

Sassafras-Ferry Creek Fire Brigade ... Volunteers serving the community

A pretty ordinary summer ahead ...

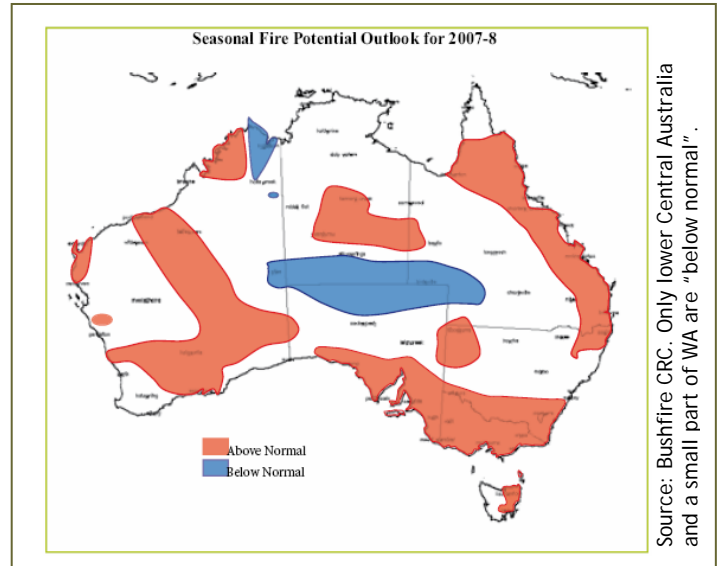
This summer promises to be the worst bushfire summer since ... well, since last summer.

That's the reality of life in south-eastern Australia these days. Every summer will be one in which there is increasing potential of bushfire. The summers in which the risk of fire is minimal will become a rarity.

Some good rainfalls over winter and more recently have done little to affect the overall drought situation across much of Victoria. Melbourne's water catchments contain less water than for the same time last year – and half as much as for the summer before.

The heads of the fire agencies are warning of a different sort of fire season this summer from the long "campaign fires" we saw last year in the alpine country and the year before in the west of the state. More likely are short, sharp bushfire events in areas closer to the metropolitan fringe. This includes the Dandenongs and, as we have seen in the past, even relatively small fires here can do enormous damage.

The onus is on all of us as residents to do our bit to help keep our community safe. That means taking responsibility for the safety of our own families and



properties. It means having a well thought out plan of action **before** any bushfire occurs. It means communicating that plan to the rest of the family so that everyone knows what to do in the event of a fire.

There's a wealth of information and advice available on how to prepare for bushfire. For more information, see below (or drop in at the fire station on any Wednesday evening or Sunday morning).

Help prevent arson ...

Several deliberately lit fires in the local area last summer were enough to put everyone on edge. This summer, Victoria Police will again be maintaining a special fire patrol in the Dandenongs, together with routine police patrols.

If you witness any suspicious activity you believe might be connected with fire starting, it is important to report this to the police as soon as possible. You can contact any local police station, Lilydale CIU on **9735 1684** or Crime Stoppers **1800 333 000**.

Where to find out more ...

CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Victorian Bushfire Information Line:

1800 240 667

CFA Yarra Area Office, Lilydale: **8739 1300**

Fire Station (answering service): **9755 1078**

Brigade website: www.sassafrascfa.org.au

E-mail: sfcfb@pacific.net.au

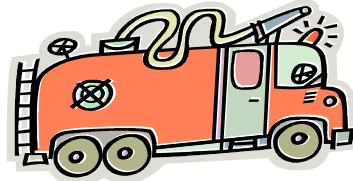
Community meetings:

Fire Station 12 Jan 2008, 3pm

Sassafras Village Green 17 Jan 08, 7pm



A Message from Santa



The Sassafra-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade has been asked by Santa to provide transport around the streets of Sassafra, Ferny Creek and Tremont while the reindeer rest up on Christmas Eve.

We will take Santa through the following streets at *approximately* the times shown. Fire calls will, of course, have priority.

Mills Avenue	4.00pm	Birds Road	4.00pm
Grandview Grove	4.30pm	Tremont Service Stn	4.10pm
The Crescent	4.35pm	Macnamara Road	4.20pm
Alice Street	4.50pm	Ham Road	4.30pm
Coolangatta Road	5.00pm	School Road	4.35pm
Hethersett Road	5.15pm	One Tree Hill Rd (top)	4.40pm
Clarke Road	5.30pm	Mount Erin Road	5.10pm
Breens Terrace	5.40pm	Janesdell Road	5.25pm
Hilton Road	5.45pm	Mount View Road	5.40pm
Clarkmont Road	6.10pm	Seabreeze Ave	6.10pm
Old Main Road	6.30pm	One Tree Hill (bottom)	6.25pm
		Tourist Road (One Tree Hill Rd to Beauty Bend)	6.40pm

Santa will distribute lollies to the children and our wishes for a JOYFUL, SAFE and MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL !

