

INVITING VOLUNTEER APPLICANTS FOR CFA BOARD

The CFA legislation recognises that it is important that the CFA Board has strong volunteer expertise, knowledge and an understanding of CFA volunteers. To support this, CFA legislation provides for four of the CFA Board's Members to be appointed from a panel of names submitted by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria, two being representatives from brigades predominantly serving urban communities and two being representatives from brigades predominantly serving rural communities.

The terms of CFA Board Members Dawn Hartog, Kent Griffin, Beth Davidson and Peter Shaw are due to expire in mid 2022. All four members are eligible for renomination, but will be required to re-apply for nomination. As part of VFBV's application process, we are now seeking further applications from any CFA volunteer interested in applying for any of the volunteer nominated positions on the CFA Board.

CFA volunteers who believe they have the skills, experience and capacity to make a contribution to the Board of the CFA, are invited to apply. In addition to volunteer experience and knowledge, selection will have regard to any of the following: knowledge of, or experience in, commercial, technical, operational, legal or financial matters; or expertise in fire or emergency management, land management or any other field relevant to the performance of the functions of the CFA.

From applications received and following a selection process that may involve interviews, VFBV will submit a panel of names to the Minister for Emergency Services. The CFA Board meets on a monthly basis, usually on a Monday and also operates a committee system which could require an additional commitment of at least one day per month. Regular attendance at official functions and brigade/group events is also expected. The appointment to the CFA Board would be for a period of up to three years. The CFA Board Charter and further information on the application process is available from the VFBV website or office. Applications must include a current resume and referees. For other relevant information, interested volunteers should refer to the website or email k.bishop@vfbv.com.au

VFBV is seeking gender and culturally diverse candidates, in addition to a diverse range of skills and experience including applicants from diverse brigade type and classifications. A closing date has not yet been set but is expected to be early in the new year.

RAY GAVE HIS ALL FOR ROCHY

Ray Larcombe, a highly valued member of Rochester Fire Brigade, has passed away following a lifetime of dedicated service to his beloved brigade and community. His service with CFA spanned almost 80 years, a remarkable achievement. This incredible service combined with his popularity will long be remembered.

Born and bred in Rochester Ray became a member of the Boy Scouts in 1940. It was through the Scout movement he learnt the value of volunteering and whilst a member was encouraged to complete his fireman's badge and this is when he decided to join the Rochester Fire Brigade.

On September 2, 1942, aged 15, Ray began attending fire callouts.

Ray attained many prestigious awards during his time with Rochester Fire Brigade, highlighting his dedication and commitment, all of which he was proud to receive.

These included the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal, CFA Life Membership, VFBV Gold Star, Outstanding Service award, the National Medal, 75 year service medal and Life Membership of Rochester Fire Brigade. At the time of his passing Ray was in his 80th year of service with the brigade – a remarkable achievement.

In 1991, the local Australia Day Committee awarded Ray a medallion for his outstanding service to Rochester Fire Brigade.

Ray continued to attend callouts with the brigade until his age prohibited him taking an operational role on the fire ground, so he became a valued member supporting the brigade's operational group. He transported refreshments and additional equipment required at the longer duration incidents and also become involved with the brigade's FEM work servicing extinguishers.

Ray will long be remembered for his life-long dedication to Rochester Brigade and the community, spanning almost 80 years.

At his funeral Ray's coffin was carried to the cemetery by a vintage fire engine. Fellow members were joined by SES volunteers in forming a guard of honour at the fire station while townsfolk lined the streets of the town, as the cortege passed through.



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"Fire Wise", published monthly, contains a variety of information of value and interest to personnel of the fire service and associated organisations. Every edition will be mailed/emailed to the address nominated), this being the subscription for 12 months.

Cost \$35 (interstate subscribers \$42). Please contact the office on 0402 051 412, email gordon@fire-wise.com.au or order online at www.fire-wise.com.au

Generous donations to brigades

Upper Yarra Community Market has raised \$12,000 to be donated to local emergency crews to support their vital work across the district.

