



# Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations

## MEDIA RELEASE

DATE: April 17th 2013 for immediate release

---

### **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS OF AUSTRALIA UNITE**

Volunteer firefighters in every State have united to form a new forum to promote the interests of over 250,000 members nationwide.

The Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) has been formed to ensure that volunteer firefighting continues to help keep the communities of Australia safe from bushfires and other emergencies, according to inaugural president, Mr Brian McKinlay AFSM.

“CAVFA provides a forum for the eleven volunteer firefighter associations in all of the states and territories across Australia to work together to put the views of its combined volunteer membership to the Federal Government and other key stakeholders” said Mr McKinlay.

“Emergency Services comes under the jurisdiction of the various states and territories. However, in recent years the Federal Government has become more focused on emergency management and in other areas that impact on volunteer firefighters. Volunteers respond to a wide range of emergencies, including major bushfires, and devote their time, skills and knowledge to keeping their communities safe. CAVFA hopes to work with the Government to ensure that the views of volunteers are considered when decisions are made that impact upon them and the communities they serve.” he said.

“CAVFA, along with its state association members, is keen to ensure that volunteer firefighting remains a viable and attractive volunteering choice into the future.

“Australia depends on the dedication and expertise of the brave men and women of the volunteer fire services across the nation. CAVFA and the state associations will work together to ensure that the volunteer fire services and their members are supported and encouraged in the vital work that they do”.

End

Contact: Mr Phil Koperberg, Executive Director  
[philipkoperberg@bigpond.com](mailto:philipkoperberg@bigpond.com) Mob 0415 221 604