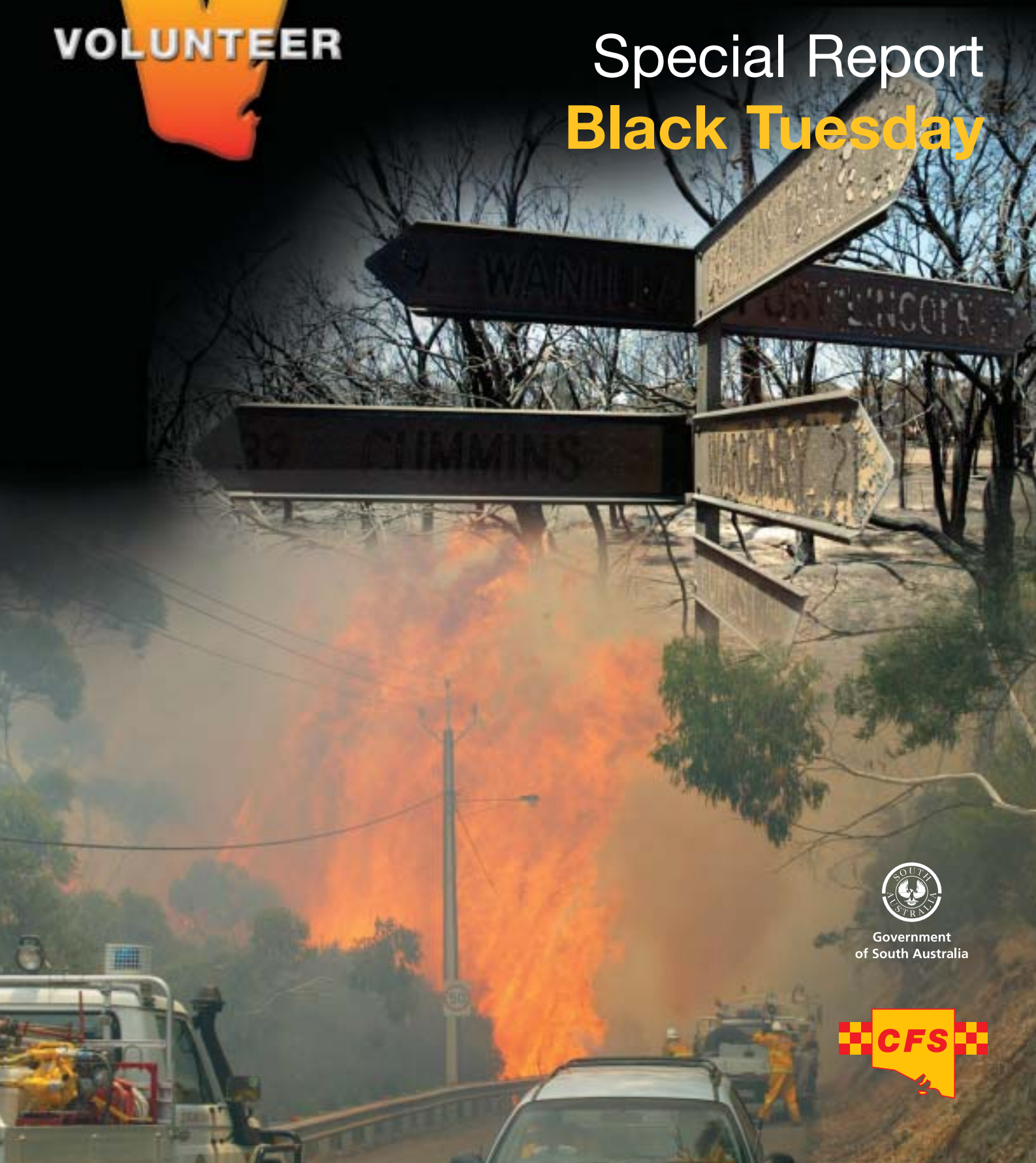




VOLUNTEER

Special Report **Black Tuesday**



Government
of South Australia



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SGIC Fire Ban Information
Hotline: 1300 362 361

Regional Offices

Region 1

Mt Lofty Ranges & Kangaroo Island

75 Gawler Street, Mount Barker SA 5251
 Tel: (08) 8391 1866
 Fax: (08) 8391 1877

Region 2

Mt Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula & Lower North

8 Redbanks Road, Willaston
 PO Box 1506, Willaston SA 5118
 Tel: (08) 8522 6088

Region 3

Murraylands & Riverland

Cnr of Second & Seventh Streets,
 Murray Bridge
 PO Box 1371, Murray Bridge SA 5253
 Tel: (08) 8532 6800

Region 4

Flinders, Mid North & Pastoral Areas

3 Main Street, Port Augusta
 PO Box 2080, Port Augusta SA 5700
 Tel: (08) 8642 2399

Region 5

South East

46 Smith Street, Naracoorte
 PO Box 8, Naracoorte SA 5271
 Tel: (08) 8762 2311

Region 6

Eyre Peninsula & West Coast

Level 1, Jobomi House
 48 Liverpool Street, Port Lincoln SA 5606
 Tel: (08) 8682 4266

State Training Centre

6 Pyrites Road, Brukunga SA 5252
 Tel: (08) 8398 9900

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John Forster (VFBA Rep) and

**Russell Branson (Deputy Presiding Member,
CFS Board)**



The Voice of South Australia's Volunteer Fire Brigades

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If you would like to contribute to *Volunteer*...

Send your photos and stories to:

The Producer, *Volunteer* Magazine

GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001

or e-mail: publicaffairs@cfs.org.au

Don't forget to include your name, address or brigade and a contact phone number.

Photographs can be supplied digitally (minimum 600 X 600 pixels resolution), or as original prints, negatives or slides. Text can be supplied as hard copy or electronically as a Microsoft Word or Notepad document).

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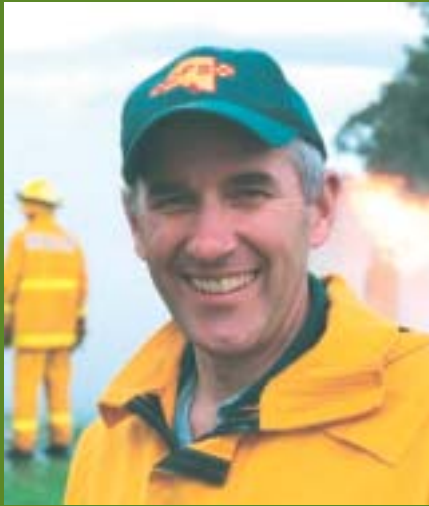
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Front cover photo courtesy of Andrew Grant and *The Advertiser*

Every effort has been made to correctly acknowledge sources for articles and photographs. Errors and omissions excepted.

Chief Officer's Perspective

Euan Ferguson



G'day CFS members and supporters.

It's been a tough start to the year. The devastating events of 11 January, 'Black Tuesday', which resulted in tragic losses to both life and property, will be scorched into our memory for many years to come.

Sadly, nine people lost their lives in the Wangary fire and two of those were CFS volunteers. Neil "Pee Wee" Richardson, from Ungarra (and previously Cockaleecheie) brigade and Trent "Wig" Murnane from Cummins brigade bravely responded to the call to help their community. Tragically, they did not return home. My heart felt sorrow goes to the families, relatives and friends of these fine men. Soon after the fire, Presiding Member of the CFS Board, Ray Dundon, Board member Russell Branson and I met with members of Neil's and Trent's families and offered our personal condolences and support. It was a very difficult time for all, and one of the most heart-rending moments I have experienced. Lynda Smith (Business Services Officer from Region 6) has taken on the role of family liaison officer to the families. Lynda will have regular communication with the families and be the link to CFS for ongoing financial and emotional support in the coming months.

On Tuesday 11 January more than 2 000 volunteers across the State gave their greatest effort in fighting the many fires that occurred in the most extreme conditions. Sixteen separate fires broke

out, with two that caused the most damage at Mount Osmond and the Lower Eyre Peninsula. There were losses but there were also some great saves. We need to focus on these positives and recognise that this was a very, very unusual day with horrendous conditions. All CFS volunteers and staff performed their absolute best. There was outstanding support and interagency cooperation with SAMFS, SES, SAFECOM, SAAS and SA Police to name a few. The community really does owe you all a huge amount of gratitude.

CFS has received some not so positive publicity following the Lower Eyre Peninsula fire. This is not entirely unexpected. After a disaster of this impact, many locals are understandably shocked, angry and looking for answers. It is reasonable that they will ask questions of CFS, about how the fire was managed and what could have been done. It is important that we try to share and understand the way the local community is feeling in the fire-ravaged areas. This is a time for empathy and understanding, not public recriminations and denials.

