



# SitRep

## OLINDA RURAL FIRE BRIGADE NEWSLETTER THE BEST FIRE BRIGADE IN THE BEST COMMUNITY

**Olinda Rural Fire Brigade is 100% Volunteer**

**Station Phone 9751 1273**



Find us on Facebook Search "Olinda Rural Fire Brigade" and "like" our page for Brigade information , events and important community education messages throughout the year.

### Change Your Clock Change Your Smoke Alarm Batteries

It's that time already! Sunday 3rd April was the end of day light saving time and another reason to check your smoke alarms. Please do it today!

**Only working smoke alarms save lives.** While you are asleep you are unlikely to smell smoke.

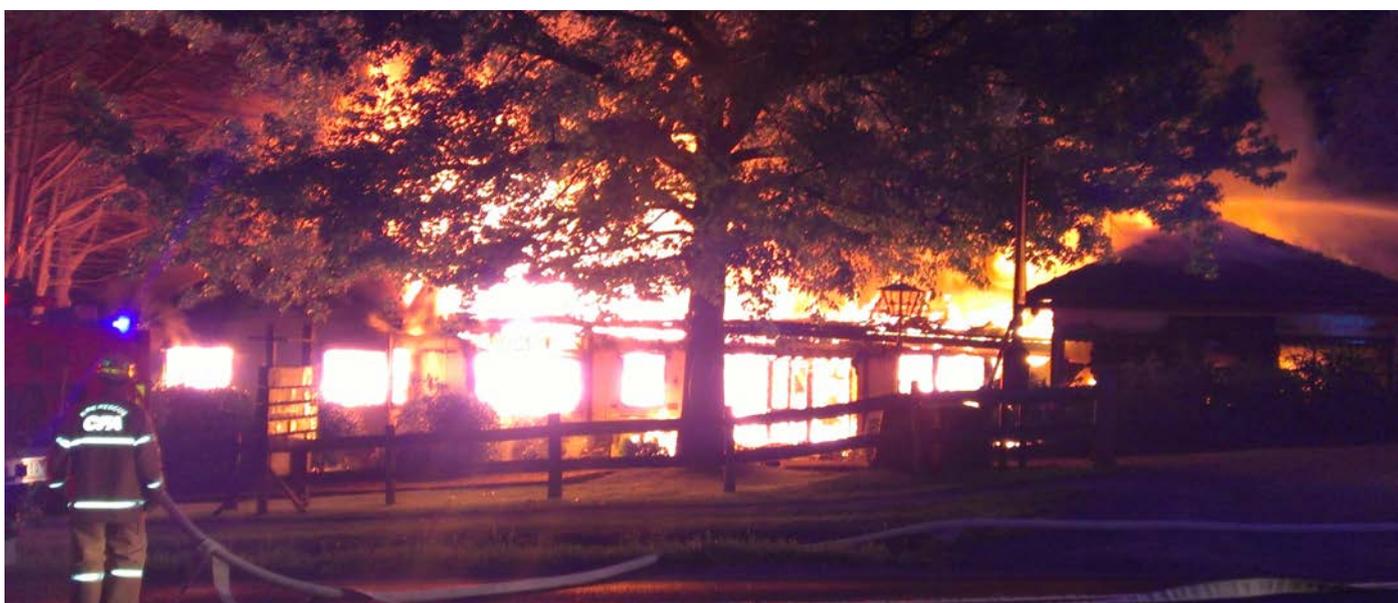
A working smoke alarm is vital to making sure you will wake up in the event of a fire.

#### How to keep your smoke alarm in working order:

- Use long-lasting 9V alkaline batteries in your smoke alarm - by doing this you ensure year-round protection
- Use the brush attachment on your vacuum cleaner to dust around the smoke alarm
- Install photo-electric smoke alarms

- Test smoke alarms once a month. The alarm should produce a loud "beep beep beep beep" sound when you press the test button using a broom handle
- Replace all smoke alarms (both battery powered and 240v hard-wired) after ten years (the year of manufacture is displayed on the alarm)
- Purchase smoke alarms that meet Australian Standards. Look for the AS3786 marking

Waiting until the smoke alarm beeps before you change the battery is too late - this indicates that the battery is already flat, and your family is not protected. Change your smoke alarm battery every year.





