



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Service honoured at Sassafras

One of Sassafras-Ferny Creek brigade's longest-serving members has reached a significant personal milestone with the award of a medal marking 40 years service to CFA.

Richard Cromb, who joined the brigade as a 16-year-old and served as brigade captain for 10 years, was presented with the award by Yarra Area General Manager Lex de Man.

Richard, an enormously popular and respected member of the CFA family, has worked for over a decade at CFA as a wildfire instructor. Most recently he has been in the role of Acting Manager Training at Yarra Area.

Two other members of the brigade were also presented with service medals at the brigade's annual dinner recently. Brigade President Richard Laidler was awarded a 25-year medal. Firefighter Debbie Leticq-Cromb was honoured for 10 years service.

In addition to the service awards, three other brigade members were presented with merit awards determined by the brigade officers. These were Alannah Stevens (Firefighter of the Year) and Mark Boast and Mark Lewis-James (Officers' Awards).

Also receiving more poignant presentations were retiring Secretary Anna-Marie-Shew and former Lieutenant Karen Noonan, both of whom have moved from the district.

Brigade Captain John Schauble told around 70 members and guests that the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission had put all volunteers under immense pressure and that this was likely to continue over the coming months.

He said he was pleased with the progress the brigade had made over the past year, in particular with a number of younger members stepping up into leadership roles.

(ends)





Richard Cromb (left) receiving his 40-year medal from Yarra Area Manager Lex de Man, as Operations Officer Colin Brown looks on.