

MONTROSE FIRE BRIGADE



2015 – 2016
ANNUAL REPORT

Montrose Fire Brigade

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Montrose Fire Brigade

Membership List

Captain

Rob Waters

1st Lieutenant

Craig Williamson

2nd Lieutenant

John Tasker

3rd Lieutenant

Matt Jalowicki

4th Lieutenant

Tim Bishop

5th Lieutenant

Val Gallacher

Secretary

Phil Astle

Community Safety

Marj Taylor

Communications

Sam Trigg

BASO

Kate Grasby

Ex Captain

Stuart McCall

Ex Captain

Rob Earney

Ex Captain

Mick Ryan

Fire Fighters

Greg Barry

Edward Kowalczyk

Garry Rees

Lauren Caldwell

Rodney Krins

Roj Rogers

Peter Carew

Amanda Lamont

Mark Ryan

Ray Cole

Chris Linardakis

Chris Shadbolt

Sally Conner

Silvana Linton

Rob Sibbing

Mark Copsey

Rob Macdonald

Aaron Skiller

Krissy Dundas

Garth Matthews

Ryan Smith

Stuart Earney

Aaron McCall

Harrison Steed

David Edwards

Steve Munyard

Edward Stevens

Lacinda Ellis

Simon Neal

Eddie Tichelaar

Mark Hawes

Nigisti Noorbergen

Marc Unsworth

Allan Hopkins

Darren Padgett

Jarryn Van Dyke

Members

Geoff Blackwell

Robyn Blackwell

Peter Cameron

Allan Hardy

Don Kennedy

Jack Verity

(Membership list as of June 30th 2016)

Montrose Fire Brigade

Brigade Summary

Montrose Fire Brigade is a volunteer organisation, which is responsible for the prevention and suppression of fire and the mitigation of other emergencies. The Brigade is responsible for the residential, industrial, and rural areas of Montrose along with parts of Kilsyth and Mooroolbark.

The Brigade is made up of 65 members from various walks of life such as students, tradespeople and professionals. The Brigade Management Team consists of eight officers, who are elected by the brigade members every two years, and a Brigade Administration Support Officer who is appointed by the CFA.

The Montrose Fire Brigade are a member of the Knox Fire Brigades Group, which comprises eight brigades who provide operational support to each other on a daily basis. These brigades include: Bayswater, Boronia, Ferntree Gully, Montrose, Rowville, Scoresby, The Basin and Upper Ferntree Gully.



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Montrose Fire Brigade

Captains Report



Rob Waters

Taking over the Captaincy at the Brigade elections in 2015, it has been a privilege and honour to serve and lead the brigade, it has certainly been an eventful twelve months, although I continue to marvel on a daily basis at our membership; the culture of compassion, respect, dedication and team orientated values that are entrenched within the Montrose Fire Brigade. And as such I am privileged to present the Montrose Fire Brigade's Annual Report for 2015/ 2016.

I find myself riding the wave of the membership's personal wins and losses, and take personal satisfaction knowing that we all look after each other, when a member is down there is always someone there to pick them up and in return this is reciprocated.

I am honoured to have a great support network around me, being senior brigade members through to District Captains, who are all willing to share their philosophies of support and caring about one another. I had an opportunity recently to open a network linking and tapping into other Brigade Leaders within District 13, with the support of local peers Captain Rick Ventrella (Mt Evelyn) and Captain Matt Ahern (The Basin) whom expressed similar views about having an online forum. This network is a closed forum where Captains and 1st Lieutenants from integrated stations can quickly communicate, share ideas and resolutions about day to day topics that Captains may encounter within their Brigades. The CFA District 13 Captains Facebook Group was created and has proved to be very successful. It's very interesting learning what's happening in other Brigades, what works and what local initiatives Brigades are undertaking. I have always been an advocate for sharing and pooling information to help benefit others

Once again the Montrose Brigade has been very busy over the financial year, although we didn't have a busy fire season or any major incident, we attended 220 emergency response calls which is about average for the Montrose Brigade.

The management team has implemented a management program app "Teamwork". This is a smart phone application that can also be accessed by a web browser allowing access to the management team's online documents, this program also assists with instant information, to manage the brigade, and sharing of documents between the management team and their portfolios. It has proved to be a handy tool in managing the Brigade's operational responsibilities, including reviewing past strike team responses quick and efficiently. An added benefit of the "Teamwork" app is the transition of portfolios between BMT members.

The issue of Presumptive Legislation remains unresolved for all Victorian Fire Fighters, we along with many other Brigades across the state are very passionate in ensuring the Government adopts the right legislation that covers all Victorian Fire Fighters. It is important to all Firefighter, there are no differences in the calls we attend and the toxins we are exposed too, it only takes one event/incident no matter how severe, to impact the health of an individual. I will do my very best to help the local community, without any reservation when they are vulnerable and in need, and it would be reassuring to our family that if we are ever vulnerable that there will be systems in place to support us in the event we ever required assistance.

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The Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) has continued to play out the in public arena, in the last two (2) months we have seen a Minister resign, the CFA Board sacked and our CEO resign and just this week our Chief Officer Joe Buffone resign which has left our organisation in a standstill. I want to again praise our members for having a voice and articulating it in a respectful professional manner.

It was my pleasure to represent the Brigade at the AFL Country Round, having the honour to lead the Country Fire Authority parade around the Melbourne Cricket Ground with Fire Fighter Gaybrielle Burgess from Broadford Fire Brigade. This event was organised by the AFL in conjunction with the CFA, a fantastic initiative which really displayed the grass roots of our organisation. The event included public displays, activities for families and a farmers' market.

Congratulations to the following members receiving CFA and Brigade Service Awards this year.

