

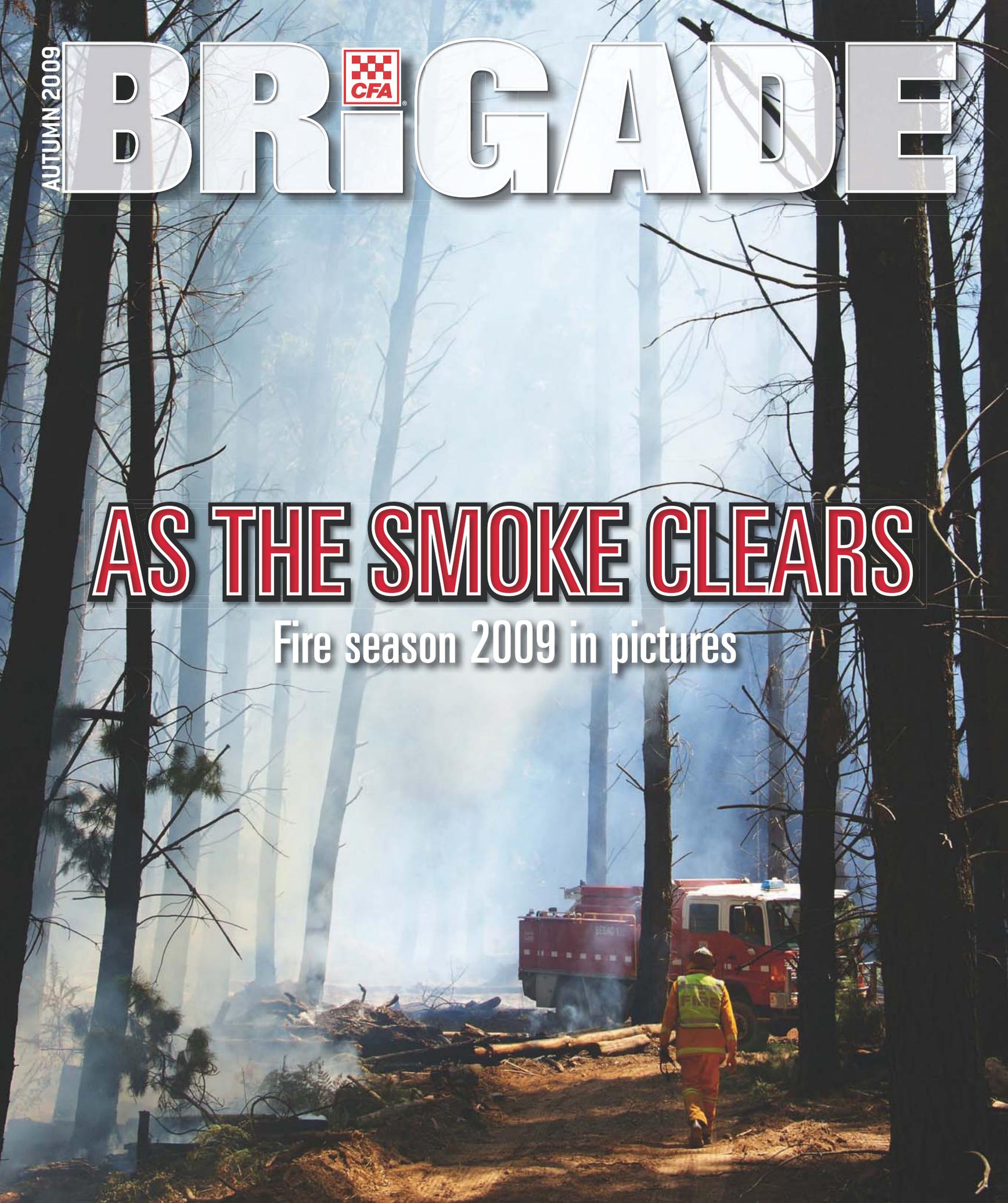
AUTUMN 2009

# BRI<sup>®</sup>GADE



## AS THE SMOKE CLEARS

Fire season 2009 in pictures



# BRIGADE

## Editor's note

After any history-making event, countless stories emerge. Some will be told over kitchen tables and bar stools. Others will rise to public attention through the media. And others still will remain personal; secrets of those who prefer to hold them close.

For more than a quarter of a century, Ash Wednesday was CFA's defining story-telling moment. So often, when interviewing a long-time member, their thoughts would drift back to February 16, 1983 in some way. A memory, perhaps, a photograph, a sound or a smell. Something that tied them to that historic day.

Now, the stories are fresher. They are still raw, but they are already being told. Our job as writers, editors and photographers is not to create stories, but to retell yours. We could not hope to capture every experience, every contribution or every sacrifice in one edition of *Brigade* magazine. Twenty-six years after Ash Wednesday, that has still not been done. Instead, your stories will resonate through the years and decades to come. Our challenge will be to recreate them faithfully and do their characters justice.

In this edition, we begin our retelling of fire season 2009 and Black Saturday. A picture, they say, tells a thousand words. Those words will follow later. For now, we give you a photo tribute to the men and women whose response to unthinkable tragedy captured the attention and the heart of the nation. Indeed, the world.

### ABOUT THE PHOTOS

In this special edition, we have used the photos available to us. We know they do not cover every fire, or every aspect of the firefight. If you have other images you would like to share, or stories you'd like told, please email me at [g.sigley@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:g.sigley@cfa.vic.gov.au)

### MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Many of the quotes on the photo special pages come from the thousands of letters, poems and emails CFA has received this fire season. We thank all those who sent in their thoughts and regret we could not reproduce them all in full.

### REGULAR FEATURES

All *Brigade's* regular features, including *Through the Ages*, will return next edition. The state-wide incident spotlight is on page 38. Publication of the results of the 2008 CFA Member Survey has been delayed due to the fire season.

Guy Sigley, *Editor* ■

## Vale Joe Shepherd

25 MAY 1948 – 22 FEBRUARY 2009

Arthurs Creek CFA volunteer firefighter Joe Shepherd died in Melbourne's Alfred Hospital on 22 February as a result of severe injuries he received on Black Saturday.

Joe grew up in the Thornbury/Fairfield area before his family moved out to Diamond Creek when he was about 10. He left school at 14 and was apprenticed to be a plasterer, his trade and job until the last day of his life.

A volunteer for 27 years, Joe had lived in the Strathewen area for many years. His partner Dini said Joe felt he was obligated to join. "It was a sense of community; we lived in the bush and he felt it was the right thing to do to join the local CFA. On the day of the fire, his first action was: 'uniform on, off I go'. He knew it was going to be a difficult day, but he had no hesitation in doing his duty," Dini said.

Dini said Joe was a loving family man who loved the bush. "We virtually did everything together. We went surfing, hiking and bike riding—the bike rack was always in use as we loved to go on rides into the city and on the Warburton Trail. Joe liked sketching, particularly wildflowers, which he then would sell as homemade postcards.

"Even though we were married for 37 years, we both felt like young people going out on a perpetual first date. It was always fun for us. Joe and I did everything together. He was a quiet, gentle man who loved family life and loved spending time and doing things with his family. Even though he's gone, I can still feel his presence," Dini said.

Tragically, Joe and Dini Shepherd's son Danny, 32, also died in the bushfires. Danny, a physical fitness trainer from Ocean Grove, was married in November 2008 and is survived by his wife Bree.

CFA extends its deepest condolences to the Shepherd family, the members of the Arthurs Creek Fire Brigade and the local Arthurs Creek and Strathewen community. ■



Dini Shepherd with a picture of her late husband Joe

## Vale David Balfour

24 AUGUST 1962 – 17 FEBRUARY 2009

ACT firefighter David Balfour died tragically while assisting Victoria's emergency services in the February firefight.

David joined the ACT Fire Brigade on 31 October 1997. Following graduation from the recruit college in early 1998, he commenced operational shift work and over the next 11 years worked at the majority of operational fire stations across Canberra.

Throughout his career David attained specialist qualifications in stage III Rescue and Urban Search & Rescue level 2. David qualified for the rank of senior firefighter in October 2002 and later qualified for the rank of Station Officer in October 2004. In May 2004, he qualified as a fire investigator.

David worked as an instructor in the ACT Fire Brigade Recruit College for five months from December 2007 before returning to operational firefighting duties.

In 2008, David was selected through a merit selection process to participate in a Station Officers development process, with a view to possible promotion over the next twelve months as vacancies arose.

David is survived by his wife Celia, daughters Alison and Frances, and son Daniel. CFA extends its deepest condolences to David's family and friends.

A trust fund has been established to support David's family. For details, visit the ACT Emergency Services Agency website: [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au) ■





Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC  
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia

Message from Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC

**Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia**

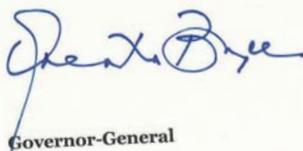
The fierce bushfires of February 2009 will long be remembered as a national tragedy. They have left a deep scar.