## What Can You Do To Help Yourself?

To help you prepare for your fire safety planning, we have the following workshops and meetings coming up. No need to RSVP just turn up on the day, ready to learn some new information. Planning workshops usually run for a few hours but we guarantee you will walk away with a wealth of knowledge.

### What's On?

**Fire Safety information for you and your family.**

**Don't forget to mark these dates on your calendars and put them in your phone. We encourage all members of our community to take responsibility for their own safety and we are more than happy to provide you with the tools and information to do so.**

#### Winter Fire Safe Kids Session For Olinda Primary School

Friday 20th May 1.30pm @ the Olinda Fire Station.  
Fire Safety session for primary school kids focusing on home fire safety, stop, drop and roll, fire plans and meeting points.

#### Fire Safety BBQ With Kalorama Mt Dandenong Brigade

Saturday 1st October from 9.30am to 12.30pm Outside Mt Dandenong IGA.  
Free sausage sizzle. This BBQ will focus on Change your Clock, Change Your Smoke Alarm as Daylight Saving starts on Sunday 2nd October.

#### Community Meeting "Personal Bunkers"

Wednesday 16th November from 7pm to 9pm @ the Olinda Community House.  
Community meeting presented by CSIRO Bushfire Scientist Justin Leonard.  
Personal bunker information for those that have them or are thinking about getting one. Scientific findings from Black Saturday and other important impartial information.

#### "Be Fire Ready Ridge Top" Family Fun & Information Day

Sunday 27th November 11am to 3pm @ the Olinda Football Club Pavilion & Oval.  
Huge community safety information day run by all three ridge top brigades being Olinda, Sassafras Ferny Creek and Kalorama Mt Dandenong. Free community event for fire safety information, CFA, SES, Victoria Police, Parks Victoria, DEWLP, Yarra Ranges Shire, Red Cross, St John, Monbulk Road Rescue and loads of FREE kids activities and give aways.

#### Summer Fire Safe Kids Session For Olinda Primary School

Friday 2nd December @ 1.30pm @ Olinda Fire Station  
Fire Safety session for primary school kids focusing on summer fire safety, family bushfire plans, warnings, pets and preparing homes.

#### Community Bushfire Planning Workshop

Sunday 4th December 10.30am @ the Olinda Fire Station.  
Intensive fire information planning session for those who wish to devise and or update their fire plans for the upcoming fire season. An excellent session and highly recommended.

#### Community Meeting "What Can I Do?"

Sunday 15th Jan 2017 10.30am @ the Olinda Fire Station.  
Where are we with this fire season? Get the latest, local information to help you prepare and be planned for this fire season.





## Report From Our Captain Phil Skiller

It has been a quiet summer for us and for this I am happy. We have had members supporting brigades at the Wandin and Hastings fires & 2 members spent a week in Tasmania assisting with the fires.

Now is one of the best times of the year to start and clean up around the house, burn off days are Monday, Thursday, Friday & Saturdays between 8am and 6pm with no burning off in June & July. To keep up to date with the council bylaws

please visit <http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Fire-emergencies/Burning-Off>.

If you haven't replaced your smoke detector batteries, please do so now as winter is when we get an increase in house fires. Your smoke detector only has a life of 8 to 10 years and should then be replaced. Also please check that your power boards aren't overloaded with appliances.

## Report From Our President Scott Allison

The Dandenong Ranges have many CFA brigades that support directly and indirectly the Olinda community. The Olinda Brigades neighbours including the Kalorama, Sassafra, Monbulk, Kallista The Patch, Silvan and The Basin brigades, offer us their support attending incidents including fires, road accidents and community events.

Each brigade is a standalone entity with its own members, resources (fire trucks) and internal structures. We all have our different feels but comply to a standard set of CFA procedures and ethics.

When there's an incident, we all come together as a united team. Each brigade compliments each other, providing strength in numbers and differing skill sets. You will generally see multiple fire trucks and crews from a number of brigades at every incident.

The brigades pool their resources as the incident requires. Sassafra has their Pumper which enables high volumes of water for structure fires.

Monbulk has their Road Rescue which we call on for traffic accidents.

Kalorama has the "slip on" which is their nimble 4by4 Ute. Yellingbo has a rehabilitation unit to look after the firefighters. Bayswater has the Breathing apparatus van and Olinda has a special communications vehicle, known as the FOV (Field Operations Vehicle).

The CFA page multiple brigades to attend incidents so that there is multiple trucks and resources at every incident and once at the incident, a crew leader may call for back up in more fire trucks or specific support, such as air support, police and ambulance, is required.