Montrose Brigade Service Awards:

Allan Hopkins 6 years, Lacinda Ellis 6 years, Nigisti Noorbergen 6 years, Phil Astle 6 years, Sally Conner 6 years, Mark Hawes 12 years, Ed Tichelaar 36 years and Darren Padgett 36 years.

CFA Service Awards:

Ed Kowalczyk 5 years, Lauren Caldwell 5 years, Nigisti Noorbergen 5 years, Rob Waters 15 years, Aaron McCall 20 years, Rob Sibbing 30 years, Ray Cole 30 years, Darren Padgett 35 years, Ed Tichelaar 35 years, Craig Williamson 40 years, Garry Rees 40 years, Geoff Blackwell 40 years and Alan Hardy 45 years.

To both the Award recipients of the 2016 "Jack Earney Fire fighter of the Year" Harrison Steed and the 2016 "Jack Verity Captain's Award" Roj Rogers, Congratulations on a job well done. Both members are very deserving and highly respected within our brigade ranks, we are all very proud of your wonderful achievement.

At the June Brigade general meeting, the membership conducted a vote by secret ballot for the 2016 Camaraderie Award, as this award is voted by our peers, the recipients of this award truly reflect the spirit and criteria of the award and Brigade.

We continued working hard on our recruiting this year, attracting attention with the use of our social media followers, we have experimented with sponsored advertisement via Facebook which allowed us to target our local area. The recruitment drive proved successful in that we cancelled the subscription, with the post reaching over nine thousand (9000), generating over twenty-four (24) people interested in attending our new members' information session. Being a strong believer in the power of social media, marketing your brand in a positive fashion, I have a couple of tips that Brigades could use to assist their recruitment campaign.

1. Post an event that is easy to read and use words that encourages the public to view your post
2. Sponsor your post and target your audience via a radius of location.
3. Use photos to illustrate what you're looking for.
4. Engage with your audience, when someone likes your post, send them a message to invite them to ask questions or pass on your details for them to make contact.
5. Always follow up and make sure your responses are clear, correct and are in a positive nature.

Welcome to our new recruits Rodney Krins, Brett Jackson, Bradley Smith, Brian Fraser, Chelsie Callanan, Corrinne Jackson, Kevin Gill, Liz Peters, Melissa Davison, Phil Doyle, Ryan McCormack and Shane Pugh to the Montrose Fire Brigade family, I am very confident that you will enjoy your time within the fire service, you will certainly make new friends, make a fantastic contribution to local community and the Montrose Fire Brigade. Welcome to our

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other new members Lauren Caldwell from Hoddles Creek and Peter Carew (Deputy Group Office #3) from Boronia, they both have impressive resumes from their past brigades and would also like acknowledge that they have only just transferred but it feels like they have been a part of the Brigade for years.

Thank you to Aaron Skiller and Phil Astle who have spent many hours updating the Brigade website and keeping the local community updated on the Brigades activities. Events on our social media Montrose CFA Facebook page. We are very close to seventeen hundred (1700) followers with an average reach of four thousand (4000) people weekly.

We need to acknowledge a couple of local businesses that have reached out to the Brigade this year offering donations and support to the Brigade:

- Bayswater Bunnings, many thanks to both Loretta Miller and Emily Hobley who have been wonderful in helping our Brigade Fundraising Activities.
- Felix Fox Fitness, many thanks to Cassie McCleish the owner and Personal Trainer, who has been instrumental in supporting the Brigade in our health and fitness along with being such a positive mentor/ motivator to myself and our Brigade Fitness Group.

The new position of Community Safety Coordinator was added to our management team at the 2015 Brigade election, although this position will become mandatory from 2017, the BMT and Brigade agreed it be implemented now, giving the brigade a great head start in this very important area. This role has been filled by Marj Taylor who has done a fantastic job, with the delivery of community safety and educational programs for the Brigade, whilst continuing with operational courses and attending forums throughout the year – Well done Marj.

The Montrose CFA – Past and Present Facebook page has been established, Eddie Tichelaar has done a huge amount of work setting this page up. The page is primarily for past and present members to stay in contact with the Brigade, to share information, pictures, ideas and memories. Ed has also done some fantastic work in coordinating a Past and Present Members Day which will be held on Sunday 21st of August, there has been many changes within the Brigade over the years and will be a great afternoon catching up with old friends and past members. Great effort Ed.

Whilst I am continuing to work on our Brigade business plan, it might have been a little adventurous wanting to have it completed in the first twelve (12) months, but it's certainly a priority on my agenda and important to have all aspects of the Brigade business activities documented.

To the Brigade membership, thank you to all Montrose Brigade members for your contribution in all aspects of the brigades' responsibilities. We continue to go above and beyond our communities' expectations, this is evident in the way we interact with each other and value each other's input and dedication.

I also acknowledge and thank your families, partners and children for supporting our members, your personal time is valuable, it is appreciated by everyone including the local community who we help without hesitation. As without this ongoing support we could not provide this great service to our Community. With this in mind, as members we need to continually monitor our own commitments to ensure we have a good family/work life balance and ensure the CFA and work life don't over run the most important part of our lives and that's what we do at home - family life.

Our Brigade Management Team Craig Williamson (1st), John Tasker (2nd), Matt Jalowicki (3rd), Tim Bishop (4th), Val Gallacher (5th), Phil Astle (Secretary), Sam Trigg (Communications) and Marj Taylor (Community Safety). This group of people continue to impress me in all aspects of their functional portfolio and their operational responsibilities. As Captain, I value all levels

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of contribution and discussion within the management team. You have all done a fantastic job, presented yourself in a professional manner and are always looking for avenues to improve personally, within the team and the Brigade in general. Congratulations on the first twelve (12) months of our term together – I appreciate your hard work and determination to better our Brigade.

