

EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE



2017 ANNUAL REPORT





WELCOME



It is indeed an honour to be asked, as President of the Emerald RSL, to write an opening message for the 2017 CFA Annual Report.

The relationship between the RSL and the Emerald CFA goes back many many years. Today it is stronger than ever. Our RSL boasts many CFA personnel as Affiliate members of the Club and together we help each other when needs arise.

The Emerald CFA is an integral part of the Emerald community. It is unique in that it has a strong group of volunteers who answer emergency calls continually throughout the year and it also has a vibrant youth section where the skills of being a firefighter are taught to our kids at an early age.

As the years go by there seems to be an increasing need to respond to events that are affected by changes in our environment. Particularly with weather changes that seem to be increasingly unpredictable.

The role of the Emerald CFA as a first responder for fires and accidents is first class. It is a service that we as residents take for granted in our community. It is not an easy task to witness the results of these call outs and any after-effects cannot be taken lightly. Just as in the armed services today, the effects of PTSD and mental stress are easily glossed over. But we need to be eternally alert to monitoring this when it occurs. And take steps to assist.

The Emerald RSL will be initiating, with the support of the Rotary Club of Emerald, a new welfare service in the forthcoming summer season - RSL ReLocate. This program will look after the frail and elderly in times of high heat - at the RSL club rooms. We will work closely with the Emerald CFA when and if the need arises as this program is rolled out next summer.

The Emerald RSL applauds the work of the CFA volunteers and wishes it well in its endeavours in the forthcoming season.

The leadership of the Emerald CFA is of the highest standard under Captain Paul Yandle and I can only encourage those people reading this report who may not be involved to put their hand up. We can never have too many volunteers.



Peter Maloney
President
Emerald RSL

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PRESIDENTS REPORT



Good evening to everyone attending the 2017 Presentation Night at the RSL in Emerald. Firstly, I was looking through all the past Annual Reports. Each year the presentation and design improves every year.

Thanks again to Tanya for taking up the reins to put together this years' Annual Report.

Already another year has flown by and fortunately no major fires in the Dandenongs this summer. But this won't last.

Even though I'm no longer operational, still read the Occurrence Book at least twice a week as I still do the FIRS for the brigade.

There is no doubt in my mind that the loss of Andrew Merlo both at Brigade and Group level has been a huge blow and the members that have replaced him have big boots to fill.

I'm sure Adrian will do a great job as 1st Lieutenant and the other members that moved up in the ranks.

Special congratulations to Tanya for being elected 4th Lieutenant.

It has been great to see a number of new faces at Brigade meetings and look forward to seeing more in the future. After listening to Klaus and his plans for Recruitment at the previous brigade meeting, I feel sure we will see plenty of new faces in the future.

A few words about my circumstances...

As you probably know by now, my house is up for sale in Koo Wee Rup and will moving down to Mornington in the very near future to live with my fiancée Trudy. Hopefully by the time you read this my house will be sold.

I will still be an active member within the Brigade and will make myself available whenever I can for events, community safety and recruitment.

I will see my term out as Brigade President and will re-assess accordingly when the elections come around next year.

This also applies my position as Dandenong Ranges Group Secretary.

The only position I will be standing down from is Brigade Delegate for Cardinia Group.

Hope everybody has a great evening and at the after party.

President Nick Waldron.

THANKS

Our Annual Reports document the history of our Brigade; they are a collection of photos, pictures, information and memories that we can look back on in years to come. I encourage you to share this Annual Report - and those of previous years with your family and friends. Use the Reports to encourage discussion, generate ideas but most importantly understand and support each other.

This is my second consecutive year of compiling members' contributions to generate our Annual Report; I thank the Brigade for allowing me this opportunity.

Thank you to everyone who contributed written articles and or photos to our 2017 Emerald Fire Brigade Annual Report.

Lieutenant Tanya Jogan
Annual Report Co-ordinator.

CAPTAINS REPORT



Welcome to the latest instalment of the brigade's annual report, as usual I'm sure it will provide for a good read and showcase the great work our members have done over the last year. My thanks go to Lt Tanya Jogan for taking on the ominous task of producing the report this year and to all who have contributed to its content.

An interesting note is that next year will be the 20th anniversary of the brigade producing an annual report, started in 1998 to create a permanent historical record of the brigade, its members and the work we do in the community. The document has grown from humble beginnings as a black and white photocopied 'thing' to a colourful, interesting and informative record of our history, not to mention being professionally printed in full gloss colour and full of great photos. As one of the original instigators and co-producer of the original version 20 years ago I'm proud to see what the report has transformed into over the years.

Operationally, over the year (1st July 16 – 30th June 17) the brigade responded to a total of 102 call outs. This works out to an average of just under 2 calls per week representing a fairly quiet year with a very subdued fire season contributing to the low call out rate. This is the lowest total for some years and comes on a steady downward trend in the amount of calls we attend. Until we get another busy fire season!

Possibly the busiest period during the year was the large storm event that effected large parts of the Dandenongs, the Yarra Valley and many areas of Melbourne on the 9th Oct 2016. This event followed a busy period for our colleagues at Emerald SES who had been sending members away for flood relief works around the state and interstate in the lead up to this day.

SES members were already dealing with fatigue issues and availabilities when the forecast popped up for the 9th. Plans were made the day before for possible CFA support in the event that the forecast came true, the Ranges Group management team was briefed and a plan was prepared for the Emerald LCF to be activated to manage local CFA resources in the event we were called upon to assist.

The winds on the 9th did cut up rough and Emerald SES started getting swamped with calls by around 10am on the day, the call was made for CFA assistance due the amount of calls backing up and Ranges Group brigades started supplying crews to attend Emerald fire station. The LCF was set up and ready to go, staffed with our members and prepped for a long day.

Crews from around the area were given a SMEACS briefing and dispatched far and wide, the tasking was to attend and inspect each call, clear roads or driveways were possible with chainsaws or report back with a SITREP for jobs such as trees on roofs or where powerlines were involved. The work by CFA crews allowed the SES to attend the bigger jobs where their expertise was actually required and reduced the time they spent driving around to jobs that had already been cleared by residents etc.

Many CFA crews were managed from Emerald that day and with 4 further strike teams responded in the late afternoon taking the total amount of appliances running out of the LCF to 34. These crews attended a conservative estimate of approx 150 calls across the Dandenong Ranges that day which was an extraordinary effort.

I would like to thank and congratulate the Emerald members who ran the LCF, many working in a new role within the LCF for the first time and to those who assisted at the station that day for a sterling effort. The day had many challenges including a power blackout, communications failures and worst of all a MAYDAY call to deal with when a Silvan brigade member was struck and injured by a falling tree at Kallista. Our members kept cool under pressure, adapted and overcame the difficulties encountered in a professional and effective way, a job very well done to all involved.

Probably the biggest challenge facing the brigade this year has been a declining membership and the reduced amount of members being available for call outs, whilst we had been running some recruitment drives with limited success it was realised that this had to be a major initiative to attract some new members into the brigade.

Lt Klaus Brodeck was tasked to formulate a recruitment plan which has since been put into action. A social media



and local print media push was supported by a variable message board sign (thanks to Ryan Lewis and his employer Coates hire) and assistance from our BASO Kate Murphy who attended Woollies during the day with a recruitment stand. At the time of writing Klaus has signed up 4 new members and is following up several other leads of potential new members.

Recruiting will be an ongoing task of the brigade and with Klaus pushing the project in his usual professional way, I am sure we will see solid results into the future, well done Klaus.

CFA as a whole has had some pretty significant issues over the last year or so and I believe this has indeed had a negative impact on our brigade and the morale of many members. Whilst this is not the forum to thrash these issues out, I would like to reinforce and remind everybody of why we joined the CFA in the first place.

It's about providing a valued service to the community and we provide this service by coming to training, building our skills and then putting them into practice on the fire ground. Regardless of the outcome of all these issues we need to remain strong and be there for our community when they need us. That's what they expect of us and it means getting on with the job and remaining focussed.

I sincerely hope these issues can be sorted out in a way that is suitable and workable for all sectors of CFA in the near future (were all sick of it) but regardless of that I encourage all members to keep focussed on the job at hand. Training continues to be well planned out and executed by the duty officers and assistants and Lt Adrian Trimnell has continued the solid management of our training requirements since inheriting the role from Andrew Merlo after his retirement from the officer ranks. I encourage all members to attend and actively get involved in training as much as possible, the officers really do put a lot of effort into their nights to keep your skills up to scratch and ensure your safety on the fireground. No doubt recruit training will be a large feature over the next 12 months and I call on all members to take a role in this to pass on your skills and experience to our new members.

As usual our junior brigade is going great guns and enjoys a strong average attendance with Tanya & Trevor and their helpers putting in a huge effort to keep the young'uns involved and interested, thanks guys!

A big shout out too, to Kate Griffin for her work in presenting and managing the Fire Safe Kids program at the primary School with a really strong level of representation this year, thank you Kate & co.

Andrew Merlo's retirement during the year saw some mid-term elections with each Lieutenant stepping up a rung and Tanya being elected to the 4th Lt role, this saw a shuffle around of the officer roles and I am very pleased at the way each of the officer team have taken to their new jobs and I feel the transition has been fairly seamless and smooth.

The brigade was lucky enough just recently to be successful in obtaining a grant from Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) to install a large capacity fixed generator which will power the station (and importantly the LCF) during power failures. This will be an important asset for the brigade, especially during large events like the storm event mentioned above. Our thanks to BASO Kate Murphy for her help with this project.

As usual I would like to thank and acknowledge the work load our brigade officers contribute to the brigade, they all take their roles seriously and put in 100% - no exceptions and this is very much appreciated; they remain committed and passionate about brigade and provide good solid leadership to the membership.

A big thanks to Jody for allowing me to put the time I do into the brigade, as you could imagine between my business workload and brigade commitments there's not always a lot of time at home, so thanks Jody, its much appreciated xx

As always, in closing I must thank all our hard working members for the ongoing effort you make this and every year. It takes a lot of hard work from a lot of people to keep a brigade running smoothly and the sacrifices your families make for the brigade is very much appreciated.

Keep up the great work team and well done on another successful year.

Captain Paul Yandle.

EX 1ST LIEUTENANTS REPORT

The time has arrived to prepare this report as my tenure as 1st Lieutenant of Emerald Fire Brigade did not go full term and is partly shared with the new 1st Lt. Adrian Trimnell.

Throughout the past year the role of 1st Lt is to coordinate brigade training, and also oversee that the pre plans for various infrastructures are up to date.

Especially over the last 12 months the BMT and members have contributed in compiling and delivering the various training subject matter that are required to be addressed in order to maintain our skills maintenance. Every member whose efforts assist the brigade are much appreciated by their actions, training delivery does take a vast amount of time and effort in preparation and we need members support to continue to advance our skills. Training nights have seen some low attendances as in the case of some turn outs as well, these issues are being addressed by the BMT with some minimum requirements now set as a Brigade Standing Order.

The recent recruits that have come on strength have shown much enthusiasm in gaining further competencies and have been a valuable boost to operational needs.

All members keep up the good work and support your brigade.

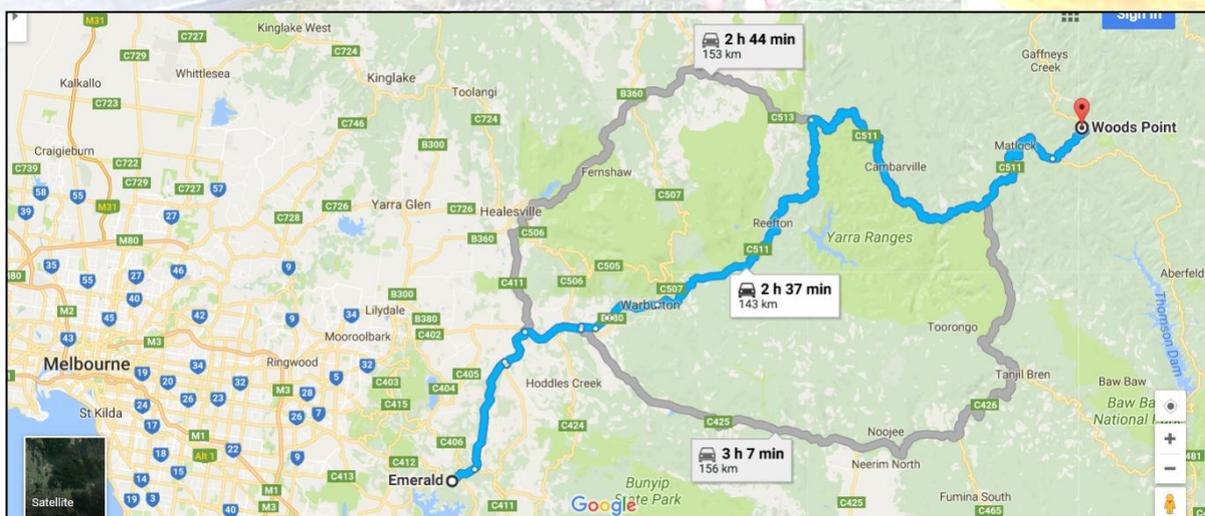
It is at this stage I would like to mention on behalf of Toots and myself our heartfelt thank you for all the kind words and gifts that we received on our departure from Emerald. We have made so many lasting friendships words will not cover how we feel about our Emerald family. Always you will be in our hearts and minds and all are welcome in our new abode in Woods Point.