It has been reassuring to have the support of so many. During the week of the fires I met with, and toured the fire areas alongside our Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann MP and our Minister, the Hon. Patrick Conlon MP. Both the Premier and the Minister were fulsome in their praise of the amazing work by all CFS and emergency services personnel. They also strongly reinforced that the Government were rock solid behind CFS and its people. We have also received a large number of phone, text, email, letters and cards of sympathy and support from the general public. Every State and Territory Fire Service Chief has made direct contact with me to offer their material and moral support. The South Australian Premier, Mike Rann, also wrote a letter in support of CFS and its people.

Be assured, that the overwhelming majority of the community is behind CFS and respect that we have all given as much as we possibly could. Let me quote one of the positive letters:

"This is to express my full support for and appreciation of the work of the CFS, particularly in the recent West Coast fires. I condemn the carping criticism of a few malcontents – who seem to have private agendas. Having coped with the worst bushfires for many years, neither you nor members of the CFS should be forced to defend themselves from vicious and biased criticism. I believe my thoughts would be supported by all who (like me) have had first hand experience with bushfires and the CFS."

Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia also wrote to say: "To the men and women of CFS. I'd also like to personally thank all of you for the steadfast support you have given to myself and all those involved during this period of trial. Thank you."

There will inevitably be issues that arise from these two fires. As with any major bushfire, there will be lessons learned which will assist us to identify, develop and implement better processes. As a learning organisation, it is important that we embrace a 'no blame' attitude (blame never really achieves anything).

The process of debriefing and after action review, in conjunction with the Centre For Lessons Learned, is important. We need to identify things that need to change, develop actions and make those changes quickly. We need to make sure that we work WITH those people, groups and bodies who want to be involved in the solutions.

To identify and implement lessons learned from the Wangary fire, I have commissioned Project PHOENIX. Project PHOENIX will adopt the principles of:

- 'No blame';
- Lessons will always be learned from any event;
- CFS is committed to continuous improvement;
- We will consult and engage key people and organisations in what we do; and
- We will keep the process simple.

Editor's Note

Lisa Tenace



At the end of Project PHOENIX, it is my intention that CFS will have:

- Identified all the issues from the Wangary fire;
- Accepted or rejected the issue and consulted with those who may be interested in the issue;
- Worked with those who are interested in the solution to an issue to identify what we need to do to address the issue; and
- Either have fixed the issue, or have developed a program (and allocated resources) that will result in the issue being fixed.

As you would be aware, police are now investigating the events and will prepare a report for the Coroner. CFS welcomes the Coronial Inquiry and is cooperating fully with the police investigation. This is an opportunity for all the facts to be presented in a fair and unbiased manner. It will also provide an avenue to better understand what happened on that day and why.

We have nothing to fear in this process. CFS is constantly evolving and changing for the better. This is evidenced by the many improvements by CFS and the fire industry in a number of areas over the years. Our attitude to change is embedded in our mission: "To protect life property and the environment from fire and other emergencies whilst protecting and supporting our personnel and continuously improving." The Coronial Inquiry will no doubt involve some accelerated learning, but the outcome will be better systems and processes that will lead to a safer community. Importantly for all of us, CFS, its people and our systems of work, will be better and stronger for the experience.

To each and every one of you, CFS members, their families, employers and supporters – THANK YOU. It is difficult to express sufficiently, my appreciation, and that of the community and the government, for the wonderful service and support that you continue to provide to the community of South Australia. Keep focused on what we do best and keep on doing what we are doing - safely.

Euan Ferguson
Chief Officer

It's been a devastating beginning to 2005. On Boxing Day last year, 14 countries in South Asia felt the immediate effects of an earthquake under the surface of the Indian Ocean.

This quake triggered a series of massive waves (tsunami), which spread thousands of kilometres in just seven hours. US Secretary-General Kofi Annan described this event as an "unprecedented global catastrophe" which "required an unprecedented, global response." Sadly, this disaster claimed hundreds of thousands of lives, including those of Australians.

Our focus into the New Year was directed at this event with appeals and relief funds being established everywhere to assist those affected. Then on 11 January this year, there was another tragedy – this time a little closer to home. On that Tuesday, 'Black Tuesday' there were 16 separate fires that occurred in South Australia. The most devastating of those fires was on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

This bushfire tore through 82 752 hectares of grass and scrub, sadly claiming the life of nine people, destroying 93 homes as well as damaging dozens of properties. The whole situation was very surreal.

Many have been saying that a 'big one' was due again, but it just happened so quickly, with no warning with such devastating outcomes.

The scale of this disaster captured national and international audiences. Prime Minister, John Howard, said, "I want to praise the tremendous work of the South Australian fire fighting authorities, police and emergency services." SA Premier echoed these words by saying, "I want to say thank you to the hundreds of volunteers who've been out there fighting these fires. There can be no higher act of citizenship."

Now, we work as best we can to assist in the recovery of this incident and learn from experiences. We remember those who have been deeply affected and our thoughts and wishes go out to you all. It's really 'Australian' to see the community band together, especially after disasters such as this.

Sporting and community groups along with many businesses worked on ways to really help everyone on the Lower Eyre Peninsula whose lives have changed.

Much of this edition of *Volunteer* has been dedicated to the events of 11 January. Have a flick to page 11 for a special report. After such tragedy, we need to move forward. Positive events and news should not be overlooked so we have also included articles on new station openings, achievements of CFS volunteers and give a pat on the back to those who have received medals and commendations. Well done!

Lisa Tenace
Volunteer Editor
CFS Manager Public Affairs

A Message from the Minister

Patrick Conlon



The devastating bushfire that swept through the southern Eyre Peninsula on 11 January is a sober reminder of the dangers regularly faced by our Country Fire Service volunteers throughout the State.

I'll never forget the site of the bushfire zone when I arrived in the region the day after the fire. The trees in the airport car park were still smouldering – a scene that would be repeated many times throughout the next few days.

The major structural damage to homes and other buildings, and the thousands of hectares of blackened farmland and scrub, reinforced the first-hand reports from CFS volunteers about how fiercely and quickly the bushfire had moved through the region.

Hundreds of CFS firefighters from around the State battled the bushfire, and spent long hours in the days after the fire controlling hot spots and mopping up.

Each and every volunteer firefighter involved in the operation should be

extremely proud of their efforts.

The skill and bravery display by firefighters in the face of this firestorm was incredible. They are a credit to themselves and their organisation.

Tragically, the fire claimed the lives of two CFS volunteer firefighters – Trent Murnane and Neil Richardson. I offer my heart-felt condolences to the families and friends of both men.

They lost their lives trying to protect their community. Their community will never forget them.

Hon Patrick Conlon

Minister for Emergency Services

Minister for Government Enterprises

Minister for Energy

Minister for Police

Krista's Chatter

Krista St John



As the newest member of the CFS Public Affairs Team, during the past few months I have quite literally received a baptism of fire – pardon the pun!

To be honest, it's been a real eye opener and I know I'm not alone in feeling like that after recent events.

What's literally blown me away and opened my eyes is the good nature of the organisation and the 16 000 people who choose to play a part in it.

I remember the first third alarm I attended at Ansteys Hill. Arriving at the fireground shortly after 5am, bleary eyed and in desperate need of a coffee, the scene in front of my eyes really surprised me.

It wasn't the smell of smoke or the residents in their driveways in their dressing gowns. It was the 200 volunteers hard at work containing the fire as if it was the most normal thing in the world to be doing at that time of the morning.

These professional firefighters were systematic and focused on the task having been woken from their sleep by the chirp of the pager.

The 200 firefighters were out there not because they were paid to be or because they were protecting their own properties but, because they chose to be. This simply amazed me.

I'd heard about it, and even written media stories on it, but it wasn't until I was actually out there (albeit on the

outskirts) did I gain a real appreciation of the saving role CFS volunteers have.

Despite the serious nature of the incident, there were still smiles on people's faces, some "pleased to meet yous" and a cheeky "here's trouble" greeting from some other volunteers I'd spent time with at Brukunga.

To people within the CFS, putting your life on hold to help someone else in need is an everyday occurrence, but those outside or new to the organisation – it's amazing, admirable and selfless act.

I can honestly say that I'm proud to be associated with an organisation where people give so willingly of themselves to help the community.

And to those of you who gave me a hard time due to my new boots – they're now considerably dirtier.

Krista St John

Volunteer Producer

Media Liaison Officer

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A Message from the VFBA President

Ken Schutz AFSM



On Wednesday 12 January 2005, the day after the devastating bushfires on the Lower Eyre Peninsula, I was listening to the radio. A reporter was interviewing a gentleman who had lost everything except the clothes on his back. He lost his house, his machinery, and some of his stock.

