

Weekly Career News

Thursday 5 November 2020



Thinking About a Becoming a Career Firefighter?



There are 85 Fire Rescue Victoria stations across the state. Fire Rescue Victoria also supports volunteer response. Geelong stations include Lara, Corio, Geelong, Belmont, Ocean Grove and there are plans for a station at Armstrong creek.

Pathways in:

Similar to police force. Tasks include a written selection test, aptitude test, physical, beep test, psychological exam, and interview. Becoming a firefighter is now being seen as more of a career. It attracts a lot of people. There are opportunities for career progression as well as doing other duties and tasks other than just fighting fires.

You begin your career with the recruit course and then participate in a four year on the job training program, kind of like an "apprenticeship" - working way up from level one to then qualified. You can also then try to go for promotion - up the ranks. Young people should think of firefighting as a career. Recruits are accommodated during training which takes place in Craigieburn. Training involves 4 days on / off. Once you complete the recruit training, you can then be posted around the state.

Thousands of applicants apply. The interview is challenging. You need to show emotional intelligence, maturity, good judgement and acceptance of diversity. You can be called upon to respond to things like heart attacks where ambulance isn't available. The interview asks 16 questions and takes about an hour.

There are two recruit courses per year. Around 240 recruits are trained. Fire Rescue Victoria are starting to recruit more heavily, so now is a good time to consider this as a career. (Once you meet the age and entry requirements.)

For more information, go to: <https://www.frv.vic.gov.au/>



Check out the Virtual Career Events

Endeavour College of Natural Health

The College is located at Melbourne and offers higher education courses in:

- Naturopathy
- Acupuncture
- Nutritional and Dietetic Medicine
- Myotherapy
- Complimentary Medicine
- Remedial Massage (Diploma)

The institute is running several online information sessions for prospective students before the end of the year. For information and to RSVP, visit <https://bit.ly/3l8AloQ>

Macleay College

Macleay is located at Melbourne. The College is running the following course information sessions for prospective students:

Advertising and Digital Media: Wednesday 18 November, <https://bit.ly/3mSY8rU>

Journalism: Thursday 19 November, <https://bit.ly/3oWztnN>

Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE)

AIE is located at Melbourne and Canberra and offers courses in the following study areas:

- Game Art and Animation
- Game Programming
- Game Design and Production
- 3D Animation and VFX for Film
- Games and Virtual Worlds.

The Academy is running an open day for prospective students.

Date: Saturday 21 November

Information and RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3mQgdtT>

Residential Indigenous Science Experience (RISE) Program

In 2020, RISE will be a two-day, exciting virtual Indigenous science experience with hands-on experiments, virtual workshops and a chance for students to chat directly with science students and academics from the University of Melbourne.

The program is open to Indigenous students in Year 9 and 10 and applications are now open.

When: Tuesday 1 – Wednesday 2 December

Info and RSVP: <https://bit.ly/34ZUial>

The Hotel School Melbourne

Prospective students will be able to take an on-campus tour of the School on 1 December. For information, visit <https://bit.ly/38brTQC>

Engineering & IT Showcase

Watch the La Trobe University 2020 Engineering & IT Showcase on Wednesday 25 November and view the very best of student industry projects delivering solutions in partnership with industry and government agencies, <https://bit.ly/2l6L171>

Career websites

Naval Shipbuilding Careers

There is a career path to suit everyone in the naval shipbuilding industry. More than 15,000 jobs are expected to be created in Australia as part of the continuous Naval Shipbuilding Program over the next 50 years, <https://bit.ly/3kWSSCU>

Agriculture

View the stories of Young Farming Champions from the Picture You In Agriculture initiative, <https://bit.ly/2TRcZGD>

Careers in Rail

Learn about the many careers available in the rail industry, <https://bit.ly/3mLme7y>

Information Technology

Explore the interactive career wheel, <https://bit.ly/3hpdoeg>

Interesting articles from 'The Footnotes'

Marketing, Public Relations and Events careers

- Intern diaries: A news website
- QnA with a marketing director at an e-commerce store
- Snagging six-figures – from marketing to assistant to COVID freelancer at \$60,000
- QnA: creative roles in the business world
- The real world of advertising and media
- 'I want to work in media' means you'll be doing 1 of these 5 jobs.

<https://bit.ly/2PZvWmZ>

Healthcare and Nursing

- ICU Nurse: a day in the life
- Roundtable discussion: the true value of medical science
- QnA with an occupational therapist
- 3-days with a speech pathologist
- Fighting childhood obesity: a dietician's story
- 15 hours as a paramedic: inside the job
- Psychology, nursing or social work?

<https://bit.ly/32bzdr1>

Create your own Career Portfolio

Career portfolio for students: This portfolio is great for students who would like to track their career journey, get tips on how to manage their career and have a portfolio of evidence. There are five sections to this portfolio to be used to gather evidence in building a career portfolio.

The portfolio costs \$15 and can be ordered at this link - <https://bit.ly/2yPW5oP>

Moving out of home next year?

Year 12 students who may need to move out of home to access post school education, employment or training may find a recent article by the Foundation for Young Australians helpful. The article discusses important information about renting, understanding your rights, dealing with conflict with housemates, and knowing your obligations as a tenant. You can access the article here <https://bit.ly/2JLs4VA>

Have you considered studying nanotechnology?

Nanotechnology is the engineering and manipulation of extremely small matter and is one of the fastest growing areas of technology and scientific research.

The degree suits students who love Maths, Physics, Biology and Chemistry and would like to work in the field of material and physical sciences.