Thank you to Kate Grasby Brigade Administration Support Officer (BASO) who is a wealth of knowledge and provides continuous support to our Brigade. We appreciate the dedication Kate applies to her fire Brigade work.

On a personal note I need to thank and acknowledge Stuart McCall, Rob Earney and Mick Ryan for the support they have given to me, and for being not only supportive peers, but wonderful friends. I am very lucky to have such positive people in our membership and community that are willing to continue to work hard, provide advice and most importantly listen – Thank You.

I need to thank the most special people in my life - my wife Sarah, son Connor and daughter Taylor. I value their support and understanding, Sarah is such a positive influence on me and this shows through the way I manage the Brigade. I need to acknowledge her contribution to the Montrose CFA, the sacrifices Sarah and my children make as a family are greater than my contribution as a member of the Brigade. Our families, partners and children are the unsung contributors and need to be constantly reminded on how important they are to the wider CFA and to our Brigade family.

Thank you all again, for an outstanding contribution to providing professional emergency response to our local community and to dedicating your time in advancing the brigade to what it is today - You should all be very proud of yourselves.

Rob Waters
Montrose Captain

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1st Lieutenants Report



Craig Williamson

Well another year has passed, and I would like to thank the members of the brigade for their ongoing support to both me and the BMT. The last 12 months has been a learning curve for me in the role of 1st Lieutenant, moving from the Training Officer role, I am sure I have made a few mistakes although I have been surrounded by a great group to help in this learning curve.

Having been the Brigade Training Officer for 8 years, and Deputy Group Training Manager for 6 of those years, I would like to thank all those that served on the Training Committee over those years both at brigade and group level, and acknowledge the work and effort that our current Brigade Training Officer Matt and his team have put in to making the training a success over the last 12 months. It can be a thankless job and the hours of work that goes into trying to get the training right and meeting the need of the brigade members is enormous, well done guys a great effort.

We have seen a lot of uncertainty with future of the CFA, with all the uncertainty we need to remain focused on what is really important and what we are here for, to protect life and property by serving our community, this great state and nation to the best of our abilities.

There are a lot of fallacies, rumours out there, so we need to remain focussed and continue to act professional in our approach with all our dealings with the public, our career firefighting colleagues and other emergency service organisations, remembering everyone is feeling the pain, hurting and continuing to do their best to get the job done.

We have seen the appointment of a new Chief Officer, CFA Board and wish them well in their future endeavours in making this great institution a world leading emergency service organisation.

We have seen the reestablishment of the LPG Emergency Response Network, previously known as the LPG Association it had fallen by the way side for a number of years, with what appeared to be a lack of interest from both CFA and accredited brigades. I had the pleasure of being involved in the negotiations that took place, and the honour of bringing all the CFA LPG brigades, volunteer and career, from around the state and the MFESB together, after hundreds of phone calls and emails, there was great interest to have the network re-established, with the first meeting held in October 2015 at Montrose of which I had the honour of chairing this initial meeting. I must note here that without the ongoing support of former Chief Officer Euan Fergusson at HQ level and some really dedicated Montrose members this would not have occurred.

Our two representatives to this network being John Tasker and Matt Jalowicki along with the support of the brigade have made this a viable and valuable network.

This year sees a number of members receiving service awards, earlier this year three members received service awards as they were unable to attend tonight, totalling 110 years of service, tonight we have further members totally 235 years of service, so this year we are honoured to recognise a total of 345 years of service to the Country Fire Authority, an outstanding effort, both in service and dedication to the local community and State of Victoria.

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We have also honoured members at the July brigade meeting for a total of 114 years' service to the Montrose Fire Brigade. I would like to congratulate all members that have received either CFA or brigade awards this year for their outstanding effort.

These last 12 months has seen the brigade recruiting an additional 13 new members which will enhance our daytime response capabilities over the coming 12 months, this is due to Captain Rob's foresight and understanding of social media and using it to the brigade's advantage.

Work is continuing in our endeavours to improve the fire prevention activities around our brigade area, hopefully we will see some traction over the coming 12 months with works being commenced on some of our high risk areas making our community safer during the summer months.

Thank you to the members of the social committee for your efforts over the last 12 months.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding effort of the Brigade Management Team (BMT), who have work tirelessly to ensure that the brigade is running efficiently and continues to be a leader within D13 and beyond.

Craig Williamson
1st Lieutenant

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2nd Lieutenants Report



John Tasker

How time flies, report time again. This has been a relatively quiet season, early indicators were predicting it to be a busy time for us all. Fires in Perth started early and then into South Australia. I managed to get a leave pass in October last year, so with Matt Jalowicki and District 1314 Strike Team we headed West to support our CFS colleagues north of the Barossa Valley, around Freeling, Owen and Nuriootpa.

97,000 hectares burnt with significant farm machinery, homes and stock loss. This was the biggest fire in South Australia's history. Although the fire had passed through there was still a lot of work to be done. Blacking out working

hard, and getting out there to render assistance to this devastated community.

I was overwhelmed with the community spirit at a little town called Owen. All the locals chipped in to provide lunch and afternoon tea at Owen Fire Station for this CFA Strike team that had travelled so far to help them out.

The down side to this "secondment", sleeping in a basketball stadium with 99 Chainsaws, (ear plugs supplied but didn't go in deep enough), needless to say there were a few bleary eyes and sore throats the next morning. The next "traumatic" phase in winding down this operation was flying home, 6 little planes flying 1314 S/T from Adelaide to Moorabbin, this was an adventure in itself (to be told another time) or speak to Matt.

