



# SitRep

## Olinda Rural Fire Brigade Newsletter

*The BEST Fire Brigade in the BEST Community*

Station Phone 9751 1273

Duty Officer Phone 0407 455 914

This newsletter is printed on 100% recyclable paper.



Find us on Facebook and "like" our page for Brigade information and important community education messages throughout the year.



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Olinda-Rural-Fire-Brigade/193002214085258>

**Fire Ready Victoria Community Meeting For Olinda Community - Wednesday 8th February 2012  
At 7.30pm At The Olinda Fire Station - Please Be There!**



**Santa will join our volunteers to visit every street in our Brigade area.  
Our annual "Santa Run" will be on Wednesday 21st December From 4pm  
To 6pm.**

### **Message from President Neil Grenfell**

Over the recent months the our Brigade has had to say "thanks for choosing us to give your time and service to the community" as four long term, and "well-seasoned" active members, leave the brigade with a combined 59 years of service, for no other reason other than it was time to move on to another phase of their life with their families. They attended 951 (combined) call outs including fire campaigns, making themselves available as part of numerous Olinda and combined crews. I know this after speaking to Elissa, our Brigade Secretary who produced a report going back to 1996. It seems that the CFA didn't tally individual statistics regarding call out records for their members prior to this time. This got me thinking about the number of volunteers that have joined, done the training, and have turned out to calls over recent years, along with their turn out statistics.

The report showed that around 120 members over 15 years have volunteered their service (and in some cases still are) to the community they live in. Doing the math's, the report showed those 120 local community members attended in response to their pagers or our sirens 10,116 times in total, to be a part of a crew at any time in any weather. Currently we have some of our current brigade members who joined before 1996 with attended turn outs well and truly over the 500 mark.

With any community volunteering organisation those who can give the time will and we in the rest of that community get the benefit of their energies and dedication to their work.

I see it every time when I head out on Saturday afternoons to watch "the Mighty Bloods" (Olinda Ferny Creek Football Club) go around the paddock, or see the local little league footy clinic go through their training, or in the summer watch the lads hit the willow, I consider the might effort of their volunteers throughout the clubs and organisations. It's everywhere, local community members giving their time when and as often as they can! Just like us.

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## **Volunteering - WE NEED YOU !!**

We need the support of our local community. If you are able to support us we would be greatly appreciative. We are a community brigade made up of volunteers. We are not paid for our time or our commitment to our community.

By making a contribution to your community you will make new friends, learn new skills and be part of Victoria's largest volunteer team. Are you available during the day, and are you interested and prepared to do some minimum skills training in CFA Operations, then we NEED YOU to become one of our operational members, particularly for response during weekdays when most of us are working off the hill. Become part of your community and volunteer for operational or non operations roles. Call our Duty Officer on 0407 455 914 to find about all roles with our local CFA Brigade.

## **About Us**

We train every Wednesday night from 7.30pm to 10.00pm and optionally on Sunday mornings from 10am until 12pm. Our juniors train every second Wednesday night from 6.30pm to around 8pm. Olinda Rural Fire Brigade is made up of men and women from all different backgrounds and different professions. The one thing we all have in common is a desire to help our local community and learn valuable skills along the way. Our volunteer Brigade has been servicing our community since 1927.

## **Message from Captain Steve Donner**

As you can see from the Incident numbers, we are heading for a record year of reduced emergency callouts, with only 27 this year so far, a reduction of 50 odd on last year. The reasons for this will mostly always remain a mystery, as there no studies done seeking feedback from our Community, or does there appear to be any consistencies to build true data from, but we'd like to think that it is because our Community is becoming more educated, and with our Community doing the right things, it has directly reduced our requirement to assist in emergencies. This quiet time often works to our advantage, as we can remain fresh, allowing more time and energy to touch up on our informal skills, and to formalise our specialist skills, in readiness of future emergencies.

Recently, we received some analysis from the CFA on our performance. It highlighted that we respond mostly on Thursdays & Saturdays, a majority of our callouts are False Alarm Good Intent calls, followed by Motor Vehicle Accidents and then Fire & Explosions, and we respond mainly during the times of 0700, 1500, 18-1900 and 2200hrs.

Also significant, was that our Brigade achieved a 100% compliance to the CFA's Standard Delivery Service, which means that we have been able to respond to 100% of our emergencies on behalf of our Community, and with this, we went from a Brigade Viability of 8/10 last year, to a 9/10 this year, which is a great result for which we hope our Community is as proud as we are with this result, particularly keeping in mind we are 100% Volunteer Fire Brigade. What this really means though, is that our capabilities and capacities closely matched the expected community risks and requirements, which is an excellent achievement.

