



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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In case of fire telephone 000

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New tanker for Sassafras-Ferny Creek

As Victoria moves into another potentially difficult bushfire summer, the residents of Sassafras and Ferny Creek can take some comfort from the fact that their firefighters will face that challenge with the latest in firefighting vehicles.

Minister for Sport Recreation and Youth Affairs and local Monbulk MLA James Merlino officially presented the keys to a new 3000 litre, four-wheel drive tanker to the brigade at recent ceremony. The 3.4C tanker is the latest in firefighting tankers built for CFA and one of the first to be put into service in the Dandenong Ranges.



Brigade Captain John Schauble said the vehicle replaces a truck issued to the brigade in 1987, which was part of CFA's rollout of appliances in the aftermath of Ash Wednesday.

"The vehicle carries 3000 litres of firefighting water, a reserve supply for firefighter safety and is equipped with round-the-vehicle crew protection sprays, demonstrating the modern emphasis on firefighter safety," Mr Schauble said. "With the crew cab, firefighters no longer need to ride of the back of the vehicle exposed to the elements."

"Because of our location, with parts of the brigade area still without mains water, this tanker is our main firefighting appliance," he added.

The brigade took delivery of the vehicle several weeks ago and members have since been focused on becoming familiar with its features and operation.

Now in its 65th year, the brigade is going through a period of welcome growth. A recent influx of recruits have all but completed basic training ahead of the bushfire season.

New members are always welcome and there are opportunities for operational and non-operational roles. Information about the brigade and how to become involved is available at www.sassafrascfa.org.au

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Photo caption: Monbulk MLA James Merlino presents the keys to the new tanker to Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble

www.sassafrascfa.org.au