



SASSAFRAS-FERNY CREEK FIRE BRIGADE

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Kalorama-Mt Dandenong, Olinda & Sassafras-Ferny Creek Fire Brigades Media Release

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A big day out in the hills!

The three Dandenong Ranges “ridge top” CFA brigades joined forces last weekend to offer residents top quality advice and a fun outing for the whole family at the Olinda Hall.

Around 200 locals passed through the first joint brigade Family Information and Fun Day, which offered something for everyone. The event was organised by the Kalorama-Mt Dandenong, Olinda and Sassafras-Ferny Creek brigades.

In addition to displays by CFA, representatives from Parks Victoria, St John Ambulance and Victoria Police were on hand to provide advice on bushfire preparedness and survival.

Victoria’s Fire Services Commissioner Craig Lapsley also attended and praised the local brigades for their commitment to building greater bushfire awareness in their communities.

A range of detailed bushfire preparedness advice was available, from how to arrange a free property inspection, to advice about pets and fire and information on fuel reduction burning in and around the Dandenongs.

For the kids, the action was mostly outside with a jumping castle, Little Lex the helicopter and Little Pat the fire truck, face painting and a colouring competition.

Event organiser and Olinda brigade secretary Elisa Jans said she was pleased with the turnout. “It was great to see so many locals take advantage of the advice CFA and the other agencies have to offer,” Ms Jans said.

Sassafras-Ferny Creek CFA Captain John Schauble said that it was obvious the bushfire season had been fairly benign to date in the hills. “That makes it a perfect time to reflect on your own situation, think about a plan for times when the risk is greater and prepare your property and family,” he said.

Kalorama-Mt Dandenong community education co-ordinator Virginia McCallum led a demonstration of live fire behaviour using a “burns table” developed by the Department of Sustainability & Environment. “We use it to show how a little preparation can make all the difference to your home surviving in a fire,” she said.