Coming to terms with what we have lost, and rebuilding what we had, will take great persistence, energy, and cooperation. It won't be an easy road, and we will need to draw on all the strength of our communities and the endurance of our Australian way of life.

We can also draw on the inspiring example of our emergency and support services: the hardworking career personnel, selfless volunteers from all agencies – as well as the employers who release them and the families who support them. They worked bravely and tirelessly, making tough calls and huge sacrifices.

I saw firsthand the enormous impact of the fires, the devastation of homes, properties, and towns, and the grief of families torn apart. But I also saw the stoic resilience of our people, the strength of communities determined to stick together and rebuild. I saw compassion and courage in action, the best of our country's character and spirit.

As a nation, we are so grateful for these things, and for the outstanding contribution of all who rose to the challenge of this disaster. I thank them and praise them on behalf of every Australian.



Governor-General

13.3.09.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE CANBERRA ACT 2600 AUSTRALIA  
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**A message from the  
Prime Minister**

On behalf of all Australians, thank you for your courage, your determination and your unbreakable spirit through one of our nation's darkest hours.

The whole nation salutes you.

I cannot tell you how many calls, emails and letters have flooded in to my office, the Premier's office, and the offices of MPs and ministers all around the country to express their gratitude and admiration for the dedicated CFA volunteers and career staff.

Thousands of CFA volunteers from across Victoria deployed to fight these fires and provide specialised support services at the staging grounds and incident control centres. And thousands of you were on standby to protect the rest of the State.

We suffered catastrophic losses in the fires, but the loss of life and property would have been far, far greater without your extraordinary efforts.

You each know firsthand the destructive terror of fire - its power, its speed, its capricious shifts in course and its lack of mercy. Now the whole nation has seen it. And we have a new appreciation of the dangers you confront every time you go on duty.

In the days I have spent on the ground in the fire affected towns, I have seen more tragedy and trauma than anyone would want to see in a lifetime.

But I have also drawn inspiration from meeting so many CFA volunteers. As I have said many times, during the fires and in the weeks since, the men and women of CFA are true Australian heroes. Your acts of bravery, kindness and compassion have kept many people going when they have lost everything.

Your service to the community is so much more remarkable, when so many of you experienced tragic personal losses.

Thank you. You have made me proud to be Prime Minister of this great nation.

**Kevin Rudd**



Governor-General Quentin Bryce AC at Wandong Fire Station with CFA members (left to right with brigade names): Pat Laddon (Wandong), Scott James (Whiteheads Creek), Pat O'Connor (Avenel), Craig Madden (Avenel), Tom Newton (Avenel), Rod Chisholm (Whiteheads Creek)

Professor  
David de Kretser AC



## A message from the Governor of Victoria

As we look back over the months of February and March, CFA members should take great pride in what you individually, and also as an organisation, have delivered as services to the people of Victoria.

You, like all of us, wish that the loss of life in the horrific fires could have been avoided.

However, the incredible courage, tenacity and professionalism that you demonstrated in fighting the fires has been admired by our community.

Some of you have suffered great loss or been injured while undertaking your duty and, on behalf of the people of Victoria, I thank you all most sincerely and hope that you are now on the way to recovery.

All of us have been affected one way or another, but being on the front line, your experiences have been the most vivid and, no doubt, traumatising. I hope that the healing process has commenced and, if not, that you will take professional support to assist you.

There will be opportunities over the months ahead to reflect on what has happened and to review approaches for future challenges, which no doubt will occur. Your input will be critical in making changes to the way we approach firefighting in this State.

Our thanks must also go to employers who have enabled our firefighters to provide these services to our State.

Finally, I would like to thank your families for the support that they have given you and for their tolerance of the stress that they must have borne during those dangerous days. ■

John Brumby



## Premier of Victoria

Black Friday in 1939 and Ash Wednesday in 1983 are etched into our memory.

But even those terrible events were eclipsed by the scale, speed and severity of Black Saturday.

The firestorms that swept across Victoria on February 7 took a devastating toll. One hundred and seventy-three lives were lost. Hundreds of Victorians were injured. Over 2,000 properties were destroyed. Over 78 communities were directly impacted; and the towns of Marysville, Kinglake, Kinglake West, Narbethong, Flowerdale and Strathewen were left unrecognisable.

As we begin to build, I want to thank the men and women of CFA for your courage in the face of this overwhelming tragedy. Many of you lost homes and property. Others lost family, friends and colleagues. Despite this, you reached out to strangers and put the needs of your community first.

Victoria's firefighters are world leaders in emergency response – but the compassion and self sacrifice that defined your actions in February will never be forgotten.

A series of events will be held across our State to thank CFA and its partners.

This will enable Victorians to acknowledge the collective effort from the thousands of CFA members – volunteers, career firefighters and support teams – who worked on the front line, behind the scenes and in your local regions during the 2008/09 fire season. Importantly, these events will also enable us to recognise the contribution of your families and employers. Generations of firefighters have relied on the support of their communities, and without it, Victoria would not be as well protected as it is.

CFA was built on a spirit of teamwork and collaboration.

On behalf of all Victorians, I thank you for strengthening that legacy at a time when we needed it most. ■

Bob Cameron



## Minister for Police and Emergency Services

While there was worldwide focus on the Black Saturday disaster this fire season, let's not forget that there were thousands of other fires and emergency incidents throughout Victoria over the course of the summer. It has been a magnificent effort by the entire CFA organisation to maintain a sustained effort over a very difficult fire season that tested the resolve of even the most experienced volunteers and staff.

Naturally, not everyone was on the end of a fire hose. As always, there was a huge behind the scenes operation that involved thousands of CFA people at headquarters, workshops, technical facilities and more than 1200 fire brigades.

Thanks to this combined effort, CFA members were able to respond to the enormous operational demands of the fire season, while at the same time continue the normal business of protecting their own local communities.

In every corner of the State, in every town, in every rural area – CFA people have again shown incredible devotion and loyal service in the delivery of fire and emergency service to metropolitan, regional and rural Victoria.

I would like to specifically recognise the families, friends and employers who were so flexible in letting CFA members respond to the call for help. Equally generous have been those self-employed CFA members who left their businesses for prolonged periods of service during the fire season.

To the 60,000 CFA members in fire brigades, workshops, regional and area headquarters, let me thank you all for your commitment and dedication in responding not only during the fire season but also day and night throughout the rest of the year in protecting a very grateful Victorian community. ■

Bruce Esplin



## Emergency Services Commissioner

This fire season, Victoria's emergency services performed in exemplary fashion under conditions never seen before. For the first time ever, CFA, DSE and MFB fire chiefs were located side by side in the Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre; a heightened level of coordination that was mirrored on many levels, including on-the-ground operations.

The level of support from our interstate and international colleagues was overwhelming. Emergency services from different countries and different states worked as one. The systems, expertise and commitment with which they worked was impressive; it symbolised the overwhelming spirit with which the international community supported Victoria at its darkest time.

The attitudes of many throughout the emergency embodied what I would describe as 'we're all in this together'; and it went beyond the emergency services, it was shown by ABC radio, our emergency broadcaster, private companies working around the clock to fix infrastructure and restore power, animal welfare workers, relief operators, the list goes on. Victoria was inundated with endless offers of support, and it made us proud to be Victorian – proud to be Australian.

There has already been much speculation about why Black Saturday happened. Strong opinions will be presented and debated before a Royal Commission. I believe the Royal Commission is a once or twice in a century opportunity to make great change. This is as it should be. I have no doubt that as Victorians we will come out better and stronger.

In the face of so much adversity, nothing has been more impressive than our ability to work together, to pitch in and help our mates, our colleagues, no matter what it takes. ■

Kerry Murphy PSM AFSM



## CFA Chairman

As Victoria begins to recover from what has been the worst natural disaster in our history, attention now turns towards examining the cause, response, and the impact of the terrible February 7 bushfires.

The Royal Commission into Victoria's bushfires has begun its work. CFA believes the Commission provides a unique opportunity to examine every aspect of the fires that caused such devastation to people, property and communities of Victoria.

Each year after every fire season we undertake a rigorous review of our performance and implement ways we can improve. We have already commenced our own review through debriefs at brigade, group and regional level, which will feed into the overall CFA position.

Important lessons have been learnt along the way and we have always learnt from previous events, including Ash Wednesday in 1983 and Linton 10 years ago, and have responded with changes in policy, processes and practices.

Every Victorian wants to know how we can all work together to prevent such a catastrophe occurring again. In saying that, we acknowledge the overall team effort in this disaster through the cooperation with other agencies such as the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Parks Victoria, MFB, Victoria Police, Victoria State Emergency Service, Ambulance Victoria, Australian Red Cross and Salvation Army to name a few.

