**James:** My name is James and my Aspire offer was Bachelor of Laws at La Trobe University. I’ve been involved with the CFA for two years, but I’ve been really active in the last year. I was inspired to join the CFA to give back to the community, but to also be involved in the community. At times it’s tough, but really at the end of the day it’s for the benefit of society and the common good. So I feel really good about it, and it’s awesome that La Trobe can recognise that.

**Graeme:** The mission of the CFA is quite clear, our job is to protect lives and preserve property. Without volunteers at Truganina, we wouldn’t exist. The brigade continuously needs new blood, we need young blood coming in. A lot of our members are older and in coming years will be retiring, if we don’t refresh that and build that experience level, then the brigade would be in real trouble.

The skills you learn from being in the CFA are wonderful skills to have. Self-sufficiency, being able to deal with rapidly changing situations. The training itself teachers you to be self-reliant and disciplined, its life skills that translate really well into the workplace.

**James:** We get a lot of car accidents, it’s almost like a blackspot. It was tough seeing people trapped in cars with glass all over them. You have to just be strong and do the best you can. And it’s tough, but it’s rewarding at the same time. Aspire is a program at La Trobe University that recognises young people volunteering in the community. It’s good that a university can say, “James, you’ve done a good job”.