The final question that the reporter asked the gentleman was "HOW DO YOU FEEL? Did he actually expect an answer?

Can we really expect a person to tell us how they feel when their life has just been shattered by a bushfire, as was the case for so many on 'Black Tuesday'. Many people lost loved ones, their houses, their possessions and in some cases, their livelihood.

Even if you have had the terrible experience yourself in the past, can we understand fully what the other person is going through, and are there enough words in the English language to describe how they must feel?

Is there exasperation of whether they could have done things differently and would it have changed the outcome for themselves and others?

Is there a feeling of helplessness, of not being able to do more before, during and after the fire?

Is there anger, of again, that they or others could have done things differently before and during the fire to prevent such devastation?

There would have to be physical tiredness after the fire from the strenuous efforts of firefighting and the work of getting things back to normal and later there may also be tiredness from stress of financial worries.

Then there is the generosity of others helping them to get back to normal and how do they repay these people, even though they want no repayment.

There could be so many more feelings mixed up inside, why would you ask "How do you feel?"

A better question to ask maybe "How would I feel if I was to go through the same devastation?" or "How would I cope after going through the same devastation?"

Immediately, so many thoughts come into your mind, but again would you be able to answer the question accurately.

After coming home from a four day visit to the Eyre Peninsula with the Executive of the SAVFBA to visit and talk to volunteer firefighters about the fires, my mind went immediately to how would MY house, farm, stock etc survive if we were confronted with the same type of fire. Although we do a reasonable amount of fire prevention work around the farm, I doubted whether it was enough to stop a furious fire when the Fire Danger Index was over 300.

As I have a work force of six to ten staff, depending on the time of the year and live surrounded by National Parks, we have a very stringent fire plan. But again I have decided that it would probably not cope with a fire of this magnitude. Property owners, whether farmers, small businesses, homeowners or whoever, think about fire prevention at some stage, but actually doing something about it is an entirely different thing.

We need to encourage all property owners around the State to prepare for a major fire or disaster. It doesn't matter that there has not been a bad fire in the district for 20 or 30 years, there may not be a bad fire for another 20 or 30 years. But as they say in the television ads "It will happen" and this will happen because people become complacent.

To everyone on the Eyre Peninsula that was affected by the fire you have my deepest sympathy. To the firefighters you did an outstanding job in the most

difficult and dangerous conditions. To everyone who has supported the victims of the fires and the firefighters in any way, thank you.

We, the SAVFBA will continue to support the volunteers of the SA Country Fire Service during the Police Investigations and the Coronial Inquiry. If any firefighters have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact your local VFBA Delegate, Wendy Shirley (VFBA EO) or myself.

Ken Schutz
President SAVFBA

NEW MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

The SA Country Fire Service will now be answerable to a new Emergency Services Minister following a minor Cabinet reshuffle in late March, after the resignation of Transport Minister Trish White.

South Australian Premier Mike Rann announced the appointment of Carmel Zollo to the Emergency Services portfolio on 22 March with our former Minister Patrick Conlon assuming the role of Transport Minister. Mrs Zollo will now be the third Minister in the Upper House.

Mrs Zollo was born in Tufara in the Campania region of Italy and migrated to Australia with her family as a child in 1957. She was the first Italian-born woman to be elected to the Legislative Council, in October 1997. She is married with three adult children.

Mrs Zollo was first elected to Parliament in October 1997 with her roles including Parliamentary Secretary to Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and Mineral Resources Development, Chair of Issues Group of Food South Australia, Chair of the Murray Mallee Strategic Task Force, Chair of the South Australian Wine Industry and most recently the Parliamentary Secretary assisting the Minister for Industry and Trade and Minister for Mineral Resources Development.

CFS welcomes The Hon Carmel Zollo as Emergency Services Minister and offers our support to her in the future.

We thank The Hon Patrick Conlon for his support during the past three years and wish him all the best in his future role.

The SA Country Fire Service will soon establish an online shop, available through the CFS website. All products will be available to CFS volunteers as well as the general public.

However, to ensure we have the 'right stuff', we'd like to get your thoughts on what you'll like to purchase.

To assist with this, please complete this brief questionnaire and return it no later than 14 May 2005. Simply fold this page in half, lick the glued edges, seal and post. No stamp required.

The first 30 people who return their questionnaire will go into the draw to win a CFS winter prize pack including a CFS polar fleece jumper, beanie and coffee mug to keep you warm for the cold weather.

QUESTIONNAIRE

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|--|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. I currently purchase CFS merchandise | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 2. I am looking to purchase more CFS merchandise | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| 3. I would be comfortable purchasing CFS branded products through the internet | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

What sort of products would you purchase. Please tick appropriate boxes.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> t-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> mouse pads | <input type="checkbox"/> key rings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> polo-shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> pens | <input type="checkbox"/> torches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peaked caps | <input type="checkbox"/> stubby holders | <input type="checkbox"/> teddy bears |
| <input type="checkbox"/> coffee mugs | <input type="checkbox"/> plaques | <input type="checkbox"/> flags |

☐ Other – please specify _____

To be eligible for the prize draw, complete the details below (including name and phone number).

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Special Report: Black Tuesday

“

There is no firefighting force in the world that could have stopped the fire in the conditions we experienced today

”

In some areas white ash and stumps are all that remain.



A Day We'll Never Forget

By Lisa Tenace

On Tuesday 11 January 16 fires broke out across the State. The most devastating blaze occurred on the Lower Eyre Peninsula. South Australians were shaken by what unfolded that day.

For the past 22 years Australians have remembered the destructive Ash Wednesday II bushfires, which ripped through parts of South Australia and Victoria on 16 February 1983. This fire claimed the lives of 28 people and destroyed 383 homes. About 200 hectares in the Adelaide Hills and in farming country in the South East of the State were also affected. In addition, 21 000 hectares of pine plantations were burnt. The total cost of the damage to private property in South Australia was estimated to be more than \$200 million.

This year, on Tuesday 11 January the entire Australian community watched in horror and disbelief as a tragedy was again unfolding. More than a dozen bushfires occurred that day, in South Australia, with the most destructive on the Lower Eyre Peninsula. This bushfire rapidly swept across 77 000 hectares of grass and scrubland and sadly claimed

the life of nine people, 47 000 stock (mainly sheep), destroyed 93 homes, 237 sheds and damaged dozens of commercial properties and small holdings. The damage bill is expected to exceed \$100 million. The environmental impact is also substantial with an estimated \$5 million loss in biodiversity.

“The heat from the flames turned aluminium structures into melting blobs.”

The enormity of this catastrophic event sent massive shock waves throughout the entire community. It also shook hundreds of CFS volunteers and staff as well as those from emergency service and other organisations involved in battling the blaze.

That day the State was on high alert because of the predicted weather forecast. Winds were expected to exceed 60kph, Fire Danger Index (FDI) more than 100 and temperatures were forecasted to reach 40 Degrees. Total fire bans were declared for the entire State of South Australia, something that doesn't often occur.

An early morning briefing was called at CFS Headquarters for the entire State with a representative from every operational area involved. A short time later a briefing at the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC), was also held with representatives from CFS, MFS, SA Police, SA Water, Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) on board for the discussion. Only two hours after this briefing ended, the SEOC was activated.

In the South East dozens of CFS volunteers worked to tackle a fire at Rendelsham, which had the potential to escalate. One hundred and seven volunteer firefighters and 29 appliances contained this blaze to 12 hectares.

By 11am, the Mercury had risen to a sweltering 40 Degrees Celsius. The FDI in the Lower Eyre Peninsula climbed towards figures not previously recorded in South Australia. Winds of more than 100kph were being experienced with this treacherous combination only fanning the bushfire which was by now ripping through the area. The raging blaze tore through the shortest of stubble leaving behind a surface of sand.

View over Boston Bay as the fire burns.



Tumby Bay Group Officer, Quentin Russ, explained that this was no ordinary fire.

"I've been with the CFS for 22 years and this was like nothing I have ever seen. One thing that we really need to understand is that this was a very unusual day and a very different fire. The FDI was much greater than predicted, the weather conditions were extreme and there is no way anything could have stopped it." Quentin said.

"Our strike team was sent to Wanilla in the morning and then we headed up to Edillilie. We had about four appliances at the start of the day and by the end of the day we had collected seven or eight," he said.

The principles of attacking the fire were hindered by the fire's unpredictable behaviour.

"It wasn't like any ordinary bushfire where we could follow the principles. It really was a matter of where we felt safe to have our appliances and people. Because we were faced with this incredible fire we focused on asset protection and survival...some of the crews experienced burn-overs. When the fire came over it was pretty fierce," Quentin said.

"I remember thinking that it was just too dangerous for appliances to head down certain roads. We knew we could get through some areas and what made it even more difficult from a coordination point of view was that we just didn't know where the fire was going," he said.

"We were given some good guidance from aerial spotters which was great...it was just a very, very unusual day."

"During this event I remember that the whole community really banded together and we used what ever appliances we could find."

"Everyone did everything asked of them and they were very disciplined. No one panicked and really stuck together, no matter which brigade they belonged," he said.

"Having strike teams from all across the State was a huge relief. With these extra resources and the Incident Management Teams, it really took a load off and we couldn't have done it without them," Quentin said.

Photo courtesy of Theo Modra



Aerial view of the fire on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Lieutenant II of Port Lincoln Brigade, David Bryant, was one of the volunteers called to respond to the fire on Black Tuesday.

"As soon as I stepped out of the house to respond to this fire I could tell that things weren't right," David said.

"The air was full of smoke and really thick smoke. I thought to myself, how are we going to confront what we see?"

"Having been a CFS volunteer for 35 years I've been to a stack of fires before but never one like this. The speed and ferocity of this fire was unbelievable."

"We rushed up to North Shields because we were told the fire was heading towards houses there. There was so much dust and smoke, we just couldn't see. With the fire racing so quickly we had to make our way to Louth Bay, and there were times where we were surrounded by flames and we just hoped we'd make it."

"The fire was so ferocious and unpredictable there was no way to tell

where the front or flanks were. The safety of those on the truck and others on the fireground was always running through my mind," he said.

"The immense heat, noise and stress on the ground was like nothing I or other brigade members had ever experienced, and hope to never again experience."

"Until you are out on the ground and faced with this confronting and uncontrollable fire you don't really understand the difficulty containing something like this. The fire was travelling so fast," he said.

Even for those who have lived through such tragic circumstances, it is beyond comprehension that a fire could destroy so much in its path so very quickly.

"When we were on the ground we didn't know the full extent of this bushfire. It wasn't until crews relieved us from our shift that we heard of the deaths and destruction," he said.

"It's an absolute tragedy and I sincerely hope no one has to go through an experience like this again."

Closer to Adelaide, more than 300 firefighters rushed to the Adelaide Hills following reports of a major fire at Mount Osmond and another break out at



Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.

Mount Osmond resident coming to terms with the loss of motor vehicles valued at more than \$60 000.

Mount Bold. Traffic on the South Eastern Freeway heading in and out of Adelaide was diverted to give firefighters a chance to get to the origin of the blaze. The fire at Mount Osmond was causing grave concern because of the extreme weather conditions. With smoke clearly visible from the Adelaide CBD, Hills residents began to head back to the area to protect their homes. Trucks, buses and cars found their way along Greenhill Road as the main arterial stretch was blocked because of the severe danger. This in itself was of a huge concern with there being no escape if the fire had swept along this road.

The Mount Osmond blaze is believed to have begun on the northern side of the South Eastern Freeway near Gleneagles Road and quickly spread upslope in a northeast direction. The sweltering heat, humidity, wind and dryness were intense and resulted in the fire spotting hundreds of metres across the freeway, causing a huge fire in Leawood Gardens. The potential for Mount Osmond to escalate into disaster was very real.

Athelstone Lieutenant, Kathy Burbidge, was one of the firefighters who responded as part of the East Torrens strike team to this fire.

"One thing I remember about that day was that even before dawn the air was very dry, hot and it was really windy. When conditions are so fierce so early in the morning you sense that things just aren't quite right."

"Our brigade received a call to respond to the Mount Osmond fire and as we turned up the freeway there were dozens of semi-trailers, trucks and buses all stopped and banked up all the way to the tollgate. You know that it's not good when there's a major arterial road closed for that long, holding up that much traffic," Kathy said.

"We were responded to the southern side of the fire and it was so hot, dry and windy we had all been drinking litres of water even before we began firefighting. We could see embers travelling above our heads right over the freeway and causing spot fires where they landed. Access to that area was narrow but thankfully strike teams from East Torrens, Sturt Groups and MFS managed to save some houses, stock and sheds."

"At one point a dirt track leading to private driveways was clogged with fire appliances which meant we had to be organised to get everyone in and out to where they were needed quickly. We were also tasked to protect other houses at Eagle on the Hill and dog boarding kennels at Mount Osmond. We all spent the afternoon and evening out in the heat going from one task to the next," she said.

While more than 2 000 volunteers across the State were busy on the front line, State Operations Centre Officers (OCOs) and State Coordination Centre staff were furiously keeping up with the hundreds of calls every hour for assistance and information.

OCO, Darren Van Ek, was one of three operators on day shift.

"I have been involved with some big fires both as a volunteer and as an OCO but never have I ever experienced a day like that."

"I remember we were taking hundreds and hundreds of calls from people panicking because they could see flames. Our resources were fully committed. The simple reality is that we are not able to send an appliance to every house," he said.

"All we could do was stay calm on the phone and advise them to put their Bushfire Action Plan into place," Darren said.

With the phones ringing off the hook and the need to dispatch resources, Darren said all they were focused on was getting the job done.

"We didn't have time to absorb the magnitude of the situation. It wasn't until much later in the day that I became aware of the deaths and amount of devastation. I was really shocked to hear this," he said.

As the morning unfolded, reports were being received from the Lower Eyre Peninsula of the tragedy occurring.

The fire, which broke out near Wangary rapidly moved from the west to the east

and swept through the small townships including Wanilla, North Shields, Poonindie, Louth Bay and Greenpatch.

For many of the CFS volunteers fighting fire across the other side of the State, the devastating news of the deaths came as a real shock.

"There was one stage during the Mount Osmond fire where I had an SMS from another firefighter with reports of the deaths. We just couldn't believe it. At that stage we didn't know if they were firefighters or members of the public. The deaths really put things into perspective for us and we seemed to just pull together and be even more protective of each other. I had messages from Mount Gambier, Millicent, my friends and lots of other firefighters, even from New South Wales and Victoria, urging us to be careful and come home safely. We just wanted to do the job properly without being injured," Kathy recalls.

With the drop in wind speed, change in direction, deployment of 992 volunteers, 128 appliances and 72 brigades, the Mount Osmond fire was thankfully contained by late afternoon.

"I remember about 4pm that day, the wind dropped before the change, which allowed firefighters a short time to collect and plan the next stage of attack to get on top of the fire. Then the wind picked up and changed direction and so did the firefight," Kathy said.

About 120 hectares was burnt with three quarters of the burnt area resulting from the spot fires.

At this time the fire on the Lower Eyre Peninsula was still burning and crews were working so hard to contain the fire. As strike teams arrived, volunteers on the ground were given a chance to rest and prepare for the next shift.

The fire continued to burn for the following two days with a small section moving into difficult terrain in the Koppio Conservation Park. The huge task of mopping up thousands of hectares was carried out for more than a week with the smouldering, especially of stumps, continuing for up to a month after the event.

About 149 appliances were at some stage assisting with containing and

suppressing the fire and 145 brigades were also deployed to the area.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said the behaviour of this fire was beyond his experience and imagination.

"Fighting that fire in any capacity, whether on the front line or in planning or logistics, was a huge and challenging task. We have not seen this sort of fire behaviour in this State for at least 22 years, or perhaps ever before.

"I have seen the devastation...this fire was ferocious, incomprehensible and it was at the extreme of weather and fire behaviour and intensity, which made it extremely difficult to control," Euan said.

A Coronial investigation will be carried out into the nine deaths. A team of investigators headed by a senior police officer will report directly to the Coroner.

"The full facts from this event are now being gathered for police and will be handed to the Coroner. It's going to be a lengthy and in-depth process," Euan said.

With the tragedy of the event, the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) based in Melbourne, was called upon for assistance.

"To help research the fire's behaviour, I contacted Kevin O'Loughlin from the CRC.

"I wanted to seek expertise from the research centre and gather data on the ground. It's really important to get access to the scene early to not only gather factual data, but to gain an understanding from the people involved in this tragedy, their recollections of the speed and behaviour of such a destructive and intense fire," Euan said.

A team of scientists from the CRC travelled to the Lower Eyre Peninsula to do just that.

The main focus of the research is on fire behaviour and property damage. The team will produce a post-fire report which may be used in the ongoing investigation into the cause and ferocity of the fire.

Chief Executive Officer of the CRC Kevin O'Loughlin said the tragedy may eventually have benefits for other threatened communities.

"The need to gather information from the scene early is vital to understand fire behaviour.

"Jim Gould of the CSIRO's Fire Behaviour and Management Team will examine the fire behaviour, especially the rate of spread.

"Justin Leonard also of CSIRO will examine how property damage occurred and why the fire affected some

A long day for CFS volunteers who tackled blazes across the State.



