

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Moe South - A Bushfire Aware Community

National Award Winners!

Darren Carman, Moe South resident

At a presentation ceremony convened in Hobart on the 6th December by the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience (AIDR), the Community-Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) project won the 2022 Resilient Australia National Award. The award is judged on, and celebrates, excellence in the promotion of initiatives which build community resilience to disasters and emergencies.

CONNECTIONS



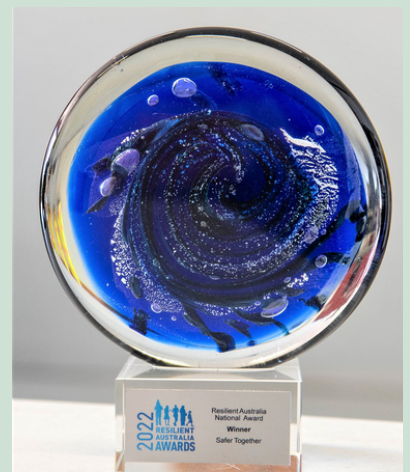
Rebekah Baynard-Smith (CBBM Facilitator), Steve Bates (Moe South CFA Captain) and residents proudly show off the 2022 Resilient Australia National Award and Certificate given to the CBBM project.

This was a massive mark of recognition in the CBBM project for the work done by the state and local governments as well as multiple agencies including the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA). As a community-based engagement and development model, the National award recognises the contributions of the team of eight (8) CBBM facilitators across the state and the more than twenty communities they work with.

CBBM started in 2016 as a project under the Victorian Government's Safer Together program. Bushfire risk reduction is the ultimate goal of the project. This is targeted through a collaborative model approach to develop solutions to local issues by involving and empowering local communities in the process.

Moe South has enjoyed a number of significant achievements under the CBBM project including bushfire planning workshops, information nights, a successful council petition for a green waste amnesty period and annual neighbourhood clean up events.

It has been great for our community to participate in a project like CBBM to build connections between the residents of Moe South as well as the fire management authorities. The project's success in winning the award is something we can all share in for our small part and is definitely something worth smiling for!



The 2022 Resilient Australia National Award

STAY ALERT

Resilience in Action is a community newsletter initiated under the Community-Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) program with the goal of keeping Moe South residents connected, informed and prepared. If you have any feedback, topic suggestions or want to support and become part of this initiative, please email moesouth.cbbm@gmail.com

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Moe South - A Bushfire Aware Community

PEOPLE IN FOCUS

As a way to help connect locals, this newsletter is introducing the first in a series of feature stories with people from our community. For the opening interview I was lucky to spend some time with Steve Bates and his wife Linda at their home while he had a break in CFA duties, losing balls on the golf course and baby-sitting his grandkids... all part of his busy retirement life away from the power industry.

DC: Steve, many residents will know you from being the captain at the brigade, how long have you lived in Moe South and been in the CFA?

SB: I moved to Moe South with Linda around 30 years ago after being attracted by the lifestyle opportunities the area had for raising a family and living on some acreage. I didn't join the CFA immediately. It wasn't until 2009 after the Black Saturday bushfires when I was made aware that the brigade was critically low in volunteers and in real danger of being shut down. There was an emergency gathering of locals and 34 of us joined there and then. Almost half of us are still active today in the CFA. As for being the current brigade captain, it is an elected position from the CFA members and new elections will be held this year.

DC: In your time at the CFA I am sure you would have had some interesting experiences, are there any that stick out?

SB: One of the funnier times occurred not long after joining. There was so many of us that joined at the same time and we were all very keen. Our first call out was to a report of a fire... a crowd of ten of us scrambled to respond at 1am in the morning and it turned out to be a council green waste bin which had been put alight!

DC: Looking ahead, what are the big challenges facing the Moe South brigade?

SB: We face the same problems that many other brigades are currently facing. The big one is making sure we have enough volunteers who are up to date with their training and get involved on a regular basis. There has been a marked drop in the number of CFA volunteers across Victoria in the last few years. Other than people being involved we also have issues with keeping our ageing equipment maintained and ready for use. What some people don't realise is that we don't get money from the CFA for everything and often we rely on generous donations from locals and others for what we need. For example, it was the Lions Club who donated a defibrillator to the brigade. The top of the line Ultralight fire vehicle we got was only made possible with donations totalling \$25K from the community to the brigade. What we would really like to see in the future is a new dual-cab fire truck so all firefighters could fit inside the cabin.