Moving on, once again the assistance of Dave Edwards and Ray Cole for doing the "run around stuff" during the day I must say is greatly appreciated not only by me but the brigade members. This allows us to get gear replenished in a timely manner whether it's BA cylinders, hoses, PE, water or trips to the DMOs. As always the "fleet" is in as good a shape and in readiness for anything coming our way.

Our LPG flare offs responses haven't declined, but what is most encouraging is our LPG Response Network has been re-established. Through persistent efforts from Craig Williamson he has managed to get all LPG Brigades together again, with constructed forums and agendas and with full support and involvement from CFA.

Our First get together was held at Golden Square Fire Brigade in Bendigo. Matt Jalowicki and I representing the brigade attended and found the rejuvenation and interest at this forum was excellent. Committee members assigned, with network links established and further meetings scheduled.

Marc Unsworth our VFBV rep and I have been actively representing the brigade at scheduled VFBV meetings. There has been a lot of emphasis focused on the continuing presumptive legislation issue; having seen lots of posts on face book from a number of brigades, as well as our own signage on the lawn is certainly keeping the spotlight on this very important issue.

It's great to have the support from my family and my lovely wife Julie who really cares when I have to dash off and assist wherever needed. This year we have seen our new grandson Lachlan John get his first tooth, nearly start walking, and eating about as much as my son Michael (past member of Montrose).

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We also had the joyous memory of going overseas with Rob and Veronica Earney, trying to deplete the Spanish, Swiss and Italians of their beer stocks (guess who won). Note to self, don't go drinking with Robert, he's a bad influence! Italians in Milan are still talking about it!

We have a couple of big events this year coming up for the Tasker family,

- Sean and his Fiancé Katy getting married in November (that will be big),
- My daughter in law Kylie looking for property in Montrose (assisted by Rob Waters' real estate guru).
- Ryan (another past member) and his partner Ashley also getting ready to get into the property market.
- A trip planned to South Australia for a couple of weeks.

And before we know it the next fire season will be on us. In closing my report I ask that everyone take care out there, work together and respect each other. As I do all of you.

Ciao,

John

PS: Thanks Rob (Waters) for getting me on Facebook, I now have 12,000 friends I didn't know existed.

John Tasker
2nd Lieutenant

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3rd Lieutenants Report



Matt Jalowicki

Well another year has passed, and i would like to thank the members of the brigade for their ongoing support to me in the role as the 3rd lieutenant and Brigade Training Officer.

The last 12 months we have had a number of members of the brigade involved in a range of courses. I would like to congratulate all the members that have completed or currently completing these courses and to thank their families for their ongoing support allowing them to achieve these competencies. Some of the courses members have attended are Hazmat Awareness, Check Installed Fire Safety System, BA, PP2, Respond to

urban and that is just to name a few.

We also have a new assessor in the brigade, Mark Hawes, who will be a great help with assessing within the brigade and group.

Knox Group held the 4th bi-annual Multi Agency Specialist Appliance Display, for those that attended it was a great day and was one of the largest so far, future displays will possibly be held at another venue due to the size and support being received from CFA and all agencies that attend.

This year has seen Montrose member Rodney Kirin's completing the recruit's course 1 which will be finishing at the end of July. I would also like to welcome our twelve new members who will be attending recruit course 2 that starts at the end of July.

With the new Knox Group training Manager Warwick Smith and his Assistant Mark Walker they have bought some great ideas to Group Training and have put a lot of work getting group courses up and running. We have also seen the group round robins up and running again which has had a lot of positive feedback and they will continue every 2 months. This year Knox Group has the opportunity to have two of the mobile prop container put in two locations around the group for brigade to practise domestic Structure training and small industrial training.

The next twelve months will see a lot of changes in the brigade structure training and wildfire training as along with my great training team made up of members Tim Bishop, Mark Hawes, Chris Shadbolt, Aaron Skiller, Harrison Steed, Marc Unsworth, Nigisti Noorbergen and Rob Earney and the BMT. I Thank you all for the work you have put in over the last twelve months with the brigade training and look forward to our adventure over the next year.

In finishing my report for 2016 I would most of all like to say a massive thank you to my wife Shona, daughter Lily and son Brock for the support you have given me this year in my role and every year that I have been a member of the Montrose Fire Brigade. Without your support I would not be where I am today.

Matt Jalowicki
3rd Lieutenant,
Brigade Training Officer

Montrose Fire Brigade

4th Lieutenants Report



Tim Bishop

It feels like yesterday I was writing my last annual report and preparing to go on our honeymoon. This year, Kasey & I are preparing for the birth of our first child- next year hopefully will be a little more quiet.

I couldn't continue without mentioning the amazing support from my family. My wife Kasey especially, who continuously supports me being an officer and the many hours spent away from home. With the busy/ hectic life styles we all live the support from home does not go unnoticed.

The members of the fire brigade who I consistently ask for assistance with our increasing demand for the fire brigade attendance at public events. I'm proud to mention we have never had to cancel an event due to Montrose members being unavailable.

The brigade members for their support, skills and knowledge. I'm still developing my skills as an officer. It was an experience I'll never forget being at the Wandin North fire, this was the first time being a crew leader as part of a strike team. All crews did an outstanding job in stopping this fire.

At the last election Marj Taylor was elected as the Community Safety Coordinator. The inclusion of this portfolio has allowed Marj to take some of the work load away from the public relations portfolio. Marj has done a fantastic job in this new role and has helped me with the public relations portfolio.

Public Relations

Over the last year I've been looking at ways to improve the annual Santa runs, after receiving feedback from the brigade members. The assignment areas, bigger vehicles, maps, the lollies and promoting the brigade's location on social media has been some of the areas we are looking at improving for this year's Santa runs.

