



The Place To Be

Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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DAYLESFORD SES/AMBULANCE STATION WORKS ON TRACK

Geoff Howard MP, State Member for Ballarat East, met with David Wellings, the Hepburn Shire SES Unit Controller and SES volunteers to inspect the progress of the new Daylesford Joint SES/Ambulance Station being constructed on the corner of the Midland Highway and Central Springs Road.

The new facility being built by local firm A.W. Nicholson Constructions is due to be completed in December and will accommodate Ambulance Victoria and the Hepburn Shire SES unit.

As well as accommodation for emergency vehicles the facility will also have operation rooms, communications rooms, laundry and kitchenette facilities and meeting/training facilities for staff and volunteers.

The Hepburn SES unit was formed 12 months ago with the recruitment of 24 volunteers of which only 2 had previous experience with the SES.

The Daylesford unit currently has a Nissan Patrol vehicle, with a Ford F450 4WD rescue truck that is being fitted out with equipment to arrive shortly.

The Unit has been assisting with callouts since November 2008 mainly supporting other units. They were active during the fire season particularly during the fires near Daylesford where they assisted in staging, lighting, transport and general duties supporting fire fighting agencies.

In February the Daylesford unit also sent some of its volunteers to Marysville and Kinglake to assist there and was proud to be part of a Mid Western Task Force dispatched at short notice to Kinglake for 5 days.

David Wellings the Hepburn Controller said, "The need for an SES unit in this area is obvious and it should be remembered that the population more than doubles on any given weekend or holiday."

"The completion of our accommodation is eagerly anticipated and we look forward to becoming a well trained safe and efficient unit to serve the community at large in the future," he said.

Mr Howard was delighted at the amount of interest shown by the Daylesford community and the number of people volunteering to assist, "It's fantastic to see 24 volunteers already with more enquiries to join coming in all the time."

"I and the Brumby Government are always proud to support these dedicated people who are willing to give their time to assist their community and others and I thank them for their tireless effort," said Mr Howard.

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