

8th July, 2020

## Former soldier now Castlemaine unit controller



Castlemaine's new unit controller Victor Frendo (centre) alongside fellow volunteers

The Castlemaine unit in Victoria's north-west has welcomed a brand new unit controller, with Victor Frendo taking over from previous controller Paul Fitzpatrick.

The new appointment was revealed to unit members in late June, with Paul's four years at the helm resulting in the acquisition of important new equipment and the formation and accreditation of a steep angle rescue team.

Victor aims to continue this positive trend, with a focus on continued skills development and preparedness for major incidents around Victoria's goldfields. The Castlemaine local also wants to focus on inclusiveness in his dedicated and tight-knit unit.

Prior to joining VICSES Victor was part of the Australian Defence Force, and has more recently been in the building industry and also run his own business in Melbourne.

The official handover ceremony took place remotely, with Castlemaine members thanking Paul Fitzpatrick for his hard work and welcoming Victor Frendo to his new role, effective immediately.

It has been a big 12 months for the Castlemaine unit, which has attended 275 requests for assistance – making it the third busiest individual unit in the North-West region.