

13 November 2020

## VICSES' Bendoc unit controller praises family that helped save town



*John Reed with his youngest grandchild*

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

Black Summer was an especially trying time for north east Victoria in 2020, with the tiny town of Bendoc facing a massive fire front. Bendoc unit controller John Reed has detailed the impressive unity in his town, with emergency services like VICSES, CFA, and entire family units all banding together.

John has praised his wife and the other local wives for being the eyes and ears on the farm where spot fires emerged, and thanked their children for keeping livestock moving away from dangerous areas and generally protecting and patrolling the town's family-owned land.

There was no significant loss of assets, buildings, or any loss of life in Bendoc during the 2019/2020 bushfire season - showing the resourceful and positive spirit of regional Victoria during a trying time.

John spoke in further detail on the new *VICSES Orange Podcast* about his experience during Black Summer, and how family saved the day. You can listen by [following this link](#).

'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 Bendoc unit controller John Reed:**

*“It’s been a massive year in north east Victoria, and I’d like to extend a huge thanks to my own family – that not only helped to protect our town of Bendoc, but made sacrifices at home or work so I could do what I do best as a VICSES volunteer.”*

*“I find that families in Bendoc are incredibly tight-knit, which is especially important when fires and other natural disasters occur like the Black Summer fires.”*

*“Earlier this year, Bendoc locals were loggers one day and fire fighters or VICSES support the next. So many husbands, wives, children and more went above and beyond for each other – and especially for our first responders.”*