Photo courtesy of The Advertiser.



Fire coming dangerously close to Leawood Gardens homes.



Cooling down after fighting the fire.



Meeting the media at Port Lincoln airport.

The d

properties and not others. A team from Geoscience Australia are also assisting him, using state of the art techniques used after the Canberra fires to precisely map the areas damaged.

"Alan Rhodes of the Victorian CFA and a part time researcher at RMIT University will look at community behaviour and understanding on the issue of deciding whether to 'stay or go,'" Mr O'Loughlin said.

In the days following the Lower Eyre Peninsula tragedy, more than 2 000 calls were received on the West Coast Hotline operated by Centrelink staff. Around 1 300 calls were received at CFS Headquarters on 11 and 12 January.

Thousands of CFS volunteers and staff were involved in some capacity on that day – firefighting, planning, logistics, catering, radio operations, mapping, media liaison, hotline operations and call receipt and despatch.

Across the State on Tuesday 11 January, the number of resources committed was massive. More than 2 000 volunteers, 250 brigades and 300 appliances played a huge role.

The recovery process has already begun and as part of that, the CFS Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) team has provided counselling and support to those involved.

The team, headed by Trudy Whelan and including CFS consultant psychologist Jill Scott, Counsellor Jane

Abdilla and chaplain Jim Keatch, as well as peer supporters from the CFS and State Emergency Service, worked around the clock, supported by Adelaide-based personnel to provide counselling services to firefighters and others involved in the Lower Eyre Peninsula fire.

"It's been very, hard going. We knew this would be an extremely busy time and have dedicated many resources to the recovery process," Trudy said.

"It was important to have the team involved early in the piece because volunteers and staff have been placed in extraordinary circumstances, and the events may leave scars in the memory of many.

"It's important that a counselling service is provided to allow those who have witnessed this to be able to grieve and discuss their feelings openly."

Trudy said it was positive to see that so many had made use of the counselling services available to them, and this was attributed to education provided to members in pre-incident training sessions as well as contact with SPAM over many years.

"Those involved in battling the blaze made use of our services and were willingly approaching us for assistance in dealing with this incident.

"The volunteers have had the chance to see things with more perspective now and the whole community is grieving for the people and things they've lost."

Trudy said counselling would be provided for as long as it was required.

"We are here and ready to provide support when needed, even if it's months down the track. What I stress is that talking things over with a professional counsellor is very important in the recovery process so that people are able to deal with issues which have arisen from this event, even months or years down the track."

For those wishing to contact SPAM, phone Trudy Whelan on 08 8463 4141 or page Jill Scott on 08 8273 2399.

The CFS Board has recognised the enormous effort and would like to extend its gratitude to all CFS volunteers and staff. The following "Thank You" note was placed in metropolitan and regional newspapers across South Australia in appreciation of the outstanding commitment.



Devastated North Shields Caravan Park.

Photos courtesy of The Advertiser

“THANK YOU”

Tuesday 11 January was a day South Australians will never forget. The most devastating bushfire seen in this State since Ash Wednesday occurred on the Eyre Peninsula.

Our entire community was deeply affected. This included CFS volunteers who, in true Australian spirit, responded to the call for help from their neighbours and friends.

In addition to this bushfire, there were 15 other difficult fires burning across the State.

Thousands of CFS volunteers from all around South Australia were involved in fire fighting and behind-the-scenes activities of catering, planning and logistics.

Individuals joined to work as one team with private farm units, personnel from other emergency agencies, government departments, and members of the community to battle the crisis. They were willing and united, displaying remarkable focus and cooperation.

These are extraordinary people who worked tirelessly for one common goal – serving the community.

The CFS and its Board extends its sincere gratitude to each and every one of these men and women.

For your amazing efforts, we say ‘well done and thank you’.

Ray Dundon

Presiding Member, CFS Board

Euan Ferguson

CFS Chief Officer

Fast Facts

Consolidated Losses 11 January 2005

Wangary

Fatalities	9 (including 4 children and 2 firefighters)
Area burnt	77 000 Hectares
Homes Destroyed	93*
Homes Damaged	11
Sheds Destroyed	237*
Sheds Damaged	79
Commercial Properties Damaged	135
Small Holding Damaged	100
Farm Machinery and Implements Destroyed	139
Fencing Destroyed	6 300 estimated
Livestock:	
• Sheep Destroyed	46 139
• Cattle Destroyed	535
• Goats Destroyed	63
• Horses Destroyed	25
• Pigs/Buffalo/Alpaca	18
CFS Statistics:	
• Total Number of Volunteers	1 098
• Total Number of Appliances	149 approximately
• Total Number of Brigades	145
• CFS Volunteer Injuries	12 (5 hospitalised and 1 airlifted to Adelaide)
Transport Infrastructure	22 kms - Tod Highway damaged 2 kms - Lincoln Highway damaged
Biodiversity losses estimated at	\$5 million
Total Losses estimated at	\$100 million

Mount Osmond

Homes Destroyed	Nil
Other Building Destroyed	3
Area burnt	120 Hectares
Animals Destroyed	Nil
Vehicles Destroyed	4
Amount of Fencing Destroyed	4 Km
CFS Statistics:	
• Total Number of Volunteers	992
• Total Number of Appliances	128
• Total Number of Brigades	72

Rendelsham

Homes Destroyed	Nil
Other Buildings Destroyed	Nil
Area burnt	12 Hectares
Animals Destroyed	Nil
Vehicles Destroyed	Nil
Amount of Fencing Destroyed	Nil
CFS Statistics:	
• Total Number of Volunteers	107
• Total Number of Appliances	29
• Total Number of Brigades	15

* The figures listed above for houses and sheds destroyed, damaged and undamaged are estimates provided by the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) based on interpretation of pre and post-fire aerial photography of the area. This data has not been verified by ground-based surveys as yet.



The aftermath.



Heli-tack aircraft refilling at Mount Osmond Golf Course.

Mount Osmond

A Dangerous situation on Mount Osmond Road.



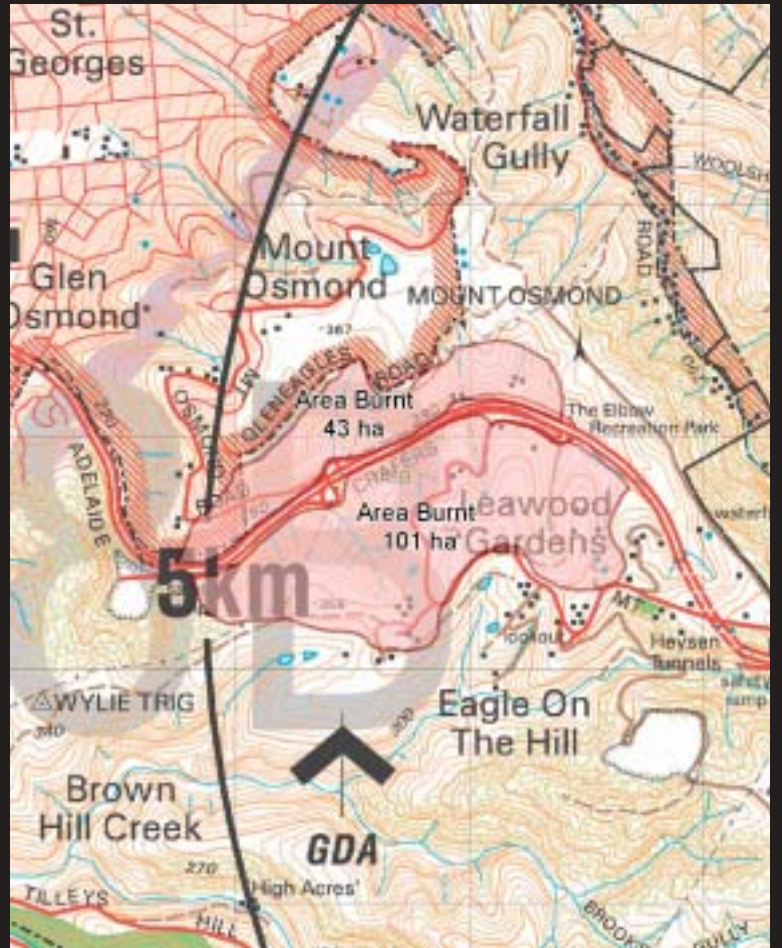
Providing assistance to ground crews.



The fire moved so quickly.



Working in tough conditions.





Three days later the skies opened.



The surreal view.



Volunteers fighting the fire.

Photo courtesy of Shane Burt



Eyre Peninsula

The fire burnt indiscriminately.



