



MT ELIZA FIRE BRIGADE

WORDBACK

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015



FULLY VOLUNTEER | 103 CANADIAN BAY RD, MOUNT ELIZA | mteliza.fs@cfa.vic.gov.au | Emergency: Dial 000

CAPTAINS REPORT

As I take over as Captain of Mount Eliza Fire Brigade I wish to acknowledge the members of the previous Brigade Management Team who have returned to the ranks of the Brigade; Richard Hume (Captain); Christopher Nicholson (1st Lieutenant) and Brett Nicholson (3rd Lieutenant). Their contribution to the Brigade and the community over the last six years has been invaluable. As the Brigade approaches its 80th year of wholly volunteer service to the community, we have been able to maintain a strong, viable membership. Maintaining this volunteer service can only be achieved from within the community and we are continually seeking new members.

Although many people think the only role of a volunteer involves emergency response to fires and incidents, we are also seeking 'non-operational' volunteers to assist with fundraising, community engagement and administrative tasks. We welcome members who wish to be part of our Brigade as firefighters, and also those who don't necessarily want to be firefighters.

The continued support of the community through donations ensures that we have additional specialist equipment and updated facilities. Although CFA provides basic firefighting and protective equipment to its 1700 brigades,

through the Volunteer Emergency Service Equipment Program (VESEP) we have been able to supplement community donations to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC). This valuable piece of equipment allows us to locate the seat of fire through thick smoke, identify hot spots as well as assisting in search and rescue. We are also in the process of undertaking much needed renovations to our current fire station. Members will be provided with a purpose-built room where they can change into their turnout gear in a clean safe area and not in the engine bay around moving vehicles and engine fumes as we do at the moment.

As we head toward another summer, the potential for significant bushfires is ever present. We all need to continue working together to ensure our communities remain safe from the ravages of fire.

We will be holding a Fire Ready Victoria meeting at Mount Eliza Fire Station on 29th November and this will coincide with our Brigade Open Day, so please join us to learn what you can do to make your home and family safe this summer.

- **Andrew Whitehead**
Captain, Mt Eliza Fire Brigade

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL INCIDENTS

Mount Eliza Fire Brigade has responded to over 250 calls in the last twelve months including two house fires in Mount Eliza and a large grass fire in Hastings. We attend a large variety of incidents including fires and hazardous materials incidents, motor vehicle collisions, incidents involving trapped persons, automatic fire alarms and a wide range of other calls.

HOUSE FIRE

We attended a house fire in January in Ocean Grove, Mount Eliza. On arrival we determined it was a single story brick and timber house with the rear of the premises fully involved in fire. We commenced an aggressive attack on the fire and took up positions outside to protect the neighbouring houses from threat of fire spread. It took 30 minutes to bring the fire under control and we were supported by crews from Frankston Fire Station. A portion of the property was saved and luckily, nobody was injured.

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT

During the peak hour rush on an afternoon in July, two cars were involved in a serious collision at the corner of Nepean Hwy and Mt Eliza Way in Mount Eliza. On arrival we found traffic significantly disrupted with all lanes

blocked by the wreckage and we commenced a firefight on both vehicles. It took 20 minutes to bring the scene under control and the patients were transported to hospital by ambulance.

HOUSE FIRE

A working smoke alarm has helped save an elderly woman from her burning home in Merebil Close, Mount Eliza in June. We were alerted at 4:00am and on arrival found the single story brick home fully involved in fire. It was a thorough firefight with the house suffering partial structural collapse and it took 40 minutes to bring under control. The owner sustained minor burns and smoke inhalation and was transported to hospital by ambulance.

GRASS FIRE

In January our crews were called to assist at a large, fast-moving grass fire that was threatening homes in Hastings in hot and windy conditions. Mount Eliza Brigade responded with two vehicles and a crew of ten firefighters. Our tanker assisted with a firefight in bush and grassland areas and out pumper was tasked with house and asset protection. The fire drew on resources from much further afield, with many trucks attending. Fortunately all homes were spared and the fire was brought under control in the evening.



40 YEARS OF CFA SERVICE

Mount Eliza Fire Brigade firefighter Geoff Birch this year celebrates his 40th year of service after having joined our Brigade in 1975. Geoff is the longest serving member of our Brigade and is the first member to receive a 40 Year Service Medal. He has always been a positive influence to other members, and his extensive knowledge and skill on the fireground affords to his numerous appointments as an officer of the Mt Eliza Fire Brigade; including serving as Captain. Geoff has served during many significant emergencies throughout the state, including Ash Wednesday and Black Saturday, the latter for which he received the National Emergency Service Medal. Affectionately known as 'Birchy' around the station, he is well respected by his peers and was made a life member of the Brigade in 2005. Still to this day, Geoff is actively involved in training himself and other members on a Brigade, region, and state level – and his continued dedicated service looks to continue into the years ahead. Congratulations Geoff, and thanks for everything you've done for our community.