You will generally find the two closest brigades to you will attend by sending trucks with the brigades having an 8 minute rule to be mobile to the incident. The volunteer members have 4 minutes to get to the station from home or work and 4 minutes to get into our firefighting gear and have the trucks mobile and on the road.

As President of the Olinda Rural Fire Brigade, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our neighbouring brigades for their support services and help with past incidents and for all future challenges that we may encounter together as a team.

## Report From our Brigade Support Team Leader Linda Makin

If you would like to support your local fire brigade but are not able to be an operational fire fighter, for whatever reason, perhaps the Brigade Support Team would be of interest.

Brigade Support Team members currently do maintenance and gardening at the station, stock the tankers and the station kitchen, clean the station, help out at open days

and community events just to name a few.

Attending monthly brigade meetings and getting to know your local brigade members is a good way to appreciate all that the brigade does to keep us safe.

Brigade Support Team meets on the first Wednesday of the month before the brigade monthly meeting at 8pm.

For more information call 9751 1273.





## Junior Member Report

If you're between 11 & 16 why not come and join our junior members. Loads of fun, lots to learn, great friendship and a great way to be part of our community.

Training every Monday night during school terms from 7pm and it's FREE!. Here's what some of our junior members have to say.

"I joined the CFA soon after I moved to Olinda, it was a great way to meet people and be a part of the community. Every week we learn something new and it's always fun." - Tiffany

"I like CFA because we do a lot of fun training activities such as using thermal imaging, first aid and using the hoses" - Amy

"Juniors has been a great social thing in my life. I've met many people and it's awesome!" - Mikey

"I haven't been here for long but I already feel at home. It's a place where we do fun things like thermal imaging hide and seek but we also do things like drills and CPR". - Jakob

"I've only been here for two weeks and I'm already loving it!". - Max

"I have been in the CFA for four years now and it's been one of the best experiences of my life and I plan to join the senior CFA". - Joe



Newly elected Junior Captain Joe and First Lieutenant Amy

## We Want You!

New members are needed and always welcome. Firefighting, support or juniors.

Do you have any skills that can help us?

Please call our Secretary on **9751 1273** for more information.



## Our Members Out & About In The Community

We have been busy getting our members out there into our wonderful community. Whether it's helping out, spreading the fire safety message or just having fun with kids, we are always happy to have a chat so come and say hi.

- Fire Fighter training around Olinda every Wednesday night and Sunday morning
- Family Fun Day @ The Rhododendron Gardens
- Olinda Football Club Car Parking
- Community Garden Working Bee
- Field Operations Vehicle Shed Opening Presentation
- Kalorama Fun Day For Junior Members
- Community Meeting "Personal Bunkers"
- Diggers Car Parking @ Cloudehill Nursery

- Olinda Community House Car Boot Sale
- Community Bushfire Planning Workshops
- Fire Safety BBQ With Bendigo Bank
- Business Bushfire Planning Workshop
- Fire Safe Kids Summer Session For Olinda Primary School
- Olinda Pool Re-Opening Celebrations
- Fire Station Open Day For Our Community
- Brigade Santa Run Around Olinda & Mt Dandenong
- Community Fire Safety Meeting
- Sky High Day For Kids
- Anzac Day March @ Sassafra
- Fire Safe Kids Winter Session For Olinda Primary School





## Report From Our Community Safety Coordinator Elissa Jans

This fire season we have been incredibly lucky again, to not have any major incidents in our own area. We worked hard this fire season by offering you a range of fire safety activities from several bushfire planning workshops, our station open day, personal bunker community meeting, fire safety BBQ's, individual property advice visits, messages on our station community notice board, fire safe kids session at the Olinda Primary school, open mornings at the fire station, our annual community meeting at the fire station as well as many Facebook posts and information in our local papers. Many of you came along, which was fantastic. Many for the first time and some faces we see each year. We would really encourage you to come along to one of the activities we are having this year. It's our responsibility to share the information with you and help you to be as fire ready as you can and it's your responsibility to take control of your own safety and that of your family and participate in learning how to best prepare yourselves and your property throughout the year. With the many large fires across this last fire season, we are only to be reminded that it could happen to us in the Olinda area any year and that we would really like you to take just a little time to come along to at least one of our activities this year.