We at CFA have made safety our number one priority in firefighting and we will learn from the 2009 bushfires and look to ways of improving our organisation and our performance.

CFA will play its role in this review ensuring we are providing assistance, resources and support to our members in moving forward.

Finally, let me again express my deep admiration to all people involved, in whatever roles and capacity, for the outstanding effort in this recent disaster. ■

Russell Rees



## CFA Chief Officer

Unlike any other time in this organisation's proud history and tradition, we were put to the test like never before this fire season. We were ready and we gave it everything.

Importantly it was not just about firetrucks and aircraft; it was also about communicating and working together with a very stressed and at risk community.

It was about the support people, the District Mechanical Officers, communications, stores, logistics and a raft of other personnel who often give great service, but receive little recognition. The outcome was indeed horrific and full of tragedy, but it was also full of people who gave everything and more for what will be seen to be a period of strength, fortitude and resilience within the emergency services fraternity.

We mourn the deaths of Arthurs Creek volunteer Joe Shepherd and David Balfour from the ACT Fire Service and we know that right now there are a number of our fellow firefighters from across Australia and indeed inside CFA who are recovering from injuries as a result of these fires.

We know that a number of our members are part of the death toll in these affected communities and we mourn for them and their families and their brigades.

As many of you know, for some time CFA has been preaching that firefighter safety is our greatest priority and there is no doubt that this was held in high regard through all of this firefight.

We must not stop this focus on safety. Our primary job is to go and deliver services to our community, to stay safe and to come home to our families afterwards. This we must hold close to our hearts as being the most important outcome. ■

Neil G Bibby AFSM



## From the CEO

Before the special feature begins, I want us to turn first to CFA's most important asset - our people. It has been a difficult time for many of us. As an organisation, we need to support each other and look after our own health and wellbeing.

Providing the assistance you need is our number one welfare priority. Immediately following February 7, we mobilised CFA's Critical Incident Stress Management Peer network, together with chaplains, counsellors and psychologists. These support people, together with health monitoring teams, went to staging areas, ICCs, regional offices, the iECC and headquarters to monitor the health and wellbeing of members working in difficult and demanding circumstances.

Longer term, CFA's Manager Diversity Angela Seach has been working with World Vision International's Global Response Team to develop a 24-month member recovery plan. Regionally, each Area's Manager Human Resources is heading up Area Welfare Support Teams to meet ongoing local welfare needs.

The Member Welfare page on CFA Online has been updated to provide information on the welfare services available, along with tips on dealing with grief and loss, helping children through a crisis, dealing with fatigue and other topics.

While I encourage you to make use of these services if you need them, it is also important for brigades to reconnect locally with the community and each other. Look out for each other, the way you always have. It's amazing how helpful a friendly word or a hand on a shoulder can be.

Normal social interactions are vital to support the recovery process, for individuals and communities. We need to acknowledge the difficult and traumatic experiences, but also that the people of the CFA community will look after one another, and come together to regain some sense of normality.

Take the time to think about your feelings and to talk things over. If you need to, use the welfare services that are available. Sharing your feelings and experiences with others may not seem like much, but it could be just what we all need as we walk the road to recovery together.

Finally, you will already have seen the expressions of thanks from our national and State leaders. From me, personally, and on behalf of CFA management, I also want to say thank you. I am always proud of the work our people do and this fire season you've again shown me why it's a privilege to be part of CFA. Thanks to each and every one of you.

Your efforts have been outstanding. ■



Community information session run by Pantom Hill brigade after the Black Saturday fires

## After the fire - looking out for each other

BY DR DANIELLE CLODE, PSYCHOLOGICAL PREPAREDNESS PROJECT RESEARCH AND EVALUATION, COMMUNITY SAFETY

After any disaster, particularly one of this scale, there will inevitably be a lot of discussion about what went wrong, what could have been done better and, sometimes, who was to blame. Many people feel the need to discuss their experiences repeatedly with different colleagues until they feel they have made sense of their experiences. Other people, particularly those who have suffered serious losses, may withdraw and avoid contact with others.

Sometimes communities blame organisations like CFA. Communities are fractured by fires, with divisions emerging between those who stayed and those who left; between those who suffered losses and those who did not; between those who were prepared and those who were not. These are all normal reactions to a disaster.

First and foremost, brigades need to look after their own. We all know how important it is to debrief after a major incident, but this isn't just about working out what happened and what could be improved. It also gives people the opportunity to share their fears, worries and concerns. Many terrible things have happened in these fires, but even when things went right, we tend to worry about what might have happened.

Remember to focus on what did happen – what went right – and that worry will gradually subside. Social events are a good opportunity to talk things over and share experiences. Other brigade members might value a phone call. This is not about forcing people to talk. It is about 'being there' for each other and recognising the diversity of responses that are a natural part of recovery.

### WHEN MORE HELP IS NEEDED

Most people recover well from trauma with good support from family, friends and community. Sometimes, however, they need extra help. Withdrawing from social contact, anger and apathy are all normal reactions to trauma, but if these symptoms continue for longer than expected or cause concern, extra help may be needed. Confidential support is available through CFA's Critical Incident Stress Management program for all members, including their families.

*For more information, refer to the Member Support page on CFA Online or contact your Regional CISM Peer Coordinator.*

# Welfare support to help CFA members

A range of welfare strategies was immediately implemented during the fires to support CFA members:

- Access to peers, chaplains, counsellors and psychologists who provide services such as critical incident support, grief counselling and pastoral support. These services are available to CFA members and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- CFA's Medical Officer and health monitoring teams were deployed into the field, staging areas and ICCs, to look after the day-to-day health and hygiene of people working in adverse conditions.
- Ongoing health and injury management services for members who might have been injured during volunteer work.
- Liaison with external organisations such as Australian Red Cross, Department of Human Services and the Australian Defence Force to coordinate support services.
- Assistance and advice for CFA members in relation to insurance claims.
- A process for CFA members to apply for replacement birth, marriage or change of name certificates.

The long-term Member Welfare Support and Recovery Plan will see work continue to develop:

- Local welfare recovery plans for Areas/Regions
- Additional support information on CFA Online
- Communication processes
- Education to help people work through the recovery process.

While most people will work through their experiences in their own way and in their own time, it's important that we recognise when we might need some extra help. Support is available for CFA members and their families. For more information, refer to the Member Welfare page on CFA Online, or contact your regional CISM Peer Coordinator.

## BRIGADES SUPPORTING WELLBEING

Many brigades are supporting their members and others in their community by working together to regain some sense of routine or normality.

Simple activities to help brigade members reconnect with each other have included:

- Brigade BBQ – a chance to catch up socially, invite families, include activities for children
- Working bee – giving people something practical and purposeful to do. It could be around the fire station, or it could be to help out a brigade member
- Movie night – time for members to just be in each other's company perhaps with a light supper
- Training – something that is a bit unusual or fun – not just a standard operational training session – that can involve as many brigade members as possible
- Sporting event – a footy or cricket match with the neighbouring brigade, or other brigades in the Group
- A casual Group meeting
- Talking with other brigade Captains to see what activities they are conducting.

It is also important for the brigade to reconnect with the broader community with activities such as:

- Station open day/sausage sizzle – invite members of the community to come along and visit the station (not a fundraising activity, just a chance to come together)
- A community meeting or info night to talk to the community about the recent fires, or how people can prepare for the future
- A community picnic day so everyone has a chance to come together to relax
- Visits to schools or sporting clubs, for example, to talk about fire safety and planning. ■



*Panton Hill brigade's post-fire social function provided an important opportunity to get together with all the strike teams and support personnel and families.*

## HOW ARE YOU RECOVERING?

You'll know you're getting back on track if you are:

- comfortably settling back into your old routines
- able to talk openly about the experiences you have had
- sleeping and eating 'normally'
- noticing your emotions and nerves are feeling less strained than they might have been in the weeks following the fires.

## HOW CAN YOU HELP OTHERS RECOVER?

- Be patient with people showing unusual signs of stress, fatigue or emotional sensitivity.
- Participate in group activities with your brigade, workgroup, social or community groups.
- Lend an empathetic ear to others who need to talk about their experiences.
- Make sure you are looking after your own health and wellbeing.

For more tips on looking after yourself and others, go to the Member Welfare page on CFA Online.

If you are in any doubt about how well you are coping, talk to someone about it – contact:

- your Regional CISM Peer Coordinator
- PPC Worldwide – 1300 361 008
- Converge International – 1800 337 068.