FIRE STATION OPEN DAY SUNDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

FIRE READY VICTORIA MEETING AT 10AM OPEN DAY UNTIL 3PM.

Mt Eliza Fire Brigade will be holding an **Open Day on Sunday, November 29**. Whilst we are always open, this is an excellent opportunity for all our community to come and see what our volunteers actually do. We will have numerous displays running, demonstrating the importance of fire safety in the home. There will also be plenty of activities for the kids to enjoy, as well as a sausage sizzle for all attending.

More importantly, prior to the open day the Brigade will be holding a FireReady meeting. An initiative of the State Government of Victoria, the FireReady meetings aim to properly prepare residents for the potential rigors of a hot fire season. This meeting is also purposed to address any questions from the community regarding what to do in a bushfire situation, as well as how to develop a Fire Action Plan for your household. **The FireReady meeting will be held at 10am, also on November 29.** All are welcome.



FireReady

What is Fire Ready Victoria? Before and during each fire season in high risk bushfire or grassfire areas across Victoria, CFA hosts free community meetings as part of our Fire Ready Victoria program

I've been to Fire Ready meetings before. Is it worth my while to go again? Absolutely. Every meeting is different because every fire season is different. Local conditions, shelter options and emergency warning systems can all change year to year, so come along with questions you'd like to ask. Fire Ready meetings are also a great way to make contacts in your local area, share experiences and views, and even talk about pooling resources.

So I'll find out locally specific information? Yes, you'll hear seasonal information about where and how fires are most likely to start, spread and threaten around your local area, and the potential effects of a wind change. You'll also find out how to access local fire information and warnings.

ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



**Change your clock,
change your smoke alarm battery**

Only working smoke alarms save lives. While you are asleep you are unlikely to smell smoke. A working smoke alarm is vital to making sure you will wake up in the event of a fire.

The following is handy advice from the CFA website:

How to keep your smoke alarm in working order:

- Use long-lasting 9V alkaline batteries in your smoke alarm - by doing this you ensure year-round protection
- Use the brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner to dust around the smoke alarm
- Install photo-electric smoke alarms
- Test smoke alarms once a month. The alarm should produce a loud "beep beep beep beep" sound when you press the test button using a broom handle
- Replace all smoke alarms (both battery powered and 240v hard-wired) after ten years (the year of manufacture is displayed on the alarm)
- Purchase smoke alarms that meet Australian Standards. Look for the AS3786 marking

Waiting until the smoke alarm beeps before you change the battery is too late - this indicates that the battery is already flat, and your family is not protected. Change your smoke alarm battery every year.

Do your kids know what to do when the smoke alarm goes off?

Simple actions like getting down low and crawling under smoke save lives, and every family should have a home fire escape plan that identifies all possible escape routes.

Junior CFA Volunteers

Mount Eliza Fire Brigade is currently looking for young people ranging from **11-16 years** of age to join our brigade as **Junior Volunteer Members**. As a Junior Volunteer Member you will take part in different training programs that offer a wide variety of safe, enjoyable and challenging activities, developing fire fighting skills as well as making new friends. As a Junior Volunteer Member you will gain valuable skills we use in the fire brigade to help combat fires. As a Junior you can participate in competition running teams competing against other junior teams from across Victoria. You will get training from senior members of our brigade.

Please contact our Junior Leader, Lt Graham James on 0432 946 788 or email mteliza.fs@cfa.vic.gov.au or come down and see us, we train on **Tuesday nights from 7.30pm** and on **Sundays from 9.30am**.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER NEED A SERVICE?

Did you know the Mount Eliza Fire Brigade service fire equipment to the Australian Essential Service Standard?

We do, through our Fire Equipment Maintenance program. Any registered business address that has a power switchboard requires at least a fire extinguisher on the premises in order to abide by safety regulations, and having a lack of, incorrect, or poorly serviced equipment may affect your insurance premiums. By choosing the Brigade as your fire service provider, you'll be putting money directly back into your local community, allowing us to purchase and update the equipment we need to keep our community safe. Our pricing is very competitive, and our service is always excellent.

To make an enquiry call Maddison on 0412 096 575,
or email mteliza.fs@cfa.vic.gov.au

A WISH GRANTED

Recently, the Mount Eliza Fire Brigade had the joy of being offered to present a brave young member of our community with his wish, granted by the tireless volunteers at the **Make-A-Wish Foundation**. Thanks to our neighbouring brigades (Frankston and Mornington), we brought a small army of fire trucks to help make the day extra special for such a strong and amazing young boy.



Christmas TREES

HELP SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CFA

ONLY \$60

OPEN 10AM - 4PM
EVERY WEEKEND*

SALES START
NOVEMBER 29

MT ELIZA CFA
CANADIAN BAY RD
* UNTIL SOLD OUT

GEARING UP!

