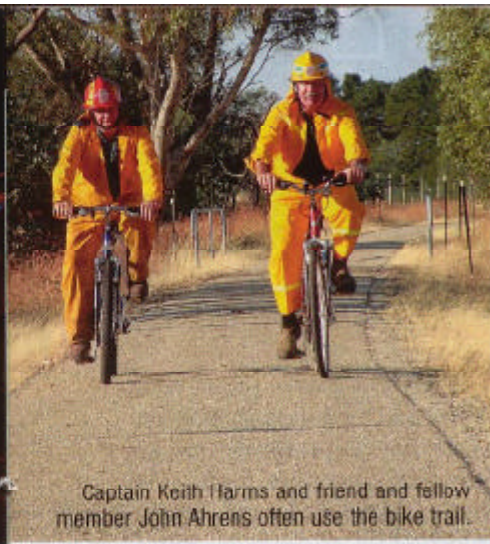




ze when this single storey weatherboard involved after a fire on February 13. It is abited house was about to be renovated.



Captain Keith Harms and friend and fellow member John Ahrens often use the bike trail.

The Memorial Service, to remember those firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, will be held at;

- Peninsula City Church – 252 Frankston-Flinders Road Frankston (Mel 102 G12)
- Sunday 7th May 2006
- 12:45pm service
- Followed by afternoon tea

Contact Member Services (03) 9262 8242 or Brigade Administration Support Officer Mark Allan 0417 383 781 m.allan@cfa.vic.gov.au for more information.

KEEPING FIT

By Julie Witherow.

Dragging around a heavy fire hose can be hard work, so firefighters need to have a certain level of strength and fitness.

Volunteer firefighters from Beechworth Rural Fire Brigade have been using the old rail line, which has been converted to a bike trail, as part of their fitness regime.

"Many brigade members and their families have been using the rail trail," said Rural Brigade Captain Keith Harms.

"Each member does their own thing, we don't do it as a group, but we have found that they are using the track three or four times a week."

Rail Trail Project Manager Darren Murphy is pleased that the brigade has been utilising the trail.

"The rail trail is safe as there are no cars, only other bicycles and the occasional walker, and with its varying gradient, it is great for fitness.

"With about 98km of cycling trails it is the perfect fitness tool for other brigades to adopt."

Another member from Beechworth Rural Brigade, Stephen Morris from Pennyweight Winery, also endorses the trail.

"My workers use the trail to get to and from work as I have an access gate from the trail to my property," he said.

"I have also had a number of cyclists drop in on their way past."

Mr Harms says that apart from the fitness aspect, the brigade members also use the rail trail to keep an eye on the area and new members use it to gain knowledge of the local area.

FIRE STATION RAIDED

The units were in position in the small sleepy town: behind trees, in the back of a car park and near the old bookshop. Under surveillance was the local fire station.

At 2000 hours the word passed down the line; officers rushed the station and the big roller door opened. Standing inside, absolutely amazed, was Neville Pulham, one of CFA's most respected, loved and effective leaders.

This was an occasion that no CFA member in South Gippsland would miss – Neville Pulham's 50 year medal presentation. The only one who was unaware of what was happening was Neville.

Surrounded by his wife Mary, children and grandchildren, the Fish Creek fire said that his dad, Albert, had been an early member of the brigade but it was brother Percy, who had the greatest influence on his fire brigade life.

Fish Creek Captain, Mick Dorling, described Neville as the best.

BRIGADE

BRIGADE