



# Media Release

Victoria State Emergency Service

12 November 2020

## After bushfire, pandemic and more VICSES turns attention to family



Behind every brave and hard-working Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) volunteer is a support network of people that help them achieve amazing things.

Gisborne unit volunteer Ross Evans has had a massive year with the service, and has credited his family's enthusiasm, support, and love, for being able to serve his community and wider Victoria.

Ross put his hand up to assist with bushfire support in Victoria's east, undertaking separate VICSES deployments in Tallangatta and Ovens, as well as logistical support in Mount Macedon and Altona.

While Ross was evacuating residents, setting up tents, and supporting distressed local, his family stayed back home in Gisborne and held the fort, doing countless small things that meant Ross could fully focus on his volunteering.

Ross credits his Dad for sparking his interest in emergency services, and his wife for keeping him grounded and encouraging balance.

'YFOF' takes place on [14 & 15 November](#), and is an opportunity to thank the numerous people supporting every member of VICSES. They are the unsung heroes behind Victoria's first responders.

### For more information, contact:

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**Quotes attributable to Gisborne unit volunteer Ross Evans.**

*“It has been a really tough year, with a bushfire crisis, pandemic, floods, storms, and more in 2020 – but my wife and kids have been there for me every step of the way. They give me so much strength.”*

*“My kids are really understanding and accommodating, and even come to official VICSES events with me. They understand why I have to leave at 2am and go attend a job, even if they’re a little worried about me.”*

*“The sense of community in Gisborne is really strong, and I am really glad to be a part of it. VICSES volunteers are involved in so many different hazards and jobs, and we sincerely all need the love and support of those around us to do what we do.”*