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Fire Awareness Awards finalists announced

After receiving a huge number of entries, the 2013 Fire Awareness Awards finalists have been selected.

Close to 100 projects were submitted by community groups, fire brigades, municipalities, product designers and fire agencies across the state.

CFA Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said the response showed Victorians had taken on board the importance of enhancing fire awareness and safety to reduce the incident and impact of fire.

“It’s important to recognise this work being done across Victoria and congratulate people working to spread important fire safe messages,” Mr Ferguson said.

“The awards ceremony will be a great way to celebrate all the finalists who undertook projects. For many of them, carrying out these projects is not part of their job. A number of finalists are volunteers or community groups dedicating their time to improving fire safety, preparedness, response and recovery,” he said.

Five projects in CFA’s Eastern Metropolitan Region are finalists including:

- Powelltown Community Emergency Action Plan, Powelltown Emergency Committee and Yarra Ranges Council – Community Preparedness finalist
- Be Ready Warrandyte – Living with Bushfire Risk, Warrandyte Community Association – Community Preparedness finalist
- The Captain Koala & Friends Show, April Himmelreich – Education finalist
- ‘Do you have a fire plan?’ video, Warrandyte Community Association and Warrandyte Theatre Company – Media and Communications finalist
- Cardinia Hills Youth Fire Readiness Project, Echo Youth and Family Services – Youth finalist

Eastern Metropolitan Regional Director David Baker said it was great to see the community getting involved in fire awareness and prevention at a local level.

“When it comes to fire awareness and safety we all have a role to play. All of these finalists are making a difference and should be congratulated, he said.

The Fire Awareness Awards recognise the extraordinary work of individuals, groups and organisations in their efforts to reduce the effect of fire in Victoria. The awards have been presented for over 25 years, as a collaborative venture between Victoria’s fire agencies – CFA, MFB, DEPI and the Fire Services Commissioner.

The awards presentation will take place on 4 December at the RACV City Club in Melbourne, where award finalists and grant recipients will be invited to celebrate alongside senior members of the fire agencies and ministerial representatives.

Mark Crossweller AFSM, Director General, Emergency Management Australia, will be speaking at the ceremony and ABC Local Radio’s Jonathan Ridnell will be MC for the night.

The awards evening will announce a winner for each of the award categories, as well as present an overall *RACV Insurance Award for Excellence*.

There will also be grants presented on the night including a *Special Incentive Grant* and the *RACV Insurance Fire Innovation Grant*.

For a full list of award finalists please visit [www.fireawarenessawards.com.au/2013 finalists](http://www.fireawarenessawards.com.au/2013_finalists)

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