My new role as Captain of the Woods Point brigade would never be possible without the grounding I received at Emerald FB. Special mention to Captain Paul Yandle whose leadership is second to none, if I follow his doctrine I am sure I will manage albeit a phone call won't be far away.

And also special mention to all my other fellow fire fighters who trained, mentored and advised me through my 8 years at the brigade the experience has been most rewarding personally.

Keep up the good work, be safe and support your brigade.

Ex Emerald Fire Brigade 1st Lieutenant Andrew Merlo (July 2016 – April 2017)
Captain, Woods Point Fire Brigade



1ST & 2ND LIEUTENANTS REPORT



Another year down and a report to write....

Well once again we have had a mid-term reshuffle. Our magnificent Andrew Merlo decided to step down as an officer, which resulted in myself to be elected to be his replacement. Well what big shoes Andy has left. It will certainly take some time for me to learn the ropes of being the Brigade Training Officer, and I thank the members for giving me the chance to perform this role.

Many members have been busy in the last 12 months attending a variety of courses throughout the North East Region. Some of these included; Recruits, Low structure, First aid full course and updates, Chainsaw, Suppress wildfire, Monitor Hazardous Atmospheres.

Late in 2016, District 13 finally scheduled and conducted two Monitor Hazardous Atmospheres courses. We required this course so that we could finally purchase and make operational our MSA Altair Gas Detector. Members that completed the course have done a fantastic job, as the subject matter was fairly complicated and in-depth. As with many of our operational equipment there is continual testing and skills maintenance required to ensure we are competent and confident in its use.



This fantastic piece of equipment will ensure we can provide a safer fire ground for our members and our neighboring brigades. We can ensure that the air we are breathing is safe and is free of dangerous chemicals which could have been produced from any number of sources, including: fires and chemical spills.

Our newest recruit members have performed exceptionally well in learning their new skills.

Sam, Shannon and Anthony have all completed their Wildfire recruit training, and then jumped straight in to continue their learning with some other training courses.

By the time you read this Glenn will have just finished his recruit course and be ready for operational response. I'm sure Glenn will make a great asset to our operational membership.

I would also like to thank Tanya and her various helpers for taking our Tanker to assist with the practical sessions for the recruits.

2017 has also signaled a big change in CFA's online training records. Webtrain has been retired, and a new system called Learning Management System (LMS) has been brought online. This new system will hopefully bring big changes to our training delivery, including future online course delivery though to better training records and digital course nominations. LMS is accessible via Brigades Online, I encourage members to take a look and see what you think.

Literally as I was writing this report, I found out that we had been successful in obtaining funding for a permanently installed generator at our station. This funding has been generously given by Emergency Management Victoria as part of the Emergency Services Volunteer Sustainability Grants Program. It has been a long wait for the news but certainly, well worth it.

The chosen generator will have the capacity to power the entire station and more. This will give us the ability, if necessary during a major outage to operate our station as normal for an extended period of time.

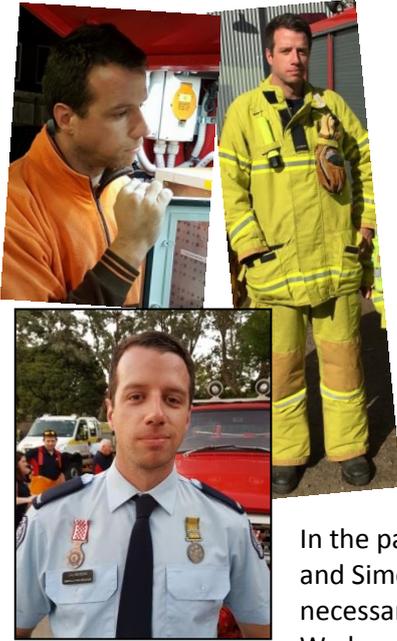
I'm hoping to have the generator operational well before the next fire season.

Well I think that's about it for this year, so I hope you enjoy reading this great publication.

Stay safe and keep learning.

1st Lieutenant Adrian Trimnell.

2ND & 3RD LIEUTENANTS REPORT



My roles as 3rd Lt involved being the brigade quartermaster and looking after driver training.

Quartermaster:

It was a steady year with gear being sent away for annual cleaning, and ordering in new sets for members. CFA changed to a new cleaner this year which has seen turnaround times improve greatly.

This year also saw the replacement of members' structural gloves to a newer and safer design. So far I've heard mixed feedback in regards to their use as they are fairly big in size. I'd encourage members to still keep their old gloves for use in non fire fighting activities.

Driver Training:

In the past 12 months we've had two new drivers gain their license. Congratulations to Kelly and Simon for passing the course. A huge amount of time is required to get the skills necessary for driving the trucks and I thank those members for the effort they have put in.

We have three new trainees with Klaus, Sam and Ryan starting the training. Hopefully by the fire season we will have all three passed and be on the road.

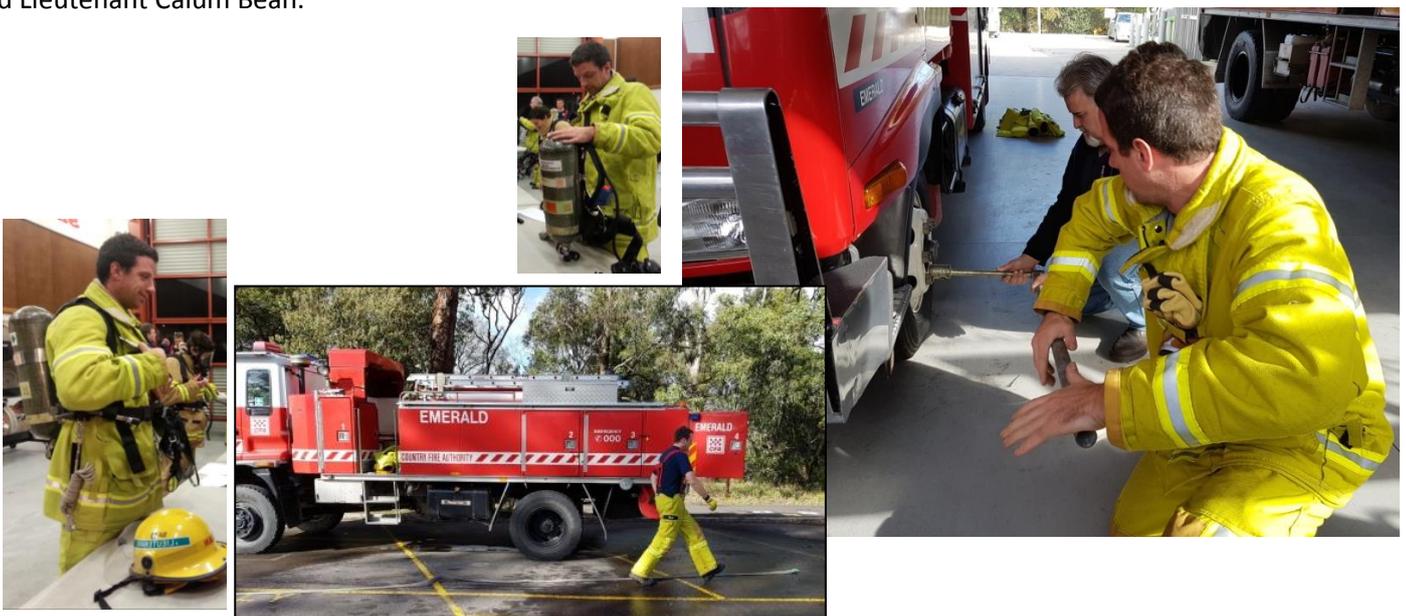
I would encourage all drivers to keep their skills up and take the trucks for a drive; either on Sundays or whenever suits. It's important to be familiar with the trucks especially during the quieter months.

In March this year I was elected to 2nd Lt, I would like to thank the members for having the faith in me to move up the ranks and I hope I can continue to serve the membership to the best of my ability.

I've maintained my role as Driver Coordinator and have also picked up the role of managing the brigade pre plans. I arranged to have a pre plan of the newly finished Emerald Medical Centre, which included a site visit in May. A massive thanks to our BASO Kate Murphy for all her assistance in completing the pre plan in a short time frame.

I look forward to the year ahead and the challenges I'm sure it will bring. Thanks to my fellow officers for all their support and guidance throughout the year, and also to the membership for supporting me in this role.

2nd Lieutenant Calum Bean.



3RD & 4TH LIEUTENANTS REPORT



Like most years now, the last twelve months has zoomed past at the blink of an eye. We have surpassed 100 jobs for the year, yet it doesn't feel like it has been a busy year from a call out perspective in any stretch of the imagination. We have been fortunate again and avoided any large scale fires in our area and didn't really attend too many large fires outside of our area. This gave me the opportunity to spend more time in the crew leader or incident controller role, albeit at small jobs which is fine by me. After completing my Crew Leader course towards the end of last year, it has been an exceptional learning experience for me with no lack of support from the other officers. As I am writing this report, I am in the final stages of completing the Suppress Wildfire course which has also expanded my awareness and knowledge in this area. I will never look at bark the same way again!

One operational event that tested us all was the Windy Day in October. Assisting the SES with a significant number of calls for assistance, I helped in setting up the LCF in our station at the

Captain's request, then was tasked with being the liaison between SES and CFA spending the day at the Emerald SES shed. This was an eye-opening experience and with all the challenges thrown at us, especially regarding communication, we successfully co-ordinated and completed between us hundreds of jobs. It was fantastic to see the camaraderie not only between CFA brigades, but also with the SES. It is pleasing that our colleagues in orange finally will be receiving their new station they so thoroughly deserve.

Although the callouts haven't been busy, back of house activities have been extremely busy.

Taking on the role of 4th Lieutenant and being responsible for appliances and apparatus, it was a quick learning curve for me. With two major services, alternator issues, continual electrical issues on various appliances, I got to know the DMO's very well and had them on speed dial. With a limited knowledge of trucks, I tried to pick up the truck lingo from Paul and Calum so I could at least hold a decent conversation with the DMO's and sound like I knew what I am talking about. In saying that, they have been fantastic to deal with and I can't speak highly enough of the guys at the Mt Evelyn workshop.

I also got to know quite well the guys at district regarding maintenance issues at the station. On the wild weather event in October, our rear roller door was a victim of the high winds and the drum required replacing. A \$7,000 repair bill, numerous phone calls and 6 weeks later, it was finally replaced. These are the tasks that you generally aren't aware that the BMT spend time carrying out on a regular basis which can be quite time consuming. You do end up spending more time on maintenance at the station than you do for your own house!

Knowing plug checks were also under my list of responsibilities, I decided to make a start. Yarra Valley Water were extremely supportive and repaired or replaced damaged hydrants within two to three days of my communication. Similarly, Cardinia Shire was also quite responsive when it came to removing weeds and undergrowth covering missing hydrants. Great service by both agencies and hope that this ease of communication and service continues into the future.

At this stage, I was enjoying my roles and responsibilities and then Andrew decided to make a tree change in his life. This resulted in me stepping up to the third lieutenant's role with the main responsibility of driving recruitment, in particular daytime responders. With several experienced members retiring or moving out of the area in the last few years, we needed to replenish our stocks to keep the members coming through and look for future leaders. I developed a plan for a recruitment blitz in June. This included advertisements in school newsletters, signpost advertising, a big variable message board that everyone sees as they come into Emerald. A social media campaign, and a brochure drop to every house in Emerald and Avonsleigh. To further maximise our exposure, Kate Murphy was kind enough to hold a recruitment display at Woolworths on two consecutive Fridays plus facilitate a daytime

extinguisher awareness course. Her assistance as a graphic designer, trainer, and sales person has been invaluable and I replaced the DMO's number with her's on my speed dial. The target group of people within in Emerald were reached at least two to three times during this campaign so I am looking forward to introducing some new members soon.

Of our current new members, Glenn Snashall is in the final stages of completing his recruits course and Nick Whiley begins his course in July. I look forward to seeing you both on the back of the BRT soon.

Overall my experience as an officer has been enjoyable and rewarding. To be successful in this role, you generally need a solid group of people around you that enables you to feed off each other. Within our current BMT, we have that. A variety of knowledge, skillset and experience ensure we are continually learning from each other and are always happy to support each other. Andrew's departure leaves us a huge hole to fill, and we will all need to combine to be able to fill it. I am very confident that we can. Personally, I would like to wish Andrew all the best for his future and he will no doubt be an exemplary leader wearing the red helmet in Woods Point. I look forward to working with you all in 2017-18.

3rd Lieutenant Klaus Brodeck.

4TH LIEUTENANTS REPORT



It was with a fair amount of hesitation that I accepted the nomination for position of 4th Lieutenant at our April 2017 monthly meeting. Thanks to the Brigade for having confidence in me and electing me to join our Brigade Management Team.

My portfolio includes general maintenance for buildings & grounds, hydrants, the smoke alarm battery changeover program and vehicle maintenance including ration packs, first aid kits & all apparatus.

Thanks to former 4th Lieutenant Klaus Brodeck for preparing a 'hand-over' document and for keeping an eye on me while I settle in to my new role, and thanks to all the BMT for your encouragement.