My final message is to remind everyone that NOW is the time (although really it should be all year round) to start putting together or updating your bushfire season plans, and to be undertaking those activities we need to be doing to protect our own properties, and our neighbours property, which by default supports our fire fighting activities (if required). Joining or participating in Community Fireguard Group discussions, practicing plans, preparing yourselves and your families physically and psychologically, and knowing exactly what to do before a major bushfire event in our local area. Don't think it can't happen to us, don't be complacent, don't think a warning siren or Neighbourhood Safer Place will necessarily keep you safe, we are all in control and responsible for our own destinies.

## **Turnout Statistics For 2011 are:**

17. 18.15pm	Sat 16 Apr	Primary Call	Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda	Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries
18. 08.30am	Wed 15 Jun	Support Call	Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Ferny Creek	Motor Vehicle Accident No Injuries
19. 09.19am	Thur 16 Jun	Support Call	1295 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Kalorama	Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries
20. 17.46pm	Fri 17 Jun	Primary Call	1434 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda	Motor Vehicle Accident With Injuries
21. 07.08am	Tue 21 Jun	Primary Call	500 Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd, Olinda	Power Line Down
22. 22.27pm	Wed 06 Jul	Support Call	180 Olinda Creek Road, Kalorama	Fire Alarm Activated
23. 07.59am	Thu 14 Jul	Primary Call	Olinda Monbulk Road, Olinda	Smoke Scare, Odour Of Smoke
24. 18.01pm	Thu 21 Jul	Primary Call	1429 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda	Chimney Fire
25. 17.39pm	Sun 28 Aug	Primary Call	454 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda	Small Vegetation Fire
26. 21.53pm	Sun 28 Aug	Primary Call	454 Mt Dandenong Tourist Road, Olinda	Re Ignition Small Vegetation Fire
27. 12.49pm	Sun 03 Sep	Support Call	9 Observatory Road, Mt Dandenong	Small Vegetation Fire
28. 10.29am	Fri 16 Sep	Primary Call	10 Parsons Lane, Olinda	Child Locked In Vehicle

## **Junior Brigade**

- We are always happy to encourage new Junior Members to join our Brigade. This is a fantastic way for kids to become part of their community and gain valuable skills. Junior members are aged between 11 and 16. So if you are interested please call us on 9751 1273 and leave your details. Junior training is on Wednesday evenings fortnightly from 6.30pm.

## **Community Events Where The Community Met Our Brigade**

Our station was lucky enough to be the venue for our first ever wedding. Rhiannon and Mark, both members of Yarra Glen Brigade, held their ceremony at our station in July. We wish them all the best for their life together.



## **Message from Non Operational (NOPS) Member Yo Heading**

The NOPS would once again like to thank The Cuckoo Restaurant for enabling our Brigade to raise funds during the Christmas in July festivities. The patrons of The Cuckoo entered into the spirit of the 'Lucky Door prizes' and through their generosity we will be able to buy more equipment for our firefighters.

Our next fundraising venture is to be involved again in the SpringFest. Olinda Brigade will be manning the gates at Kenloch, Mt Dandenong Tourist Rd on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 10am till 4pm and at Brecon, Everest Crescent on 22<sup>nd</sup> of October also 10am till 4pm. Many thanks go to the owners of Kenloch and Brecon for giving us this opportunity to raise funds through entry fees on the day.

New members are always welcome to join our NOPS group. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 7.15pm at the Fire Station. Enquiries to Yo Heading 97511639.

## **Message from Community Education Coordinator Elissa Jans**

A very quiet winter for us, with no house fires in our area which is fantastic. We know our community education must be working and that our community is becoming more and more prepared and educated about fire safety all year round. With all the rain we have had we have still had a very dry August and with low rainfall predicted for the coming months, our vegetation will start to dry out. As we are coming into the fire season, we encourage you to prepare your properties whilst we have the luxury of time.

There is a wide variety of information on the CFA's website covering such topics as Fire Ready Kits, Assessing Your Risk, Preparation & Planning, Fire Danger & Warnings, Survival and After A Bushfire. These are all important topics that we encourage you to explore with all members of your household. Taking personal responsibility for your own safety and that of your family is the most important step you can take towards becoming fire ready this season.

CFA provides specialised FREE advice to residents to assist in understanding your bushfire risk and enable you to develop your bushfire survival plan. A member of the CFA will assess and provide a range of options and appropriate actions that will assist in implementing a bushfire survival plan. This service is free and available to residents who meet certain criteria. CFA's **Home Bushfire Advice Service** offers personalised, tailored advice delivered at your property by trained Fire Safety Officers. Find out your level of bushfire risk, fire hazards on your property and how to manage them and how to develop a Bushfire Survival Plan so your family knows what to do on high risk fire days. Receive one-on-one individual advice about: property maintenance to help lower your bushfire risk, property access, improving defensible space, vegetation management, water supply requirements and your personal capacity to cope with fire. You'll also receive a confidential written report and peace of mind knowing how to make your home Fire Ready. This service is free and offered year round. Appointments take approximately one hour, depending on your requirements. To book your FREE visit go to <http://cfaonline.cfa.vic.gov.au/mycfa/Show?pagelid=siteAssessment> and complete the online booking form.

