



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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BUNINYONG CFA GETS NEW PUMPER APPLIANCE UPGRADE

Geoff Howard MP, State Member for Ballarat East, was thrilled today to officially hand over the keys to a new 'pumper' appliance to the Buninyong CFA brigade.

"This new truck replaces an existing pumper which had been in service since 1984 and will join Buninyong's other appliances which include a 4x4 3000 litre tanker to boost emergency response in the Buninyong area," Mr Howard said.

"I note a wonderful piece of history as well that the Buninyong Brigade preserves, the brigades original Merryweather pumper built in the 1860's. What a wonderful contrast this makes to the new pumper I am presenting today, emergency response technology has come a long way in the long and proud history of the Buninyong CFA," said Mr Howard.

"From the Brigade's formation in 1872 to the recent 2009 bushfires, the town of Buninyong has been well served by its CFA volunteers."

"The Buninyong brigade attends more than 120 incidents per year. That's 120 times a year that they make a difference to an individual, a property or a life in the Buninyong and wider Victorian community."

Mr Howard also took the opportunity to pay particular tribute to the Brigade's work in the 'Black Saturday' bushfires, in which they were one of the first brigades to respond to assist local brigades at the devastating Kinglake fire.

"When the community needed them, they were there without hesitation," he said.

"As a government and as a community we want to recognise and say thank you for that effort."

The State Government is firmly committed to resourcing and supporting volunteer emergency services, which form the backbone of Victoria's emergency response.

Since 1999, the State Government has more than doubled the state's emergency services core budget from \$254 million to \$704 million this year.

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