# Major Fires 2009



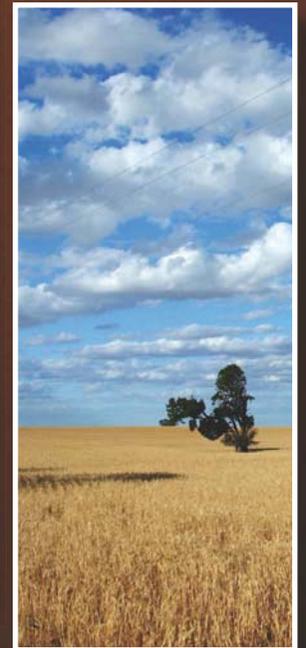
*Only fires 50ha and above are represented on this map. It does not, of course, acknowledge the more than 4000 other incidents CFA members attended from January to March 2009, and the excellent work done during those calls.*

*This is an interim map produced with information available at the time of production (2 April 2009). Fire sizes and names are subject to change as investigations continue. The map is intended for use as a reference within Brigade magazine only.*





# FIRE SEASON



Drought stricken Victoria

“

*Given the weather and given the state of the fuel, we're in probably uncharted territory in terms of fire danger* - Chief Officer Russell Rees, February 5, 2009

”



Background:  
Yinnar, Delburn fire

- 1. Upwey - Nixon Road fire
- 2. Boolarra, Delburn fire
- 3. Delburn fire
- 4. Eaglehawk - Bracewell St fire



“

*In Auckland, they can see HOW BAD it is just by looking at the clouds.  
ALL OF THAT SMOKE - Hannah Wain, age 10, Frankston, Victoria*

”



# FIRE SEASON

Background:  
Beechworth-Murunggee fire

- 1. View of Kinglake from Doncaster
- 2. Beechworth – Murunggee fire
- 3. Longwarry North, Bunyip fire
- 4. Kilmore East-Murrindindi Complex



“

*I cannot imagine how you face those walls of flame and the heat of those flames and of the day.* – Mrs Patricia Getson, Viewbank, Victoria

”



- Background:  
Beechworth – Murmungee fire
1. Beechworth – Murmungee fire
  2. Beechworth - Murmungee fire
  3. Longwarry North, Bunyip fire
  4. Boolarra, Delburn fire
  5. Taggerty, Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex
  6. Endeavour Hills – Churchill Park Dr fire
  7. Eaglehawk – Bracewell St fire



“ The trees burned down. The fire was hotter than the sun!  
- Sethini, age 4, Park Ridge Pre-school ”



# FIRE SEASON



- Background:  
Bunyip fire
1. Labertouche,  
Bunyip fire
  2. Longwarry North,  
Bunyip fire
  3. Beechworth –  
Murmungee fire
  4. Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex
  5. Longwarry North,  
Bunyip fire

“

*Bigger, and faster than I could think; My knowledge and studies pushed past the brink; My mind and my heart both numbed and cold; The fire came down like the wolf on the fold.* – from the poem 'No More' by Peter Auty, Flowerdale Fire Brigade

”



Background:  
Bunyip fire

- 1. Eaglehawk –  
Bracewell St fire
- 2. Beechworth –  
Murmungee
- 3. Longwarry North,  
Bunyip fire
- 4. Longwarry North,  
Bunyip fire
- 5. Taggerty, Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex



“

*They battle on through smoke and heat, Facing an enormous feat;  
Above and beyond the call of duty, They fight to save our country's beauty.*

- from the poem 'A tribute to all CFA volunteers' by Vicki Crutchley

”



Director Community Safety  
Lisa Sturzenegger



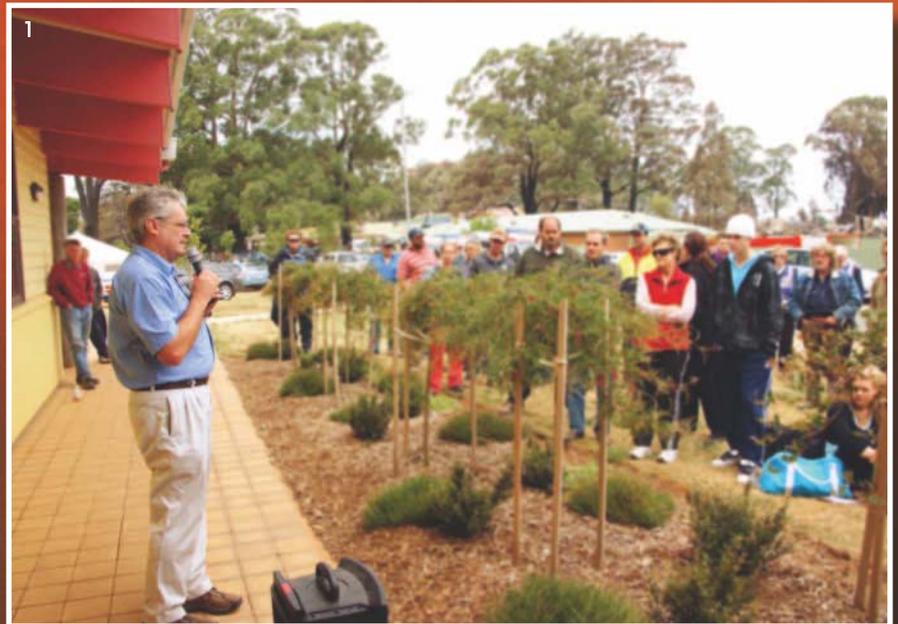
## What do we tell the community?

In CFA we encourage people to either leave early before a fire threatens, or be prepared to stay and defend their property. The Ash Wednesday fires showed that most people died out in the open, often leaving too late. Some died because their properties could not be defended. The greatest risk to people lies in late evacuation and lack of preparation.

We will not know for some time why, or how, so many people tragically died on Black Saturday. But we do know that many people died on the roads and in the open. We know that not everyone is well-prepared for fire. And we know that fighting a bushfire, or defending a house, is scary and dangerous. The extreme weather on Black Saturday stacked the odds against everyone. Many people are now rethinking their bushfire plans and wondering whether it is safe to stay and defend.

The safest option is not to be in an area at high risk of fire, which will often mean leaving early on bad days. But we can't always leave early. Sometimes there is not enough warning of a fire to leave safely. Many people want to defend their properties, livestock or pets. Even if we choose to leave early, we still have to be prepared to stay and defend if we have to.

These decisions are not easy to make. The orange booklet *Advice to community before and during wildfire* helps CFA personnel to discuss these issues with others. Keep copies in your trucks and cars. Keep one in your pocket. All brigade members need to be familiar with the leave early or prepare to stay and defend message. In a big fire, brigades cannot protect every home and every person. In a big fire, communities have to protect themselves and we need to make sure they have the best advice possible on how to do that. ■



1 - 3. Community meetings at Kinglake  
4. Community meeting at Daylesford



“

The updates and incident reports on your website and the verbal updates on the ABC by 'calm, clear' CFA officers are great communication mediums.

- Gary and Helen Tennant, Woodend, Victoria

”



Background:  
Hallam Fire Station

- 1. Upwey - Nixon Road fire
- 2. Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre, Melbourne
- 3. Alexandra Incident Control Centre, Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex
- 4. Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre Media Unit
- 5. Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex



“ The work you have all done to protect the community out at the fire fronts, cleaning up, at control centres and keeping the public informed at meetings and via computer has been awesome. - Julie Boyle, Pantton Hill, Victoria ”

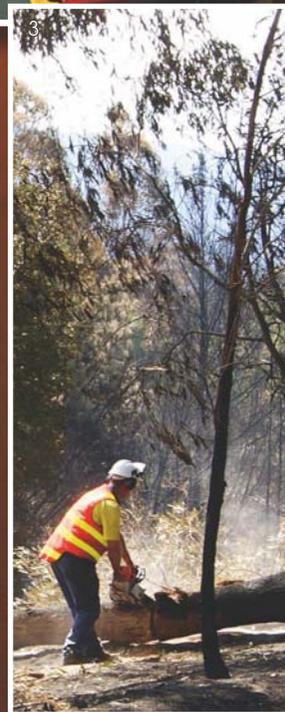


# FIRE SEASON



1

- Background: Alexandra Staging Area
1. Integrated Emergency Coordination Centre, Melbourne
  2. Upwey - Nixon Road fire
  3. Black Spur, Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex
  4. Kinglake, Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex
  5. Coastguard volunteers at CFA State Logistics Centre, Knoxfield



3



2



4



5

“ I firmly believe that Victoria has the best emergency services in the country. ”  
 - Minister for Police and Emergency Services Bob Cameron



Background: Kinglake

- 1. Alexandra Staging Area, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 2. Kinglake Command, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 3. Mirboo North Staging Area, Delburn fire
- 4. Delburn fire
- 5. Alexandra Staging Area, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 6. Whittlesea Staging Area, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex



66

*Please pass on our thanks to all firefighters local CFA, MFB, interstate and overseas who have come to help. It is a fantastic effort.*

