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AUTUMN / WINTER 2018

SitRep



OLINDA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE NEWSLETTER

OLINDA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE IS 100% VOLUNTEER

"Like" our **Olinda Rural Fire Brigade** page and check out our **Community Noticeboard** at the fire station when you pass by so you keep up to date with current information, and important community events on both.

Duty Officer
P: 0407 455 914

TIPS FOR HAVING A LESS DANGEROUS BURN-OFF

Be aware that nearby trees can catch fire from the heat of the fire. They do not need direct contact with flames. Leave ample space between the fire and all trees.

Have a 3m cleared area around the perimeter of the fire.

Logs in a fire are prone to rolling out. Monitor this at all times.

Fire will spread through rubbish left around the fire perimeter and move away from the desired location. Monitor this at all times.

Backyard burn-offs are permitted at certain times of the year dependant on Shire of Yarra Ranges By-Laws; Total Fire Bans and (CFA) Declared Fire Danger Periods.

On 1st May this year the Declared Fire Danger Period ended and residents began burning off again. That same day, Olinda CFA members attended 2 emergency turn outs involving residential burn-offs getting out of control. On Thursday 3rd May, the Brigade attended another 7 out of control burn-off incidents.

Please note the following tips have been listed for your benefit and for ours. Keep your burn-off safe and legal.

Never leave your fire unattended. Don't leave for a meal or a cuppa.

Monitor weather conditions. Have sufficient equipment and water on hand to stop the fire spreading.

Always register your burn by calling **1800 668 511** or email **burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au**

You need to ensure that you have sufficient equipment and water on hand to stop the spread of fire.

A hose connected to a static water supply being a must.

Know the current Shire Open Air Burning Local Laws involving; - Size and location of fire; - Days of week that fires are permitted - Mon , Thurs, Fri & Sat between 8am-6pm. - Months of year that fires are not permitted (during the declared Fire Danger Period or on days of Total Fire Ban).



ONLY WORKING SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES – TEST YOURS TODAY!

Smoke alarms only last for 10 years –make sure yours are less than 10 years old.

Report By Captain Phil Skiller

So far this year we have had over 45 calls and a lot of these were for residents burning off on days they shouldn't, please check the shire website for information on when you can and can't burn off. On one day we had 7 fire calls to burn offs out of control this was mainly because of 2 things, they didn't have a static water supply to control the burn off and the wind was too strong for lighting fires.

If you are burning off please ensure you are fit enough to do so as we have also found that the stress of a burn off getting out of control can cause health problems and we have had 1 incident where an ambulance was required.

Make sure you have working Smoke Detectors. Please ensure that you replace your **batteries yearly**. Chimneys & flues should be cleaned every year.

New Members. We have recently had 3 new members join, but we need more, either non-operational or firefighters, residents who would be available either day

& night, weekday or weekends. Please contact our duty officer on **0407 455 914** for more information.

Please start to start to prepare early for the upcoming fire season as it comes around very quickly. **Check with the shire for details of when you can start to burn off.**

New Truck We would like to thank you all for your donations as we will be receiving a new tanker to replace our ageing Tanker 3. We hope to receive this new truck prior to this year's fire season.



Report from Community Safety Coordinator Elissa Jans

We were luckily enough to have another quiet summer here on the mountain. With the Fire Danger Period coming in mid-December and running through to the 1st May, it was one of the longest Fire Danger Periods we have had for a while.

Now is the time to start thinking about how you are best going to prepare for the next fire season. How will you prepare your property? Talk with your family about your fire plans, review them, update them and practice them. Work out what you need to do to best prepare your property, which days you will leave the mountain and where you will go.

Each year we hold various fire safety events in our area with the aim of educating our community around fire safety, planning and preparedness. Fire planning is everyone's responsibility and we aim to provide you with a multitude of opportunities to help you with your fire planning.

We held two Fire Safe Kids sessions for the Olinda Primary School focussing on Home Fire Safety and Bush Fire Safety. It's a great way to help our youngest community members gain a valuable understanding of fire safety and one that we hope carries on with them throughout their lives.

We held Bushfire Planning Workshops which provide an in-depth learning and understanding of how you can best plan

and prepare for your property and your family.

We attended community events and had a great opportunity to engage with some one on one conversations around fire planning with some of you. You might have seen us at Sky High Kids Fun Day, at the Olinda Community House Car Boot Sale or even at this year's National Rhododendron Gardens Family Fun Day. Each of these community events gives us another opportunity to meet you and talk with you about your fire planning.

And we held our annual community meeting at the fire station and updated you on where we were in the fire season and discussed our immediate risks.

Along with our face to face events we visited several properties for our one on one Property Advice Visits, distributed our newsletter and Captain's letter, posted many important posts on our Facebook page, delivered over 50 new residents kits and kept our station noticeboard up to date with seasonal information.

Building a resilient community that is engaged, planned and prepared is one of utmost important goals.

Please help us to help you.

Street Corner Meetings

This year we will focus on coming to you with some "Street Corner Meetings". These meetings are a great opportunity for us to talk about your immediate neighbourhood risk and for you to gain some invaluable information to help you with your fire planning. There will be a total of six meetings held across our Brigade area. If you can't make it to the one closest to you, then please feel free to join us at another one. They will run for around an hour and we will stagger them out on different days and times to help everyone be able to attend at least one.

Please come along and meet your neighbours. It's a great way to take responsibility for your families fire planning and all members of your family are welcome to join us. We really hope you can take the time to come along.