This year we will be holding a combined Fire Ready Victoria/Information day at the **Olinda Hall on Sunday 15th January 2012 from 10am to 4pm**. Olinda, Sassafras Ferny Creek and Kalorama Mount Dandenong Brigades will join together in sharing very important fire survival information with our communities. We will be having children's activities, Fire Ready Victoria sessions, other agencies such as the Shire Yarra Ranges and DSE and the chance to meet the volunteers that keep our communities safe. If you are interested in joining one of our "Hilltop" Brigades you can talk to members and find out more information. This day is an opportunity for us to show off our trucks and also to raise some very much needed funds with sausage sizzle and a raffle. Please come along and bring your family and show your support to our Brigades, we really need it.

The Olinda community is also welcome to attend a Fire Ready Victoria meeting at the **Olinda fire station on Wednesday 8th February 2012 at 7.30pm**. You are all very welcome to attend and please come if you have not attended one before.

A meeting for the business community was held at the Olinda Fire Station on Tuesday 20th September at 6pm. This meeting was a Brigade initiative that was fully supported by CFA. The meeting was a facilitated discussion on the concerns of our local business community. There was a range of businesses that were represented there from retail stores, accommodation providers, restaurants and many other businesses. If you are in business in Olinda, Mt Dandenong, Kalorama, Ferny Creek or Sassafras and you are interested in joining this information sharing group, please contact me for details.

We now have a Facebook page that will be offering all sorts of information throughout the year about fire safety, community meetings and other important information. If you are on Facebook please "like" our page and keep yourself up to date.

**Brigade History by Brigade Member John Faull 50 Year Member**

How membership has changed. In the early days of the Olinda Fire Brigade membership consisted of local farmers, nurserymen, bulldozer operators and local shop keepers. With their local knowledge and practical expertise they were very competent fire fighters, using only matches, knapsacks, beaters, wet bags and bows of trees . And now we have business people, hairdressers, nurses, accountants, technicians, real estate agents, retirees, local retailers, mums, dads, professionals, trades people, teachers, IT people, engineers, chefs, and students as members, All highly trained volunteer fire fighters, sadly not employed locally so not available as much as needed. No knapsacks, beaters etc, but high tech fire trucks, equipment and facilities.

**Did You Know**

- Knowledge Is Power - the more educated about fire safety you and your family are, the better chance you have of surviving a bushfire. Copies of the updated CFA literature are available at our station so please feel free to drop in and collect one. We will always welcome your visit and we hope to see you at our community events.

**Important Websites** - For regular updates visit us on the web [www.olindacfa.info](http://www.olindacfa.info)

**CFA**  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

**CFA Incidents**  
[www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/incident\\_summary](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/incidents/incident_summary)

**Shire of Yarra Ranges**  
[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

**Fire Ready Victoria**  
[www.fireready.vic.gov.au](http://www.fireready.vic.gov.au)

**Bureau of Meteorology**  
[www.bom.gov.au/weather/vic](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/vic)

**Depart. of Sustainability and Environment - DSE**  
[www.dse.vic.gov.au](http://www.dse.vic.gov.au)

**Important Contact Numbers - All Fire Calls 000**

<b>Police / Fire / Ambulance/ Vic SES</b>	<b>000</b>
• Olinda Rural Fire Brigade	9751 1273
• Olinda RFB Duty Officer 24/7	0407 455 914
• CFA District 13	8739 1300
• Victorian Bushfire Information Line	1800 240 667
• Shire Of Yarra Ranges	1300 368 333
• Electricity Faults	13 1799
• Gas Faults	13 2771
• Water Faults	13 WATER

Important Radio Stations  
**ABC 774 AM**      **3MDR 97.1FM**      **3YVR 99.1FM**

**CFA Sunday will be held on Sunday 20th November at most fire stations in Victoria. We will be opening up our doors from 10am so please feel welcome to come along and see our trucks, talk to our members and learn a little more about what we do for our community. You may be interested in joining or your kids may want to come and see our big red trucks. You are all welcome and we hope to see you there. There will be a FREE sausage sizzle for all.**

If you would like this newsletter sent via email as well as other information please email the brigade at [info@olindacfa.info](mailto:info@olindacfa.info)



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