While the market runs, a portion of the stall holdings goes towards the fundraiser, with \$2,000 each to go to the brigades.

Market Secretary Adele Paisley said the committee had been waiting for some time to donate the funds, with lockdowns putting a halt to gathering plans and the market's operation.

"It's great for all of the local CFA brigades because we live in an area here where there is bushfire potential and we think its a good thing to support our local brigades."

Yarra Junction Fire Brigade Captain Cameron Macdonald said the donation makes a big difference to all the CFA volunteer brigades.

"It's really good because it is a constant struggle with volunteer emergency services, the amount of equipment expenditure that goes on that is not covered by what comes in from other channels," Captain Macdonald says.

"It really helps us just do those little bits and pieces that make the brigade's life easier."

Hoddles Creek, Reefton, Yarra Junction, Little Yarra and Yellingbo fire brigades as well as the local SES all received a generous donation from the market committee.

VALE BOB POTTS; 64 YEARS IN CFA

The many fire service friends and colleagues of former CFA Operations Manager Potts are deeply saddened by his recent passing. Bob had been unwell for a some time and passed away peacefully in late November, surrounded by family at Seymour hospital.

Bob was still a serving Brigade Member of Hilldene Fire Brigade and has been a CFA member for over 64 years.

His fire service career commenced in 1957 when he joined Sunbury Fire Brigade.

He was an extremely valued and respected member, working his way through the ranks to hold the key officer positions of 1st Lieutenant and then Captain.

In 1980 he left Sunbury Fire Brigade joining the CFA career staff. He worked as an Assistant Regional Officer and Deputy Regional Officer at CFA Headquarters, District 14 and District 12.

He progressed on to become District 12 Operations Manager in 1996. He held this position until his retirement in 2006.

As a career officer, just like in his volunteer career before and after, Bob was extremely popular and highly respected.

Bob also made a significant contribution whilst working for CFA in the 2009 bushfire wellbeing team within District 12.

Following his retirement from CFA staff in 2006 up until June 2021 Bob was an active member of Hilldene Fire Brigade.

During this time he held positions of 3rd Lieutenant, Brigade Training Officer, Veg-



etation Management Officer and Brigade Chairperson. His election to these offices being testament to his knowledge and capabilities, as well as the esteem with which he was held by fellow brigade members.

He will be sadly missed by all whom have enjoyed an interaction with him over his 64 years with the organisation.

Condolences are extended to wife Jeanie, his children Travis, Laura, Stephen and Simon and their families and send our comfort and support to his CFA colleagues at Hilldene Brigade at this very sad time.



Above: Upper Yarra Community Market's made generous donations to local CFA brigades. Pictured from left are Peter Morton (SES); Lily Pagels and Leonie Turner (Hoddles Creek); Captain Andrew Kane and Cathy McDonald (Reefton); Captain Cameron Macdonald, Barry Booker and Steve Drennan (Yarra Junction); Captain Les Hart and Peter Cookson (Little Yarra); Captain Jeremy Hardy and Merrill Brunt (Yellingbo).

– photo courtesy Star Mail



Above: Allansford tankers and crews involved in the relaying water drill and below: Mepunga and Naringal brigades involved in the drafting drill at the annual group exercise.



EXERCISE SUCCESS FOR GROUP

Hopkins Curdies Group has conducted a successful exercise last month with an emphasis on practising drills for the summer fire season ahead.

All 10 member brigades were involved at the exercise which was conducted at three separate locations – Allansford, Garvoc and Peterborough.

Numbers were limited to about 50 at this year's exercise due to the pandemic with the Group encouraging its member brigades to send newer members as participants.

The exercise, which was put together by Hopkins-Curdies Group Training Officer Peter Batistello, included several keys drills involving drafting, relaying water, turnover, radio use and mapping.

All participants agreed the exercise was a huge success.