With the increase in PR Events and BBQ's, it has been difficult to manage with having the correct amount of members at the events at the correct times. I've been trialling a simple table with time slots and members availability sheet. This is ensuring members know the times they are required to help, also ensuring the event has sufficient numbers.

This is the third year I've been organising the Health Watch session for the brigade. Every year we have 15 to 20 members who are checked by the CFA health team. The checks are highly recommended to all brigade members and partners to participate to check everything is ok. The more the better!

This year we will be holding our open day on the 16th of October. The open day committee includes a lot of new members this year. The new members are bringing new ideas and new activities to be enjoyed by all on the day. We look forward to seeing you there!

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PPE Gear & Uniforms.

The brigade have recruited 12 members for an upcoming recruit course, this has created a small logistical challenge in finding suitable wildfire PPC for all these new members. Thank you to the adjoining brigades for their assistance with supplying the shortfalls in the PPC we require.

Montrose is very lucky to have weekly pickups of the structure PPC. It's a great service which is available to Montrose members when there PPC requires regular cleaning.

We have placed another large order for the Montrose CFA polo tops for members who were looking for additional tops. Members are enjoying wearing them and promoting the brigade in the community.

Tim Bishop
4th Lieutenant

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5th Lieutenants Report



Val Gallacher

It has been a very educational first year for me as 5th Lieutenant. I'd like to think that I am now settling into my role and enjoying every minute of it. For those that don't already know, station maintenance is my portfolio which includes managing the weekly cleaning rosters. I would like to thank all the cleaning roster team leaders for managing their teams and keeping our station maintained to a high standard which we can all be proud of.

My portfolio would be a lot harder to manage if it was not for Ray Cole who maintains the grounds to a high level and assists with all the general maintenance jobs around the station. Ray has transformed the mezzanine level in the shed with his fantastic storage solutions. He works alongside Dave Edwards overlapping their portfolios to make a great team; I don't know what I would have done without them.

I'd like to think that I have listened to the brigade members in their ideas for station improvements and we will soon have a long awaited air condition unit installed into the meeting room. We have also seen the installation of the new generator which is now up and running and thanks to Aaron Skiller who took care of the electrical work, again another benefit for the brigade.

I'd also like to thank the team who has gone out of their way to get quotes for the BBQ area upgrade. They are Stuart McCall, Roj Rogers, Krissy Dundas and Matt Jalowicki. It hasn't been easy researching all the suggestions presented by the brigade and getting numerous quotes but you have done a great job, all of you. The BBQ area transformation will now take shape.

I've also been working closely with Rob Waters to get the honor board in the foyer stripped back and rewritten to reflect the original members in the correct order. Thanks to Rob we should (by the time this report is printed) have it back in situ looking fantastic showing an accurate history of our brigade.

Due to family issues I missed about 3 months in Australia but now I'm back I am fully committed to giving my all to this brigade. I'm currently working my way through the Respond to Urban course with Sally and Harrison. This course requires a significant amount of time away from the brigade which we all hate however by the end of it we should return with a lot more structural firefighting skills which we can pass on to the brigade.

Lastly I would like to thank my family who never fail in their support for me and what I do in the brigade. They also take part with pride with collecting for the Good Friday Appeal. Niamh my daughter has her eye on the captain's role so watch out Rob Waters! I look forward to the next year and further evolving and developing on my role as 5th Lieutenant.

Val Gallacher
5th Lieutenant

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Secretary's Report



Phil Astle

My first year of secretary has flown by. First of all, I must thank Lacinda Ellis who does a power of work behind the scenes with organising our finances. Lacinda does a lot of work that people do not see which provides us with excellent governance around our accounting and financial process, thank you Lacinda.

For me, it has been a year of learning and looking at how we can gain some efficiencies or how processes can be improved. You will have noticed some changes in how our monthly meetings are run and the format of minutes and actions, hopefully this has made things a little easier.

Over the next 12 months I will look to further refine processes and provide a framework that allows better support to our BMT and the wider brigade.

The Montrose CFA Garage Sale was again a success, a special thanks to all members and partners for their assistance over the day and leading up to the event, the funds we receive will go toward funding the new ultra-light appliance and other projects we plan to achieve over the next 12 months.

Brigade members also participated in at Bunning's Bayswater events to assist with fundraising and raising awareness around fire safety, Bunning's have been a fantastic brigade supporter over the last 12 months and have been vital in some of the local initiatives we have done around the station.

Thanks to the many years of hard work from previous secretaries and Brigade Management Teams (BMT), the brigade is in a good financial position. Rob and the BMT are working to ensure we have a solid business plan moving forward to ensure we maintain a strong financial position.

I would also like to thank my partner Kara for her understanding and patience through what has been a very busy 12 months both personally and professionally.

Welcome to our new members, it is great to see some new faces around the brigade and congratulations to this year's award winners.

Phil Astle
Secretary

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Communications Report



Sam Trigg

This has been my first role within the BMT since I joined the brigade around 11 years ago at the age of 17. It wasn't until I attended the first few BMT meetings that I realised how much work goes into running a brigade and how important each member is in managing their respective portfolios. Starting out fresh in my role as Communications Officer I had big shoes to fill with the legacy that Val left behind. However, it made the transition into the role that much easier having her to guide me along the way, so a big thank you to Val!

The ongoing support of our Assistant Communications Officer - Nigisti Noorbergen, our BASO Kate and all those members who've helped along the way has also been very much appreciated. The task of maintaining our operational communications capability including; our fire reporting system, pagers and radios takes a lot of time and effort so to all, well done and thank you.

During the last year we've seen the roll out of the digital radio channels across the network, including new fire ground channels and communications plans. Along with the change came the opportunity to purchase a subsidised digital scanner, to all those involved in this process thanks for your patience and cooperation.