Wed 31st Oct 7pm Olinda Fire Station
Thurs 1st Nov 7pm Cnr Prion Rd & Ridge Road Mt Dandenong
Mon 12th Nov 7pm Cnr Dickens Rd & Mt Dand. Tourist Rd Olinda
Tue 13th Nov 7pm Cnr Range Rd & Lumeah Ave Olinda
Sat 17th Nov 2pm Car Park Olinda Community House
Sun 25th Nov 2pm Cnr Mernda Rd & Olinda Monbulk Rd

We will hold a "Bushfire Planning Workshop" for residents at the Olinda Fire Station, possibly in early December.

If you would like to attend this please register your interest at comsafety@olindacfa.info

These workshops are a great opportunity to gain in-depth knowledge of how to best plan and prepare for fire.

We Need Your Help

Our mission is to protect lives and property and we do that in many ways. Our brigade is 100% volunteer and we are looking for new community members to join our brigade. Could you be our next member? We currently have 70 local women and men volunteering with us. 27 of us are operational fire fighters, 27 are support team members and 16 are junior members (11-16). But we need more. Could you be our next member? Do you want to help your community and learn some invaluable new skills? You don't need to be available all day or all night every day of the week. Most of us have full time jobs on and off the mountain. Some of us are students, some of us are stay at home parents, some retired some working full time, part time or unemployed. Some of us are able to attend incidents during the day, some during the night and some on the weekends. Some of us come to the station every week for training some of us a couple of times a month and some come when they can. New members who become fire fighters undergo six months FREE training and there are no prerequisites to begin. Some of our members support our fire fighters and some help to raise money or run community safety events for our community. Volunteers all have one thing in common, a desire to be part of a team and help their own communities. No matter how much time you have to give we would love you to consider joining us. Contact us at secretary@olindacfa.info, call **0407 455 914** or drop by the station.



Do you provide accommodation?

With over 70 B&B's across the ridge top, this year we will be holding a special fire safety information session just for accommodation providers. Each accommodation provider will be invited (via email) to join us for evening. There will be folders given out on the night full of helpful information.

It will be held at the **Mount Dandenong Hotel on Monday 29th October @7.30pm.**

Device Danger

As in most homes, there are many of us charging phones, tablets and laptops every day.

Ensuring that these devices are charged in a safe place will reduce the risk of fire in everyone's home.

AVOID THE RISKS

- * Never have a phone charging in bed or under covers
- * Charge the phone on a hard surface with good airflow

Never leave
electrically-
powered
appliances
on bedding



never
overcharge
electrical
appliances

Reducing Your Risk

From the 1st Jan to the 31st Dec 2017, there were 110 PREVENTABLE home fires across our District (13).

The top 3 places of origin were;

1. Kitchen
2. Lounge
3. Laundry

The top 3 types of fires were:

1. Electrical
2. Cooking
3. Heating

And the top 3 causes of these PREVENTABLE fires were:

1. Unattended Cooking
2. Miscellaneous Electrical
3. Chimney

It is imperative that you have your chimneys cleaned, your heaters serviced, your electrical appliances checked and you remind all in your home to NEVER leave any cooking unattended.

30 years ago you had 17 minutes to escape a house fire.
Today it's 3-4 minutes as newer homes and furniture burn faster...



Is Today High Risk?

Understand how the Fire Danger Rating Scale will alert you to danger so you can take action.



Important Radio Stations

ABC 774 AM 3MDR 97.1FM 3YVR 99.1FM

Can we find you in an emergency?

Do you have a clearly marked number on a letterbox, a post, gate or tree?

Can we fit in your driveway? Our trucks average 8m long, 3.1m high and 3m wide.

Will we fit through your gates? Under your trees?

Property Advice Visits (PAV)

If you interested in the very special FREE visit, please contact us at comsafety@olindacfa.info to arrange a visit or get more information.

Important Contact Numbers

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Police / Fire / Ambulance | 000 |
| Olinda Rural Fire Brigade Station | 9751 1273 |
| Olinda RFB Duty Officer 24/7 | 0407 455 914 |
| CFA District 13 | 8739 1300 |
| Victorian Bushfire Information Line | 1800 226 226 |
| Yarra Ranges Council | 1300 368 333 |
| Electricity Faults | 13 17 99 |
| Gas Faults | 13 27 71 |
| Water Faults | 13 92 897 |
| SES Emergency Help In Floods and Storms | 13 25 00 |

Have You Just Moved In?

Every six months we deliver a "New Resident's Kit" to new members of our community. These kits are loaded with information to help our newest residents understand the fire risk we face on the mountain as well as information on how best to plan and prepare for that risk. If you have not received a kit (or you would like one) please send us an email to comsafety@olindacfa.info



Need More Information?

- Follow us on Facebook at Olinda Rural Fire Brigade
- CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or Facebook CFA (Country Fire Authority)
- Come visit us at the fire station Sun mornings or Wednesday evenings
- Notice board full of information at the fire station
- Range of information at the Olinda Community House and the Olinda Police Station
- Additional newsletters can be collected at various places like the Olinda Fish Shop, Olinda Pizza, Hills Medical Centre, IGA, Montage, Olinda Cafe etc
- Email us at comsafety@olindacfa.info
- Attend one of our events like our Bushfire Planning sessions, a community meeting or the Ridge Top Brigades Family Fun & Information Day
- Join your local Community Fire Guard group - text your request to CFA on **0429 423 692**

Important Websites



cfa.vic.gov.au



yarraranges.vic.gov.au



bom.gov.au/weather/vic



www.emv.vic.gov.au



dewlp.vic.gov.au

For regular updates and information visit us on Facebook – **Olinda Rural Fire Brigade**



facebook.com/cfavic



twitter.com/CFA_Updates

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