

YARRAMBAT FIRE FLYER

Volume 1 Summer 1999

Newsletter of the Yarrambat Fire Brigade

December 1999

BURNING ISSUES

With the fire season now upon us, there are a few important things residents of Yarrambat need to be aware of.

Parts of Yarrambat are among the most potentially dangerous wildfire areas of Victoria. Even so, protecting your property from such a fire is possible, so long as you have a fire prevention plan. Essentially, the plan should include the clearing of flammable materials from around your home, having a self sufficient water supply with a petrol driven pump, and deciding at a very early point whether to stay and defend your home or leave the area. Detailed information on the subject is available from the fire station.

Construction of the new fire station has been slightly delayed while the impact on costs of current building activity in advance of the GST is evaluated. Tenders will be called by the CFA with a closing date in January. The Brigade will need to increase its contribution above the current planned level of \$70,000.

The Brigade has initiated a home fire safety competition for the children attending Yarrambat Primary School who also live in Yarrambat. The prize is a Sony Playstation which is kindly being donated by the Diamond Creek Blue Light Disco.

The aim is to encourage children to be the driving force of fire safety at home. Fire Safety brochures have been made available for families to use as a reference. Judging will be conducted by brigade officers and will include the child's knowledge of fire safety relative to their age.

Many people may be wondering about the effect of the Y2K Bug on the fire service. We are pleased to tell you that both the CFA and the brigade have been working to ensure that everything runs smoothly. CFA have been working to ensure that all reporting lines of communication will work. Although much testing has taken place, no one can give a watertight guarantee.

To ensure safety of residents during this period, the fire station will be manned by dedicated unpaid volunteers. **If you require the fire brigade during New Years Eve and early morning January 1st ONLY, you should do the following:**

Ring 000 as normal. Should 000 not answer:-
Ring 9436 1840 Should that not work :-
Ring 9436 1222 Should that not work :-
Drive to the fire station at 446 Ironbark Rd.
Should your car not work :-
Run to the fire station at 446 Ironbark Rd.
Should your legs not work :-
Stop Drinking !

SOCIAL NEWS

* Don't forget that Santa will be making his normal visit to the streets of Yarrambat in the big red fire truck between 6.30pm and 9pm on December 23rd. If it rains, he will arrive on December 24th.



* The mystery car drive on 31st October was a fun event which raised \$180 for the new station fund. Hopefully we will attract more residents to participate in next years event, which will be more widely advertised.

The Brigade Social & Fundraising committee is taking a well deserved rest during the fire season, but activities pencilled in for next year include:

#Casino Trip by Luxury Coach # Garage Sale #

YARRAMBAT FIRE BRIGADE CORPORATE SUPPORTERS



#Picnic Races at Hanging Rock # Trivia Night #
#Chocolate Drive # Mystery Car Drive #
#Shop-a-holics Bus Trip #

These events are all open to the public and are a great way to get to know your local fire brigade volunteers while helping to raise funds for the Brigade. Ring June O'Sullivan on 9718 1167 to pre-register your interest in these events.

COMMUNITY CORNER

w The drive to have all properties in Yarrambat identified with reflective house numbers so that the Fire Brigade, Police and Ambulance Services can locate your house easily in an emergency is going well. Over 100 residents have taken up the Brigade offer to supply and install them at nominal cost. However, this means that the remaining 300 houses in Yarrambat could be difficult to locate in an emergency. Its still not too late to order your number. Contact brigade member Laurie McQuade on 9435 6859 for further details.

JUNIORS

w The second half of this year has been most successful for the Yarrambat Junior Fire Brigade, starting with a recruiting campaign in July, which attracted a number of new members. We currently have ten registered members namely:

Andrew Colban, William Colban, Scott Dinnage, Hayley Lloyd, Cameron Lloyd, Daniel O'Connor, Matthew Teague, Meredith Dale, Natalie Gebert and Shane Welch.

The Juniors meet every second Wednesday between 7 pm & 9 pm.

The Junior Fire Brigade is for boys and girls from the Yarrambat area who are between 11 and 16 years old. They learn all aspects of fire-fighting in a controlled environment without actually having direct contact with fire. For further information on new membership please feel free to contact Paul Elso on 0419 544 694.

It is interesting to note that three of the current Brigade officers & the Captain started their initial involvement with the CFA in the Yarrambat Juniors.

The second half of this year has seen the juniors trained in:

- * Knowledge of fire fighting equipment
- * Fire and safety awareness
- * Fire behaviour
- * Fire suppression
- * Communications
- * Operation of fire hydrants

w The Yarrambat Junior Fire Brigade would like to thank the Diamond Creek Blue Light Committee for their generous support in providing funds for the purchase of overalls for the personal protection of all junior members. For the

next twelve months, Diamond Creek Blue Light Committee will be the sponsor of the Junior Brigade.