Photos courtesy of The Advertiser

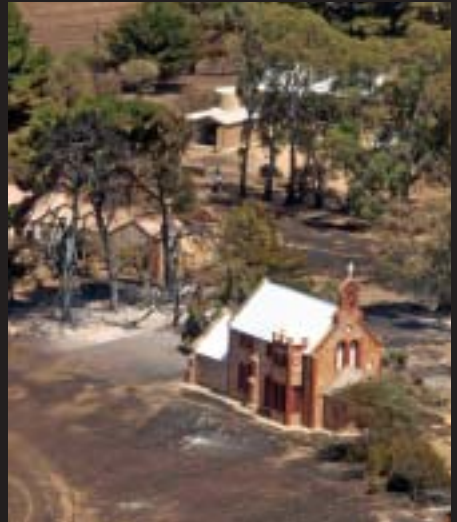
Volunteers on their way to Lincoln to help.



Melted trailer.



The Poonindie Church still stands.



11 January 2005

Angela Whillas, Captain of Greenpatch CFS Brigade, shares her thoughts on 11 January.

Black Tuesday is a day that we would all like to forget, unfortunately, we never will.

It was a day that took lives, devastated property, and changed people's lives forever.

It is now a day that we re-live, reflect upon but also draw experience and learn from.

There were some good things that came from the fire:

- The speed that strike teams from other groups and Regions arrived to assist
- The teamwork and interaction from all agencies and volunteers from other areas
- The way communities reacted and worked together in the recovery process
- The huge task, Vincent Monterola and his Recovery Committee undertook and had in place so quickly
- The professional ability and commitment of the SPAM team and the time they devote
- The continuous support from Wendy Shirley and the VFBA
- The strength and support of CFS as an organisation
- The support and overwhelming generosity of Australia

During a devastating event such as this, there'll always be negatives but we can only learn by experience.

There were some ugly things resulting from the fire including the loss of nine innocent lives, the decimation of districts with some people losing their complete properties and the trauma that people suffered through their experience of the day.

Time will lessen the trauma and heal the wounds and that were inflicted by Black Tuesday but people need to realise that it will be a lengthy process.

On behalf of all the volunteers and communities on Lower Eyre Peninsula, we can't express our gratitude enough to everyone that has supported us through this time. It is a huge part of our recovery.

Thank you

Open Day Raises Thousands of Dollars

An Open Day was held to raise money for those affected by the fire on the Lower Eyre Peninsula. More than 4 500 people attended the day with more that \$76 000 raised. Thank you to the community and the Clarendon volunteers who represented the CFS on the day.



Kym Dillon (Mix FM), Stuart Macleod (SES), Grant Lupton (MFS), Euan Ferguson (CFS), and SA Premier Mike Rann.



CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson with volunteers from the Clarendon Brigade captained by Glynn Williams at the Open Day.

Letters of Thanks to the CFS

Dear Euan,

I wanted to 'formally' let you know how proud I am of the extraordinarily brave and selfless work of the CFS and its volunteers over the past few weeks.

As you know, I have been visiting the Eyre Peninsula repeatedly since the devastating and tragic fires on Tuesday, 11 January.

The day after – travelling up White Flat Road and seeing dozens of burned out farm houses and thousands of dead stock – I met with a number of CFS crews. They had travelled more than 600km to support local CFS Brigades who had fought the inferno heroically the day before and were continuing to work tirelessly to get the fire under control. And, of course, many hundreds of CFS volunteers were out fighting major fires in other parts of our State the day before. Their magnificent efforts saved us from further tragedies.

As you know, I have had a long association with the CFS, yet I am still inspired by the commitment of our volunteers. On the West Coast, I heard stories about CFS firefighters who fought to save lives and homes of both neighbours and strangers – even though their own homes and farms have been devastated.

There can be no higher act of citizenship.

I know you share my pride in the dedication and courage of our firefighters who serve our community and put their lives on the line to save others. I would be most grateful if you could pass on this message to all our CFS volunteers. Our State is proud of them.

Yours sincerely,

Mike Rann

Premier South Australia

Dear Euan,

I just wanted to write and express my sincere thanks to you and all of the dedicated Country Fire Service personnel who worked so hard to contain and extinguish the terrible bushfires on the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

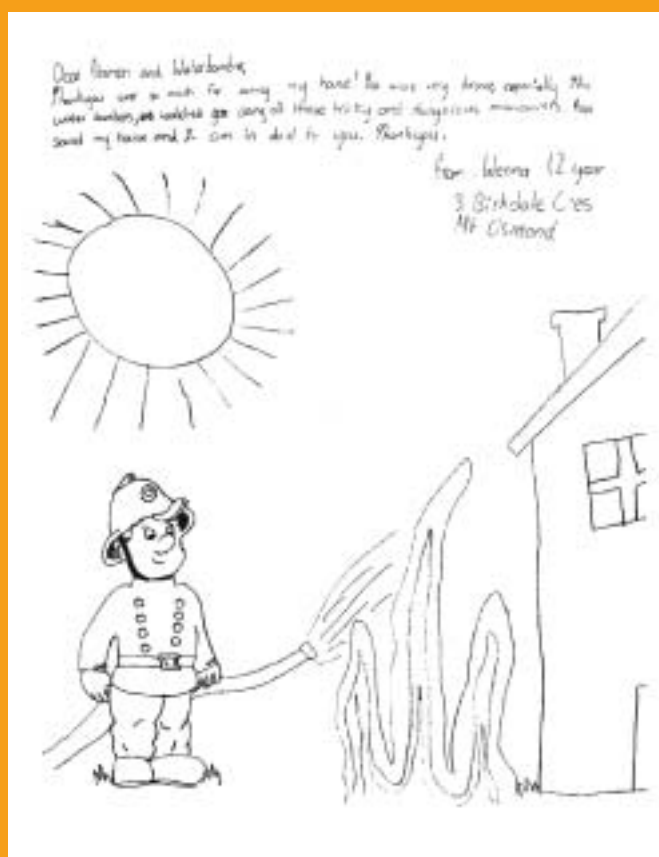
I visited the region on Friday, 14 January and was greatly dismayed by the devastation caused. I was pleased, however, to observe the spirit of the local community and their heartfelt generosity towards those who suffered terrible loss.

Again, sincere thanks for your committed efforts to assist the community of the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

Yours Sincerely,

Marjorie Jackson-Nelson

Governor South Australia



Health Safety and Welfare

Judy Arthur, Manager OHSW gives us an update on OHSW from Black Tuesday.

On Black Tuesday firefighters either in CFS appliances or on private farm units, were fighting serious fires on the Eyre Peninsula, at Rendelsham, or at Mount Osmond.

Several sustained injuries, some more serious than others.

There were two reported burnovers, one in a private farm unit which resulted in two CFS fatalities and the other in a CFS 2 4 appliance, resulting in two hospitalisations.

In total, 19 volunteers were injured on 11 January. On the Eyre Peninsula there were two fatalities and 12 injuries and at Mount Osmond seven volunteers sustained injuries.

Burns were suffered by five volunteers, heat exhaustion by eight, eye injuries were sustained by five. One volunteer received a bee sting and another was affected by a pre existing medical condition.

Immediate Action Taken

The hospitalised volunteers were visited to assess their needs and where relevant, to provide information to their families about their condition.

The Stress Prevention Management Team (SPAM) was activated and mobilised within 24 hours to provide support and assistance to those affected or in need. The team still has a presence on Eyre Peninsula and will have for as long as required.

Accident investigations were initiated and workers compensation claims have been processed as quickly as possible to minimise financial hardship.

The CEO and Presiding Member of the CFS Board visited the families of the fatally injured and offered support from the CFS organisation. A liaison person has been appointed to facilitate the support and assist these families wherever possible.

The Burnovers

There were two major burnovers reported.

Rural 2 4 Appliance

As the investigation is nearing completion, more information is available about this burnover.



The brigade was paged and with only two volunteers available, they responded to the Group Base for additional crew. The appliance did not have any ration packs or water on board. Once loaded with the additional volunteers, water and some lollies, they headed towards the area where the fire had started the night before.



They passed a large haystack and saw a fire burning in a stubble paddock. One of the firefighters quickly finished donning his PPE by doing up his collar, pulling his visor down and placing his neck flap outside his collar. One of his gloves was misplaced in his haste.

The second firefighter, donned in the older style overalls with a low collar and no action back, was also wearing a helmet with a neck flap that did not cover his ears. He was wearing short

cuff rigger gloves. He went to the back of the appliance to turn the pump on and the throttle up.

The wind changed direction and the cabin crew felt concerned. The driver saw a gate into a paddock and turned the appliance 45° onto the road unsure whether to retreat or continue.

The large haystack was a concern if they retreated. Radio messages were being sent to and from the Sector Commander.