We are a team, we work together and we support each other and that's just part of what makes our Brigade so awesome.

I've got a lot to learn and lot to keep on top of, I'll try hard and I'll do my best!

4th Lieutenant Tanya Jogan.



COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS REPORT



Most of you don't really get all that excited about Communications. You pick up a radio, press the button and expect it to just "work". Whether you're babysitting a cranky transformer until the power company get on scene, or if you're in BA searching rooms in a smoke logged house, communications are probably one of the most important tools we use next to a charged hose line. Sometimes, it can be you're only lifeline out in the field so learning to use a radio correctly should be high on your priority list! I'm hoping

this year we can do some more hands on training with radios as more often than not the Incident Controller is doing all the talking on a going job. Remember, practice makes perfect.

Given the importance of Comms equipment, our testing regime will be stepped up to a much higher level this year. Everything we have in the station and trucks will be allocated a schedule and will be inspected and function tested in accordance with the SOP. Over last year we've had some things fail when we've needed them most, so to try and prevent that from happening again, we need to make sure everything is in perfect condition at all times.

We're a step closer to getting tablets installed into the appliances, having received some quotes for approved mounting systems and really great pricing on the devices themselves. Whilst the project will need to be entirely Brigade funded, I truly believe the benefits outweigh the investment ten-fold.

Let's talk Social Media for a second. What would you say if I told you that over the last financial year, content from our Facebook page been displayed on peoples screens a staggering **745,149** times. Yes, you read that right, nearly three quarters of a million times in the last financial year alone. I actually had to double check the sums a few times just to make sure I wasn't making a mistake but the raw data actually comes from Facebook itself so it's as accurate as you're going to get. Absolutely mind blowing to see. For the first time in our page's history, we tried boosting a couple of key recruitment posts with some great results. For a total of \$40 spent, the promoted content was displayed just over 6700 times. Less than \$0.01 per display, good value for money in my opinion.

Our website traffic still is good, a vastly lower number than our Social traffic however. I suspect its only people actively searching for specific detail on the Brigade are visiting. Like last year, this year's report will be available for download in the days after Presentation Night so your family and friends anywhere in the world can take a look at what we've been up to.

Some great new features have been added to BART this year. A really important one is the Attachments system. Now our hydrant maps, contact lists, pre-plans and other important documents can be downloaded to a members smartphone at the tap of a finger. The use of the Discussions module has also made communicating with specific teams within the Brigade easier (i.e. BMT/Juniors/Hydrant Crews etc). Having everyone using the same universal platform just makes our communications that much easier.

Before I wrap it up, just a few more things that have happened over the last year - we changed email providers to a free service, saving ourselves around \$100 a year. Our portable radios are now labelled securely with their IDs (just don't go swapping the antennas around!). We are now running digital command channels for use when working with DELWP and our phone line at the station now has a voice mail service.

Hope that brings you up to date with what's happening in the Communications department here at EFB!

Communications Officer Ryan Lewis.



TREASURERS REPORT

This financial year has seen a change in the way the Brigade seeks funds. The diary project has been rested for the time being, as more and more people plan and document their lives on line. The long term plan is to launch into some exciting fundraising projects in the future, as the way in which people donate and seek to support organisations such as ours has changed. Despite the change in the way we have raised funds, we have been fortunate to continue to receive the support of our community in the way of donations.

Regular contributors to our Brigade are the Emerald Opportunity shop, the Pakenham Opportunity Shop and Ritchies Community Benefit (Emerald IGA). We would like to thank these organisations for your invaluable faith in us and the way you have consistently provided donations to our brigade.

Other donators have included the St. Mark's Church in Emerald, the Nunn Family of Emerald, Emerald Tourist Railway Board (Puffing Billy), the Mountain District Walking Group, and a member of the community who preferred to remain anonymous. These contributions were in thanks for the job our brigade does within the community; St. Mark's Church choosing to donate after their Christmas collection, and the Nunn family in recognition for the personal support the brigade gave the family this year. The brigade would also like to formally thank the anonymous community member for their very generous donation of \$5000. To hear that you see our brigade as a worthy recipient says that we continue to be valued in the township of Emerald, and this is extremely heartening.

The Brigade would also like to acknowledge the kindness of the general community, who donate so selflessly throughout the year. Every little bit adds up, and all the coins and notes you put into a hat or collections tin helps us tremendously. The donation helmet has been filled many times over, and the collection tin at the Avonsleigh general store weighed a whopping 15.8kg. The final count from that donation tin alone was \$613, and we are truly grateful to anyone in the community who put their loose coins into our collection.

It is donations, such as those mentioned above, that allows us to function as a well-resourced brigade, and one that can serve you well. New resources have been purchased, one being a new overhead projector for the meeting room. This allows more accurate communication and training to be provided for the members. The Brigade has also invested in scanners, gas detectors and upgraded lighting. All of these items ensure that our members are equipped with up-to-date technology, ensuring their safety and the safety of the community. Funds have also gone into the maintenance of equipment and the ongoing upkeep of the station and the office. This includes new hose and tap fitting for the trucks and sundry items such as ink toner cartridges for the photocopier.

This year has also seen a slight change in the way CFA asks brigades to create financial plans and budgets. Consequently, Lt Klaus Brodeck developed a comprehensive budget plan that detailed the brigades plan for the eventual replacement of the salvage truck in approximately two decades. The plan has been described as comprehensive by the CFA auditor, so we are very thankful for, and proud of Klaus.

Lastly, the brigade has applied for a grant for a generator. We plan to use this item to support the brigade in events where the power is reduce or gone, and the Brigade is acting as a command centre. We look forward to reporting on this positively in the future.

Treasurer Christine Davey-White.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS

1st July 2016 to 30th June 2017

Bendigo Bank Account

RECEIPTS

Donations	\$41215.74
Grants and Allowances	\$150.00
Interest received	\$1577.79
Social	\$640.00
Sundry	\$50.00
Transfers from other accounts	\$760.00
Total	\$44393.60

PAYMENTS

Affiliations	\$4225.20
Catering	\$947.40
Community Education and Publicity	\$50.95
Community Education and Publicity (GST free)	\$2035.63
Diary Expenses (GST Free)	\$90.00
Diary Expenses	\$20.42
Equipment	\$4603.81
Fundraising	\$566.64
GST Input Tax	\$2001.68
Motor Vehicle expenses	\$23.61
Ration Packs	\$33.55
Social Expenses	\$5006.80
Station Amenities (GST Free)	\$104.31
Station Amenities	\$2572.93
Transfers to other Accounts	\$10000.00
TRIP (GST Free)	\$659.00
Uniforms	\$55.25
Miscellaneous Uniforms	\$326.23
Total	\$34907.43

NET RECEIPTS **\$9486.17**

BankWest High Yield

RECEIPTS

Transfers	\$7000.00
Interest	\$1182.54
Total	\$8182.54

PAYMENTS

NA

NET RECEIPTS **\$8182.54**

Balances as at 30th June 2017

Bendigo Bank (Main Account)	\$27639.69
Bendigo Juniors	\$5523.95
BankWest High Yield Savings	\$95166.91
TOTAL	\$128330.55

COMMUNITY EDUCATION REPORT

Believe it or not, but being part of the CFA is not all about riding on the big red truck with lights and sirens going, spraying wet stuff on the hot stuff.

Our role is to protect the life and property of our community members and any other community that we are called upon to protect. At the approx. 120 call outs we attend each year we are there to carry out this responsibly to the best of our ability.



But have you ever considered how many lives and properties we have saved by providing our knowledge or simply having a friendly chat about fire awareness to members of the community or even family and friends.

Conversations such as: "wouldn't burn off today as it's a bit windy", or "have you changed your smoke alarm battery" or even "slow down around the corner near Mary Street as it's slippery at this time of the year" are all forms of community awareness that can -and do- save lives and property.

Throughout the year there have been a number of structured Fire Safety Info sessions that focus on specific topics; Fire Awareness stands at Woolworth's, Bush Fire Workshops at the station and displays at school fetes.

In the past we used to hold info sessions at the Emerald Sunday Market which would have an engagement rate of about 30 or so people. We now hold sessions at Woolworth's instead and within the same time period we are able to engage with 80 or more people - and an added bonus is that we can simply run across the road if we get a call out!

The Emerald CFA Facebook with over 2,700 followers is an excellent source of Community Safety information and the credit must go to Nick and Ryan for their outstanding work.

Each year the number of call outs declines. This can't all be down to 'luck' but must be directly related to community fire awareness education and understanding.



Back to the 120 calls we have a year, where we have turned out to save life and property - if we include the structured events, Facebook and community chats this figure of 120 would be more like 4,000 lives and/or properties that we protected.



Well done everyone for helping to make our community safe.



Firefighter Simon Arnold
Community Safety
Co-ordinator.

FUNDRAISING REPORT



With the diaries safely resting in the retirement home, this year's fundraising hasn't been quite as eventful. Being elected into the BMT has led to fundraising taking a back seat with plans I had in place for May/June being pushed back until later in the year with recruitment being the priority. Despite this, we have still received several donations

We saw an increased focus from CFA regarding brigade financial planning and future viability. A session with the District Manager and Chris D-W outlined what was required. Since then I have created the financial plan which will be presented to the BMT early in into the new financial year and subsequently to the brigade and district.

Unfortunately earlier in the year, we suffered a setback as one of our collection tins was stolen from Cellarbrations in Emerald. We understand there were similar thefts in the area. It is disappointing that some people would stoop to this level.

In the meantime, we purchased twenty fundraising collection containers to place around the town so we can accept funds from the generosity of the local community. We can also use these at key local markets and school fairs to assist in our fundraising efforts throughout the year.

Lieutenant Klaus Brodeck
Fundraising Co-ordinator.



FIRE SAFE KIDS REPORT

We were lucky enough to have the two kinder classes visit the fire station. They loved looking at the trucks and seeing our firefighters put on their turn out gear. The TIC camera was very popular and the kids loved seeing their hand prints and the different colours the TIC produced on the side of the fire truck! Of course getting to squirt a traffic cone with the live reel was also very popular!

Emerald Primary School was fantastic, allowing us to visit 18 classrooms over 3 days! Kelly and I spoke with over 400 children during these sessions. We had different session plans for each age group to make sure we kept the content age appropriate. We covered lots of different topics including: bushfire safety, calling 000, fire science, fire danger rating signs, preparing your property, bushfire plans and a little home fire safety too. The children were fantastic, staying focused, on topic and asking excellent questions! The younger children loved the get down low and stop, drop and roll sections. It meant that they got to get up and try it out. The older children were intrigued by fire science and came up with some amazing scenarios and questions!

Fire Safe Kids Co-ordinator
Kate Griffin.





Emerald Fire Brigade 75th Anniversary Presentation Night

Held at Forest Edge, Gembrook, on Saturday 16th July 2016

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Firefighter of the Year | F/F Simon Arnold |
| Runner-up Firefighter of the Year | F/F Tanya Jogan |
| Best First Year Firefighter | F/F Liam Dempsey |
| Merit Awards | Lt Klaus Brodeck |
| | F/F Paris Philippou |
| Captains Appreciation Award | F/F Kelly Harris |
| Officer of the Year | Lt Calum Bean |
| Special Presentation | BASO Kate Murphy |
| New Member Certificate | F/F Paul Mycroft |
| 'Tool of the Year' Award | F/F Simon Arnold |
| Individual Achievement at an Incident | Lt Andrew Merlo |
| | Lt Adrian Trimnell |
| | F/F Paris Philippou |
| | F/F Ian Woodhouse |
| | F/F Jody Yandle |
| 20 Year Service Medal | B/M Kate Griffin |
| 15 Year Service Medal | F/F Collin Griffin |
| 65 Year Service Medal | Ex-Captain Graeme Legge |
| Emerald Fire Brigade Life Membership | Captain Paul Yandle |
| CFA Life Membership | Captain Paul Yandle |

- Special Guests
- OO Ian Cross and Lorraine Cross
 Brad Battin MP
 Captain Jarryd Miller



FOREST EDGE



HAZMAT INCIDENT

On the 3/11/2016, Nicole and I were deciding whether or not to stay at her place as we had a late night out, I decided that I should go home. This decision was later both a blessing and curse at the same time. As soon as I got home I smelled this very strong aroma which I could not really describe except that it was not a pleasant one, now living with my father this is not an unusual occurrence except that this smell gave me a headache immediately. I woke my father up and asked him what he had been doing, he had no idea what I was talking about or could not smell a thing. As I looked around the house to try to find what was causing the smell I noticed a small tin that had been sitting on the window ledge in the kitchen area, it had been there for a while so I never took any notice of it. As I looked at it I saw that it was leaking from the side and that the paint was peeling off the window frame from where the liquid had come into contact. As I walked closer I noticed the smell get worse, it was at this stage I came to realise that things were going to escalate rapidly. I told dad that I was going to call the fire brigade which he was not very welcoming of, isolated the cats in a room that seemed not to be exposed and took photos of said leaking can and took it outside being careful not to have any skin contact with the liquid. The fire brigade showed up in prompt time and immediately got into action with identifying the substance and creating a hot zone and a decontamination area for both myself and dad. There were a few members and myself trying to convince dad to go to the hospital to be checked out as he had the longest exposure to the chemical but he was resistant to it at first, after much negotiation, pandering and a few threats he eventually decided to go. Now I must say that for a November night it was freezing, and to get into the ambulance we had to wear some disposable jump suits, to say that it was a little difficult because of the cold would be an understatement, little did I know it was going to get worse.