DC: As you're aware I have just signed up to join the CFA. What I have liked about it so far is that everyone I have met down at the station has been welcoming and supportive. Do you have any advice for inactive members or others thinking of joining?

SB: We are always welcoming new members and ones that may have been involved in the past but have been unable to keep up with their training and participate regularly. One thing I see being the difference between us and other brigades is that we keep the way we operate professional but also fairly relaxed. There is a process to go through, but after joining all we ask is that volunteers can provide a regular commitment to the brigade and communicate their availability. Anyone can be involved. As well as operational firefighters, we would also welcome volunteers to help with general and administrative tasks at the station.

DC: This year marks the 40th Anniversary of the Moe South CFA brigade. Do you have anything special planned?

SB: To get to forty years is a huge achievement and something to be proud of. We have a committee working on plans for a special event involving current and past members which will be advertised soon!



*Steve Bates, Local resident and CFA Captain
at the Moe South station*

KEEP INFORMED

RESILIENCE IN ACTION

Moe South - A Bushfire Aware Community



CBBM Project - Future Directions



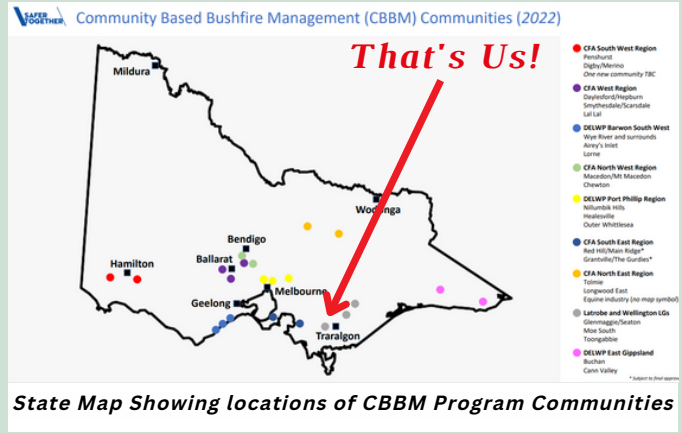
Later this year will mark the third anniversary of the Moe South CBBM project. From an idea and conversation which started during a Community Day at the CFA station back in 2019 we have seen the development of the program and can be collectively proud of all its achievements in its short time!



Bushfire Planning Workshops - Just one of the local CBBM ideas delivered

Through the difficulties posed in the early years of Covid until today we have been supported by Latrobe City, the CFA and others. But the most important ingredient has been the contributions and participation of our locals. Our community.

The CBBM project model continues to evolve with now over 20 communities involved across the state. And as new communities are added to the CBBM project, established groups are 'graduating' from it. This will be the challenge and opportunity for Moe South as we look to 'graduate' from the project this year. To become self sustainable and enable other towns to have the same benefits we have enjoyed through the project. Your ideas, contributions and involvement are an important part of the transition being a successful one as we plan our path going ahead...



State Map Showing locations of CBBM Program Communities

We have been fortunate with the wetter than average weather conditions experienced in 2022 that we did not see many major bushfire events in our state this past summer.

The Moe South CFA brigade however did not have to wait too long for their first incident attendance in 2023 when it assisted several other brigades in response to a fire at McDonalds Track, Coalville on the 16th January. This was the same day that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) was declared for Latrobe City.

Thanks also for our local CFA members who were called into action for a fire at Heartsridge Road, East Traralgon less than a day later. This fire took four hours to control and eventually had burnt an approx. 800m long strip of roadside vegetation.



Steve, Rosie and Brad saddling up at the Station

Both of these fire incidents demonstrate the need to be always alert locally.



Use the QR code for information on what can and can't be done during the FDP & Total Fire Ban (TFB) days.

AGENCY NEWS



CFA volunteers from Moe South responding to a fire at Heartsridge Road, Traralgon East

BE PREPARED

Resilience in Action is a community newsletter initiated under the Community-Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) program with the goal of keeping Moe South residents connected, informed and prepared. If you have any feedback, topic suggestions or want to support and become part of this initiative, please email moesouth.cbbm@gmail.com

MOE SOUTH NEIGHBOUR DAY BBQ 2023

*It's
Back!*



**Fun &
Games!**



BBQ!

When: Saturday 25th March, 2023

5:30PM - 7PM

Where: Moe South CFA Station, Lynne Ave

RSVP to Darren on 0400 114 356

Please Bring a Salad/ Dessert to Share

BYO Drinks

*You're
Invited!*



New Venue!



Community

**An Annual Event Celebrating Our
Supportive and Resilient Community!**