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MEDIA RELEASE

MELTON FAMILIES SHOW THE WAY

Melton junior fire brigade competitors have proven families that compete together, win together.

The 23 competitors in Melton teams at the Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) State Urban Junior Championships in Warrnambool on February 24-25 hailed from only seven families.

The Arandt, Portelli, Falzon, Geysing, Hocking, Millington and Johns families helped Melton Tatura to second place in the grand aggregate at the competition.

Melton was second in both the dry and wet events, scoring three race wins during the day.

Tatura won the grand aggregate for the fifth time in succession.

Coach Anthony Rhodes said Melton was a very family oriented brigade and the connections prompt strong competition.

“The seven families make up the 23 members of our competition teams,” Anthony said.

“It helps to make it competitive; all the kids love to beat their siblings but the best thing is they all work for each other so they make sure we get the best results.”

Many of the children are following a tradition set by their parents, who started in junior competitions and went on to train to become CFA volunteers serving the local community.

The championships were run by Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) in conjunction with the CFA.

VFBV CEO Andrew Ford said junior brigades and the championships were the best way for young people to become engaged and learn practical skills before being old enough to attend fires.

“The VFBV State Urban Junior Championships can set young people on a pathway to serve their communities,” Mr Ford said.

“They encourage family participation and help to instil a sense of community service and volunteerism in young people while raising the importance of local fire brigades,” Mr Ford said.

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