In the meantime, the fire was burning in big trees on either side of the road and the rear of the appliance became engulfed in flames.

Both of the firefighters on the rear crouched down between the crew haven and the water tank while the flames roared overhead. At the first opportunity, the two firefighters undid the crew haven curtain, albeit with some difficulty, as the Velcro straps were partially melted. The studs were broken and they scrambled into the crew haven which was secured using the esky and their feet. The crew haven seat was later found to have been affected by heat. They made contact with the cabin crew, again with difficulty, because of the noise of the fire and stated medical attention was required.

The Sector Commander advised the cabin crew to keep coming as there were four appliances, a grader and the Group Command Vehicle only about 200 metres away.

When the crew in the haven thought it was safe, they dampened themselves down to cool their heads and burnt skin. One firefighter used his helmet to soak his hand, which had not been covered by a glove.

After a few delays, further radio communication and licks of flame, the Cummins Hospital was contacted for assistance. The Director of Nursing met the Group Vehicle and transferred the injured firefighters to the hospital.

Later one was transferred to the RAH after being diagnosed with inhalation burns and third degree burns to one hand. He was treated in the Intensive Care Unit because of the risk from his



inhalation burns, before being moved to the Burns Unit within a few days.

The other firefighter was treated at the Cummins Hospital for burns to his face, wrists and elbow.

Private Farmer's Fire Unit

The burnover of the private farmer's unit, which resulted in the fatalities, has devastated two families, their relatives, friends and the CFS organisation.

At this stage, an investigation is being conducted by the Coroner and the CFS, with the latter focusing on an OHSW perspective. The SAFECOM Health, Safety and Welfare Branch, CFS personnel and Workplace Services is conducting this investigation, which will be released at a later date.

Investigations are always conducted to determine the contributing and causal factors, with a view to preventing a recurrence, not to lay blame.

Our sincere appreciation goes to these firefighters who have allowed their story to be told, so we can all learn from their experience.



Lessons Learned

It is important to learn from any incident where an injury or near miss has occurred. Here are some of the 'lessons learned' from 11 January.

- The importance of correct PPE being worn at all times.
 - The firefighter with burns to his hands will say never again will he be caught without his gloves.
 - Short cuffed riggers do not provide sufficient protection for wrists, especially with the older style PPE. Long cuffed gloves are available.
 - The older style PPE does not meet the current Australian Standard and creeps up around the wrists when arms are stretched. There is also tension across the elbows where the fit is firm. This resulted in radiation heat burns. Old PPE must be replaced with the PPE that meets current Australian Standards.
 - The originally supplied neck flap does not cover the ears. A communiqué was distributed about this with advice to replace it with the wider flap that covers ears some time ago.

No matter how good the old PPE is, please replace it with the current Australian Standard PPE.

- The fire danger index on the day was reported to be more than 300. Information about the impact of this will be forthcoming from the CSIRO and the CRC investigations.
- The CFS has issued the Firefighters Watchouts and a recent edition of the *Volunteer* had a two page spread detailing these. All CFS volunteers need to read and understand these.
- The 10 Standard Fire Orders have just been released in a pocket card form. All CFS volunteers should have a copy and understand them.
- These firefighters were maintaining contact with their supervisor. They were alert to the danger.
- The fire changed within a couple of minutes and was unpredictable. Events changed quickly. The CSIRO will have information when its study of the fire behaviour and the speed of the fire is completed.
- A red flag warning about the imminent wind change was issued over the GRN radio. This was the first time some had heard such a warning. (See article under General News).
- The CFS will review the communication systems between the front and back of appliances.
- A burnover procedure needs to be developed by the CFS and practised by brigades.
- All group brigades should be encouraged to integrate Bushfire Fighting 1 into their training program to ensure they are up to date with the latest.
- Consideration may be given to having a first aid kit in the crew deck area, not only in the outside lockers.
- Water should be available on the appliance for washing eyes, treating burns etc.
- The use of Burnaid dressings needs to be evaluated.
- Ensure adequate water and ration packs are available for incident responses at all times.
- Once an appliance is involved in a burnover, its suitability and safety for immediate service needs to be carefully evaluated.
- Firefighters need to be ready to combat an incident as soon as they leave the station.

With Thanks

Our local firefighters deserve a medal...

Dropping their jobs and leaving their families as short notice, dozens of volunteers from across

Region 2 headed for the Eyre Peninsula last Tuesday and Wednesday, risking their own lives to save the homes and livelihoods of others.

Among them were volunteers from Gawler River, Two Wells, Roseworthy, Greenock, Freeling, Angaston, Tanunda, Nuriootpa, Owen, Hamley Bridge, Dalkeith and One Tree Hill.

Their selfless response and willingness to help complete

strangers in a time of hardship epitomises the Australian spirit.

Much criticism has been levelled at the Country Fire Service for failing to contain the blaze early, along with threats of a class action. However it should be remembered they are volunteers who have done the people of that region a great service. They deserve congratulations.

Gawler Bunyip, 19 January

‘What if’ the volunteers weren’t there?

It was the Asian tsunami disaster that tested our generosity, and now the Eyre Peninsula bushfire that has shown again that South Australia’s fierce community spirit is not just alive in rural South Australia – it’s overflowing.

No sooner was the word out that EP farmer’s hour of greatest need had arrived than the donations started pouring in.

Farmers around the state remembered and returned favours from 22 years ago during Ash Wednesday. Some pledged specific items, such as hay, pipe, transport and stock, while others said ‘what do they need and I’ll get it for them’.

It was made even more poignant by the fact that many farmers had not experienced the most profitable year but still set aside something to help those in a worse situation.

But like the tsunami victims, EP farmers are going to need ongoing help and support. They will not be alright once the media spotlight fades – the help SA provides should be more like a marathon, not a 10 second sprint.

If time heals all wounds, then it will take just as long to rebuild.

Everyone is struggling to comprehend how what had taken a lifetime to build could be destroyed in a few minutes. But this only highlights that EP people have their priorities right: helping each other, rather than laying blame for the fire.

This is why recent reports were especially disturbing of the ‘what if’ scenarios that emerged in the aftermath of the fire.

Attacking the Country Fire Service for its actions during what can only be imaged as a nightmarish experience trying to extinguish a blaze travelling as fast as its trucks is a low blow.

These are the volunteers who sacrifice their time to protect people and property. They deserve all the accolades we can offer.

Volunteers are a valuable and strained resource and questioning the actions of those who risked their lives last week is shameful.

Do the accusers honestly think those volunteers would have not done everything in their power to put the fire out before it killed anymore people or destroyed anymore property? Those volunteers also will grieve their losses along with the rest of the community.

Investigators are at present piecing together how the fire unfolded and assessing the response. The inquiry should do the finger pointing – if it is necessary – not ill-informed bystanders who underestimate the strength of the CFS, its volunteers and the EP community.

**The Stock Journal,
20 January**

Terror then saved by the CFS

They saved our bacon, the volunteers of the Country Fire Service. As a resident of Gleneagles Road, Mount Osmond, I had five hours of near terror on Tuesday wondering when the fires would engulf my house.

It was only after the danger had died down and we made a short trip down the road that we could see the dozens of brigades that had responded to our plight.

They came from miles away – Murray Bridge, Yankalilla, Para and Cape Jervis to name a few.

We also had good representation from the Metropolitan Fire Service and the water bombers.

Great work guys and our neighbours owe you a huge debt. Not one house was harmed.

Gleneagles Road and Leawood Gardens residents thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Mac Benoy, Mount Osmond
Letters, The Advertiser 13 January

Sympathy and praise

I address my remarks to all the residents of towns on the Eyre Peninsula who were affected by the devastating bushfires.

I would like to pass on my sympathy to those who lost family members.

To all emergency service personnel, "well done" under such horrible conditions

Robert Shammall, Bull Creek WA
Letters, Advertiser, 14 January

A job well done

Too often it is too easy to criticise. So let's set the record straight.

The volunteers and firefighting agencies did a brilliant job in the recent bushfires across the Eyre Peninsula.

They helped to save lives and protect property – and did it all with little regard for their own safety, time or comfort.

They did it in extreme weather conditions that were demonstrably worse than on Ash Wednesday, 22 years ago, and they did it with little fanfare or fuss.

From everyone affected by the fires – thank you.

Thank you also to those agencies and organisations which have performed so well in the days and weeks since the fire.

The State Government and Primary Industries and Resources South Australia were immediate decisive and effective with their support.

Likewise, the SA Farmers Federation performed what can only be described as a Herculean effort in coordinating aid efforts from across the State and nation.

SAFF staff – and a loyal willing band of volunteer's performed a service that saw (and will continue to see) relief and assistance for those caught in the tragic events of a fortnight ago.

It was an effort that reminds us all what it means to be part of the rural community.