I've thoroughly enjoyed this last year with plenty of opportunities to grow and work with a great group of people. I look forward to the next year and what challenges it may bring. Last but not least I'd like to thank my wife Monique for her support and contributions to our CFA family.

Sam Trigg
Communications Officer

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Community Safety Report



Marj Taylor

Community Safety Co-ordinator was a new role introduced at our last election; a role that incorporates being part of the BMT. It has been a pleasure to be part of the BMT over the past year and to gain a better understanding of the operations of the brigade.

My role as Community Safety Co-ordinator has largely consisted of the co-ordination of our community education program Fire Safe Kids, the co-ordination of Fire Ready Meetings and some PR events along with looking after the resources for community education.

Fire Safe Kids is a large part of our community safety program and our team Sally Connor, Silvana Linton, Dave Edwards, Ray Cole and Garth Matthews do an outstanding job providing this. Without these key members we would not be able to provide this to our community. We always get great feedback from the schools. The children really enjoy these sessions and get a lot out of them. I would also like to welcome Lauren Caldwell to the FSK team. And also thank you to any other members that have been able to help out with providing these valuable sessions to our community your time is always appreciated.

In January this year we conducted a Fire Ready Meeting for our community although not a huge attendance those that did attend found the meeting very informative. I will endeavour to market the next Fire Ready Meeting better and increase the attendance for 2017.

District will be implementing a program over the next few months providing vulnerable members of the community access to smoke alarm batteries, smoke alarms, and smoke in a can and fire blankets.

I'm hoping to implement some other little projects to my role with the assistance from Tammy Garrett that will incorporate some brigade training that is related to community safety over the coming months.

I would like to say a huge thank-you to Kate Grasby our lovely BASO always an absolute pleasure to deal with, Kate has assisted me to provide all those fun things like Captain Koala Little Pat and all the resources required to facilitate our Fire Safe Kids sessions and Community Safety events.

Congratulations to Rob Waters on his first year as Captain, Rob has done an impeccable job and provides great leadership for the brigade. Rob always showed support and guidance to me when I first became a member and I was grateful as well as surprised to be asked to nominate for this role.

Initially I wasn't sure how I would manage the role along with my current commitments of running my business and my primary role as a fire fighter but I have enjoyed the role and learnt as I've gone along as it's a role that is still evolving to fit the brigades needs. I look forward to the following 12 months and hopefully I can improve in some areas of my role.

Marj Taylor
Community Safety Co-ordinator

Montrose Fire Brigade

HSE Report



Alan Hopkins

OH&S - the section that affects all of us and continues to be a priority not only with the Brigade but with the CFA management as a whole. As a brigade we have continued to thrive and improve our awareness and implementation of OH&S principles. We have had a couple of reports involving care when entering and exiting trucks no serious injury but a reminder that speed and care go together. The other near miss was a reminder to be vigilant when leaving on a call and it is the responsibility of all in the truck not just the driver, this happened so well done. We at Montrose have continued to lead the way in awareness, ideas and most importantly protection of our people.

Montrose station continues to be a no smoking station and this has been well received by the guests at the many courses we have run and by the general membership.

All members now have been vaccinated against HEP B. Any new recruits will be processed as they complete training. We also had presentation on the new B class foam from Lt Tasker this covered both operational and OH&S use.

We also have some new recruits who have been issued with a full set of wildfire PPE by the brigade this has enabled them to take part if brigade training from the start and make OH&S a part of their skills from the get go.

On a wider view we are maintaining the annual free health checks at the station this will now happen in August. With all uncertainty surrounding the changes in CFA structure the importance of mental health is being brought to the fore this has been lead by the captain and BMT who made themselves available as well as the full CFA resources and websites, I am also available to any member who may need assistance.

Wider CFA topics that continue to need to be part of our thinking; fatigue and hydration remember if you are not fully fit you could be a burden not an asset to your crew, if you need medication make sure you have it with you

A Review of the procedures asbestos checking and reporting is taking place findings are expected by mid year.

Stuart and I both continue attend the regular area meetings and Stuart attends Knox group. We have OH&S sessions planned in the next year to maintain our awareness. Let's be vigilant to ourselves and our mates so we all go home.

Alan Hopkins
HSE Representative

Montrose Fire Brigade

Previous Awards

Life Membership of the Montrose Fire Brigade

Recipients

Frank Rafferty †	Edward (Ted) Adams †	James (Jim) Milbourne †
Kevin Beatty †	John (Jack) Earney †	Jack Verity
John Mackenzie †	Ken Beckwith	Allan Hardy
Don Kennedy	Mick Ryan	Kevin Walter
Robert Earney	Geoff Blackwell	Stuart McCall
John Tasker	Garry Rees	Peter Cameron

The Jack Earney Firefighter of the Year Award

Recipients

1980 Tony Haverkort	1981 Eddie Tichelaar	1982 Kevin Chaffey
1983 B Lucas / D Bromley	1984 Tony Haverkort	1985 Darren Hay
1986 John Tasker	1987 Alan Smith	1988 Mark Ryan
1989 Allan Hardy	1990 Mark Ryan	1991 Darren Padgett
1992 John Twining	1993 Bruce Birnie	1994 Kevin Walter
1995 Nick Gerolemou	1996 Wayne Harman	1997 Geoff Blackwell
1998 Phil Cuthbert	1999 Steven O'Shea	2000 David King
2001 David King	2002 Luke Matthews	2003 Tim Van Der Horst
2004 Robert Waters	2005 Robert Earney	2006 Stuart Earney
2007 Dean Martin	2008 Tim Bishop	2009 Robert Earney
2010 Valerie Gallacher	2011 Dale Stephens	2012 Ryan Smith
2013 John Tasker	2014 Dave Edwards	2015 Krissy Dundas

