



**Jason Wood MP**  
Federal Member for La Trobe

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Ash Wednesday Anniversary

Sunday February 16, 2014 represents the thirty-first anniversary of Ash Wednesday.

These devastating fires swept through parts of South Australia and Victoria and are still clearly etched on the minds of many in our community.

On 16 February 1983, twenty eight people from South Australia and forty seven people from Victoria lost their lives.

The anniversary allows us to remember the bravery of our CFA firefighters who stood strong protecting our community in the face of such devastation.

We should also pray for the families of those who perished during the fires.

“I am committed to building the Ash Wednesday Memorial in the Cockatoo township and have secured \$500,000 in Federal funding towards its construction. In partnership with the Cardinia Shire Council a significant place will be built for people to better appreciate the enormous impact these fires had on our community” Jason said.

“A big thank you should go out to the Ash Wednesday Memorial project committee led by President Graham Simpson, a former Cockatoo CFA captain involved in the fires, who has helped plan the memorial.”

“With the unusual hot weather we should all be alert and prepared to the threat of fire and remember the incredibly importance the CFA plays in protecting our community.”

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