After decades of gearing up in the limited space between the trucks in the engine bay, the Brigade has very recently completed construction of a new gear room. Thanks to a grant we received, we were able to plan the addition of a purpose built, clean room for our members to gear up, out of the way of the diesel fumes often present in the engine bay when members are responding to call. This new room comfortably fits all our current members gear, as well as room for new members who wish to join the Brigade. This renovation was a necessity in regards to safety, as getting changed between moving trucks presents potential hazard to firefighters. This will be the first of many additions and improvements we will make to the station, as our Brigade continues to develop into the future.



In Case of Emergency

Victorian Bushfire Information Line

Call 1800 240 667

To report a fire or emergency, phone

Triple Zero (000)

Burning off restrictions and lodgement of fire

Call 1800 668 511

at least two hours prior to the burn to log your fire with
CFA for restrictions and times

check www.mornpen.vic.gov.au for more info



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www.facebook.com/mtelizacfa

CAN I OR CAN'T I?

Whilst CFA encourages residents to remove and dispose of excess vegetation, different municipalities enforce different open air burning by-laws. It is your responsibility to know these regulations as a home owner in your municipality, to prevent local fire brigades being called out unnecessarily to your property. The CFA website (www.cfa.vic.gov.au) provides necessary information regarding Fire Danger Periods and Total Fire Bans, whereas local municipalities (such as the Mornington Peninsula Shire) offer "Can I or Can't I?" brochures outlining the requirements of you as a homeowner if you choose to burn your excess vegetation. CFA declares Fire Danger Periods based on the risk of bushfire, and each municipality will have its own Fire Danger Period. Total Fire Bans are also designated by CFA; these are days in which the weather and conditions are expected to increase the likelihood of fire spreading rapidly, as well as making fire very difficult to control. Significant penalties apply for lighting fires on Total Fire Ban days. Whenever you plan on burning excess vegetation, make sure you ask yourself: 'Can I or can't I?'

Can I or can't I?	On Total Fire Ban Days 
<p>Can I have a barbecue, light a campfire or light a fire for warmth or comfort?</p> 	<p>YES</p> <p>Barbecues that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fired by gas or electricity, being permanently fixed structures built of stone, metal, concrete or another non-flammable material designed exclusively for meal preparation, or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> that use only gas or electricity, are designed and commercially manufactured exclusively for meal preparation (including portable barbecues), and when alight are placed in a stable position, <p>provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > the area within a distance of 3 metres from the outer perimeter of the barbecue is clear of flammable material > you have either a hose connected to a water supply or a container with at least 10 litres of water for immediate use > an adult is there at all times when the fire is alight who has the capacity and means to extinguish the fire > the fire is completely extinguished before the adult leaves. <p>NO</p> <p>Campfires, fires for warmth or personal comfort are banned during Total Fire Ban Days. Solid and liquid fuel barbecues and ovens are also banned during Total Fire Ban Days.</p>

Many people don't realise that the firefighter that arrives on the truck is also a local business owner, a tradesperson, doctor, stay-at-home mum or dad, lawyer, student or a shift worker.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN

Our successful **Santa and Elf Fundraising Event** is making its return again this year. All proceeds raised aid our Brigade purchasing and maintaining much needed and vital equipment.



If you would like to join in the fun and see the little faces light up as Santa and his team come down the street in the fire truck, delivering presents to your door, then just follow these simple steps:

For a donation of \$10.00 per gift (which you will provide), delivery will be made to your door on **Saturday 19 December 2015** between 11:00am and 5:00pm.

Santa would appreciate it if the gifts were not too large or heavy.

We have limited delivery numbers and as this is an extremely popular event, spots fill up quickly.

For more information or to book, either phone **0407 249 195** or email k.wands@cfa.vic.gov.au

CFA Recruitment

Maintaining this volunteer service can only be achieved from within the community and we are continually seeking new members. Although many people think the only role of a volunteer involves emergency response activities, we are seeking 'non-operational' volunteers to assist with fundraising, Community engagement and administrative tasks.

We want to attract people who wish to be part of our Brigade, but who don't necessarily want to be firefighters.

Although we still need firefighters as well.

Further information can be obtained via cfa.vic.gov.au or by emailing mteliza.fs@cfa.vic.gov.au

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it just comes naturally!
www.instinctivegraphics.com
 e: kylie@instinctivegraphics.com p: 0410 422 277

YES, I want to support the Mt Eliza CFA



Please send completed donation forms to: Mt Eliza Fire Brigade PO Box 84, Mount Eliza 3930

Cheque/Money order (payable to Mount Eliza Fire Brigade)

Name _____

Signature _____

Email address _____

Postal Address _____

Please send a receipt to my postal address

I would like to receive more information about Volunteering for the CFA

Thank You