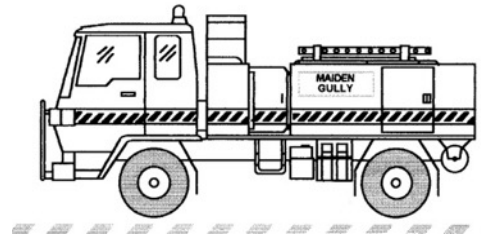


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade 2023 Newsletter

***Celebrating 25 years of Service to our
Community.***

www.maidengullycfa.org.au



The Summer Fire Danger Period approaches quickly!

We have all seen in the media that there have already been large bushfires in Gippsland early in October. While not all the State is as dry as East Gippsland, it is looking like a hot, dry summer. We live in one of the world's most bushfire-prone areas and even a normal fire season presents a potential high risk. We urge residents to prepare their properties and continue to keep on top of fast-growing grass. Grass and other clippings can go into your Green Bins or can be disposed of at the Eaglehawk Landfill at no charge. As well as preparing your property you and your family need to be prepared as well. Anyone who lives in or travels through regional areas need to monitor the fire danger ratings and have a plan for dry, hot, and windy days. Now no matter where you travel, the system is the same across Australia and the ratings mean the same thing. They are:

MODERATE = Plan & Prepare

HIGH = Be ready to act

EXTREME = Take action now to protect your life and property

CATASTROPHIC = For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas. On these days, Maiden Gully Schools and Early Learning Centres will be closed.

Remember that grassfires travel faster than you can run, and they jump highways, so you need to activate your fire plan on those high-risk days before a fire starts. Fast-running grassfires will be a risk across Victoria this summer, due to significant rain over autumn and winter leading to pasture growth in paddocks and roadsides. You can keep informed through:

VicEmergency website – emergency.vic.gov.au

VicEmergency Hotline - 1800 226 226

VicEmergency app



Come to our Open Day

**Open Day - CFA Sunday
5th NOV 10am-2pm**

Come & join your local volunteers for

**Free Sausage Sizzle - Lions Club
Fire Blanket Demo and Sales
Fire Truck Demos
Ambulance Service
Marong SES
Meet Captain Koala
And much more.**



After a huge success last year, we are looking forward to again welcoming you to our annual Open Day. It is an opportunity to chat about personal summer fire preparations and view our station, vehicles, and other facilities. There will be demonstrations of fire trucks, firefighting techniques, and use of fire blankets. Other emergency vehicles from the area will also visit along with a range of community groups such as the Lions Club and Progress Association. Our special guests this year will be a crew from Forest Fire Management who manage fire on public land and provide valuable assist to CFA Brigades in bushfire situations. Family members will be able to enjoy a free sausage sizzle run by the Maiden Gully Marong Lions Club with children enjoying meeting Captain Koala and checking out many other displays.

The last 12 months for MGFB!

After the frustrations of the past few years, we have not only been able to return to pre-COVID



levels of activity but are even busier. We have seen our number of incidents increase to a record number of 77 calls. Our crews are supporting neighbouring brigades more as a result of the type of equipment we now carry and more precise road mapping. After a gap of over 15 years, we now have a Junior Fire Brigade that meets monthly and is active in regional competitions in summer. CFA has supplied us with extra battery powered tools and scene lights while the Brigade has purchased new meeting room chairs and had fitted roof ventilators on all our buildings along with lights for our flagpoles and station sign. This year is our silver anniversary having been established since 1998. In that year, the brigade began with an obsolete tanker housed in a carport in Schumakers Lane. Today, we have 4

vehicles, a three bay fire station and an enviable array of firefighting equipment.

Help us update our equipment by Donating

Many people in Maiden Gully support our equipment fund through our sausage sizzles or by making donations of goods or money. Did you know that you can easily make a tax-deductible donation to the Brigade by going to our website (www.maidengullycfa.org.au) and clicking on the DONATIONS page.

Become a volunteer Firefighter

We have welcomed several new members over the past year and have trained them up as firefighters. We still have some vacancies. Becoming a volunteer firefighter, is a great way to make a difference in our community as well as meet new people and gain valuable skills. To find out more, simply drop into the station on a Sunday morning or contact us through our website and we will be happy to show you around and explain the steps you need to become one of Victoria's volunteer firefighters.

Disposal of Batteries

At present about 50 per cent of people currently put their batteries in the general waste or recycling bin. They should not be placed in either of these. One reason is that they may cause a fire and the usual recycling centres do not recycle batteries. It is important to recycle batteries as the commodities inside batteries are finite and valuable. Coles, Woolworths, Bunnings, Officeworks & Aldi have collection bins in their stores along with the eaglehawk Recycling Centre.