The amazingly wonderful **Be Fire Ready Ridge Top Family Fun & Information Day** is back this year, bigger and better than the last three years. **Sunday 27th November** at the Olinda Football Club Rooms and Oval from 11am onwards. Look at for the flyer in your letterbox later in the year and come along to this fantastic event. Let's see if this year we can beat the 1000+ crowd from the last three years.



Our "Go Project" will be launched @ this years Ridge Top Event on 27th November. This is a prepared bag of "not negotiables" that we consider to be a vital part of your emergency kit. You will be able to purchase one of these kits from us and then top them up with any other items you would like to. These kits will be for one person and will sell for \$95 each.



### Home Fire Safety Top Tips

It's that time of year again where you will have just changed your clocks and your smoke alarm batteries.

Please remember that only working smoke alarms work, so please remember to test yours regularly, dust them and replace them every 10 years. Remember that Photo-Electric smoke alarms are consistently more effective at detecting smouldering fires in homes.

It's really important that you teach children to be careful around fire and teach them to call 000 in an emergency.

Having a well prepared home fire plan is something we all **MUST** have.

- Practice it and teach your children the importance of getting down low so they can go, go, go. Do they understand the importance of stop, drop and roll?
- Do you all know where your meeting point is? Letterbox, top of the driveway, wherever it is make sure everyone knows.
- Do you have a fire blanket and a fire extinguisher in your home? If so do you know how to use them? If not then please go out and buy some and practice using them.
- Do you or anyone in your home know basic first aid?
- Don't deadlock doors when your inside your house, if you need to then leave the key in.

### House Fire Causes

- Kitchen Fires
- Faulty Wiring
- Electrical Appliances
- Electric Blankets
- Smoking In Bed
- Clothes Dryers
- Home Heating
- Candles & Oil Burners

### Fire Survival Rules

If your clothes were to catch on fire stop, drop and roll to smother the flames. If there is smoke in the house get down low and go, go go! Check doors for heat before opening them by using the back of your hand.

**Call 000** from a neighbour's house or your mobile phone and wait outside for us to arrive. Make sure you have a home fire safe plan and that you ALL know what to do.



Cooling down at the Olinda Pool

## Do You Run A Business In The Olinda Area?

Over the past few years, several businesses have been affected by fire.

The damage done has ranged from minor through to total destruction, with all suffering some impact to trade.

(Snooty Fox, Kelly's, Pig and Whistle, Ranges Café, the Ivy to name a few).

The Olinda Fire Brigade offers the following services to the community (free of Charge):

- Bushfire emergency planning advice
- Home fire safety

- Fire extinguisher / fire warden awareness (small cost to refill extinguishers)
- Business emergency management advice

Sessions are tailored to suit you and are available when it suits you be it during weekdays, evenings or weekends.

Presentations will typically run for one hour.

For further information or to make a booking, please call **9751 1273** and leave your details for our Community Safety Coordinator.

## Property Advice Visits (PAVs)

This time last year, our members delivered an envelope with information about PAV's to every house and business in our brigade area with our Autumn/Winter 2015 newsletter.

Some of you have taken up this opportunity to have us come out to your home and walk around and talk about fire safety, preparations and planning for your family and your property.

Typically we have spent around an hour and a half on these visits and residents have found them to be an invaluable tool to assist helping them with their planning.

If you would like us to come and do one of these very special FREE visits, please call 9751 1273 and leave your details for our Community Safety Coordinator.

## When Can I Burn Off?

Burning off is a great way to reduce your fuel loads around your property but there are a few rules to follow. The Yarra Ranges Shire controls the burning off rules and regulations in our area and the CFA attends to any emergencies but we remind you to always follow the shire regulations.

There is NO burning off whatsoever in June and July.

During other months you can only burn off on Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays between 8am and 6pm.

You can only burn off when the CFA declared Fire Danger

Period is not in force and you certainly cannot burn off on any Total Fire Ban days. There are also some other requirements by the Shire and you can see all of these at their website here at [http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Open\\_Air\\_Burning\\_in\\_Yarra\\_Ranges](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Residents/Open_Air_Burning_in_Yarra_Ranges)

Another important point to make is that if you have a pile of vegetation to burn and you miss the opportunity before June and July, cover it up for those months so come August you will have a nice, dry pile ready to burn.