TRIVIA QUIZ

wNobody was able to answer last edition's question or maybe you were confused by the closing date. The answer was "Fahrenheit 451". This edition's trivia question is :

wWhich was the first CFA fire brigade chosen to represent the State of Victoria in the New South Wales Fire Service State Championships ? (Clue: It begins with the letter ' Y')

wThe first correct answer opened will win a fire blanket and a Mars Bar. Leave entries with your name and address at Yarrambat post office in the special container or post to Yarrambat Fire Brigade Box 50 PO Yarrambat by 31/1/2000

JUST A THOUGHT

w Do you have a plan prepared in case of a fire in your house? Do the kids know what to do ? Have you arranged a place to meet outside so you know everybody is out? The Brigade can help you with booklets to start your plan.

DID YOU KNOW ?

w There was a thriving Chinese village in the area now called Smugglers Gully in Yarrambat in the 1800's.

FREE CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE

Kitchen Table - 6 seater 175cm x 90cm, black woodgrain laminate VGC \$200 ONO. Call Darren on 94369324.

Aluminium Windows - 2 x 205H x 180W. 4 panel - 1 sliding tinted glass \$250 pair. Call Darren on 94369324.

FLYING SCOTSMAN MODEL RAILWAY MUSEUM

A 20metre long mural by artist Joan Smith has been installed at the Museum, 744 Yan Yean Rd, Yarrambat as a background panorama to the model railway merging a view of Sydney into Swiss village & alpine scenes.

Opening hours are:

Wednesday	10 am to 3 pm
Saturday & Sunday	10 am to 4 pm
School Holidays	
Monday to Friday	10 am to 3 pm

It's now the Fire Danger Period in Yarrambat !

In this edition, we have suspended our usual interview with a local identity to present important information on the fire season ahead.

Fire Restrictions will be in force in Nillumbik Shire from the 20th December 1999. No burning off is allowed after this date unless a Permit has been obtained from the Shire of Nillumbik. Ring Norm Golgerth on 94 333 309 for details of the restrictions.

During the summer period you must also be aware of Total Fire Ban Days. Yarrambat is in the Central district of Victoria for the purposes of Total Fire Ban declarations. Brochures are available from the Yarrambat Fire Brigade showing what you can and cannot do on a Total Fire Ban Day.

If a serious situation develops in the area, Plenty Valley FM Radio (88.6 FM) is the official emergency radio service for the district.

Some of the issues that you will need to consider to minimise the risk to yourself and your property are contained in a CFA publication "Living in the Bush" - "a Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook" which is available free of charge from the Yarrambat Fire brigade. Contact Ken Collins on 9436 1167 or Jim O'Sullivan on 9718 1167 to collect your copy.

The following information is mainly drawn from that publication but is no substitute for the detail contained in that booklet.

The key to surviving a bushfire is to be self reliant and well prepared by drawing up your own individual survival plan which everybody in the household needs to understand and practice.

You need to plan well in advance whether you will chose to :

- * Stay in your home
- * Go to a neighbours house
- *Go to a designated refuge area
- * Evacuate all or some of your family.

It is your responsibility to protect your home and assets. Remember that when a bushfire is

raging, CFA firefighters must concentrate on containing the front of the fire and may not be able to defend every home.

You may not receive individual warnings of an approaching fire. On high fire danger days be alert for indications of fire in the local area and take appropriate action. Some of our local Community Fireguard groups have arranged "telephone trees" and pager systems to alert the members of their group to impending danger and progress of fires. We encourage residents to join up together to form a local Community Fireguard which operates in a similar manner to the police local Neighbourhood Watch system. Contact Lieutenant Ian Harris on 9467 2149 or Laurie McQuade on 9435 6859 if you and your neighbours wish to form a group in the future.

The most important decision that you must make in a bushfire situation is whether you will leave or stay. Lives are most often lost during unplanned, last minute evacuations. Your decision must be based on how well you and your family are prepared to face a bushfire, the location and siting of your home, its design and construction and the amount of vegetation close to your home. The Brigade can assist you with an evaluation of your circumstances.

