



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Two new trucks commissioned

Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade recently found itself in the enviable position of having two new fire trucks commissioned into service on the same day.

Minister for Sport Recreation and Youth Affairs and local Monbulk MLA James Merlino presented the keys to the vehicles – a 2000-litre, four-wheel drive medium tanker and a new light pumper – at a brief ceremony at the fire station in front of round 40 brigade members and guests.

The vehicles, collectively worth close to \$500,000, represent the latest in CFA firefighting technology.

Brigade captain John Schauble said a unique set of circumstances meant the brigade now had perhaps the most modern set of vehicles in the state. The brigade's third vehicle, a 3000-litre four-wheel drive heavy tanker is just two years old.

“We are very lucky at this point in our history and we know it,” he said. “But given what the community asks of its volunteers, I think the very least we can expect in return is that the Victorian community provides us with the very best in vehicles and equipment.

The brigade took delivery of the vehicles several weeks ago and members have been busy coming up to speed with their operation.

The light pumper is the first of a new design of vehicles being built for CFA to serve small townships. Essentially for dealing with structure fires and other urban incidents, the unit comprises a high capacity pump, quantities of hose, breathing apparatus, lighting and other equipment.

The original vehicle upon which the new unit was modelled was designed and built by the Sassafras-Ferny Creek brigade more than 20 years ago. One of its key assets is manoeuvrability in narrow roads and driveways common in the area.

The medium tanker is primarily a bushfire vehicle and incorporates the latest crew safety measures, including protection sprays. The vehicle is also equipped with in-line foam and a range of basic firefighting equipment.

“Fire trucks are just one part of the equation,” Mr Schauble said, adding that he was delighted representatives from a number of local Community Fireguard groups had been able to attend the commissioning ceremony.

“As the tragic events of last summer showed, dealing with fire is about sensible partnerships with the community. We could have 20 new trucks and it wouldn’t make the least bit of difference if our local community is not on board with us,” he added.



Monbulk MLA James Merlino presents the keys to the new vehicles to Sassafra-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade Captain John Schauble

