

## *Robert (Bob) Horner AFSM, 60 Years of Service*

Robert Arthur (Bob) Horner joined the Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade in 1954.

He has given a lifetime of service to the brigade, the local community, the Country Fire Authority and the Australian fire services more broadly. Aside from his roles as an operational firefighter for half a century, Bob has been an active member of brigade, Group, Regional and State-level committees, with a particular interest in the development of new firefighting equipment and vehicles.

He has seen significant operational activity including major bushfires in the Dandenong Ranges in 1962, 1968 and Ash Wednesday 1983.

Bob served as brigade Secretary for 17 years from 1958 until 1974.

He served twice as brigade Captain, in 1974 and from 1976 until 1985.

He has previously received CFA service awards marking 12, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 55 years of service.

In 1999, he also received the CFA's Outstanding Service Award, one rarely given, for outstanding or meritorious service, outstanding achievement or outstanding contribution in the attainment of the objectives of CFA or fire safety generally.

Bob was the first person to be awarded life membership of the Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade. In 1992, he was also made a Life Member of the CFA, which recognises a minimum of 30 years of significant service.

In 2009, he was awarded the Gold Star by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria for



exemplary service to the rural volunteer association over more than 30 years. This included service as a member on State and National level committees.

Bob has three times been honoured under the Federal Government honours system. The first was in 1975 when he was awarded the Queen's Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal under the imperial honours system. There followed the award in 1992 of the National Medal.

In the Australia Day honours list of 2004, Bob was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in recognition of a lifetime of distinguished commitment to the fire service.

Last year, he was awarded life membership of the Dandenong Ranges Fire Brigades Group, of which he has been a Deputy Group Officer and long-serving delegate.

Tonight he is awarded the CFA's 60-year service medal ... an outstanding achievement in a volunteer career that will never be replicated in this brigade.