



# Red & Green

Newsletter Spring 2013

## Panton Hill Volunteer Fire Brigade serving the Community since 1939

It has been many years since the last Brigade Newsletter was circulated amongst the community of Panton Hill. In honor of its creator we would like to continue with the format of the first issue of the RED & GREEN of May 1992.

The intention of this newsletter is to update you on the activities of your Brigade and our role in providing an Emergency Service to the Panton Hill and surrounding communities.

**The History of Brigade** - established in 1939 predominantly by the Orchardists and Farmers of the area and is the oldest community group in Panton Hill. We will be celebrating our 75 Anniversary in 2014 Look out for activities to be announced. *refer to our website for a full background and history.*

[www.pantonhillcfa.com.au](http://www.pantonhillcfa.com.au)

74 years of continued service to its community is something we are very proud. The needs and demands of our current lifestyles have impacted significantly on the requirements in keeping our Brigade active and in operational readiness. The dedication and commitment of our members is simply outstanding.

**The Coming Fire Season** - Warmer than expected winter temperatures with rainfall well below average indicate a possible hot & dry summer. Wildfires have already impacted NSW and Queensland and writing is on the wall, **Prepare early.**

### PREPARE NOW

We all need a quiet remainder of the small things we should put in place over the coming months to protect our properties before the Fire Season. There are volumes of written material on preparing your home and I urge you read and implement them, **it will save your life.** [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

**Fire Plan** - keep it simple, **KNOW** what you will do in the case of Fire.

CFA publications are readily available on line or at the Fire Station. [www.pantonhillcfa.com.au](http://www.pantonhillcfa.com.au)

The Hurstbridge Community newsletter also features a column written by Nan Oats (a member of this Brigade) on community safety and is highly recommended.

### What is the 10/30 and 10/50 Rule? Do I live in a Bushfire Management Overlay Area (BMO) and How Much Vegetation Can I Clear Around My House?

The Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission introduced these rules that apply to properties built prior to 10 Sept 2009. [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au) ; [www.pantonhillcfa.com.au](http://www.pantonhillcfa.com.au) ; [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) ; [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)

**How do I know which rule applies to me?** [www.dtpli.vic.gov.au](http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au)

- If you **live in a BMO area Rule 10/50** allows you to clear trees and vegetation to **10** meters of your home and vegetation, except for trees, within **50** meters.
- If you do not live in a BMO area **Rule 10/30** allows you to clear trees and vegetation to **10** meters of your home and vegetation, except for trees, within **30** meters.

**Burning Off in Nillumbik** - see information about burning off in Nillumbik Shire. [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au)

**Managing Burgan** (*Kunzea ericoides*) **for Fire in Nillumbik** - a large native shrub that is highly volatile and serious consideration should be given for its removal for fire protection purposes.

see Information on Managing Burgan in Nillumbik Shire. [www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au](http://www.nillumbik.vic.gov.au) ; [www.home.vicnet.net.au/~chfb/burgan.html](http://www.home.vicnet.net.au/~chfb/burgan.html) ; [www.pantonhillcfa.com.au](http://www.pantonhillcfa.com.au)

**Can Your Property be Accessed by Fire Trucks?** - we too often prepare our properties not expecting that one day you may require the assistance of the Fire Brigade. A Fire Truck is almost 3.0 wide and 3.0m tall, so allow a minimum gate opening of 3.6m and trim overhead tree limbs to provide a 3.6m clearance.

## **Upcoming Events -**

### **Ash Wednesday Memorial Concert - 15 Feb 2014**

Every year Panton Hill Fire Brigade holds a Memorial Concert to reflect and show respect to the volunteer fire fighters lost in the Ash Wednesday Bushfires of 1983. Five of the 75 that died at those fires, were volunteers from the Panton Hill community. This Memorial Concert is also aimed at bringing the community together to celebrate life and all volunteers who serve our community, past and present.

[www.facebook.com/notes/panton-hill-cfa/ash-wednesday-memorial-concert-2013-kahn-frankes-speech/544169095614083](http://www.facebook.com/notes/panton-hill-cfa/ash-wednesday-memorial-concert-2013-kahn-frankes-speech/544169095614083)

We will also be Celebrating 75 Years of continued service to the Community.

Please support this function and we would dearly like see you there. **James Raine** will be the feature act. This is a Free Concert

**60's-80's Fancy Dress Dinner Dance November 9th 2013.** The proceeds from this event will be directly injected into the 2014 Ash Wednesday Memorial Concert. The fundraising night will include: Silent and live auctions, door prizes, prizes for best fancy dress etc. Dinner, drinks and entertainment.

**We seek your help** a) we need help in setting up, preparing the hall, food etc etc. call Tanya 0408 700 096  
b) Please support this Community function.

## **Have You Considered Becoming a CFA Member?**

The continued success of any community group is in the hands of the people who run it. After 74 years of Brigade service, the Panton Hill community has not only kept the legacy of its Brigade alive but exceeded all expectations and will continue to be an effective Emergency Service

## **What can I do?**

There are two sectors within the brigade and either cannot survive without the other

**Operational & Support** - Operational members, both male and female, are trained firefighters who turn out to fires. Training is undertaken at the brigade on Sunday mornings, so stop by for a chat and get to know your Brigade.

Non operational members perform the support role required to keep an effective Brigade. Attending the station when the trucks are deployed and undertaking all the numerous logistical chores. You don't require any skills as we will train you in the tasks needed. **We simply need manpower amongst both of these groups**

Please consider your role in this community and as a volunteer your commitment can be varied, we'll take whatever you can give us. [www.pantonhillcfa.com.au](http://www.pantonhillcfa.com.au) or just come to the station on any Sunday. Call us.

**Future Newsletters** - we recognize the need to utilize electronic and social media in the way we communicate, the very name of this newsletter portrays and supports sustainability and we would like to send you future newsletters in this manner.

**Please send us your email, facebook or twitter accounts. Contact us on**

[www.facebook.com/pages/Panton-Hill-CFA/191635424200787](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Panton-Hill-CFA/191635424200787)  
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