CORPORATE SUPPORTERS

Doors a- plenty	Reservoir
SmorgonARC	Sunshine
Insulation Solutions	Dandenong
Mitre 10	Diamond Creek
Bristol Decorator Centre	Bundoora
Vinidex Tubemakers Pty Ltd	Clayton
Tradelink Plumbing Supplies	Briar Hill
Reece Pty Ltd	Diamond Creek
Reece Pty Ltd	Montmorency
Advent Security	Thomastown
Hurstbridge Newsagency	Hurstbridge

THANK YOU

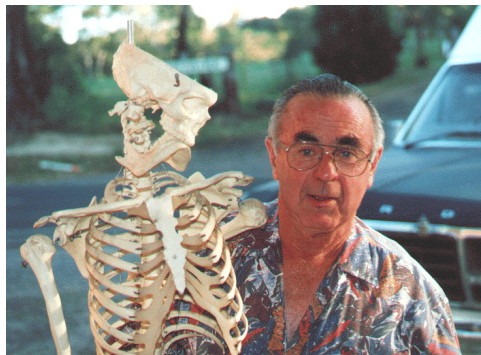
The Brigade wishes to acknowledge the contribution of Superior Press for their generous donation of the highest quality materials and printing standards for our newsletter.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

In this edition we are interviewing a member of our brigade Laurie McQuade. Laurie joined Yarrambat CFA in 1971 after serving four years with another brigade. In 1972 Laurie held the position of Apparatus Officer and by 1977 had attained the rank of 3rd Lieutenant. From July 79-June 87 Laurie was 2nd Lieutenant and finally from 1987 until 1999 held the position of 1st Lieutenant.

In 1974 Laurie was responsible for the formation of the Yarrambat Junior Fire Brigade. He instigated the first Junior Brigade running competition in 1974. These competitions are now held statewide with thousands of juniors competing for their Brigades.

In 1982 it was Laurie's idea to enlist the assistance of Santa to travel on the Fire Truck around Yarrambat distributing lollies and Christmas wishes to the residents. The "Santa Run" proved to be so popular that it has been conducted annually ever since and other brigades have adopted the idea. We believe Laurie was the first Fireman Santa!



Laurie with one of his patients

While assisting the Brigades Auxiliary with the catering of a fundraising event, Laurie decided that there had to be a better way to protect the helpers from the elements and also to provide a more efficient way to prepare food for fundraising and support to personnel on the fireground. Laurie was instrumental in locating, purchasing and fitting out a caravan for catering purposes. The van has been a very successful part of the Brigades activities and has attended fires in many other areas.

Laurie has always been known for his inventiveness. The Brigade vehicles and Station are kept in running order by many ideas known as "McQuade's Mark 1 or 2". Several years ago Laurie devised a system for our Brigade that would simultaneously alert 28 firefighters of a fire call, thus shortening the response time of the Brigade turn out, keeping in mind that any delay could be life threatening. Other local Brigades requested Laurie to install similar systems for them.

As well as being involved in our Brigade Laurie is an active volunteer with the St John Ambulance Service. Laurie joined St John 18 years ago and tells me that he decided to join the service after attending a serious car accident with the Fire Brigade. He felt he needed to know

more about 1st Aid. Laurie's involvement continued from that moment and he now holds the position of Superintendent of this area.

Sue: Why did you join the CFA?

Laurie: My wife Jean and I have always been involved in community service. I was a Scout leader for 15 years and Jean a Cub leader for 10. We like to be able to help people out. I consider myself lucky to be physically and mentally capable of doing it. It's like my reward for being healthy being able to help others. The people in the CFA are a great group of people.....very giving. I really enjoy it- it's a hobby really.

Sue: What has been your favourite time in the Brigade?

Laurie: I really enjoyed my time as 1st Lieutenant. It was great being able to give support to the Captains that I served under.

Sue: How do you find the time to fit in both the CFA and St John as well as your family?

Laurie: Firstly my wife Jean, who is also in St John, is an extremely supportive wife. I couldn't do it without her. Secondly, I really enjoy doing it all..it's really a hobby. You'll always find the time if you enjoy it.

Sue: What is the worst fire you've been to?

Laurie: That would have to be Clarkes Road Yarrambat in 1981. We approached the fire down a track about 10 minutes after it had started and were confronted by an enormous wall of flame. We headed out very quickly after doing an about turn. I thought this is crazy, no animal on earth goes towards a fire - they run away. As soon as I get out of here I'm resigning. However (Laurie chuckles) 18 years later I'm still here.

Sue: Do you ever get used to that fear?

Laurie: Once you've experienced a few bad fires you know what to do. You learn to be calm and not to panic.

Last month Laurie received the Diamond Creek Rotary Club's Courtesy and Kindness award for Community Services in recognition of his voluntary service in the St John Ambulance and the CFA. Laurie and Jean have two sons Glen and Darren (who registered as a junior firefighter at the age of 8!).

Laurie is obviously a very special member of our community, always dedicated and committed to helping others. It would certainly be a much better world if we had more Lauries around. But one thing's for sure - we're extremely lucky to have him in OUR Brigade.

Sue - Editor

Any members of the public or clubs within the community that have advertisements, social news or items of interest for our next issue, please feel free to contact the editor:

Sue Mountain 94361169