- Lynne Pharoah-Hamer via email

99



# FIRE SEASON



Background: Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex

- 1. Mirboo North Staging Area, Delburn fire
- 2. Nar Nar Goon Staging Area, Bunyip fire
- 3. Upwey – Nixon Road fire
- 4. Upwey – Nixon Road fire
- 5. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex



“

*You are there to help us through our lives from just newborns to grown adults and we very much appreciate it.*

*– Jaymie Sheridan, Year 7, Singleton Primary School, Western Australia*

”



Background: Yinnar, Delburn fire

- 1. Upwey – Nixon Road fire
- 2. Darlimurla, Delburn fire
- 3. Delburn fire
- 4. Strzelecki Highway, Delburn fire
- 5. Delburn fire
- 6. Cranbourne

“

*Thank you for all the work you put in with fighting the fires. I hope you get a lot of free time to play with your family.*

*– Nick Jane, Grade 3, Southwood Junior Grammar School, Ringwood, Victoria*

”

# FIRE SEASON



Background: Yinnar,  
Delburn fire

1. Alexandra Staging Area,  
Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex
2. Whittlesea Staging Area,  
Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex
3. Alexandra Staging Area,  
Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex
4. Whittlesea Staging Area,  
Kilmore East –  
Murrindindi Complex



“

*Thank you for saving so many people, you are welcome  
to come to 'Busy Bodies' Kindy for tea. I love you.*  
– Charlotte, age 4, Busy Bodies Enhanced Education Studio for early Learning

”



Background: Langwarrin

- 1. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 2. Kinglake, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 3. Carrum Downs
- 4. Langwarrin



66

*It was so nice that you saved some animals. I heard that all the animals you find are going to the Healesville zoo. I have membership for all the zoos so I can get in for free. - Madeleine Muller, Caranballac College, Point Cook, Victoria*

99



# FIRE SEASON

Background: St Andrews, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex

- 1. View of Melbourne from Kinglake Central
- 2. Darlimurla, Delburn fire
- 3. Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 4. Castella
- 5. Heidelberg-Kinglake Rd, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 6. Buxton, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex



“

*I'm feeling very sad because of the damage to the environment, towns, houses and people who have suffered.*

– Luke, Carey Baptist Grammar School, Kew, Victoria

”



1. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
2. Delburn fire
3. Delburn fire
4. Kilmore East - Murrindindi Complex



Andrew Ford CEO VFBV



## A message from VFBV

This fire season has shown us both the fiercest elements of nature and the best attributes of community spirit. Many of our member brigades have been directly impacted by the loss of loved ones, close friends or neighbours as a result of the 2009 fires. The Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) Board and our members mourn for those who have lost their lives. We share the community's grief and offer our condolences to those who have suffered loss.

This is a very difficult time for Victoria but it is also a time to acknowledge the tremendous spirit of community, teamwork and selflessness of so many. CFA members worked around the clock with other agencies in response to these fires and continue to do so in recovery efforts.

On behalf of CFA volunteers, VFBV wishes to acknowledge and thank the community, employers, self-employed volunteers, our families, Government and other agencies for your support, recognition and understanding. Although our volunteers do what they do without expectation of receiving anything in return, this appreciation and support is welcome and gratefully accepted. We will continue to do our best to serve communities in their times of need.

To our members, CFA volunteers, and to the paid staff, well done and keep up the outstanding work you do in supporting Victorian communities. Our professional training and commitment to a Safety First culture has served us well during these recent events.

As we move forward, watch out for one another - if you know someone who may need to be supported in any way, please do what you can to make this happen and contact the Association if you need any assistance. ■

“

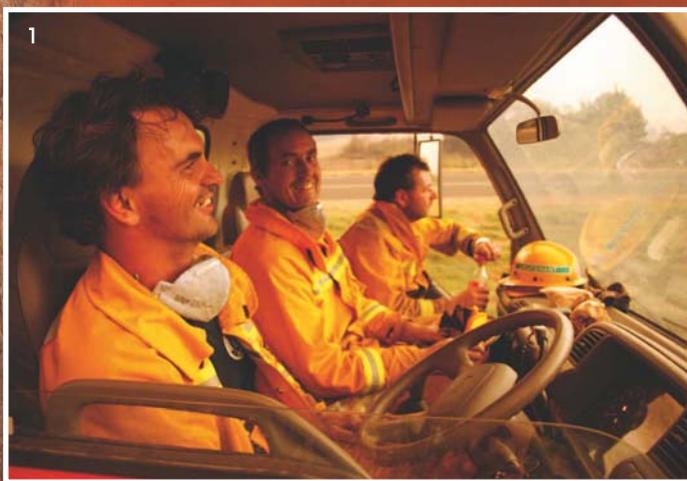
*Thank you for all the fires you've put out over the years.*

- Dylan, Grade 5, Gladstone Park Primary School, Victoria

”



# FIRE SEASON



Background: Lilydale

1. Longwarry North – Bunyip crew

2. Healesville, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex

3. Taggerty, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex

4. Wesburn Staging Area, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex



“

*I hope that knowing the world stands with you now brings comfort and hope to you and the citizens of Australia.*

– former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani

”



- 5. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
  - 6. Delburn fire
  - 7. Labertouche, Bunyip fire
  - 8. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- Background: Delburn fire



“

*Thank you so very much, from one who thankfully has never been in need of your help, but who has total admiration of your expertise and your dedication.*

- Pamela Britton via email

”

# FIRE SEASON



Background:  
Mirboo North, Delburn fire

1. Delburn fire

2. Alexandra Staging Area,  
Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex

3. Yinnar, Delburn fire

4. Delburn fire



“

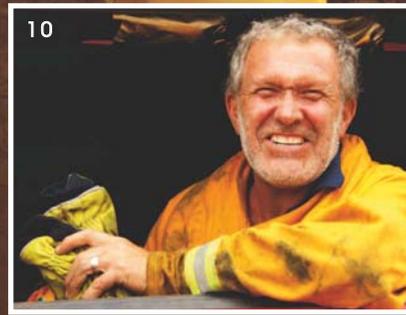
*You have put aside your own needs to focus on the needs and suffering of our community – and I cannot commend you enough for that.*

– Victorian Premier John Brumby

”



- Background: Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
- 5. Mirboo North Staging Area, Delburn fire
  - 6. Healesville Staging Area, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
  - 7. Kinglake, Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
  - 8. Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex
  - 9. Eaglehawk – Bracewell St fire
  - 10. Delburn fire



“

*You are the best ever. You didn't have very much rest but you didn't give up.*

*– Rose, Grade 2, Rangeview Primary School, Mitcham, Victoria*

”



## Your Emergency Memberlink Program – You've earned it!

Emergency Memberlink is a key recognition program that thanks members for their significant contribution and dedication to CFA and creating safer communities.

Through Emergency Memberlink, members can receive discounts and benefits on a wide range of products and services. In excess of 250 offers are now available, with new benefits being added regularly.

Details of the offers can be found in the Emergency Memberlink Guide which is sent out with all new Memberlink Cards and on the Memberlink website [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au) Be sure to visit the website regularly to keep up to date.

There are a number of ways you can access your Memberlink Benefits. These include:

- Show your card and save – discounts and benefits available upon presentation of your Memberlink Card at businesses throughout Victoria, and some nationally.
- Online Shopping – goods below RRP delivered state-wide.
- Purchase Cards – Safeway/Caltex and Coles Gift Cards available through your Memberlink team at 5% discount and include free registered post.
- Discount Vouchers – time limited, special offers updated regularly. Members can download these vouchers from the Memberlink website or call the Memberlink Team.

For anyone without a Memberlink Card, you can call the Memberlink Team on 1800 820 037 or register online.

## FLETCHER JONES

**LOOK WHAT'S NEW!**

**Fletcher Jones is pleased to offer a 15% discount on full retail priced items at all of their stores.**

To access this benefit, you must hand a referral letter to the Fletcher Jones store staff. This letter contains a special Fletcher Jones customer reference code, which will ensure you receive your discount. This letter is available to print from the Memberlink website or by calling the Memberlink Team on 1800 820 037.

## MEMBERLINK PROVIDERS

Full listing and more information call **1800 820 037** or visit [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au)

*\*Conditions apply and offers are subject to change. Valid to 30 June 2009.*



Discount Membership



Special Rates & Offers



Exclusive Offers



Specials on Passenger & Light Truck Tyres

emergency

memberlink



**LOOK WHAT'S NEW!**

Aquatrad Services is proud to offer a range of discounts to members from their extensive selection of products including:

- Pumps & Filtration
- Water Tanks
- Irrigation Equipment
- Hoses & Fittings
- Water Harvesting Systems
- Other related products and services

Visit [www.aquatrad.com.au](http://www.aquatrad.com.au) to check out the range or call Aquatrad on **(03) 9794 5588** and quote Emergency Memberlink.

Aquatrad will offer any member showing their Emergency Memberlink card, or quoting their membership number if online, discounts ranging between 10% and 25% depending on the product or service required.