## How Many Emergencies Have Our Brigade Volunteer Members Attended?

2000	106	Emergencies
2001	90	Emergencies
2002	87	Emergencies
2003	73	Emergencies
2004	86	Emergencies

2005	102	Emergencies
2006	97	Emergencies
2007	102	Emergencies
2008	78	Emergencies
2009	78	Emergencies

2010	63	Emergencies
2011	55	Emergencies
2012	93	Emergencies
2013	85	Emergencies
2014	86	Emergencies
2015	65	Emergencies
2016	22	Emergencies to date

## What Can You Do To Help Us?

### Have working smoke alarms.

Make sure you have working smoke alarms and that you test them regularly. Remember when you're asleep you can NOT smell smoke. A working smoke alarm will save your life.

### Know your risk.

Learn about where you live and the risk of fire in our area. Prepare your property. Make sure to make your plans and that

everyone in your house knows what to do.

### Take responsibility for your own safety.

If there is a bushfire in the area, know that we only have three trucks and one won't be at your front door. No one will come and tell you what to do or where to go, it is up to you to learn where to get information from and what to do and where to go and when.

This year's trend of emergencies consist of the following incidents:

• Grass & Scrub Fires	7
• Structure Fires	1
• False Alarms/Good Intent Calls	2
• Motor Vehicle Accidents	2
• Gas Leaks	2
• Smoke Smelt Or Sightings	1
• Rescues & Other Assistance	1
• Alarms	2
• Powerline	1
• Abandoned Fires	1
• Strike Teams To Other Areas	0

We are a **100% volunteer** fire brigade. None of our members are paid for the time they give to our community. We welcome donations at any time of the year and you can:-

- Send us a cheque to PO Box 111 Olinda, Vic, 3788
- Drop your donation into the fire station
- Donate direct into our bank account

**BSB # 633 000 Account # 125 898 890**

• Consider a monthly donation by setting up an automatic payment to our brigade account.

We are very grateful for all donations and thank you for your continued support with funding for our brigade equipment and community safety activities.

## Need More Information?

- Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/OlindaRuralFireBrigade>
- CFA website at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>
- Come visit us at the fire station **Sun 10am-1pm** or **Wednesday's from 7.30pm**
- Loads of brochures for you at our station to take home.
- Call us for a chat on **9751 1273**
- Email us at [info@olindacfa.info](mailto:info@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**.

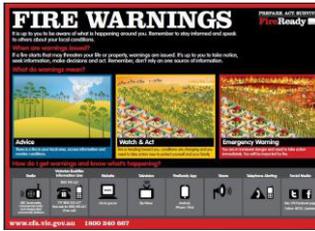
**REMEMBER** that when a major emergency happens, you are initially on your own.

**In all emergencies community is always the first responder.**

**What you do in those first few moments and the moments leading up to the event can and will determine if you survive.**



# How Do I Know What's Happening?



## Important Websites

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

### CFA

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

### Yarra Ranges Council

[www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au](http://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au)

### Bureau of Meteorology

[www.bom.gov.au/weather/vic](http://www.bom.gov.au/weather/vic)

### CFA Incidents

Warnings, Incidents and Planned Burns now displayed at [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)

### Fire Ready Victoria

[www.fireready.vic.gov.au](http://www.fireready.vic.gov.au)

### Dept. of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

(Formerly DSE then DEPI)

[www.dewlp.vic.gov.au](http://www.dewlp.vic.gov.au)

Please remember that the Shire of Yarra Ranges local law for burning in the open is now in force, and there is **NO BURNING OFF PERMITTED IN JUNE AND JULY** without a written permit from the Council. Burning off in this period may see enforcement by the Council as this may trigger a CFA response to an illegal burn off.

[facebook.com/cfavic](https://facebook.com/cfavic)

[twitter.com/CFA\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates)

## Important Radio Stations

**ABC 774 AM**  
**3MDR 97.1FM**  
**3YVR 99.1FM**

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



ABC local, commercial & designated community radio



[emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)



FireReady App for Apple & Android



**1800 240 677**  
Victorian Bushfire Information Line



[facebook/cfavic](https://facebook.com/cfavic)  
[@CFA\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates)

IT'S UP TO YOU TO **STAY INFORMED**

## Important Contact Numbers - All Fire Calls 000

### 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 240 667
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



## Thank you to our Sponsors



Our fire station is fitted with Leafbusters Gutter Protection.

For A Free Quote call 1300 GUTTER (48 88 37) [www.leafbusters.com.au](http://www.leafbusters.com.au)



Proudly supported by Upwey Branch

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