RMIT University, Melbourne, offers undergraduate and graduate nanotechnology courses, <https://bit.ly/32af1Gw>

Cyber Security

The Australian Defence Force Cyber Gap Program

This program is for you if:

- You are an Australian citizen
- You want to be a cyber-warrior or be on the front line in cyberspace
- You are studying cyber at university or TAFE in 2021
- You would like assistance, mentoring, Defence work experience and have your study course fees paid!

At the end of your studies, there's no obligation to join the ADF. To find out more and apply (closing deadline 10th Nov), go to: <https://dta.gov.au/cybergap>

Apprenticeships

The Australian Apprenticeships and Traineeships Information Service have released an article on the future labour market for Australian apprenticeships coming out of COVID-19. They predict that "trade apprenticeships are likely to be in demand going forward". You can read the article at <https://bit.ly/3mN9E83>

A message to the class of 2020 from Explore Careers

Explore Careers and several of their major industry partners have put together a video message for the class of 2020, <https://bit.ly/32dAIL9>

The exciting world of neuroscience

Neuroscience is the study of how the brain and nervous system impact behaviour, actions and cognitive thinking.

Students can specialise in areas such as behavioural neuroscience, neuroimaging, social neuroscience, molecular neuroscience, and neuro-linguistics etc.

Research is undertaken in areas such as music, sport, schizophrenia, epilepsy, stroke, Alzheimer's Disease, and Huntington's Disease etc.

Studying neuroscience would suit students who are interested in science, research and lab work. It's advisable to study subjects such as advanced mathematics, biology, chemistry, psychology and physics at school.

To become a neurologist or neurosurgeon, you will need to study a medical degree first.

Victorian universities are leaders in the fields of neuroscience and neuropsychology research. The following are two universities that offer neuroscience as a major at the undergraduate level:

Swinburne University

Can major in Neuroscience through the Bachelor of Health Science and Bachelor of Health Science (Professional), <http://bit.ly/2hrMt42>

The University of Melbourne

Can major in Neuroscience through the Bachelor of Biomedicine or the Bachelor of Science, <http://bit.ly/2rWjXhe>

Post school options

Students considering exiting school at the end of the year are encouraged to carefully consider their options in partnership with their family and career adviser.

The following two websites have excellent articles and resources to assist students in exploring their post school options such as employment, volunteering, university, TAFE, traineeships and apprenticeships.

CareersEvents.com, <https://bit.ly/3oWUU8k>

Year13, <https://year13.com.au/>

Become a firefighter



Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) firefighters serve and protect communities across Melbourne and Victoria's major regional centres. This is a challenging and rewarding role with a lot of variety and great opportunities for career progression.

About the role

Every shift is different, and you will be doing far more than just fighting fires.

Career firefighters:

- respond to fires, complex rescues, road crashes, emergency medical calls and hazardous chemical spills
- talk to schools, communities and local business groups about fire safety and prevention
- maintain and monitor equipment and water supplies
- take part in regular training to maintain and develop their skills
- advocate for changes that improve community and firefighter safety.

"Firefighters perform a diverse range of roles, with great opportunities for specialisation and career progression."



Who can apply?

FRV is looking for women and men from all walks of life and backgrounds. Applicants must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident and comply with FRV's criminal history and driver history policies.

Physical fitness and the ability to perform under pressure are essential qualities, as is the ability to work closely in a team, and with the diverse communities we serve.

People who speak languages in addition to English are encouraged to consider firefighting as a career.

Be aware that the role involves shift work and can be physically and emotionally demanding.

Recruitment process

This is a competitive process that can last six to 12 months. It is important to consider the level of commitment involved. Once you submit your online application you will be invited to attend several phases of testing.

These include:

- written selection test (WST)
- group assessment and medical clearance
- shuttle run
- personality profile
- selection interview
- physical aptitude test (PAT)
- pre-employment medical assessment

Upon successful completion of the selection interview, the order of merit will be created according to the candidate's written selection test, group assessment and selection interview scores. Only the top scoring candidates are considered on the final shortlist.

More information

Visit firefighter.vic.gov.au for comprehensive information including:

- detailed eligibility criteria
- policies for criminal and driving histories
- videos of fitness preparation
- information covering various stages of the recruitment process
- answers to other common questions.

Tips for students

You can prepare for a firefighting career while you are studying.

Preparing to be a firefighter

- Take every opportunity to develop your team work, customer service and public speaking skills. This might be through work experience, a part-time job or extra school, university, community or sports activities.
- Get to know your community by volunteering with a local organisation and increase your exposure to the many diverse groups it is made up of.
- Stay fit. You will need to take a holistic approach to fitness that includes upper and lower body strength, as well as cardio.
- Get your driver's licence as early as you can. Maintain a good driving history because this is taken into consideration.
- Practise your English and maths skills – these will be tested as part of the written selection test.
- Study a subject that develops practical or mechanical skills. While there are no specific prerequisite subjects, you will be tested on your mechanical reasoning during the recruitment process.
- Take the time to visit FRV's website – including the news section – and learn as much as you can about the different aspects of the role.
- Stay positive and don't give up. The application process is competitive, and it may take more than one attempt to get through. Preparation is key.

About FRV

FRV was established on 1st July 2020 bringing together Victoria's career firefighters.

FRV works as one in the emergency services sector. We serve and protect our community and provide a contemporary fire and rescue service. Our firefighters are highly trained and ready to respond to a wide range of emergency incidents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, including bush and structure fires, road crashes, emergency medical response, chemical spills, complex rescues, floods and other natural disasters.

We operate 85 fire and rescue stations across the state. FRV's stations are located from Mildura to Traralgon and from Portland to Wodonga.



More questions?
You can find detailed
information at
firefighter.vic.gov.au