

WANDONG FIRE BRIGADE



February Weather Outlook

CFA has urged Victorians living in high-risk bushfire areas to finalise their bushfire survival plans ahead of a prolonged heatwave set to impact the state in February 2025. Temperatures are forecast to reach the high 30s and low 40s across Victoria with the chance of dry thunderstorms and lightning. The community is urged to prepare ahead of the expected heightened fire conditions. Each household should have a Fire plan and update it annually, or as required. Fire Planner is an online tool that helps you create a safety plan in the event of a fire. It takes around 10 minutes to complete. www.fireplanner.vic.gov.au

Australia Day Community Award presented to Pat Leddin

Congratulations to Pat Leddin for receiving the Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation on Australia Day 2025 for his dedicated service to the Clonbinane and Wandong community.

Pat has shown dedication to the local community for over 30 years, offering service to the Kilmore SES, Wandong CFA, and the Kilmore Wallan RSL. We are proud to know and work alongside Pat, and celebrate this recognition. Pat has an easygoing nature, is level headed and has a common sense approach to problem solving. We are fortunate to have him as a member of the brigade and our local community.

Pat has made a lasting impact as a member of the Wandong CFA, where he has volunteered as a fire-fighter for over 37 years. Not only did he help build the kitchen in the old fire brigade building, but he also took on vital roles such as organizing the Good Friday Appeal, assisting with fire equipment maintenance, and becoming a qualified Staging Area Manager. Since 2009, Pat has represented volunteers as a delegate for Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria (VFBV), the organisation that represents the voice of CFA volunteers and advocates on their behalf.

One of Pat's most significant achievements came during the 2009 Black Saturday Fires. Despite his own house being impacted, Pat continued to work tirelessly, saving homes and properties in his community. For his efforts, Pat was awarded the National Emergency Medal in 2014. Alongside his close friend and colleague John, affectionately known as "Bill and Ben," Pat worked through the aftermath of the fires heading out in the Wandong Quick Attack vehicle each day for the next few weeks, continuing to extinguish fires that reignited. They were pretty keen on using Class A foam, a surfactant that creates a bubble blanket that helps the water to stay in contact with fuels and reduce reignition. The brigade had to order extra supplies of Class A foam just to keep their vehicle stocked. The extra supplies of foam were a small price to pay for the invaluable work that they did.

Pat has been an active member of the Wallan/Kilmore RSL since 2015 and has been involved in selling poppies and ANZAC day badges raising funds to support veterans and their families.

In 1982, Pat joined the SES, where he served for 32 years, taking on various leadership roles, including Section Leader and Trainer. He trained in critical areas such as road rescue, cliff rescue, flood rescue, and working from heights. Pat was also the Kilmore SES trainer, alongside his mate John, for nearly a decade. His commitment to the SES was recognized in 2001 with the prestigious National Medal, and again in 2009 with the first clasp to the National Medal, awarded for his distinguished service. The National Medal is Australia's most awarded civilian medal. It recognises long and diligent service by members that risk their lives or safety to protect or assist the community.

Pat Leddin's decades of service and his selfless dedication to the safety and well-being of the community are a shining example of what it means to be a true volunteer. We are proud that Pat has been recognised for his outstanding contributions. Thank you, Pat, for your unwavering commitment to your community and your exemplary service.