Something to be learnt from all this would be correct location for ambulances to park themselves preferably not beside a tanker with the exhaust blowing into the open side door of the ambulance. The consequence of this action was first of all not a pleasant trip to the hospital and when arriving at the hospital being told that you have to do a full decontamination because all that the emergency department staff can smell are exhaust fumes from the trucks. Full decontamination involved getting naked, outside, with your father, in front of strangers in the freezing cold and having a luke warm shower for 20 minutes....

It highlighted the need to train for these kind of situations as the staff were not really well equipped for this situation, we had 2 staff members helping us wash in the shower and they were wearing full PPC that was not very effective, I could see water dripping down the inside one of the nurses respirators. Otherwise they had warm towels ready and warm beds ready inside after having the shower.

Lessons to take away from this are, always be aware and cautious of elderly people who hoard, you never know what they may have lurking around the place. Think about where ambulances park. And always wear clean undies because you never know when you will have to take them off in front of strangers.

The blessing, dealing with the chemical in an appropriate way.

The curse, having a shower with your father in the cold while being watched by a few people.

Firefighter David Wheat.



RECRUITS TO FIREFIGHTERS

Thinking back to Recruits brought a smile to my face because of how far I've come as a Firefighter and an individual. I started Recruits on the back end of the course and proceeded on the next course with the theory. Recruits covered all the required skills from navigation to radio communication, fire-ground safety to fire behaviour, and with the help of the instructors I emerged from Recruits confident and well equipped in my ability to provide assistance to my newly found and ever growing family.

Firefighter Sam Fredrickson.



I had always wanted to do something to help people in times of need, become part of my local community and give something back, as well as wanting to do something for myself from a self-worth point of view, and I found this when I decided to become a member of the Emerald Fire Brigade in June 2016.

Moving to Emerald in February 2015, I felt a need to become more involved given the beautiful surroundings I was now living in. I commenced my Wildfire Training last June along with 2 fellow new recruits- Sam & Anthony, and over the 6 month period to November we learnt and experienced so much more than I had ever imagined. From Learning about the capabilities of the different assets, training at fellow Fire Stations across the Hills, spending time with my new "family" at the station on Wednesday nights and Sunday mornings, meeting fellow recruits from outside of Emerald, being able to sit on the back of the tanker, assisting with the Juniors to practical assessment day at SETG- **WOW** what a life changing experience it has been so far- and I am absolutely loving it!

But it has not stopped there, I have built new friendships and an example of this, the CFA has empowered me to do things that I would not have fathomed before- such as the Oxfam 100km walk which I completed back in April. The Emerald CFA put a team of 4 together (Simon, Sam, Kelly & myself), and during the lead up to the walk, it enabled the 4 of us to get to know each other a lot more, and for this, I am forever grateful for taking on the challenge.

From a personal development point of view, the opportunities are endless. Since completing my Wildfire Training late last year, I have since completed First Aid Training, I am now also chainsaw qualified, and I am currently in the midst of completing my Low Structure course. When I think about other courses I am hoping to complete throughout my career at the CFA, the



opportunities seem endless. How could you not be impressed and excited to be part of such an amazing organisation?

Special thanks must go out to Tanya Jogan, who has been like a “Fairy Godmother” to us as new recruits. The time, guidance, patience and knowledge she has bestowed upon us is greatly appreciated ongoing, and her wicked sense of humour does in fact make you feel appreciated, welcome and part of the furniture. Having a ball and lovin it!

Firefighter Shannon Sadler.



I have only lived in the Hills for four years when in July 2016 I decided to join the CFA in Emerald. I was accepted and enrolled in the Recruits course. I thought this would be a great way to contribute to the community and meet new people in the area, whilst at the same time satisfying a lifelong dream of mine, to become a firefighter.

The recruitment training has been amazing. I have gained an enormous amount of knowledge, firefighting skills and have improved my personal skills also. Doing this course and training with other CFA members, people that have the same goals, the passion and aspiration to help others in a time of need, has been nothing short of amazing. The recruitment training saw us travel across the Dandenong Ranges, training at different CFA stations, and using many different types of equipment. The knowledge and experience I have gained will stay with me forever.

Since completing the Recruits course I have completed two other courses and are currently completing my Structural Firefighting and Class A foam course. The courses available to improve our skills are endless.

I have been so impressed by the level of commitment of the Captain and Lieutenants at the Emerald Brigade. Nothing is ever too much trouble, and no questions ever go unanswered. Their eagerness in helping me learn as much as possible has been second to none. Training and working with these individuals has made this a wonderful experience for me and I will be forever grateful for their patience and knowledge. I am looking forward to continuing the journey with the CFA in the future.

Firefighter Anthony Cranston.

RECRUITS GRADUATION CEREMONY



NEW FIREFIGHTERS AT SETG



The day of excitement had come, time to put all I had learned to application and be assessed on my ability to carry out fire-ground related tasks, setting and putting water on fire is every Firefighters bread and butter and I made that so on the day, a great experience with a great group of people.

Firefighter Sam Fredrickson.



NEW RECRUIT

I moved to Emerald around four years ago, driving past the fire station twice a day minimum on my way to work and home. I would often see the trucks pulled out the front of the station on a Wednesday night or Sunday morning. I said to my partner Lisa "I want to get involved with the CFA, would be great to help out the community". We ran our own business in Hallam and as anyone that has their own business would know, you just don't get much spare time away from your business. Unfortunately I didn't have any spare time to commit to Emerald CFA.

In October 2016 I managed to free up some time and changed my working career. It was meant to be, a Facebook advert popped up on my phone. "Emerald CFA is Recruiting". I got in touch with Adrian Trimnell and organised a time to come down to the station and have a chat.

Both Adrian and Klaus sat down with me and answered any questions I had about being a part of Emerald CFA. I got all my paperwork sorted out and before I knew it, I had my CFA member number.

On the 25th of January 2017 I got to go for a ride on the back of the tanker for the first time on a Wednesday night training run.



We went down to Emerald Lake and I was shown draughting and how to hold the branch. I remember this because it was my birthday and all I was thinking was "how cool is this"! Recruits started the following week, it has been great to learn new skills and test some knowledge I had from years past. Meeting recruits from other stations has been great and visiting areas around the Dandenongs district 13 has been awesome.

6 months on and I'm now at the end of the course and I can't wait to attend SETG.

A big thanks to Tanya Jogan for helping me through the Recruits paperwork and showing me what I needed to know. I have also picked up a lot of valuable tips and been shown the ways by all members of the brigade during Wednesday night training when I wasn't at recruits.

I'm looking forward to a great future volunteering at Emerald CFA and being a part of the community.

Recruit Glenn Snashall.



ANZAC DAY 2017



Getting to bed early the night before was a good idea, except I didn't count on the heavy rain that would happen during the night and so every time I was awake all I could think of was *we are going to get wet*, but considering what our fallen heroes had gone through this was nothing.

Getting to the station a number of cars were there already which was fantastic to see and even more came after, so we all got into the Pumper and Salvage and took off the RSL.

Once we got there we put the awning up on the salvage which saved a few umbrellas but we didn't count on the horizontal rain.

Anyway all set up, it was great to see the amount of people that were around considering the weather, with the start of the service we had the lone piper and then the chilling sounds of war which in the darkness gives a little insight of what it would of sounded like all those years ago.

The speeches started and the stand out was from the President of Emerald RSL, Peter Maloney, who spoke on the subject of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and how many people and governments have chosen to ignore it - yet the numbers of deaths that are caused from this grows each year.

We as a Brigade have to acknowledge PTSD as it also involves Emergency Services responders; many of us are affected by this as well.

After the dawn service we returned to the station for a good feed of egg and bacon rolls and a side of fruit. It was great to see so many SES members turn up as well and they really deserved the feed after being in the rain looking after the traffic etc.

Next was on to the morning service where the march began at Emerald Cenotaph and many service groups walked from there in parade to Emerald RSL, and again great to see so many community groups taking part and we even had double the amount of mini-mokes and that added to the look.

At least it held off raining for that march but once we all got in our positions down it came again, but no one was deterred, and it was another great service.

Well done Emerald RSL.

Firefighter Trevor Ireland.







JUNIOR FIRE BRIGADE REPORT



Here we are again another year down and we wonder where it went, and in the case of the Juniors it's been another very busy year.

Before we cover what happened in the previous year I better mention that this year is Emerald Junior Fire Brigade 30th year in existence and we are still going from strength to strength with the current number of Juniors being 14.



Our history of the Juniors goes way back to when Paul Yandle and Peter Whitehead decided to approach the Brigade to start a Juniors program, it was approved and advertised and on the night of the 4th April 1987 a very young member of the Brigade called Paul Yandle turned up at the station to await any prospective Juniors but unfortunately on that night no one turned up, so not giving up Paul and a few members showed up on the 30th May 1987 to await any new prospective members and sure enough 2 new Juniors arrived and the Junior Brigade has never looked back.

We have averaged 10-20 members each year and this shows how strong a Junior Brigade we have and also shows the support we have from the Senior Brigade. Over the years many of our Juniors have gone on to become Seniors as well as Officers in our Brigade and elsewhere and even a few have become C.F.A. employed. It is very uplifting going to a call and seeing an ex Junior on the fire ground with either our Brigade or another Brigade, as this shows all our hard work in keeping their interest and training in the Brigade has worked and it's increased our volunteer members.

So getting back to what our Juniors have done in the last year, we've had training sessions on: pumps, mapping, our Junior Code of Conduct, generators and lighting, PPC and PPE, Kalorama Fun Day training, hose bowling and basic drills, visit to Cockatoo Fire station, Emerald SES visit, Puffing Billy trip, station maintenance including washing the trucks, safety on the fire ground, water sources and draughting, bushfire info, kitchen fires, bbq fires and safety, ventilation theory and practical and use of the thermal imaging camera ... and this is only some of what we covered over the last year and unfortunately a number of others were cancelled out of our control but hopefully we can get them done in the next year.

The main one cancelled was Kalorama Fun Day which was very disappointing considering all the hard work all the Juniors had put in but we will be even more determined to do well at the coming years' event.

All the planning this year is due to Tanya's hard work and the support of many Seniors who have put their hand up to offer help on a Tuesday night. We thank every one of you with a special thank you to F/F Tony Van Wageningen for all the time he has put in.

Our 2016 Junior Presentation Night was held on 2nd August with a great turn up of Juniors and their families with the following awards being presented:

Junior Fire Fighter of the year	Tallara Volk
Runner up Junior Fire Fighter	Jaxon Burdette
Encouragement award	Russell Gledhill

Well done again to the recipients and we look forward to this years' Junior Presentation Night awards as it is very close.

In closing I again would like to thank the support of the Senior Brigade and Officers and a bigger thanks to 4th Lt Tanya Jogan for running the Juniors Program. Our next year is looking to be our biggest and best yet, stay tuned!

Junior Co-Ordinator Trevor Ireland.



FROM OUR JUNIOR FIREFIGHTERS

- TAIGE** I liked using an extinguisher – I love Junior Fire Brigade CFA
- SIENNA** I wanted to join Juniors because I was interested in learning about safety and fires. I'm really happy I joined because I've met so many new people that I wouldn't have met if I didn't join. I've enjoyed being in a group and I enjoyed ... PowerPoints ... and thanks Tanya for leading Juniors and all the people who help.
- TALLARA** I have been Captain of the Juniors and it's been a great learning experience for me. I faced many challenges but got through them with help from my team members 😊
- RHYS** As my 3rd and final year Emerald CFA has been an amazing experience, it's also given me the chance and experience to move up on to Seniors and I'm lovin' and have loved every second with Juniors.
- JAYDEN** My favourite thing we did was walk around in a room filled with fake smoke.
- ELOUISE** My Dad told me about Juniors, I came for 1 night and I really liked it so I joined. I liked practising for Kalorama Fun Day, it was really fun.
- ALISHA** I joined Juniors because I wanted to help the community. Thank you Tanya and Trevor for making me feel welcome at CFA. I will miss you!
- KAELIN** I joined CFA because I wanted to be an amazing leader and be known.
- KAIDEN** I love how they give us lots of lollies and fun excursions.
- TARA** I joined CFA Juniors at the start of 2015, at that time I joined CFA because I thought it would've been fun. Yes, Juniors is fun but now I know I want to go to Seniors because we help people. We do good things, I love the CFA because I'm gonna be known to be a good person and that I help out the community.
- JAXON** I like CFA Juniors because we learn heaps about firefighting and how to save cats out of trees. Thanks Trevor and Tanya and all of Emerald CFA.
- GIL** I decided to join Juniors so I can help and be part of the community.
- MITCH** ... Mitch is still thinking about what to write.
- RUSSELL** Over the course of my time at CFA I have learned many new skills and filled my head with new knowledge that will not just only help me with problems in the present but also when I am much older, because of the knowledge I have learned in the time I spent in the CFA.

