



**March 2020**

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND JUNIORS UNITE FOR CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Hundreds of Victorian volunteer firefighters and juniors will converge on Mooroopna on March 28-29 to compete in new-look championships.

For the first time, Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV) and the CFA are conducting a combined championship event, bringing together the rural senior and rural junior championships and the urban seniors.

The rural and urban championship events will run separately on their own competition tracks, but alongside each other.

The championships are at John Gray Oval, Ferrari Park, Mooroopna starting at 8.20am Saturday and 8.30am Sunday and people are welcome to attend to view the action.

VFBV CEO Adam Barnett said the championships were much more than just a competition.

“The championships develop practical and leadership skills and promote teamwork, while showcasing the skills and commitment of our volunteers,” Mr Barnett said.

“They are also a good way to bring people together from across the state in a friendly, social setting. Being a volunteer firefighter means being part of one big community.”

Mr Barnett said the junior competition gave young people a grounding in volunteerism, public service and being part of an emergency services team.

“They give young people a taste of what it’s like to be a volunteer firefighter and hopefully as soon as they old enough they will go on to finish their training and become fully qualified volunteer firefighters,” Mr Barnett said.

Competition events replicate firefighting skills and showcase the important role of CFA volunteers.

In the rural championships, teams will compete from Ascot and District, Axe Creek, Baranduda, Barnawartha, Beazley’s Bridge, Chiltern, Connewarre, Corio, Doreen, Dunolly, Dunrobin/Nangeela, Elaine, Eldorado, Eltham, Gapsted, Greta, Huntly, Hurstbridge, Irrewarra, Leopold, Mandurang, Mannerim, Millbrook, Miners Rest, Napoleons-Enfield, Osborne Park, Pearcedale, Plenty, Rutherglen, Sedgwick, Springhurst, Strathmerton, Stuart Mill, Swan Hill, Torquay, Truganina, Wallington, Willaura, Yarrambat, Yarroweyah.

A team from Namre, NSW will also compete, while four teams from Western Australia will take part in the urban championships.

Other teams in the urban competition are from Benalla, Bendigo, Cobden, Cohuna, Creswick, Dandenong, Diamond Creek, Drouin/Bunyip, Eaglehawk, Echuca, Euroa, Geelong West, Hallam, Hoppers Crossing, Horsham, Kangaroo Flat, Kerang, Knox, Kyneton, Maffra, Maryvale, Melton, Mildura, Morwell, Moe, Mooroopna, Narre Warren, Osborne Park, Pakenham, Patterson River, Pyramid Hill, Queenscliff, Sale, Seymour, St Arnaud, Stanhope, Stawell, Swan Hill, Tatura, Warracknabeal, Warrnambool, Wendouree, Werribee, Whittlesea.

The urban junior championships were held in Horsham on February 22-23.

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