Montrose Fire Brigade

The Jack Verity Award of Merit

Recipients

1999 Tarron Newman	2000 Robyn Blackwell	2001 Luke Matthews
2002 Mick Ryan	2003 Dave Edwards	2004 Garth Matthews
2005 Robert Waters	2006 Mark Ryan	2007 Aaron Skiller
2008 Matt Jalowicki	2009 David Edwards	2010 Dale Stephens
2011 Marc Unsworth	2012 Sally Conner	2013 Nigisti Noorbergen
2014 Lucinda Ellis	2015 Silvana Linton	

The Camaraderie Award

Recipients

2011 Ray Cole	2012 Rob Earney	2013 Sally Connor
2014 Rob Sibbing	2015 Rob Sibbing/Val Gallacher	



Montrose Fire Brigade

Awards 2016

CFA Service Awards



5 Years	Ed Kowalczyk
5 Years	Lauren Caldwell
5 Years	Nigisti Noorbergen
15 Years	Rob waters
20 Years	Aaron McCall
30 Years	Rob Sibbing
35 Years	Darren Padgett
35 Years	Ed Tichelaar
40 Years	Craig Williamson
40 Years	Garry Rees
40 Years	Geoff Blackwell

Montrose Brigade Service Awards



6 Years	Phil Astle
6 Years	Sally Conner
6 Years	Lacinda Ellis
6 Years	Allan Hopkins
6 Years	Nigisti Noorbergen
12 Years	Mark Hawes
36 Years	Darren Padgett
36 Years	Ed Tichelaar