\*Please note that some services are only available at a local level. If you are unable to visit the shop, you can view and purchase goods online and still receive your discount. Suitable shipping of these products can then be arranged.

## Tradelink

**LOOK WHAT'S NEW!**

Tradelink is Australia's leading plumbing supplies retailer, with over 200 branches across the country. With beautiful showrooms offering European and Australian products and knowledgeable staff on hand to answer your questions, Tradelink can tailor a solution to suit your bathroom, kitchen and laundry needs.

**MEMBERS RECEIVE 10%\* OFF THE RRP.**

All you have to do is show your Emergency Memberlink card at the time of purchase.

Visit [www.tradelink.com.au](http://www.tradelink.com.au) for more information and store locations.

\*Excludes all sale items, rainwater goods, hot water services and GE Interest Free purchases.

# MOST POPULAR BENEFITS

## The Athlete's Foot

Sports, Leisure & Comfort Footwear Retail Specialists



With over 30 stores around Victoria, The Athlete's Foot is a leading retailer of sports, leisure and comfort footwear. The Athlete's Foot success lies in their people, who have a passion for the correct fitting of shoes to the individual's feet.

Feet come in different shapes and sizes and so do shoes. The Athlete's Foot stocks the greatest range of fitting options from the top brands - New Balance, Nike, Rockport, Asics, Brooks and more!

Great looking stores with the greatest products and brands! The Athlete's Foot unique shopping experience will keep you running in for more!

**Emergency Memberlink members receive 10% discount on presentation of their Emergency Memberlink card at time of purchase.**



For more information and store locations visit [www.theathletesfoot.com.au](http://www.theathletesfoot.com.au)



### What is Shoppers Advantage?

It's the most comprehensive membership-based shopping service available in Australia today. You can access over 35,000 leading brand products by phone or online and, because we've already done the haggling for you, we guarantee the lowest prices in Australia! Get the best brand, best range and all the best prices.

### What are the benefits?

- Guaranteed lowest prices\*
- Shop from over 35,000 products
- Full manufacturer warranty and after sales support
- FREE 90 day insurance
- All orders are delivered direct to your home or office
- Convenience of 24/7 online and business hours telephone shopping

### How do I Shop?

To start shopping right now, simply visit [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au) and follow the links to Shoppers Advantage, you will automatically be logged in and able to shop.

\*If within 30 days of ordering you find an identical item advertised at a lower retail price by an Australian entity, send Shoppers Advantage verifiable proof and we will refund the difference.

## ACCOR HOTELS

The best solution for your travel in 2009 is Accor's Away on Business Program. This offer provides you with access to 1300 hotels globally, including Sofitel, Novotel, Mercure, Ibis and All Seasons hotels in the Pacific region.

The Away on Business Program will always offer you 5% off the best available rate of the day. Additionally, when booking online you are able to view all public rates available at the hotel, giving you the freedom to compare these to the Away on Business rate of the day.



To make a reservation online access the Accor Hotels Website through the Emergency Memberlink website and enter the following codes:

**Company Accor ID number: AS62555**  
**Corporate Contract Number: 5000**

Or, simply call Accor Reservations on 1300 65 65 65 for the cost of a local call. Don't forget to quote the codes above.

When checking in you will need to present your Emergency Memberlink Card.

## Members save 5% on pre-purchased WISH & Coles Gift Cards.

Plus they don't have to be a gift. Pre-purchase these cards for yourself and save money on items such as groceries, fuel, liquor, electrical and whitegoods, plus so much more.

In the past 8 months CFA Members have purchased over \$150,000 worth of Gift Cards, savings themselves a combined total of over \$7,500. Why not join these savvy shoppers and start making savings yourself?

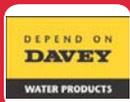
Gift Card Value	Memberlink Price (inc p&h)
\$50	\$47.50
\$100	\$95
\$500	\$475

**WISH Gift Cards** are redeemable at Safeway Supermarkets, Caltex Safeway co-branded outlets, HomeShop, BIG W, Dick Smith Electronics, Safeway Liquor, BWS and Dan Murphy's.

**Coles Gift Cards** are redeemable at Coles Supermarkets, Coles Central, Pick 'n' Pay Hypermarkets and Bi-Lo.

**To purchase your WISH or Coles Gift Card visit [www.emergencymemberlink.com.au](http://www.emergencymemberlink.com.au) or call 1800 820 037.**

Conditions and exclusions apply. For full card terms and conditions visit the Memberlink website.



10% Discount off RRP



Memberlink Discounts



Free Mortgage Brokering & Brigade Donation



Discount Health Insurance



10% Discount off RRP



Save on Selected Fares

# THANKYOU

The following pages showcase a fraction of the thousands of letters, poems and emails of support CFA has received this fire season from Australia and around the world.

attn: Commissioner CFA Vic  
Dear Sir  
I write to you Sir  
on occasion  
last weekend  
rest in the hat  
y to you Sir  
and fireless  
claims last so  
sent to contain  
ticks are o  
be truly Pow  
but all do and  
Praise tam a  
out in tu  
would the nat  
mail me a Res  
for word tele  
was Talk Full  
From  
John Br

...for working so hard to help all the people affected by the bush fires.

We are a long way away in Queensland, but recognize and appreciate the fantastic effort you have all put in.

Our heart-felt good wishes and moral support are sent with this card, and we hope everyone is able to smile again soon.



from everyone at  
Alexandra Hills Learning & Lifestyle  
(Endeavour Foundation - Supporting people with intellectual disability)  
Queensland

CFA  
Thank you so much for so fighting the fire and saving  
we hope you have yourselves. You are v  
From Tyra and

appreciate  
you are trying  
to help put out  
the fires.

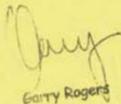
To everybody at the CFA

I realise that yours is mostly a volunteer organisation and that enormous efforts and energies are required to carry out the many calls that a group such as yours would receive even in quieter times.

I was one of the many people whom your organisation helped during the fires at Longwarry. I live on the old Pines Highway at the end near the river and it was partly due to the excellent efforts of your people that I still have the majority of my farm today.

It is very simple for me to write these words but I really wanted to stress to everybody involved my enormous gratitude for all your help during that time.

→ EMFA  
11/2



Garry Rogers

Keep up the good work  
From Alyssa



to To  
Thank  
saving  
a good  
people  
cloth

YO  
★  
C  
C

...the raging fires,  
helped people in need.

You are brave and courageous,  
you are strong and mighty.

You put your own lives at risk,  
in trouble.

appreci  
three  
sing

Best  
always  
Thank  
From A

tion and encourage to keep

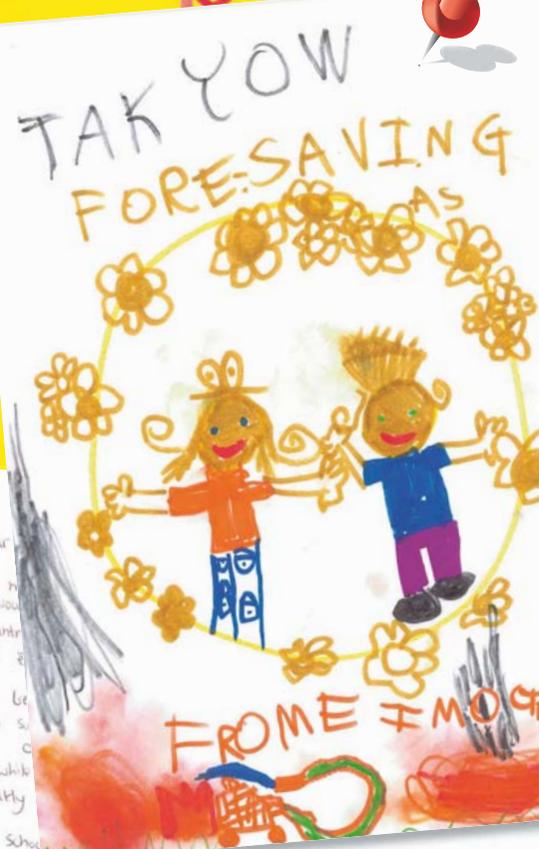
# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT



02 09  
Dear Fire  
My name  
I am  
victoria  
to put  
Thank  
I just  
your ha  
We  
you

Dear Fire Fighters  
My name is Ben I am 8 yo  
I go to  
to do  
in V  
lives  
I h  
an  
I h  
to  
kk  
H

Dear Members of the CFA,  
My name is Andrew Macdonald. My class at  
Essexton Grammar School and I,  
effort you ha  
avery you hav  
e would as yo  
others wishd



Dear  
My n  
I wou  
Countr  
and a  
I've be  
with s  
all c  
a whik  
greatly  
Our scho  
of the fire  
I've set up a fund to go towards the victor  
and restoring buildings and houses in the country  
Thanks again from Mitchell Ware Penleigh and Essexton  
Grammar School

YOU'RE  
ALL  
HAMPS



Fire Fighters  
use you pe  
re  
hop  
ing  
fe  
From Davis Yu  
Kew Primary School



# THANKYOU

Date: 18.2.09

Dear Fire fighters,

Thankyou for helping stop the fire from spreading to different areas. Thankyou for trying your hardest. Your bravery was incredible. Your effort was massive for saving peoples lives. You also saved injured people and animals. The fires must have been horrible. Lots of people and animals wouldn't be here if not for you.

