

12 70 Years of Gully CFA



Congratulations to our Fire Brigade!

On 14 July 2012, Ferntree Gully Volunteer CFA Fire Brigade turns 70 years of age.

In this feature former Captain, life member of the Brigade and local identity, Terry Potter, tells the story.



The old ship's bell that served as Ferntree Gully's original public fire alarm is kept as a memento of the Bush Fire Brigade.

The Origins of the Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade



In July, Ferntree Gully Fire Brigade completes seven decades of unbroken voluntary service to the community.

The Bush Fire Brigade

The present Brigade is Ferntree Gully's second Fire Brigade. The original unit, the township's Bush Fire Brigade, was formed in the wake of devastating

fires in 1926. With constant challenges and severely limited resources, the old Brigade did much good work throughout its 17-year life. Large outbreaks in and around the ranges – in particular the huge outbreaks of January 1939 – were fought for days on end by the combined and co-ordinated efforts of the local Bush Fire Brigades.

Jack Murphy, of the local pioneering family, was the first Captain of the Brigade of 38 men. Support was always received from the community in those difficult times, and Shire Councillor and Gallipoli veteran, Colonel George Knox and Mrs Knox actively assisted the Brigade.

The Ferntree Gully CFA

By 1940, with its increasing population, and a mains water supply reaching the lower-lying areas, the town warranted a Fire Brigade equipped to a standard that could not be achieved under the old structure. Following a petition by residents in 1941, the Council asked for a unit to be established in Ferntree Gully by the Country Fire Brigades Board – at that time responsible for the provincial cities and major towns in Victoria.

Australia had been at war since 1939. Darwin and Sydney had been attacked, and shipping had been lost in coastal waters. In July 1942, Australian troops in New Guinea