JUNIORS BLAST FROM THE PAST

OF TANNER 2 "HINO" 10 JUNIORS IN ATTENDANCE *Pauline*

27.9.88 14:00
2:00 Junior Brigade Training: Equipment familiarization of Tanker 1, Trailer Pump and hydrant use. Coupling familiarization. 10 Juniors in attendance as per register. *Pauline*

4/10/88 14:00
2:00 JUNIOR BRIGADE - FIRST BUSINESS MEETING. DISCUSSED ON WHAT WOULD BE THE JUNIORS WANT + WHAT TYPE OF LOGO TO BE PUT ON IT... + TRAINING THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO: TRAINING: ROPES, KNOTS + LINES INCORPORATING LABOUR WORK. ALSO GENERATORS + LIGHTING PLANT. DURING THE MEETING WE HAD AN ELECTION FOR A CHAIRMAN - TIM KELLY + SECRETARY BENJAMIN WENDEL. 12 JUNIORS + PT. RD. *Pauline*

15:30
11:00 JUNIOR BRIGADE TRAINING. BASIC COMMUNICATIONS: INCORPORATING THEORY + PRACTICAL WORK WITH VERTICE + PORTABLE RADIOS. B. TROWBRIDGE, M. SHAWEN, P. WINTERFORD ASSISTED. 11 MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE. USED LOW BAND CHANNELS 5 + 9 = LOW BAND 36 03. *Pauline*

14:00
18:10 JUNIOR BRIGADE TRAINING: HOSE MAINTENANCE + CARE + HOSE LAYING EXERCISE USING TANNER 2. + COMP TEAM EQUIPMENT. 13 JUNIORS. I. CUMMINGS, P. DEAN ASSISTED. *Pauline*

29/3/11-03 Hills Junior Fire Brigade camp held at Gilwell Park Scout Camp in Cumberbrook. Nine brigades from the Dandenong Ranges participated and camped out. We made rafts + got wet, flew down the hill in our billycart (+ got wet), were filmed for a Juniors special on the Channel Nine TODAY show (+ got really, really wet), plus lots of socialising and having fun. A delegation of Juniors equivalents from Western Australia joined us in our Saturday activities. Brilliant Event!
Kat Cree








2017 Emerald Fire Brigade Annual Report
Proudly protecting and serving our local communities since 1941
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WOMEN IN EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE

Early in the Brigade's history nearly every able-bodied man in Emerald was a registered member because it provided an insurance-cover should injury occur; besides, it was highly probable that all such members were likely to assist in fire-fighting sometime each year. This arrangement fulfilled community and Brigade needs at that time.

Brigade membership has consisted of a wide range of experiences and training including farmers, labourers, students, teachers, estate agents, shop assistants, tradesmen (builders, plumbers, house painters electrician, etc.) sailors, soldiers, post master, ambulance officers, backhoe operator, bus drivers, computer technician, computer analyst, civil engineer, motor mechanics, nurserymen, . . . This strength of expertise complements the fire-experience and Brigade training because in many a situation these skills are drawn upon to the benefit of the Brigade and to the community in need.

Currently New Members join, (and are then covered by insurance against injury and loss of income) before passing through a six-month probationary period. At the same time they complete a basic training course of a like period. They may then be accepted by the Brigade for full membership.

Having achieved this status they receive a presentation certificate with the following wording below the Brigade's red letterhead:

'Firefighter . . . (name) . . . you have been enrolled by the Country Fire Authority of Victoria as a volunteer member of the Emerald Fire Brigade and, on behalf of the Officers and Members of the Brigade, I extend to you a warm welcome to our ranks.

Fire Service is honoured throughout the world as a noble occupation, worthy of recognition by the conferring of honours and awards.

You have accepted the great responsibility of endeavouring to save life and property in the event of fire and other emergency and this could, at times, involve great danger to your person, no little discomfort and much personal sacrifice.

That you have undertaken this with no expectation of remuneration for your service is much to your credit and the community will be indebted to you for your services.

We shall instruct you in the techniques and skills of fire-fighting. You will subject yourself to discipline and attend meetings and practices so that you might acquire skills and become proficient in the techniques of fire-fighting.

We trust that you will join in our social gatherings so that your zeal and diligence will increase and you will be a happy member amongst us.

May the years before you as a member of this Brigade bring satisfaction to you and benefit to your community.

When bushfires occurred in the Brigade's early days it was general practice that men dealt with flames and heat and smoke; ladies would resort to kitchens, make billies of tea and tramp towards the fire with billies and cups, milk and sugar to offer refreshments. If the incident were at a meal time then a basket of home-made sandwiches (sometimes a cake) would sustain the grimy men. Ladies whose homes were yet to gain an electrical supply had to light a fire in the kitchen stove to begin this process.

Such assistance became more organised with the advent of a Ladies Auxiliary in 1979 which not only raised funds for equipment but also planned for catering: twenty meals? forty? more? for delivery (often in a remote bush setting). Arrangements were made with local shops for the supply of bulk loaves of bread and fillings, milk and other items. After-hours contact details of relevant stores were maintained.

This list of Sandwich Fillings has survived those times:

"The following quantities will feed approximately 60 men:

10	2lb loaves		
2 1/2 lb ham		1 1/2 lb cheese	
3 lettuces	2 'Miracle Marg.' (spreads well)		
1 lb 'stras' (sic)		3 lbs tomatoes	
1/2 lb corned beef		2 onions	

(NO fish paste, meat paste, sardines, Vegemite, peanut butter or cucumber are recommended.)

1/2 lb tea 4-5 cartons milk 1 kilo sugar"

Early stalwarts of 1979 included Adele Atkins, Jean Bergwerf, Elisabeth Legge, Val Muller, Rosemary Foster, Sharon Avers, Monica Jones ... This team stayed together for nearly twelve years.

In 1989 the Auxiliary boasted eleven members.

Female membership of the Brigade began with ladies joining to render administrative service through secretarial and treasurer-ship roles. Welcome, Mrs Rhonda Rogers (1981-82) and Mrs Heather Maxwell (1982-86). Heather's father was heavily involved with the Fire Service and Heather was really familiar with its operations. And Heather queried the Fire Service ignoring fifty percent of the population.

And so it was around 1972 that the CFA approved female members participating in active fire-fighting service, the Brigade gained four new members: Sally Drewett, Dawn Stewart, Stephanie Partridge and Jenny Legge. An analysis of their backgrounds identified that two of them had male family members already, and two had friends who were existing members. The Brigade and CFA benefited through this additional membership qualified and entitled to fight fires and travel on fire trucks.

Brigade Juniors also became entitled to enrol girls as members and Kathy Cattanach was an early such member at age fourteen years.

At a certain time in the 1980s after "Ash Wednesday" the Brigade experienced a shortage of members available to respond to fire calls during daytime working hours as many members had employment well beyond the township and district. A special 'drive' was pursued towards ladies at home and shift-workers who may have had rotating shifts and be available on certain days. The promotion was successful and an alternate training night was provided because it was often the case that the ladies looked after the children when husbands were at Brigade Training. On Thursday nights the child-minding roles were reversed. Mrs Christine Bendall (estate agent), Mrs Jean Clowes (office worker), Mrs Kay Kelly, Mrs Heather Maxwell (trained teacher), Mrs Bobbie Dryden and Helen McKay (Buckley) were among those who joined. These new members, all novices, handled hoses, pumped water from Emerald Lake and fire hydrants, learned about fire behaviour, the 'fire triangle' and were taught techniques of extinguishment. They became really proficient.

Following their daytime training sessions these new members readily complemented existing members on turn-out crews. Heather continued undertaking 'emergency teaching' (excepting on days of Total Fire Ban) and Christine Bendall smiled as she recalled responding to the fire siren where, at the fire station she deliberately removed her earrings while Bill Richman (who worked at Puffing Billy Workshop) held Christine's overalls in such a way as she could readily step into them before putting on her helmet. And in those times, members paid for their overalls, and bought their own fire boots. Helmets were issued (but subject to return at the end of 'service'. Nowadays female volunteers are a normal component of the Brigade membership and everyone is issued with full fire-fighting gear.

Occasionally issues arose like 'seniority' and therefore, 'who was in charge?' For example, who is of greater seniority, a lieutenant or a secretary? But such queries were readily resolved in amicable fashion. There was a time when the lady (secretary) was officially the senior officer but who dealt with the matter by asking the lieutenant 'what would you do?' and promptly taking that advice.

Heather Maxwell recalls returning home at night from a function ("all glammed up") only to come across a road accident outside Emerald Secondary College. Heather joined the crew and was designated as pump operator – still wearing her evening 'fur' jacket. Helen vividly remembers turning out to a car fire near the Emerald Co-op only to find it a bright red two-door Ford Capri with flames issuing from under the bonnet. Brigade members and police were all in attendance when another car was sighted at the distance of the railway line of another car 'flying' towards the emergency scene. Yes, it was another family member hastening to help! Embarrassment! Even so, Helen fondly remembers the enjoyment she found in training with hydrant, hose and branch. Sometimes this routine used water, at other times it was 'dry'.

Chris Bendall and Heather Maxwell took driving lessons and Chris duly qualified as a Brigade driver and Heather returned to full-time teaching.

That particular group of ladies developed a close friendship and continue to meet twice yearly, now more than thirty years later.

There were 'real' fires of course, but there were also 'practice' fires such as when the Brigade burned nature strips for fire prevention. Sometimes the hours are long and may even involve 'traffic control' where a road accident may be involved. But the 'norm' is heat, smoke, ash, perspiration, getting really tired, but oh how satisfying to have been part of team that has brought relief to someone who was frightened, maybe in pain, or experiencing any of a number of emotions.

The Membership Certificate proclaims "*Fire service is honoured throughout the world as a noble occupation, worthy of recognition by the conferring of honours and awards.*" That's the status of the Organisation! Marg Johnson became a Communications Officer, Secretary Lieutenant and awarded a National Medal. In Jenny Adams' (Legge) case she transferred to another Brigade after marriage, where, in addition to fighting fires has continued to pursue her interest in radio communication by 'manning' Group Radio Control. Jenny has been awarded a National Medal, Emergency Services Medal and a Forty Year Service Medal.

The Brigade, again, is actively seeking new members as sometimes the turn-out numbers are low and may be hard-pressed to attend to all the functions and tasks required upon the scene of an emergency. Remember, when the siren sounds, then, someone is in trouble and requires attention. What more natural response than that others respond to their needs and render assistance and aid. There's a certain amount of excitement but much hard work. The sun isn't always shining and the weather isn't always warm. But the need is there. Other people are in trouble. Won't you earnestly consider your availability, your health, your talents and your compassion towards others? You'd join the membership with excellent training to prepare you.

Graeme Legge.

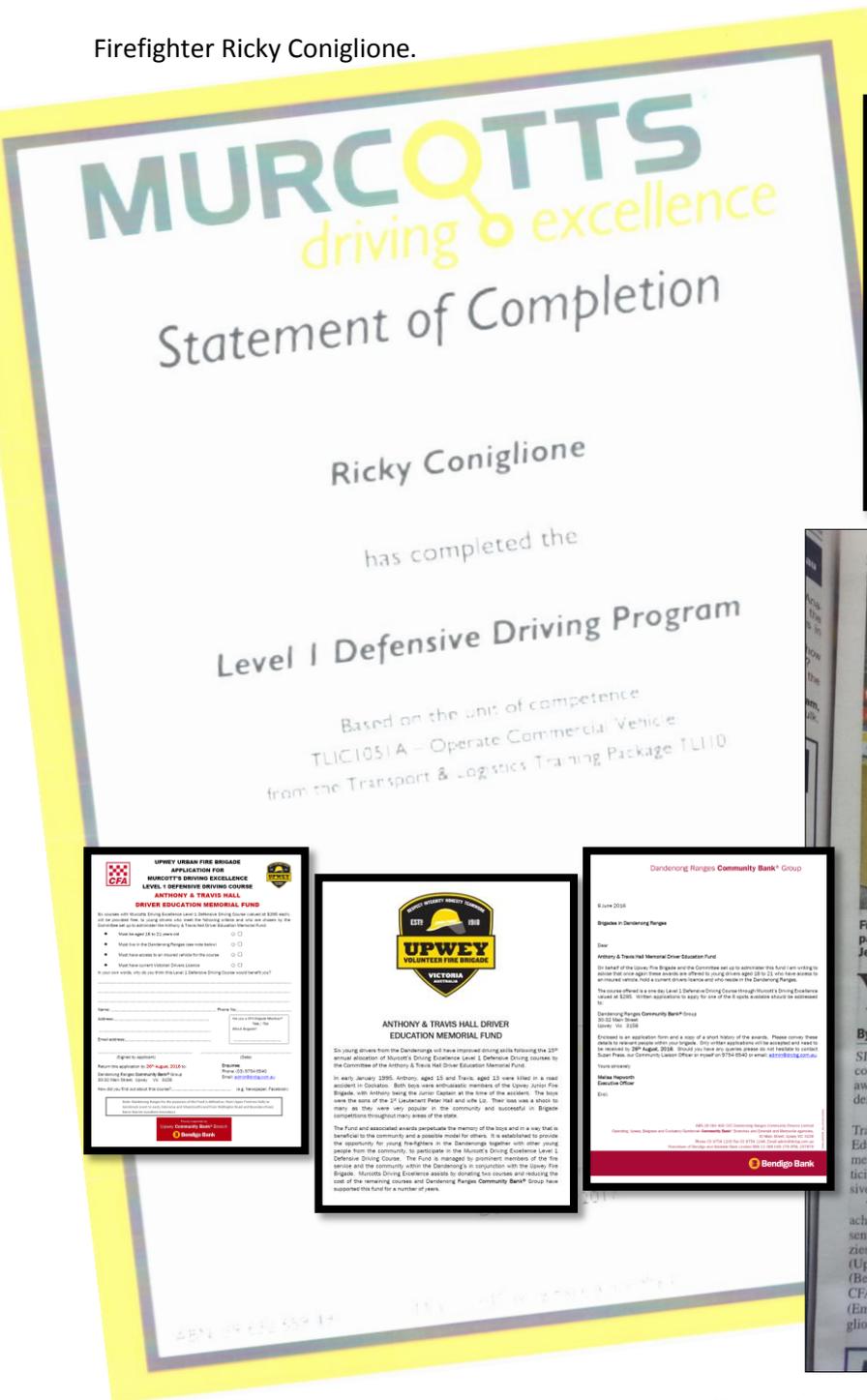
ANTHONY & TRAVIS HALL DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE

This was a fun course which involved learning about my cars' capabilities in an emergency situation. I learnt to utilise my emergency breaking system, seeing what it feels like under the feet so in case of an emergency I won't hesitate to react. We also went through breaking to avoid collisions and pedestrians and the recommended distance between cars and then a practical application of it.