To the brave fire men  
Thank you for saving lots of pebble  
and their pets. We saw you fighting  
the fires on T.V. we are  
happy you are safe.  
from  
C Dylan



To:  
Subject:  
  
Sender Name: Pamela Britt  
  
Like so many others of our  
magnificent work done in the  
present emergency, but in E  
country have served our coo  
your help, but who has total

Dear Firefighters,

Thank you for saving  
the homeless people and pets. I think  
your the best. The worst fire and  
flames ever!!! maybe I'll be a  
firefighter when I grow up.

**THANK YOU!!!!**  
From Alex Lim  
Kings park primary



braves work you  
the hundreds in danger now  
your fire fighters I learnt that  
people were left homeless if you  
help these people they would not  
be alive Why did you become a  
her? How long have you been  
dies for? Every fire fighter  
a medal for their great

Name: Dylan



Dear fire fi  
saving Sam bl  
other anima  
helps.  
Thank you for  
  
From Dyla

Yours with heartfelt prayers,

Ellen O'Dempsey

dear Cfa my name is Emma Conely  
my guess, thank you for Helping the  
Community with the floods and the Victorian

# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

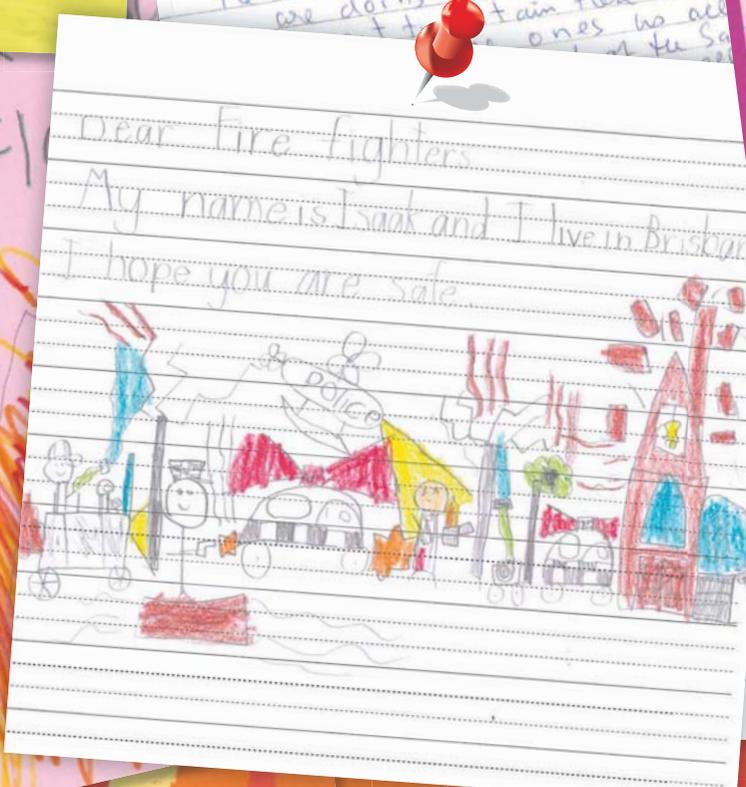
Reception and  
CFA Website Enquiry: Bushfires

country, I simply want to add my heartfelt thanks and admiration to the CFA for the current (and past) emergencies. It may not be said except in circumstances such as the EVERY situation in the past, the actions of the CFA and brother organisations around the country proud. Thank you so very much, from one who thankfully has never been in need of admiration of your expertise and your dedication.

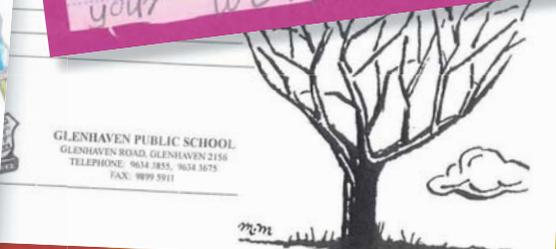


the worst in the nation  
I convey to you Sir  
the hard + tireless work men  
are doing just so Gallant  
tain these Bush  
ones who all  
to the Sa

Dear Fire-Fighters  
Thank you for  
saving some lives it  
must be hard fighting  
those fierce fires. What  
you scared? What  
it feel like? I appreciate  
your work from z

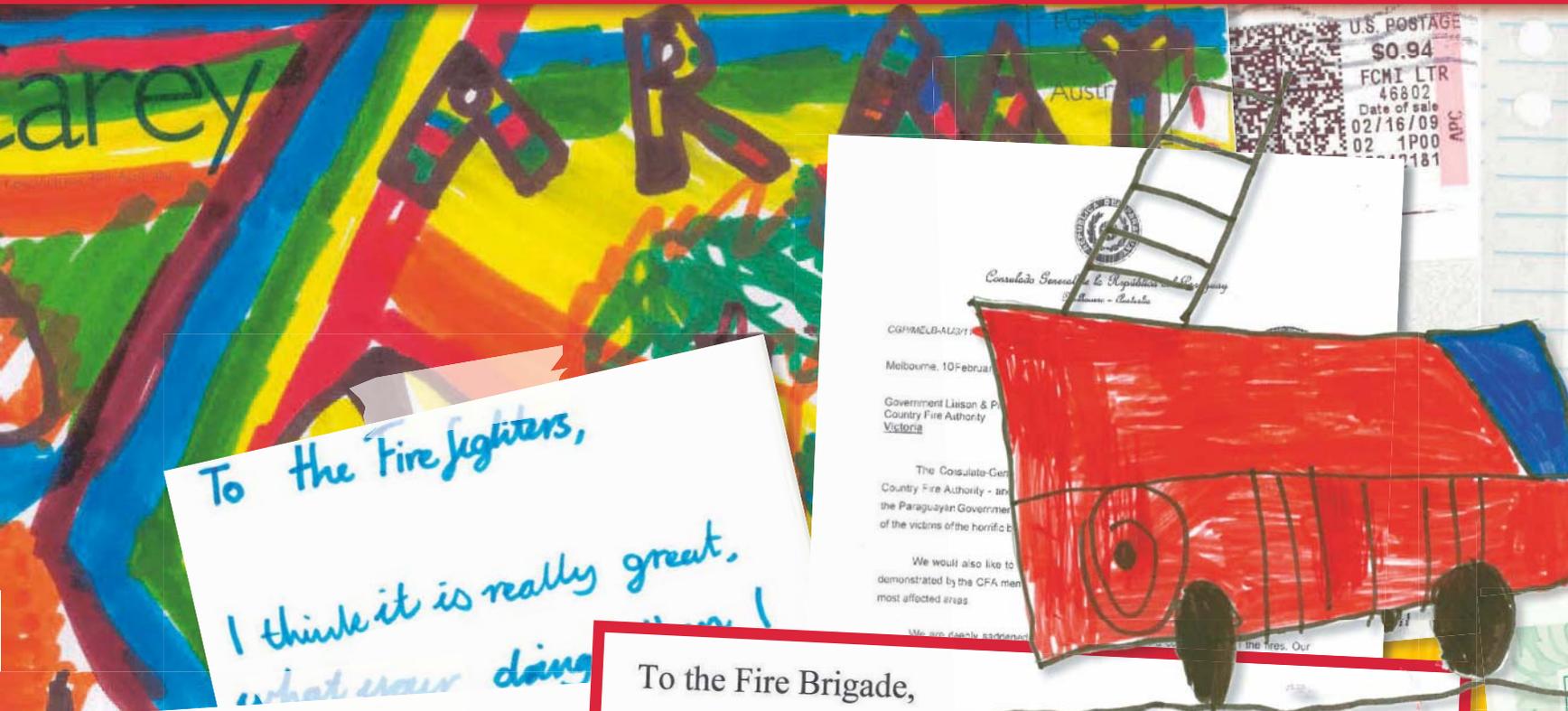


fighters thanks for  
the koala and the  
ls you are miracle  
putting out the fires  
an.



