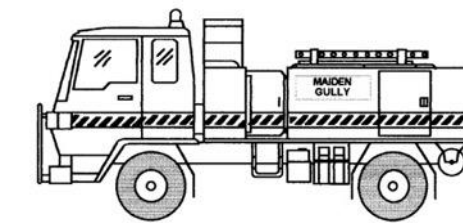


Maiden Gully Fire Brigade 2024 Community Newsletter

www.maidengullycfa.org.au



Santa to visit Maiden Gully on the night before Christmas!



Following on with a tradition that began 30 years ago, Santa has again asked the Maiden Gully Fire Brigade for assistance to deliver bags of lollies packed and supplied by the Progress Association to the children of Maiden Gully on Christmas Eve. He will use a similar visitation program to last year visiting homes on the north of the Calder Highway and Olympic Parade

between 3.30pm and 5pm. After 5pm, Santa will then visit the south side finishing around 6.30pm. However, there may be delays if his friends are called out to an emergency. Santa also advises that this is a busy time for him and his helpers so the fire trucks cannot stop at every house but will stop in one or more safe spots depending on the length of the street. See the Brigade Facebook page for current information.

The Summer Fire Danger Period is with us early!

We have already seen an Extreme Fire Danger Day in early December with the associated Total Fire Ban. Grasslands and the bush are very dry which makes for a fire season that is likely to be long hot, dry summer that can result in significant fires. We are noting that Maiden Gully Residents have already done a great job in preparing their properties, but we urge residents continue to keep on top of any additional 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 rating system is the same across Australia. They mean:

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..

You can keep informed through:

VicEmergency website – emergency.vic.gov.au

VicEmergency Hotline - 1800 226 226

VicEmergency app



The last 12 months for MGFB!

We have seen our number of incidents increase to over 120 calls. These include our crews supporting neighbouring brigades. Our Junior Fire Brigade program goes from strength to strength with our 11-13 years team doing extremely well at the State Championships. They are looking forward to competing again in March. The CFA is currently updating all our radios and we expect to start to see Mobile Data Capability installed in our trucks in the New Year. Over the past year, we have been able to construct a Breathing Apparatus Servicing Room in our existing workshop (see photo opposite). This provides us with a clean and hygienic facility to service sets after use. We gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by Bunnings (Epsom), Franklin & Walsh Builders and Ardor Projects for provision of advice and materials. This room brings us up to the modern standard. Another project that has just been completed is the installation of a wash basin in our workshop bathroom and a laundry trough unit to allow us to install a washer/dryer to clean wildfire

protective clothing

Help us to continue to 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.

Back in 1998



Our first fire truck had to be housed under a neighbour's carport until land and a shed could be acquired. Your Brigade has progressed a long way since!