Firefighter Sam Fredrickson.

I'd like to thank the Anthony & Travis Hall Memorial Driver Education Fund and Emerald Fire Brigade for my successful nomination to attend a Level 1 Defensive Driving program at Murcotts Driving Excellence Pty Ltd. The course I went to ran on the 18th March 2017 at Sandown Motor Racing Circuit. It was an excellent day and I highly recommend this course to all drivers as a way of bettering your driving skills.

Firefighter Ricky Coniglione.



IT WAS ME!



You know those times when people say 'I'm glad it was them and not me' – well, this was one of those times... except it wasn't someone else – it was me! Sunday 26th February 2017, training started off as normal – for me that meant doing 'housework' around the station, vacuuming was my choice of task that day. Vacuuming done and a few more people now in attendance we discussed what we would do for the remainder of the session.



It was me who said "It's a nice sunny morning, let's go out and do some wet training".

It was me who chose the streets we would do the training in.

Captain Paul chose to drive the Pumper so that he could try out the clutch which had been having a few issues of late and Klaus was riding shotgun as Crew Leader. At each location, Paul Mycroft and I were practising setting up

the standpipe, as we would if we needed water on the Fireground.

Duke Street is a dead-end street on a steep decline so Captain Paul reversed down; we

were going to use the hydrant at the bottom first, then the one half ways up the street. We located the bottom hydrant okay, I set the standpipe and turned the water on – it was really surging which was odd, I hadn't seen anything like that before. Captain Paul tooted the truck horn indicating he wanted water off ... tooting the horn startled me a little and instead of turning the water off I turned it more on, then it seems I turned it off a little bit too quickly.

It was me who said "What's that water coming out of the ground up there?"

It was me who said "Crap!"

The water hammer had broken this ground ball seal and also the seal on the ground ball further up the line, and the mains water pipe had ruptured ... and it had also popped the water mixer tap off the wall at one of the houses at the bottom of the street!!

It was me who again said "Crap!"

Captain Paul called it in to VicFire as a job, he asked for Yarra Valley Water to attend and as the hydrant was directly under power lines he also asked for the power company to attend.

We tried to relieve the pressure from the mains by running one line, four lengths of 64mm hose from the upper hydrant through a friendly guy's property down into a paddock. This was a good move as it helped settle the nerves of several concerned residents of the street who were worried about flooding.

A Yarra Valley Water representative arrived – he was a pretty 'down to earth' kind of guy who made a bit of a joke about me and my silliness and then got on with the business of sorting the problem out. Captain Paul asked Ryan to send a pager message asking for support to help with making up all the hose – thanks to Ryan, Jody and Big Dave.

Yarra Valley Water now had the situation under control.

We huffed and we puffed - Duke Street is very steep. We made up our equipment and returned to station. Back at the station, washing and hanging hoses to dry Captain Paul said "Who knows where the spanner is?" Of course, we all knew which spanner he was referring to.

It was me who went into the turn out room, took the Tool Award spanner from Calum's hook and hung it on my own.

The following day Captain Paul copped an ear-bashing from the Ops officer. Captain Paul was very careful with the words he chose to say to me but I still felt rather crappy about the whole situation.

Focussing on the positives – at least it all happened at a non-urgent, non-bushfire, non-threatening time and we supported the economy by giving the water company and the power company representatives a job. However, my apologies still go to the inconvenienced Duke Street residents.

And, lesson learned, we shouldn't turn off ground ball hydrants too quickly!

It was me! I did it, it was me!!



Lieutenant Tanya Jogan.

WINDY SUNDAY

Storm Response – 9th October 2016

Significant storm events play havoc with the communities of the Dandenong Ranges. The Hills are renowned for large tracts of heavily-treed bushland, narrow winding roads and hundreds of houses tucked within. This is a beautiful part of the world to live, but when severe weather hits it can be fraught with danger.

Saturday 8th October brought with it a weather forecast of high winds over much of the following day. Discussions between Emerald SES Controller, Deputy Controller and the CFA Dandenong Ranges Group Officer lead to the Emerald LCF being set up as a Divisional Command post to assist the Emerald SES Unit with managing the enormous workload that was, without a doubt, headed our way.

The high winds had arrived by mid-morning Sunday and just before 1200hrs we received a request for support crews from the SES. Captain Paul Yandle took on the role of Divisional Commander at Emerald Fire Station and Lt Klaus Brodeck was despatched with a portable radio to the SES base station as CFA Liaison, which greatly streamlined the process.

Emerald members quickly arrived at the station to assist with running the DivCom. Firefighters Tanya Jogan, Ryan Lewis, Jody Yandle, Kelly Harris, Kat Cree, Lee Cunningham and Liam Dempsey contributed by managing phone and radio communications, and logging, sorting and despatching SES jobs to CFA crews. As on previous storm days, CFA crews performed a reconnaissance/triage role by assessing and prioritising jobs and attending to requests of assistance that were within our scope of skills. This vital work released the SES crews to attend to significant jobs that required their specific expertise and equipment. As always happens when under duress, there were many challenges on the day. Almost immediately the power went out which disabled the landlines and radios at the fire station. This was overcome through sourcing a large, trailer-mounted 3 phase generator from Yellingbo Brigade which quickly provided all the power we needed. Before this generator started supplying us with power, radio comms came from the Captain's car in the motor room and our small generator powered the photocopier and LCF radios - this really was operating on a shoe string. On top of this, the command channel in use failed and another had to be used for the rest of the day.

Initially, fourteen appliances from the Dandy Ranges Group were responded and met at Emerald Station. They were given a SMEACS briefing, a number of jobs to assess/attend to within a specific locality and advised that our other priority was to keep major roads open to ensure access for emergency services.

At around 1320hrs, the DivCom received a request from the SES Deputy Controller to remove all CFA resources from the field due to safety concerns. The winds were now far too severe to be working near trees. As the DivCom crew were about to immediately transmit this message, they received a MAYDAY call from Silvan Tanker 1 - a firefighter had been struck by a falling tree on Grantulla Road, Kallista. As a result of command channel issues, our acknowledgment of and response to the MAYDAY wasn't heard by Silvan Tanker 1. The training and experience of the crew leader had automatically kicked in and the accurate and vital information he provided enabled an immediate request to be made for paramedics and further rescue appliances. A Silvan firefighter had been knocked unconscious by the tree and was transported to hospital for a full medical assessment. Thankfully, he made a full recovery.

As a result of this incident and another that occurred at Badger Creek, the District 13 Acting Operations Manager ordered all CFA resources in the District to return to station immediately and only to respond to life threatening situations. All resources deployed from Emerald DivCom returned as directed. CFA Peer Support was activated and attended our station to offer support to members after the MAYDAY call.

Once the weather eased and we could return to the field, further resources were required to attend to the back log of calls. A Strike Team from each Group was deployed to continue assessing and attending to SES jobs, whilst several individual appliances were tasked with patrolling the main roads.

Emerald Salvage was monitoring our immediate area using the benefits of our crew's sound local knowledge. Members manning the Salvage throughout the day were Lt Adrian Trimnell and Firefighters David Davidson-Little, Liam Dempsey, Dave Wheat, Simon Arnold, and Tom Dawe.

A summary of information describing the impact this storm event had on the Dandenong Ranges revealed that approximately 17 homes were left uninhabitable or totally destroyed and approximately 35 homes or buildings received significant damage. Many areas were without power or had residential roads blocked for several days afterwards.

There is no doubt that every now and again our community faces some enormous challenges from nature. However, it is so much easier to deal with these events when our emergency services work so seamlessly together to achieve the best result we can, using the broad range of expertise, equipment and appliances that we have as a group. We work hard, we work effectively and we work as one.

Firefighter Jody Yandle.



After setting up the LCF/DivCom at our station, I was deployed to Emerald SES as the liaison between SES and our DivCom. At the SES sheds, it was organised chaos. Many people carrying out tasks, every job being printed out and placed on the table. Jobs kept coming in piles. We started sorting by suburb so we could task strike teams to the areas that were hit hardest. Immediately it was obvious that Belgrave, Belgrave Heights & South were hit the hardest. Then split by priority - trees down & traffic hazards were the priority, building damage jobs were delayed until later in the day and jobs involving powerlines/gas meters were passed on to CFA for immediate response due to risk of fire.

There were certainly challenges on the day with communications - 4G network dropped out at times, mobile network also dropped out, missed pager messages, go to channels dropped out as the towers were damaged in the wind event, not to mention the blackout which forced us to generator power. Also the fax didn't work and SES only had limited land lines that made it all the more challenging. Good learnings were taken away from this event and a key message is that sometimes the most basic forms of the communication are still the most effective.

Despite the challenges, everyone was able to overcome these and work extremely well together to complete the job at hand. We efficiently received the jobs from the SES, segmented and prioritised them, passed them on to Emerald DivCom who in turn dispatched over thirty CFA appliances to complete the jobs on the fireground. An effective service was delivered in clearing the backlog of jobs and showed what could be achieved when everyone worked together and followed the plan.

Lieutenant Klaus Brodeck.

Mother Nature was giving our corner of the country a pretty hard time during that October.

Victorian SES crews had been deployed over to SA for storm clean-up as well as being tasked to deal with the floods that were occurring in the north of Victoria at the time. Their members were fatigued and resources were pretty much stretched. So when the BoM issued a severe weather warning for sustained damaging winds in and around the Dandenong Ranges area, Emerald SES Unit Controller Ben Owen asked for CFA assistance to help manage the overflow of storm damage jobs that would no doubt come flowing in.

I actually wasn't planning to be at the station that Sunday morning, but I had to get a new battery for my pager and check my pigeon hole. When the first big gust of wind hit the station, I was in the motor room talking to someone and when I looked at the back roller door, I thought it was going to bust right out of its tracks!

A few of us went back inside to see what the plan was going to be if things kicked off. After a quick discussion with Paul, a pager message asking for any available members to come to the station ASAP was sent out, the LCF was activated and we began to set the station up accordingly. Not long after, the first few jobs began to roll in from Emerald SES. We didn't have much of a system setup at that stage to manage these jobs coming in, just a mini-whiteboard and some sheets of paper with appliances written down so we tried using a computer and emailing them across for a while - until the power went out.

All our critical IT/comms systems are fitted with Uninterruptable Power Supplies which are designed to keep computers, networking equipment, radios etc working for a short period until a more permanent power supply can be established (usually a generator). However, it looked like these UPS's had never really been load tested properly since they were installed and most failed within a couple of minutes. So we packed up our little whiteboard and bits of paper and moved out to the motor room and into the captains car to get back on the airwaves and start dispatching jobs.

During this time, Klaus went over to the SES Unit with a portable radio and we began relaying jobs across while we setup a new communication method. We grabbed a table from the Salvage and set it up next to us to help organise where everything was but the wind that was blowing through the open rear and front doors acting like a wind tunnel and blowing everything everywhere – time to rethink our approach.

We needed power for our computers/radios above all else. I asked Lee if he could try and get the comms rack and radios back up and running using the two small petrol generators from the Salvage. Not long after he had the essentials powered while a larger generator was being organised to run the whole station.

As the job load began to increase during the early afternoon and more and more resources were becoming involved, we made up an Excel spreadsheet as a kind of rough CAD system. This allowed us to track where every truck was and what they were doing at any given time, although there was a heap of manual data entry, it was better for me than a paper & pen system. Then as I was updating some details to the sheet, a call came over my radio that no-one ever wants to hear – MAYDAY. A firefighter out in the field had been hit by a falling tree and was knocked unconscious.

