



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Carols on the Mountain washed out

Appalling weather over the weekend forced the cancellation of the popular annual Carols on the Mountain event at Ferny Creek on Saturday night.

A decision to abandon the carols night was made on Friday in view of the forecast conditions. The event, which features more than 200 local performers, has been staged for the past four years by the Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigade.

Close to 100 mm of rain fell at Ferny Creek between Friday night and Saturday. In addition strong winds toppled trees and brought down power lines.

“We really had no option in view of the forecast conditions,” said brigade president Win King-Smith. “Apart from the rain, the high winds made it especially dangerous. It was a huge disappointment to us and to our sponsors.”

Despite inclement weather in previous years, this was the first time Carols on the Mountain has been forced to cancel altogether. “An enormous amount of work goes into planning and staging the event,” Ms King-Smith said.

The brigade plans to push on with the event and will organise its return again next year.

Ms King-Smith, said the local community has embraced the annual event, originally aimed at celebrating Christmas and community in the hills.

Carols booklets produced specially for the event will be distributed via sponsors, schools and directly to the community.

The event draws support from a range of local businesses. These include Sassafras Wool Store, Bendigo Bank (Upwey branch), Hills Medical, The Cuckoo Restaurant, Dandenong Ranges Veterinary Centre, Ferny Creek Tennis Club, Belgrave South Timber & Hardware, the Hart School of Dance, Flippin’ Pancakes, Como Cottage, Ferny Creek General Store, Sunrise Central Heating, De Groot’s Transport and Ranges First National Real Estate (Belgrave).

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