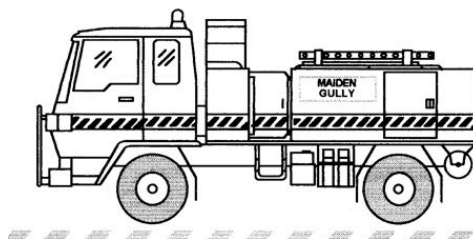


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade Winter 2018 Newsletter

www.maidengullycfa.org.au

Twenty years ago



In 1998, the CFA formed a new fire brigade to serve the growth area of Maiden Gully and so began Maiden Gully Fire Brigade with only minimal equipment and an obsolete tanker kept in a local resident's carport (see photo opposite). A lot has been achieved in a very short amount of time. Today, we operate four appliances out of a large, modern fire station in Beckhams Road. This progress has only been achieved through the dedication of the Brigade's members and strong community support. We have 30 operational firefighters and the Brigade responds to around 60 incidents annually. Five of these firefighters are

new volunteer members who have recently qualified after completing their recruit training.

Other Brigade news

A number of improvements and new equipment has been added since our last report:

- Thanks to local MP, Lisa Chesters, we received a Stronger Communities Program from the Australian Government. This grant has met 50% of the costs of our updated Incident Information System, a flat screen TV for use in training and a dishwasher. We also thank local resident, Ian Wardell of Custom Designed Kitchens and Joinery for modifying our cupboards to fit the dishwasher at no cost.
- We have completed upgrading our members' facilities at the rear of the station creating an attractive shaded area.
- Another local resident who owns Total Tools in Kangaroo Flat has provided us with a range of Milwaukee battery powered tools and accessories to use with our new Pumper. Thanks Cam!
- Our smaller tanker has had new lightbars fitted and extra reflective tape making it much easier to see at night and brings it in line with our other trucks.
- We have been advised that we have been successful in a Grant application to receive a Thermal Imaging Camera that enables us to find hotspots and see through smoke. This is modern firefighting and members start training on the unit in September.

Fundraising to support better equipment is one of our biggest activities during this part of the year. The colder weather has seen our firewood raffles underway outside Maiden Gully IGA on alternating Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. Each time, we raffle a trailer load of split firewood with it being delivered to the winner. This activity has raised over \$2,500 and we have been able to have some important conversations with residents about fire safety. Other community activities later in the year will include a sausage sizzle at Bunnings Epsom on September 22nd, back at IGA with snags and pre-summer advice on October 27th and finally our annual CFA Sunday on November 25th.



Can we find you?

Having an easily seen house number will save valuable minutes in an emergency. Next time you come home at night, ask yourself, "Can I find our house number?" If you can't see it, we and other emergency services will have even more trouble.

Did you know that more than a third of Victorians have never replaced their smoke alarms. Is it time you replaced yours?

All smoke alarms need to be replaced every 10 years, regardless of whether they are hard-wired or battery powered. This year we're asking you to check the replacement date of your smoke alarms. The replacement date or the date of manufacture should be printed somewhere on each smoke alarm, usually on the base. If you can't see a printed date on the unit it is likely to be over 10 years old and requires replacing. If your smoke alarms are less than 10 years old please ensure the battery is in good working order. Smoke alarms powered by a 9V battery require the battery to be replaced annually.

- It is law to have hard-wired smoke alarms connected to mains power if your home was built after 1 August 1997. They can only be installed by a qualified electrician.
- Even hard-wired smoke alarms have a battery as a backup power source. If the battery is a 9V battery it requires replacing annually.
- CFA recommends you replace existing smoke alarms with photoelectric smoke alarms powered by a 10-year lithium battery. Replacing your smoke alarms with this type means you won't have to remember to replace the battery every year.



Winter is also bonfire and burn-off season - always register your bonfire or burn-off

By Calling: 1800 668 511

Or Emailing: burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au

Keep your burn-off safe and legal:

- Never leave it unattended
- Monitor weather conditions
- Have sufficient water and equipment to stop the fire spreading
- Check Council Local Laws and letting your neighbours know.

These actions help ensure that firefighters are not called out unnecessarily. Alternatively, take your green waste to the Eaglehawk Landfill on a free week-end.

July 2018