



Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

Tuesday 15 October 2019

The Bagnall family in support of our volunteers – Your Family, Our Family

This week the Victoria State Emergency (VICSES) kicked off the Your Family, Our Family campaign - celebrating the faces behind our incredible volunteers, all of whom support our members' rain, hail or shine, to ensure they are able to support their community.

With over 5,000 volunteers within VICSES, we are celebrating approximately 13,000 family members and friends, each of which support VICSES every day.

Mike Bagnall has been a VICSES volunteer for over four years. As Unit Controller of the VICSES Gisborne Unit, he not only supports the community during emergency incidents, with the unit responding to a yearly average of over 200 calls for assistance, but also trains and leads fellow volunteers within the unit.

Mike is a father to two young children and works full time as an Operations Manager for an electronic security company.

He supports his community to the best of his ability, which at times, can be a hefty workload. He credits getting through this, to his partner Marissa, who is an associate member of the unit so she understands the volunteer role well.

Without the support of his partner and young children, volunteering in this leadership position with VICSES, would be difficult.

At the sound of the pager calling to assist his community or support his fellow volunteers after a traumatic incident, Marissa will pick up where he left off. This can be from dropping the kids to school, having a meal ready and cooked, or looking after the kids alone for long periods of time.

Volunteering and emergency work has become a part of the family for the Bagnalls, with the children taking an active part in the unit through community engagement events or quirky social media videos to promote volunteer recruitment for the unit.

Volunteer organisations often focus attention on the sacrifices their members make to serve their community, but the spotlight is rarely shined on those who support each volunteer, allowing them to respond to an emergency 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Your Family, Our Family highlights the sacrifices family members and friends make on a daily basis, so that the Victorian community can feel a little safer knowing that VICSES volunteers will be there for any emergency.

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer
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Quotes attributable to Mike Bagnall- Unit Controller, VICSES Gisborne Unit

“Being a VICSES volunteer has been so rewarding, I have a great team at the unit, and together we make a real difference to our community. I’m very lucky that I have the support of Marissa, and my children Billie and Robbie, I don’t think I would be able to continue in this role if I didn’t.”

“Particularly after a tough incident involving trauma, just going home to my family and knowing I have their unspoken support and love, it makes it all worthwhile and a little easier”.

Quotes attributable to Marissa Juergens – Mike’s partner

“We’re very proud of Mike. I know particularly how demanding the role can be but to see all the great work he is doing and the support he is providing to his community and fellow volunteers, is truly commendable. Even if it’s hard sometimes when he has to run off, it makes it all worthwhile and us very proud to see him selflessly helping those in need.”

“It’s rewarding in itself to be able to give Mike the support he needs to continue in his role as a volunteer. I know that my support for him in turn supports the community. I guess we’re all doing our bit to help each other”.

Quotes attributable to Tim Wiebusch - VICSES Chief Officer, Operations

“Your family, Our Family campaign is so important; we often have opportunities to thank our fantastic volunteers for all they do. This week is about the acknowledging the tremendous support and often sacrifices their family and friends make to ensure their loved one can serve the community.”

“Family and friends play a huge part in SES volunteers being able to do what they do and I really want to thank each and every friend and family member who support our volunteers.”