Our brains are amazing things, I vividly remember hearing the call come through and as soon as it registered as something of that level of importance, it felt like time slowed down, everything went quiet and I had this heightened sense of awareness for a moment, it was quite a strange feeling. Once his transmission ended, everything felt like it just exploded into life, people jumping on the phones and scratching down notes. I tried to call the firefighter back multiple times on the command channel but couldn't reach him which made things tense for a moment – it turned out he had switched over to VicFire and was relaying his MAYDAY through them as well however due to the enormous number of appliances out on jobs, the dispatch channel was extremely congested and he was having trouble getting through.

After that, we had a red flag warning come through about an impending band of severe wind gusts, the D13 OM ordered all CFA personnel off the fire-ground due to the deteriorating conditions and we had our Incident Command Channel fail due to power supply issues at the transmitter location.

Overall, our LCF managed around 150 individual jobs with 34 trucks under our control.

I ended up leaving the station around 02:00 Monday morning after going pretty much non-stop since I changed my pager battery at 10:30 the previous morning. There were some good learning's to come out of the experience. There's a few things I'd do differently next time, but overall I think everyone did the best they could under very trying circumstances.

Well done to everyone.

Communications Officer Ryan Lewis.



2016 SANTA RUN

Our annual Santa Run once again took place on Christmas Eve. Santa Lisa rang her bell throughout the Emerald township as Elf Shane helped give out lollies to the children of Emerald. A big thank-you to our Sleigh driver Kelly for helping to put many smiles on the faces of our Brigade family children's faces.

Ho! Ho!

Firefighter Shane Merrett.



2016 BRIGADE CHRISTMAS DINNER



FAREWELL 'DOC'



David Davidson-Little 'Doc' joined CFA in March 1995. A valued & knowledgeable firefighter, Doc also went on to be 4th Lieutenant, Driving Instructor, VFBV Delegate and Group Delegate.

Doc was awarded his 12 year service badge in 2007, his 15 year clasp in 2010 and his 20 year medal in 2015. From everyone at Emerald Fire Brigade - thank-you for being part of our team and for your commitment and service.



FAREWELL DAVE QUINLESS



David Quinless joined CFA in December 2009. Dave's easy going nature, great sense of humour, willingness to learn, his keenness to take initiative & contribute saw him quickly become a popular brigade member.

Dave has always been held in high regards by his peers. Dave was awarded Firefighter of the Year in 2012, Runner-Up Firefighter of the Year in 2013, Merit Award in 2014 and Captain's Appreciation Award in 2015.

Dave was awarded his 5 Year Certificate of Service in 2014.

From everyone at Emerald Fire Brigade - thank-you for being part of our team and for your commitment and service.



FAREWELL ANDREW MERLO



Andrew Merlo joined CFA in August 2009. Andy's always been the man who's there for anyone who needs it – all you had to do was ask, and Andy would go out of his way to help. Andy quickly rose in Brigade rank, in 2011 Andy became Communications Officer, 4th Lieutenant and Group Delegate in 2012, 2nd Lieutenant in 2013, 1st Lieutenant 2016

onwards and also Brigade Training Co-ordinator and Group Training Co-ordinator in 2017.

Andy was awarded the Marg Johnson Encouragement Award in 2011, Officer of the Year in 2013 and Officer of the Year in 2014 and Individual Achievement at an Incident in 2016.

Andy was awarded his 5 Year Certificate of Service in 2014.

Andy has contributed to Woods Point CFA since 2015 as a Firefighter, Brigade Community Safety Co-ordinator and Brigade Training Co-ordinator, and Andy is currently Woods Point Captain.

From everyone at Emerald Fire Brigade - thank-you for being part of our team and for your commitment and service.



UPPER BEACONSFIELD FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

As part of our Wednesday training 15.02.2017 we paid respects to our fallen fellow firefighters on the 34th anniversary of Ash Wednesday. Our visit to the Upper Beaconsfield Firefighter Memorial site was emotional and humbling. Upon returning to the parking area we found this note tucked under the windscreen wiper:

The following excerpt is taken from www.monumentaustralia.org.au

This monument commemorates the firefighters who lost their lives in the Ash Wednesday fires.

On Wednesday 16th February 1983, a call was received from Narre Warren tanker that they and another tanker from Pantom Hill were in trouble and trapped. They were situated on St Georges Road, Upper Beaconsfield, on the top of a hill. When the change came through the fire travelled from High St, up the hill to St Georges Rd, a distance of half a kilometre, in eleven seconds. With such speed and ferocity, they never stood a chance. The radio went dead, fire-fighters were fighting for their own lives, trying to take cover by getting under their trucks for protection.

At dawn the next morning two burnt out fire trucks and twelve fire fighters were discovered by Narre Warren First Lieutenant, Frank Clarke at St Georges Road, Upper Beaconsfield. One of those on the truck was his Captain, and 5 other members from Narre Warren. Forty seven people, fire-fighters and civilians, were to die on this day at fires all over the state. Forty six of these people died when the wind changed.

The monument is located at St Georges Road, Critchley Parker Junior Reserve, Beaconsfield Upper, VIC 3808



Lieutenant Tanya Jogan.

CHAINSAW COURSE

With a long day of theory I was keen to apply what I had learned to the practical part of the course. We learned about different cuts and what scenario to apply them in and then we made a chair after a couple of hours of cutting. All in all it was a fun course and I took a lot away from it.

Firefighter Sam Fredrickson.

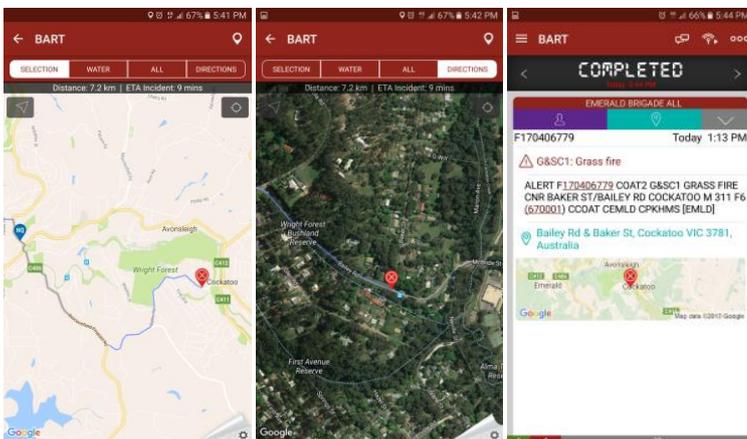


This year FF Samuel Fredrickson, FF Simon Arnold, FF Shannon Sadler and Lt Klaus Brodeck have all attended the chainsaw course.



EMERALD MEDICAL CENTRE OPENING

On Saturday 8th April 2017 Firefighter Paul Mycroft, Comms Officer Ryan Lewis and Lt Tanya Jogan attended the official opening ceremony of the recently renovated Emerald Medical Centre. We were enjoying the company of other local brigades and emergency service personnel (and the sausage sizzle 😊) when we were called to support Cockatoo Fire Brigade at a Grass & Scrub Fire – we hastily left the Medical Centre and were on our way, wildfire gear over dress blues. Congratulations to all at Emerald Medical Centre and thanks for inviting us to join you in your celebrations.



Lieutenant Tanya Jogan.

TORCHLIGHT PARADE

Every two years the Knox Group holds their traditional torchlight parade where Volunteer firefighters march from Ferntree Gully Fire Station to the venue for the Knox Festival, Wally Tew Reserve, carrying lit kerosene lamps or 'torches'. At each parade, Knox Group plays host to many Brigades from outside their Group, including Emerald. I remember participating once before but our Brigade hasn't been part of the Torchlight Parade for quite a while. This year I



was joined by Captain Paul Yandle and Firefighters Tanya Jogan, Tony Van Wageningen, Paul Mycroft, Anthony Cranston and Brigade Member Chris Davey-White.

The Torchlight Parade is a vibrant event made up of mostly volunteer members of the fire service (but included some CFA operations and Emergency Management Victoria staff), historic appliances and pipe bands. Members of the community line the streets of the route, applauding and thanking us for our service and for the hard work volunteer firefighters undertake all year round. It is also an enjoyable social event where members can catch up and enjoy each other's company over a meal.



The parade includes a marching competition based on presentation and marching discipline which is hotly contested by the more competitive brigades and the trophies are held in very high regard. You may be surprised to know that Emerald missed out on a trophy this year, but who knows what may happen next time! (Does anyone have Warren's number??)

The start of the parade was delayed so we had to fill in an extra half hour, chatting with each other and those either side of us in the line-up. I didn't recall the danger associated with kerosene torches from last time, but this year there was plenty of action. Before we had even started the march, several torches (aka kero bombs) exploded, perhaps as a result of the ventilation holes being blocked or simply not quite big enough. It was pretty impressive to see but, at the same time, terrifying. One of our members ended up with flaming kerosene on their foot by leaning their torch just a little too much to the side. Needless to say, I was a little bit worried. During the march, even the torch of Captain Paul exploded, scaring the daylight out of me, and as we walked, the smell of burning kero and sooty vapour engulfed us all. Could we survive the long walk to Wally Tew Reserve?? Well, luckily enough, we did. We marched proudly into the reserve which was absolutely packed with people all cheering and applauding us. I couldn't help but smile broadly and feel truly honoured to be part of an organisation that is held in such high regard. It was awesome.

I was really looking forward to the night's finale with the lone piper, which always gives me goosebumps. I have to say I was more than a little disappointed when not long into the bagpipe piece, someone thought it was a good time to begin the fireworks. The piper was immediately drowned out and everyone looked to the sky. What should have been a poignant and respectful moment was quickly lost. C'est la vie.

We all extinguished our torches on command (in my case with a reasonable amount of anxiety) and we were done. We walked back to Ferntree Gully Fire Station for coffee, dessert and some formalities before making our way home. Although my report might seem full of mishaps, these are also the moments that make it memorable. If it all went ultra-smoothly, I'd have very little to report on. I always enjoy the opportunity to 'fly the flag', connect with other



members and show the world who we are, so for me it was definitely a great experience.

To finish, I think it is important to sincerely congratulate the Torchlight Parade organisers from Knox Group who put enormous amounts of time and effort into the event. It's a very big job to take on and from the hundreds of smiling faces I saw, it was a resounding success.

Firefighter Jody Yandle.

LIFE MEMBER GREAME LEGGE – GRADUATION CEREMONY

Row by row the candidates stood, proceeded down the left aisle before climbing a few steps to the 'stage'. Once there, I walked about five steps, touched my hat and bowed towards the Chancellor of the University of Divinity. In response, the Chancellor, Dr Graeme Blackman (AO FTSE FAICD BD 1993 M Theol 2006), touched his hat and bowed to acknowledge the announced, "Graeme Colvin Legge, Master of Divinity." A handshake, a presentation of documents, a quick photo and it was down the centre aisle to return to my seat.

Four years' study concluded last November with a wonderful Graduation-Ceremony experience in March. With it came a great deal of pleasure, much delight and considerable satisfaction.



And so, one Friday night in March, having caught the Belgrave train into Parliament Station, I 'registered' my arrival at St Patrick's Cathedral in Melbourne at 5:00 p.m.. Then it was over-the-road to be 'dressed' - black master's robe, purple hood and black trencher hat (hired regalia) in preparation for the Ceremony.

With forty-five minutes to spare, (and with the suggestion to remain 'dressed') came also the suggestion to wander the street, have a coffee and perhaps something to eat before returning to be seated at 6:30pm. I ended up at Mr 'MacDonald's' eatery for a coffee and chicken nuggets. There was at least one other candidate also so 'dressed' and neither customers nor passers-by even blinked.

The great Cathedral space was filled with the reverberating 'voice' of the pipe-organ that preceded the 'Academic Procession' of University and College staff. There were hoods of red and purple, green and pink, blue and yellow; there were gowns of black and red; there were hats also black and red.

Some three hundred students were to graduate; I was among them. I reckon that well over 1,500 people filled the great Cathedral, joined in the singing and heard the prayers and Bible Reading.

The choir sang, the final hymn played and the initial Academic Procession then exited with the Graduates now adding to its total number.

The whole occasion was dignified, celebratory within a worshipful surrounding and a stimulating atmosphere. After four years' study, it really meant a lot to me.

Graeme Legge OAM JP FAICD FRVAHJ
B Ed, MDiv
Life Member, Ex-Captain Emerald Fire Brigade.

A FEW CFA ACRONYMS ...