The Jack Earney Firefighter of the Year Award

Harrison Steed

The Jack Verity Award of Merit

Roj Rogers

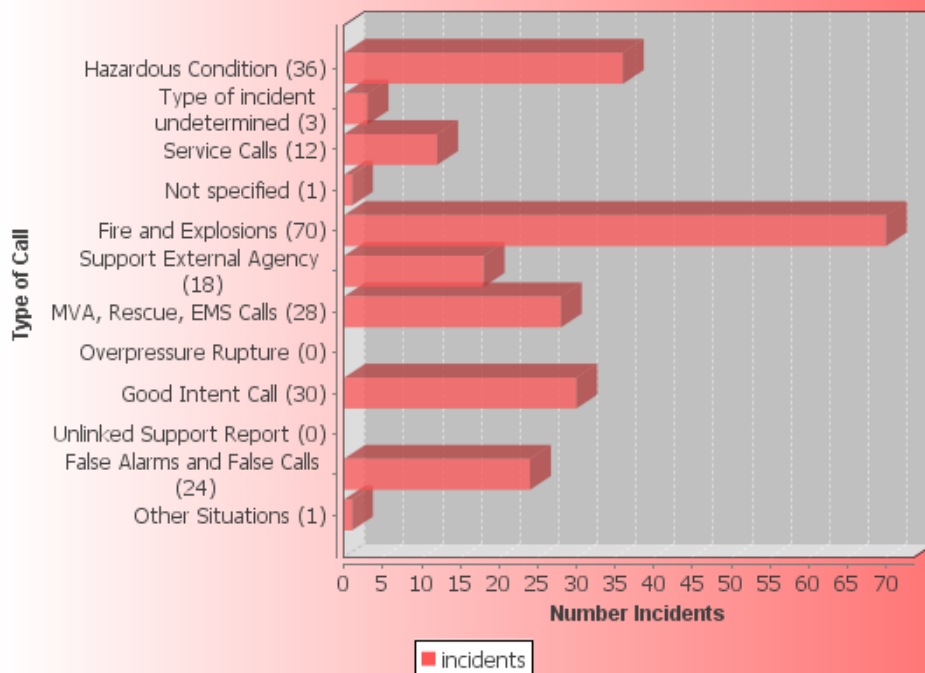
The Camaraderie Award

TBA

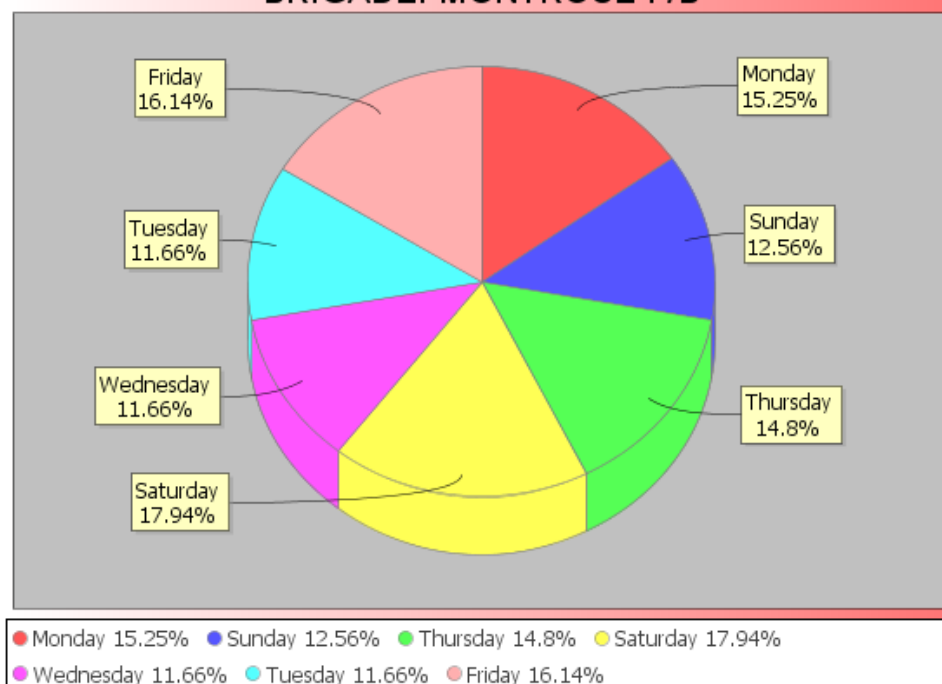
Montrose Fire Brigade

Brigade Statistics

Financial Year 15/16 Brigade Incident Attendance for
BRIGADE: MONTROSE F/B

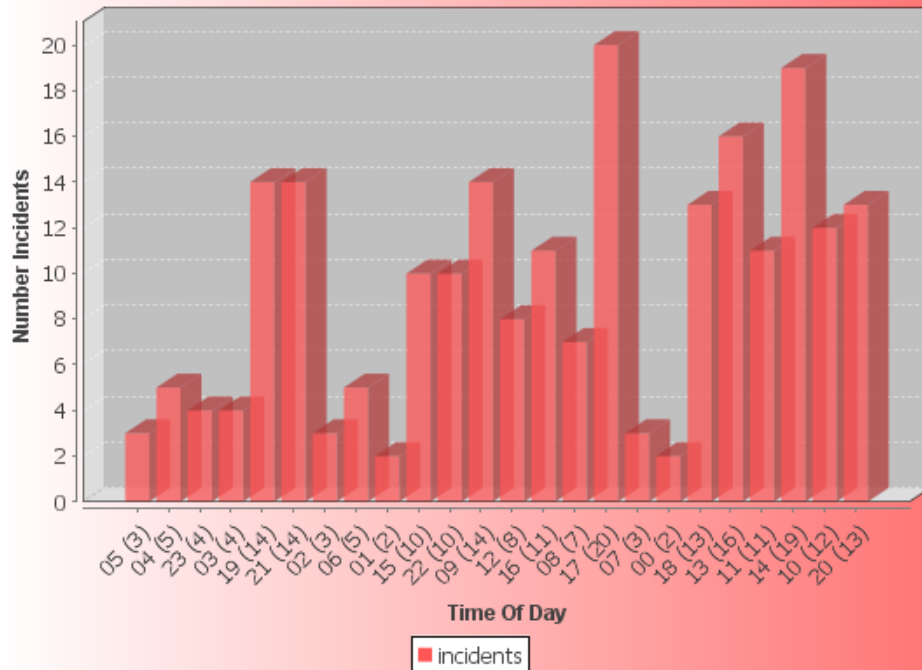


Financial Year 15/16 Brigade Incident Attendance for
BRIGADE: MONTROSE F/B

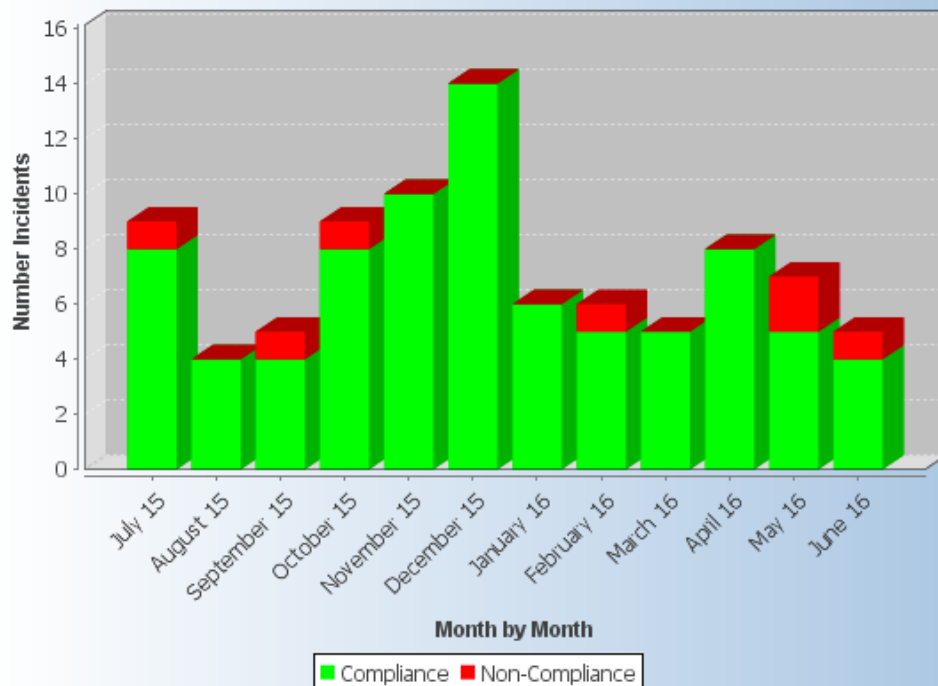


Montrose Fire Brigade

Financial Year 15/16 Brigade Incident Attendance for
BRIGADE: MONTROSE F/B

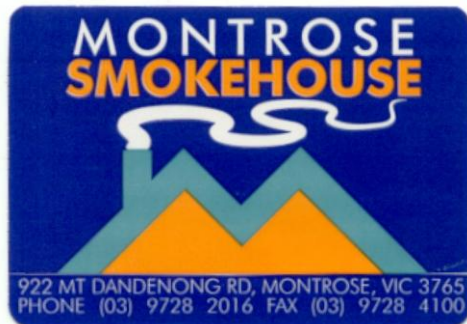


Financial Year 15/16 Performance Analysis for BRIGADE:
MONTROSE F/B



Montrose Fire Brigade

Sponsors



KILSYTH & CAMPBELLFIELD

Montrose Fire Brigade

Brigade Photos



Montrose Fire Brigade

