE
PORTER	TONY	SAUNDERS	ROBERT	SWORD	JOHN	WATSON	DANNIEL
PORTER	DICK	SAUNDERS	JOHN	SWORD	BRENTON	WELLS	TIMOTHY
PORTINGALE	MAX	SAXON	ANDREW	TAHAR	DOOBIE	WELLSBY	RONALD
POWELL	KEVEN	SCANLAN	KONNER	TAHAR	YUM	WENDE	AARON
POWELL	ANTHONY	SCHEEN	BART	TAHAR	LOR	WESCOMBE	WALTER
PREST	ROBERT	SCHUURMANS	CHRISTOPHER	TAHAR	KESHET	WHEAT	LUKE
PRICE	ROBERT	SCOTT	CHRISTOPHER	TAIT	DILLON	WHEAT	DAVID
PRICE	JASON	SCOTT	ANDREW	TATCHELL	T	WHEATLAND	GAVIN
PRICE	ROBERT	SCOTT	FRANK	TAYLOR	DANIEL	WHITBOURN	SCOTT
QUINLESS	DAVID	SEABROOK	DEAN	TEASDALE	JOSEPH	WHITE	IAN
RAEBURN	CRAIG	SEAMER	KELVIN	TEMPLER	ALLAN	WHITE	ELIZABETH
RAGO	G	SEARBY	RICHARD	THOMAS	TERENCE	WHITE	MOLLY
RAGO	JOSEPH	SEDDON	WILLIAM	THOMPSON	COLIN	WHITE	TARA
RAMO	B	SERCOMBE	N.	TODD	MATTHEW	WHITE	J
RAPER	ARTHUR	SHACKLER	JOHN	TOLLEY	L	WHITEHEAD	PETER
RAPPOPORT	MARK	SHARP	PAUL	TOMLINSON	MARTIN	WHITEHEAD	W
RATTEN	RORY	SHAW	ROBERT	TOOTELL	LEONARD	WILKIE	DANIEL
RAY	GRANT	SHERIFF	THOMAS	TOSCANO	ANTHONY	WILLIAMS	STEPHEN
RAY	TAYLOR	SIMM	BRYAN	TOSCANO	LUIS	WILLIAMS	HEATH
RAY	JO	SIMS	JAYDEN	TOSCANO	NICK	WILLIAMS	VIVIENNE
RAY	ASHLEY	SINCLAIR	JASMINE	TOVEY	PETER	WILLIAMS	GEORGE
RAY	KRISTA	SKELTON	PHILLIP	TOVEY	ALANA	WILLIAMS	JOHN
REABURN	L..	SKINNER	GREGORY	TOVEY	RENEE	WILLIAMS	KEITH
RENKIN	DAVID	SLATER	SCOTT	TRIMNELL	ADRIAN	WILSON	PETER
RESUGGAN	KANE	SLEEMAN	KATHRYN	TROWBRIDGE	BRYAN	WILSON	ROY
RESUGGAN	JESS	SLOANE	COURTENEY	TROWBRIDGE	AARON	WILSON	FRAZER
RHYBERG	GUSTAVE	SLOBODIUK	LEANNE	TROWBRIDGE	NATHAN	WINFIELD	KIM
RICHARDSON	JOHN	SMART	D.	TUFEK DZIZA	MUSTAFA	WINTLE	ARTHUR
RICHMAN	WILLIAM	SMITH	DARRYL	TURNER	CHRIS	WINTLE	JAMES
RIDDIFORD	DYLAN	SMITH	GREGORY	USHER	ERIC	WISE	HENRY
RIPLEY	JOHN	SMITH	GEORGE	VAN DYK	JAMES	WISHART	MICHAEL
RIPLEY	CLINTON	SNEL	CORNELIS	VAN IERSEL	RICHARD	WOLINSKI	ZIGGY
RIPLEY	DANIEL	SPADAFORÉ	I.	VAN KAMPEN	CHRIS	WONG-HEE	F
RITT	VINCENT	SPALLING	DARRELL	VAN MUNNEN	RONALD	WOOD	JOHN
ROBERTS	CARADOC	SPYKERS	MARTIN	VAN RIJN	ASHLEA	WOOD	RAYMOND
ROBERTS	FRED	STAFFORD	SIMON	VAN TROJEN	HENDRIK	WOODHOUSE	IAN
ROBINSON	GRAHAM	STALKER	WILLIAM	VAN TROJEN	WAYNE	WOODHOUSE	MICHAEL
ROBINSON	ALAN	STANBRIDGE	DOUG	VAN WAGENINGEN	TONY	WOODHOUSE	PAUL
ROBINSON	JOHN	STANBRIDGE	IRENE	VANDEBURG	GARRY	WOODROFFE	CHRIS
RODGERS	ANTHONY	STAUBER	LEO	VANDEBURG	LINDA	WOODS	RAYMOND
RODGERS	JULIEN	STEBBING	CHRISTOPHER	VANDER HORST	WILLIAM	WOOLGAR	J.
ROGERS	WILLIAM	STEBBING	LYNETTE	VANDER KOLK	J	WOOLNOUGH	SHANE
ROGERS	RHONDA	STEMP	C	VANDERTAK	GARY	WORRELL	ALBERT
ROSE	JAMES	STEPHENS	WILLIAM	VASKESS	DAVID	WORRELL	FRANK
ROSSITER	NEVILLE	STEWART	DAWN	VINEY	STAFFORD	WORRELL	THOMAS
ROUSE	COLIN	STILLWELL	BERTIE	VISSER	KARL	WRAGG	EDWARD
ROWE	JESSE	STIRLING	MATT	VOLK	BEN	WRIGHT	JOHN
RUSH	ACLAND (snr)	STIRLING	COREY	VOLK	TALLARA	WRIGHT	ARTHUR
RUSH	ACLAND (jnr)	STREETER	KENNETH	WADE	MARCUS	WRIGHT	FRED
RYAN	TERRENCE	STREETER	MATTHEW	WADLE	HORACE	YANDLE	JAMES
RYBERG	GUS	STREETER	KATHLEEN	WAKEFIELD	IAN	YANDLE	PAUL
SACCO	G	STREETER	DANIEL	WAKEFIELD	JENNIFER	YANDLE	ANDREW
SACCO	M	STUART	ALFRED	WALDRON	NICHOLAS	YANDLE	JODY
SADDLER	ARTHER	STUART	D'URBAN	WALKER	JOSH	YATES	GRANT
SALE	ROBERT	STUTERD	JOHN	WALKER	DONALD	YOUNG	BRUCE
SAMMUT	ELIZABETH	SWAIN	CHARLES	WARBY	MATHEW	ZETHOF	MICHAEL
SAMPSON	MARK	SWEENEY	DYLAN	WARBY	BRENTON		
SANSANOV	S	SWEENEY	COREY	WARD	CHRIS		





# ***Emerald Fire Brigade*** ***thanks the following for*** ***their ongoing support:***

Ritchies IGA Community Benefit

St Marks Church Op Shop

Pakenham Op Shop

Emerald Village Meats

Emerald Fruit Barn



[www.emeraldfirebrigade.org.au](http://www.emeraldfirebrigade.org.au)