Acronym	Full Meaning	Acronym	Full Meaning	Acronym	Full Meaning
%ODW	% Oven Dry Weight	ETA	Emergency Services Communications Authority	OO	Operations Officer
3YE	Hazchem code	ETA	Expected time of arrival	OQL	Operational Qualifications List
AAR	After Action Review	ETD	Expected time of departure	OT	Operational Training
ADF	Australian Defence Force	EWR	Essential Water Replacement	PAZ	Protective Action Zone
ADG	Australian Dangerous Goods Code	F&EM	CFA's Fire & Emergency Management Team (led by the Chief Officer)	PD	Position Description
AFAC	Australasian Fire Authorities Council	FAQs	Frequently Asked Questions	PDD	Pre-determined Dispatch
AFC	Australian Fire Competency	FAST	(Stroke) Facial weakness, Arm weakness, Speech difficulty, Time to act fast	PE	Protective Equipment
AFSM	Australian Fire Services Medal	FCV	Field Command Vehicle	PID	Photo Ionisation Detector
AIIMS	Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System	FDI	Fire Danger Index	PLV	Peak Limitation Value
ATSB	Australian Transportation Safety Bureau	FDP	Fire Danger Period	POO	Point of origin
AV	Ambulance Victoria	FEM	Fire Equipment Maintenance	PPB	Parts per Billion
BA	Breathing Apparatus	FF	Firefighter	PPC	Personal Protective Clothing
BACO	Breathing Apparatus Control Officer	FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index	PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
BLEVE	Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion	FFM	Forest Fire Management Victoria	PPM	Parts per Million
BMT	Brigade Management Team	FGP	Fire Ground Practices	PPV	Positive Pressure Ventilation
BoM	Bureau of Meteorology	FIB	Forest Industry Brigade	PSTP	Public Safety Training Package
BOSP	Brigade Operational Skills Profile	FIRM	First In Response Management	PT	Pumper Tanker, or Part Time, or Personal Training
BTO	Brigade Training Officer	FIRS	Fire & Incident Reporting System	PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
CABA	Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus	FOS	First on scene	PTT	Press to Talk
CAD	Computer Aided Dispatch	FOV	Forward Operating Vehicle	RAR	Road Accident Rescue
CAFS	Compressed Air Foam System	FPODP	Facts, Probabilities, Own situation, Decisions, Plan of operation	RCC	Regional Control Centre
CAS	Chemical Abstract Numbers	FROSD	Forward Rate of Spread	RCC/RPL	Recognised current competency/Recognised prior learning
CASA	Civil Aviation Safety Authority	FSCC	Fire Services Control Centre	RDO	Rostered Duty Manager
CF	Correction Factors	G&S	Grass and Scrub fire	RECEO	Rescue, Exposures, Containment, Extinguish, Overhaul
CFA	Country Fire Authority	GFDI	Grassland Fire Danger Index	RFS	Rural Fire Service (NSW)
CFS	Country Fire Service (SA)	GO	Group Officer	RFW	Red Flag Warning
CIG	Community Information Guides	GTO	Group Training Officer	RH	Relative Humidity
CIIPS	Cools, Isolates, Insulates, Penetrates, Smothers	HAG	Hazmat Action Guide	RISK	Recognise, Identify/Isolate, Secure, Keep Out
CIS	Critical Incident Stress	HBAS	Home Bushfire Advice Service	ROPS	Rollover Protection System
CO	Chief Officer	HOTS	High temperature, Oxygen deficient, Toxic gases, Smoke	ROS	Rate of Spread
CO SOP	Chief Officer's Standard Operating Procedure	HSE	Health Safety & Environment	RTO	Registered Training Organisation
CPD	Clear and Present Danger	IAP	Incident Action Plans	RTPP	Round the Pump Proportioning
CPR	Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation	IC	Incident Controller	SCBA	Self Contained Breathing Apparatus
DANGER	Do not enter smoke, gases or vapour clouds; always approach from upwind/uphill; no closer than 70m; gather information, using binoculars; examine further, only if necessary with protective clothing; retreat if necessary	ICC	Incident Control Centre	SCC	State Control Centre
DCC	District Command Centre	ICP	Incident Control Point	SDS	Safety Data Sheets
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning	IDLH	Immediate Danger to Life and Health	SDS	Service Delivery Standards
DGO	District Group Officer	IERG	Initial Emergency Response Guide	SES	State Emergency Service
DHS	Department of Human Services	IM	Ideal Mixture	SETG	South Eastern Training Ground
DIA	Discovery in Action (leadership development program)	IMT	Incident Management Team	SMEACS	Situation, Mission, Execution, Administration, Command, Safety
DMO	District Mechanical Officer	IMTTP	Incident Management Team Training Project	SO	Station Officer
DOA	Dead on arrival	IP	Ingress Protection	SO's	Standing Orders
DRA	Dynamic Risk Assessment	JSOP	Joint Standard Operating Procedure	SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
DRSABCD	Danger, Response, Send for help, Airway, Breathing, CPR, Defibrillation	JVDP	Junior Volunteer Development Program	SPADRA	Safe Person Approach Dynamic Risk Assessment
DSU	Distress Signal Unit	KPA	Kilopascal	SPC	Spectrum Pre Conferencing
EAS	Emergency Alerting System	LACES	Lookout, Awareness, Communications, Escape Routes, Safety zones	SSO	Senior Station Officer
EBA	Enterprise Bargaining Agreement	LCF	Local Command Facility	ST	Strike Team
EC	ElectroChemicals	LEL	Lower Explosive Limit	STEL	Short Term Exposure Limit
EIB	Emergency Information Book	LFF	Leading Firefighter	TIEWT	Tactical Exercise Without Troops
EIP	Emergency Information Panel	LMAP	Local Mutual Aid Plan	TIC	Thermal Imaging Camera
ELT	Executive Leadership Team	LMS	Learning Management System	TRIP	Teenage Road Information Program
EM-COP	Emergency Management Common Operating Picture	LPG	Liquid Petroleum Gas	TWA	Time Weighted Average
EMR	Emergency Medical Responder	LRP	Local Response Plans	UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria	MCV	Mobile Communications Van	UEL	Upper Explosive Limit
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency	MFB	Metropolitan Fire Brigade	UFU	United Firefighters Union
EPG	Emergency Procedure Guides	MSSDS	Material Safety Data Sheet	UN	United Nations number
ES	Exposure standards	MVA	Motor Vehicle Accident	UoM	Units of Measure
		NBN	National Broadband Network	USAR	Urban Search and Rescue
		NFI	No F*%king Idea	VBIL	Victoria Bushfire Information Line
		NOS	Not otherwise specified	VEMTC	Victorian Emergency Management Training Centre
		NSP	Neighbourhood Safe Place	VFBV	Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria
		NYC	Not yet competent	VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
		OIC	Officer in Charge	WATCHOUT	Weather, Actions, Try out, Communications, Hazards, Observe, Understand, Think
		OM	Operations Manager		

Compiled by Lieutenant Klaus Brodeck.

EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE MEMBERSHIP 2016 - 2017

OFFICE BEARERS

Yandle, Paul
Merlo, Andrew
Trimnell, Adrian
Bean, Calum
Klaus Brodeck
Tanya Jogan
Lewis, Ryan
Griffin, Kate
Davey-White, Christine
Nick Waldron
Simon Arnold

Captain
1st Lieutenant, Training Officer
1st & 2nd Lieutenant, Training Officer
2nd & 3rd Lieutenant
3rd & 4th Lieutenant
4th Lieutenant
Communications Officer
Secretary
Treasurer
President
Community Safety Co-ordinator

LIFE MEMBERS

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

BRIGADE MEMBERS

Carter, Rodney
Davey-White, Christine
Dawe, Thomas
Fairbridge, Anthony
Griffin, Kate
Legge, Graeme
Quinless, David
Waldron, Nicholas
Watt, Gerard
Whiley, Nick
Woodmason, Bryan

JUNIOR BRIGADE MEMBERS

Abbott, Taige
Arad, Gil
Badenhorst, Alisha
Baumgarth, Hayley
Brodeck, Kaiden
Brodeck, Nicholas
Burdette, Jaxon
Dempsey, Emily
Gledhill, Russell
Hughes, Jayden
Hughes, Mitchell
Hughes, Sienna

Kennett, Rhys
Lawrence, Katie
Loeschenkohl, Josh
Mackie, Livia
McEnhill, Liam
Pagalia, Kaelin
Ray, Krista
Riddiford, Dylan
Sadler, Elouise
Volk, Tallara
White, Molly
White, Tara

RECRUIT

Snashall, Glenn

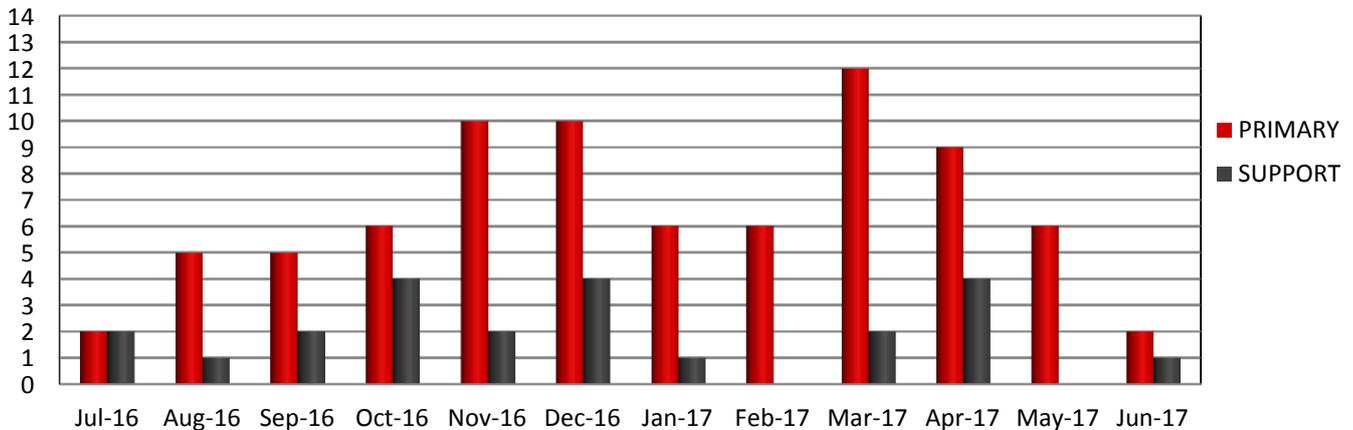
ACTIVE FIREFIGHTERS

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



EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE CALL STATISTICS 2016 - 2017

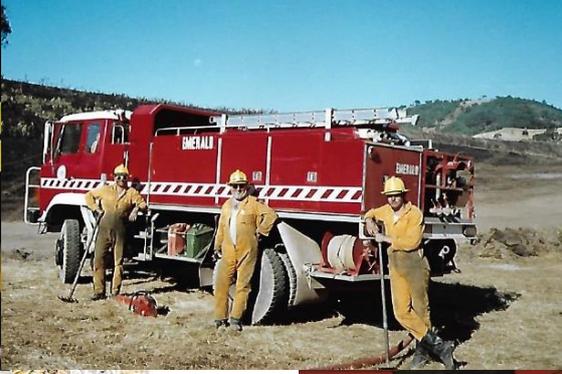
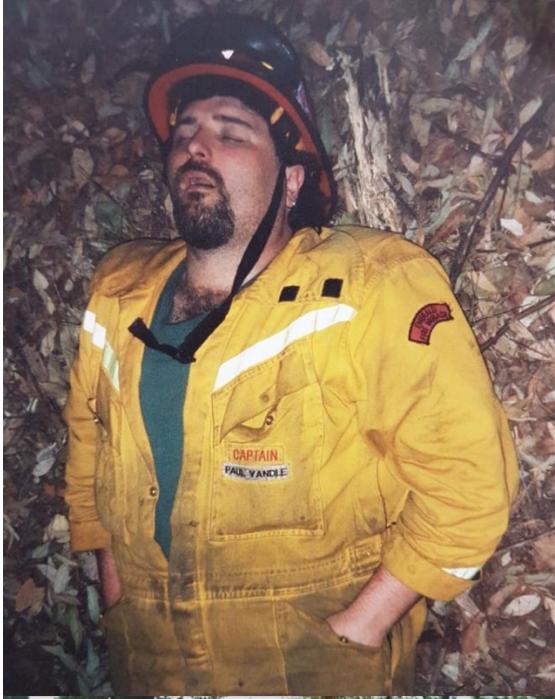
The Brigade attended a total of 102 calls from 1.07.16 to 30.06.17, comprising of 79 Primary and 23 Support. The Brigade also attended approximately 150 jobs assisting SES on Windy Sunday, October 9th 2016 - these are not included in our annual call totals as they were recorded via Dandenong ICC.



2016 - 17 Monthly Call Statistics (Primary and Support calls combined)

	Jul 16	Aug 16	Sep 16	Oct 16	Nov 16	Dec 16	Jan 17	Feb 17	Mar 17	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17
Alarm/FIP premises	2			1	1	1	1	1	3			
Assist Ambulance						1						
Bin fire							1					
Burn off out of control				3					1	1		
False alarm										2		
Gas leak			1		2			1		1		
Grass & scrub fire				2	2	3		2	3	1	1	
HAZMAT					1							
Incident		1						1		1	1	
Investigate explosives heard					1					2		1
Investigate smoke							1		1			
Investigate/extinguish burnoff		1				4			1	2		
MVA			1									1
MVA - PPT	1	1	1		2	2	1	1			1	
Non structure fire		1										
Rescue			1									
Structure fire	1	1	1	1	2	2	1					
Support SES				1								
Tree fire			1	2	1	1			1	2		
Trees and powerlines				1					1			
Vehicle fire			1								1	
Washaway		1					1				2	1
Washaway result of MVA							1		3	1		
Monthly call totals:	4	6	7	10	12	14	7	6	14	13	6	3

BLAST FROM THE PAST!



THANKS FROM EMERALD FIRE BRIGADE

Thank-you for your ongoing support

Emerald Fruit Barn

Emerald Village Meats

Ritchies IGA

Community Benefit

St. Marks Op Shop

Pakenham Op Shop

The Emerald Community

EMERALD Assignment Areas - Response Zone 208