# THANKS

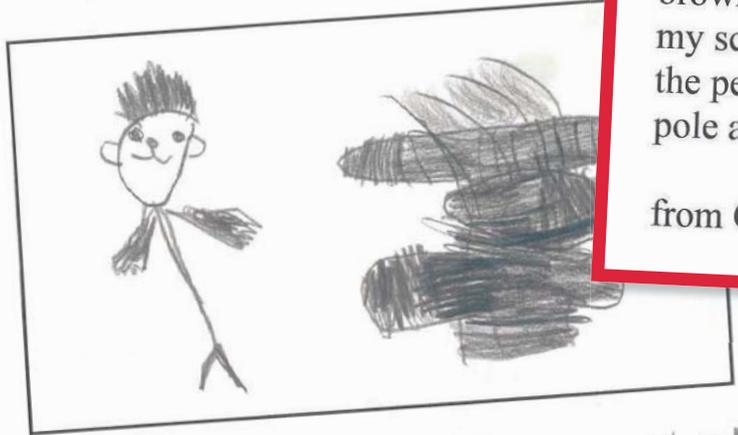
AUTUMN EDITION 35



To the Fire fighters,  
I think it is really great,  
what your doing

Consulate General  
Melbourne, 10 February  
Government Liaison & P  
Country Fire Authority  
Victoria  
The Consulate-Gen  
Country Fire Authority - and  
the Paraguayan Governmen  
of the victims of the horrific b  
We would also like to  
demonstrated by the CFA men  
most affected areas  
We are deeply saddened

Name: Trey Baxter



To the Fire Brigade,  
My name is Charlotte, I am 8 years old, I have brown hair and I have brown eyes. I know you're busy but my school Wales St. primary school is raising money for the people who have lost their homes. I'm doing an icy pole and drink stall. I hope you stop the fire soon.  
from Charlotte Williams.

to Dad thanks for stopping  
the fire when you were  
working hard to earn money.  
I am proud of you.  
I love you Dad <sup>I would like to</sup> get a job in  
working in DSAs  
from Trey Baxter



Dear CFA, emerg  
their families  
Cammur  
Thank you for your  
efforts and work. Our  
and deepest thoughts  
best wishes are with  
you and your families  
friends at this time.  
Faithfully

Dear Fire Fighters  
Job of fighting the fire

# MESSAGES OF SUPPORT

Sender Name: Gail Jury

I know this probably isn't the right forum to send this email, but I just really wanted to pass on my thanks to all the emergency services for the effort put in by all over the last horrifying three weeks. I live in Cockatoo, and I know how stressful it has been for us, even though we have never been in direct danger this time, can't even imagine what it has been like for those in the front lines and in the admin side of things.

Also wanted to extend my thanks for the great incident site and all the recent modifications made to it. It has been invaluable to us.

Yours most gratefully,  
Gail Jury and the whole Jury clan

Dear Fire Fighters,

Thankyou for saving lives in Kinglake and other fires, and all of us Victorians heartfelt, to you, acknowledge the support and care you give to save others. All the animals

yours sympathetically

Harry Larkey

We just wanted to remind you that we are thinking & praying for you.

hope this helps you smile  
-P.C.Y.C

Dear Firefighters,  
Thanks for fighting bushfires.

from Hamish (4)

Sender Name: John Turner

Good morning.

This is not an enquiry but a message of thanks to all the volunteers and workers at the Alexandra staging area. I was a member of a deployment of volunteers from the South Australian CFS (arrived 17-Feb-09 departed 20-Feb-09) for the time of my stay in Victoria we were treated like royalty and wanted for nothing. The entire stay will be remembered as a positive experience and I would not hesitate to accept any future tasking to Victoria if my circumstances permit.

To the rest of you guys involved in the entire campaign I wish you well and hope for a speedy end to this horrific disaster

John Turner

Salisbury CFS (Region Two Reserve)

Dear friends who selflessly support our community. Our kind & caring thoughts are with you & hope in some small way it helps carry the weight you must bear.

To know you are there gives millions of people great comfort & has helped thousands directly.

Our gratitude is endless.

Many thanks, Cathy, David & family

20 February 2009

The Fire Department

Letters and pictures are to let you know we have been thought of on a daily basis at all times.

It is a great comfort that we have such dedicated and passionate people ready to lend a helping hand at anytime no matter what the situation may be, you are a great inspiration.

We now have a number of 'little people' aspiring to be firemen and women!!!

of the magnitude you have witnessed during of if you volunteered our service will now brings

sity. Men and your safety. The duty to save will your strength

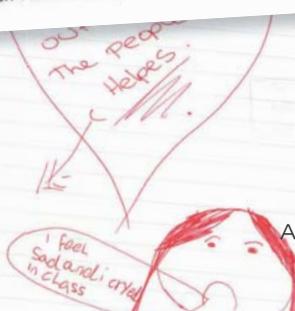
difficult time.

see

Rudolph Giuliani

your doing a great job.

Studio for Early



In this section of *Brigade*, we summarise CFA incidents and examine the total number of incidents for each region. All statistical information has been extracted from CFA's Fire and Incident Reporting System (FIRS).

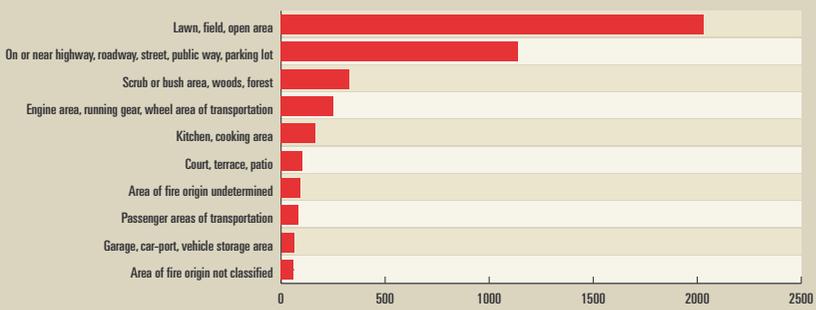
Summary	Date range October - December 2008		
	Estimated loss	Estimated ha burnt	Incident count
Bush and Forest		14,350	115
Car Fires and MVA			1,226
False Alarms			1,770
Grass Fires		677	173
Hazardous Materials			597
House Fires	\$13,977,460		314
Industrial Fires	\$1,859,900		69
	<b>\$15,837,360</b>	<b>15,027</b>	<b>4,264</b>

Summary	Date range January - March 2009		
	Estimated loss	Estimated ha burnt	Incident count
Bush and Forest		31703	166
Car Fires and MVA			1,066
False Alarms			1,677
Grass Fires		1510	239
Hazardous Materials			598
House Fires	\$12,055,920		299
Industrial Fires	\$10,707,150		57
	<b>\$22,763,070</b>	<b>33,213*</b>	<b>4,102*</b>

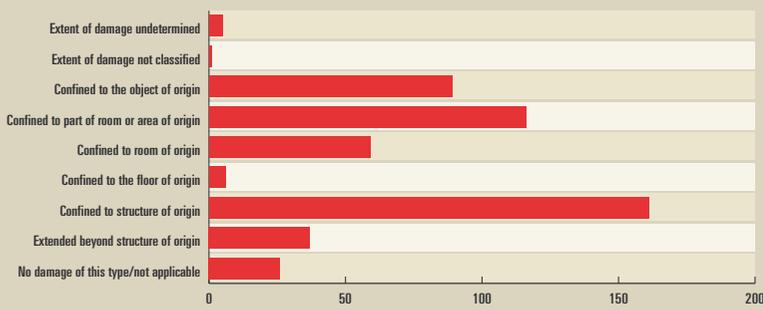
\* When these figures were compiled (1 April 2009) not all incident reports had been consolidated and the number of hectares burnt had not been finalised. The next edition of *Brigade* will have updated figures for the period January - March 2009. See the map on pages 8 - 9 for interim major fire sizes.



**Top 10 fire starts January - March 2009**



**Extent of flame damage January - March 2009**





## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the photographers who captured the images in this edition and allowed us to share them with you: Keith Pakenham, Martin Anderson, Wayne Rigg, Stephen Henderson, Sarah Black and Chris Mulherin. A special thanks also to Fairfaxphotos, News Limited and *The Bendigo Advertiser*, which generously supplied their images for the photo special. Fairfaxphotos credits: page 2, Dini Shepherd – Craig Abraham, pages 14 & 15, background – Jason South; page 16, photo 4 – John Woudstra. News Limited credits: page 14, photo 3 & page 15, photo 2 – David Caird; page 23, photo 1 – Stephen Harman; page 26, photo 2 – Alex Coppel; page 28, background – Nicole Garmston, page 28, photo 6 – Rob Leeson; page 29, photo 8 – Jane Ollerenshaw. *The Bendigo Advertiser* credits: page 15, photo 1 and page 29, photo 9. Front and back cover and page 39 photos: Kilmore East – Murrindindi Complex.



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Brigade is produced by CFA Public Affairs  
Telephone: 9262 8300  
Facsimile: 9262 8352  
PO Box 701 Mt Waverley VIC 3149  
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