



Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations

MEDIA STATEMENT

5 December 2017

MEDIA RELEASE

The Council of Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) has today paid tribute to the efforts of volunteers across Australia, who risk their lives and work tirelessly to protect communities.

Today marks International Volunteer Day – a chance to celebrate and thank volunteers for the contribution they make.

CAVFA Chairperson, Ken Middleton said Australia owes a huge debt of gratitude to the thousands of volunteers from the nation's fire services.

“There are more than two hundred and fifty thousand fire fighters and operational support volunteers across every state and territory in the country,” Mr Middleton said.

“They are responsible for protecting lives, homes and communities from suburban areas in capital cities, to the most remote bushland towns in outback Australia.

“They are on call twenty-four hours a day to volunteer their time and help others and I want to thank each and every volunteer for their efforts.

“Of course, their important role goes beyond fighting fires. Our volunteers provide support to communities in a range of different ways like helping out in times of floods, to responding to car accidents.

“If you see one of our fire fighters today, indeed any volunteer, please thank them for their service and the work they do.

“Over the past few weeks, volunteers across Australia have been busy working to prepare for the summer fire season.

“They face a tough few months ahead as they work to protect homes and property – I thank them all for the efforts and contributions as volunteers.

International Volunteer Day recognises the support volunteers provide in times of crisis.

More information can be found online: <https://www.volunteeringaustralia.org/2017/12/happy-international-volunteer-day/>

Background

The Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) is an alliance of 11 volunteer fire brigade associations within Australia. The Council was established to give volunteer fire fighters a united voice in representations with government and key stakeholders.

Association members are: ACT Volunteer Brigades Association, Association of Volunteer Bush Fire Brigades of WA, NSW Rural Fire Service Association, NT Bushfire Volunteers Association, Rural Fire Brigades Association Queensland, Queensland Auxiliary Fire fighters Association, SA Country Fire Service Volunteers Association, Tasmanian Retained Volunteer Fire fighters Association, Tasmanian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association, Volunteer Fire Brigades of Victoria, and WA Volunteer Fire and Rescue Services Association.

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