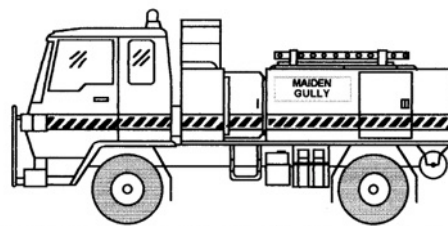


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade Winter 2021 Newsletter

www.maidengullycfa.org.au



Winter Fire Safety – a vital message from your local Fire Brigade



Here are the Brigade's key winter Fire Safety questions:

- Do you check your smoke alarms monthly?
- Are your smoke alarms more than 10 years old? If so replace them!
- Have you a home fire escape plan?
- Have you practised your escape plan?
- Are any of your power boards overloaded?
- Have you had your home heating serviced recently?

Also remember to never leave cooking unattended and to turn off all appliances before going to bed. You can check the Brigade's website (www.maidengullycfa.org.au) for more information.

RCH Good Friday Appeal

Since the Brigade was formed back in 1998, one of our community activities has been collecting for the Good Friday Appeal. Fire Brigades across the State have always been great supporters of this Appeal. Since 2000, Maiden Gully Firefighters have collected over \$66,000! This year, we collected a record amount of \$6,750. This was the result of tin rattling at the corner of Don and High Streets and at our IGA Supermarket on the day along with our tins with our partner supporters – Bakehouse Biltz, IGA Supermarket, Soulm8s Café, the Post Office and the Marong Family Hotel that accept donations throughout the year.

Brigade News

In the year ending March 31st, your brigade responded to 44 calls with 26 of these within Maiden Gully. This largely reflected a quieter summer fire season although our main tanker was deployed to fires at Kyneton and Greytown. As well as fighting fires on the back of a truck, our members were also involved in Incident Management and air operations. There have been no changes to our vehicle fleet. Members now have new generation structural fire helmets provided by the CFA and we have been able to purchase:

- Four Remote Area Lighting Units. These are battery powered LED floodlights that are very portable and have enabled us to retire generators and extension cords.
- A Milwaukee Battery powered blower that is kept on our Pumper. This was donated by Cam Hocking of Total Tools in Kangaroo Flat who is a strong supporter of our Brigade.

The trend across emergency services is to move away from petrol driven units and use lighter battery powered tools. You will also see around our fire station an extra flagpole, a pet watering station and our popular red street library. Not quite so noticeable are our 6.5kW of solar panels along with a Tesla battery that makes the station largely self-sufficient for electricity. It also provides emergency power during an outage. This was achieved through an Australian Government Community Energy & Solar Grant with technical support from the Bendigo Sustainability Group. Additional funds came from IGA Community Programs and the BUFS Healthier Communities Program



Winter is also bonfire season - always register your bonfire or burn-off

There are a few important actions to keep your fire safe and legal and ensure that firefighters are not called out unnecessarily and you don't get fined.

- Check first with the Council to see if you need a permit (information is on our website)
- Notify your bonfire by calling 1800 668 511 or emailing burnoffs@esta.vic.gov.au.
- Never leave it unattended
- Monitor weather conditions
- Have sufficient water and equipment to stop the fire spreading
- Let your neighbours know if your activity will generate fire or smoke.

If you are simply removing twigs, leaves or any green waste you can take it to the Eaglehawk Landfill for free any day. This is a great pollution free alternative.