Stock Journal, Thursday 27 January

Thank you, CFS

The fire through the Adelaide Hills on January 11 was the first that we had been involved in. We thank all of the Country Fire Service who were involved, in particular those who fought so hard to defend our home

Having been a resident in Leawood Gardens for only three months, one of the things we asked our landlord was what plans he had in place in case of bushfires.

He assured us that there were plenty of hoses that reached the entire length of the house, bore and rainwater was available in plentiful supply, trees were located a safe distance from the house and there were easily accessible fire tracks.

Little did he or we know how soon this information would be required.

Greg and Deana Mildren, Leawood Gardens

Letters, The Advertiser,
22 January

Back to reality

While we concentrate on obtaining money for the Asian tsunami crisis, unfortunately the fires in South Australia have once again brought us back to reality in our own backyard.

Thank goodness for our Country Fire Service.

Raymond Tanner, Aberfoyle Park
Letters, The Advertiser, 14 January

Ruminations

Brenton Ragless



Brenton Ragless coordinates media traffic at Port Lincoln Airport.

Have you ever tried driving your car looking in the rear vision mirror rather than through the front windscreen? Not the most successful approach to driving. In no time at all, you'd likely collide with something in front of you. However, a rear vision mirror is completely necessary for the purpose of driving - glancing back and observing what's happening around you. But in order to move forward in a vehicle one must drive looking ahead, not to what's happening behind.

I'd like to think that the SA Country Fire Service is an organisation moving forward. Yes, looking back at lessons learned from previous experience is completely necessary but do we really apply what we learned and use it to prepare us for what potentially could come next. Our society moves forward with such momentum that to stand still is to go backwards.

As I write this, it's two months since the tragic bushfire events of 11 January. Not a day has gone by without a member of the public or a representative of the media challenging our current approach to bushfire management.

I'm probably one of the few CFS members that saw what occurred on 11 January at both Mount Osmond and the Lower Eyre Peninsula, both on the fireground and inside the Adelaide and Port Lincoln CFS headquarters. Everyone worked above and beyond the call of duty.

An entire generation change has occurred since the tragic bushfires of Ash Wednesday in 1983. On 11 January it was the first time many CFS members experienced such devastation caused by bushfire. On that day and those that followed – the CFS were ordinary people under

extraordinary circumstances. No super heroes, just everyday human beings who thought about the needs of others ahead of their own.

The fires on the Lower Eyre Peninsula attracted international, national and local media attention. I remember having a discussion with a reporter from the BBC who was dumbfounded to hear that CFS firefighters are actually volunteers. "You mean they risk their lives for free?" she said. "I know, it's quite remarkable isn't it," I replied.

We still have a lot learn about the events of 11 January. But they're now in the rear vision mirror. We still need to look back and see where we've come but our focus must now be on the road ahead. It's long, steep, windy, and is subject to severe weather conditions. If we glance back for too long, we may have to respond one of our own Road Crash Rescue units to free us from a dire situation!

Brenton Ragless
CFS Media Liaison Officer

PS. Dad hopes to have his '1964 International' fire engine on the road in time for the 'Bay to Birdwood'. Ironically, he hasn't fitted a rear vision mirror yet.

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Regional Round Up

Seppelts Winery fire.



Region 1 Round Up

Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island

Clarendon CFS Celebrations

Harry Cummings, Clarendon CFS

Lights were flashing and cameras clicking at the Clarendon CFS station on the evening of Monday 13 December. The occasion you ask?

To pay tribute to a group of volunteer firefighters who spend their time saving people and assets from fires and other emergencies, and who between them have served a more than 120 years in the Clarendon Brigade.

Those receiving both life membership certificates (for 20 years of service) and the National Medal (for 15 years of service) were:

Mike Guilfoyle (Vice President, Past Captain and Training Officer)

Murray Deer (Group Equipment Officer)

Phil Scroop (First Lieutenant)

Recipients of the 15 year national medal were:

Glynn (Will) Williams (Captain and Ex Training Officer)

Mick Bulman (Admin Officer and Ex Captain)

Phil Gray (Past Vice President and Training Officer)

Wayne Merchant (Past First Lieutenant and Training Officer)

The guest of honour making the presentations was Andrew Lawson Assistant Chief Officer and Manager Strategic Services SA. Other guests included Mawson Group Officers, Peter Venning, Ian Taverner, David Bradley and Noel Sibley.

Past life members Tom and Faye Miller and Bill and Laurel Jarrad were present as were loyal supporters Grant and Maria Ellard from the local bakery and Greg and Kath O'Malley from the General Store.

It was good to see more than 35 partners and children at the celebrations. Their continuing support and loyalty helps form the backbone of the brigade.

It was a most enjoyable evening with plenty to sip and sup and providing a splendid opportunity for team photographs with our new 2 4P fire appliance.

Sincere thanks is extended to all who contributed towards such a memorable evening.



Volunteers on the ground at Cleland.

Cleland Conservation Park fire

More than 60 SA Country Fire Service volunteers and personnel from the Department for Environment and Heritage spent Sunday 2 January battling a blaze burning in dense terrain in the Cleland Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills.

The fire reported about 3.30pm burnt more than 15 hectares of scrub and grassland in this popular tourist park.

Ground crews worked in difficult and warm conditions for several hours to contain the fires with three water bombing aircraft called in to provide assistance to the firefighters.

A Phase One Bushfire warning was issued to alert residents in the area of the fire, however no homes, properties or lives were endangered.

It's believed the fire started after burning embers fell from a tree which was on fire in the area



Clarendon volunteers with their awards.

Region 1 Round Up

Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island

New Warning Sign for Freeway Commuters

Commuters travelling along the South Eastern Freeway will have no excuse for ignoring advice of Total Fire Ban days, with a joint initiative between the SA Country Fire Service and the Department of Transport and Urban Planning resulting in a permanent sign posted along the roadway.

The introduction of the electronically activated tri vision sign, located on the Adelaide bound side of the South Eastern Freeway, near the Carey Gully Bridge, will be activated on days of Total Fire Ban during the Fire Danger Season.

Regional Commander for the Mount Lofty Ranges and Adelaide Hills area, Mark Thomason, says the sign will be visibly marked so that motorists can clearly read the warning.

"The community, especially those living in high fire risk areas such as the Adelaide Hills, need to be aware of the dangers associated with summer and

bushfires and take action now and begin their preparation work around their properties," said Mark.

The sign also reflects the SA Country Fire Service's aim in empowering the

community to make educated decision about their personal safety.

Thankyou to Bridgewater CFS brigade for attending the launch.



Photo Courtesy of The Advertiser

Amy Seymour-Walsh with new freeway sign.

A Family Affair

Nairne CFS is big on family involvement with three generations of the one family volunteering.

Grandfather firefighter Rob Liebelt, father Nairne Captain Rory Liebelt and Cadet Tannicka Liebelt all suit up in yellows. Whilst mother, Lyssa Liebelt also volunteers her time at the station as a radio operator and proudly tells us:

"My daughter Tannicka was always chomping at the bit for her chance to become a CFS cadet, going to training every week with the brigade and attending the station to lend a hand in the radio room with call outs".



Taking a breather from duty.

Mosquito Hill Road 'Bites'

Shortly after 1:30pm on Tuesday 14 December, about 20 CFS volunteers from the Victor Harbor group responded to a fuel tanker rollover near Victor Harbor.

The fuel tanker rolled on its side on the Mosquito Hill Road, 7km to the north of Victor Harbor closing the road for several hours. The tanker carrying both diesel and petrol was only half full at the time of the incident and developed a leak.

CFS volunteers provided fire cover, undertook traffic control and assisted with decanting the leaking fuel.



CFS volunteers at scene of fuel tanker rollover.

Photo Courtesy of Chris Bowey

Region 2 Round Up

Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula and Lower North



The lucky four-legged survivors.

Ardrossan House Fire

On Tuesday 4 January Ardrossan CFS received a call around 9am following a smoke alarm sounding and the smell of smoke at a home on the Esplanade, Ardrossan.

On arrival, the crew of four volunteers found smoke seeping from the building and the smoke alarm sounding hammer and tongs.

The Brigade Captain then immediately committed a BA crew, with their primary task to locate the smoke source and to extinguish flame, using the side line hose from Ardrossan 2 4P. 34 arrived soon afterwards and connected to a street hydrant and commenced to make connection to ARD 2 4P acting as a relay pump in case things went horribly wrong.

The two BA Operators, Brenton Phillips (BJ) and Stuart Lee (a newly qualified BA operator) gained entry to the house and commenced a search of the building, before discovering smoke coming from behind a closed bedroom door.

Calling on his previously completed compartment fire training, BJ checked the door for temperature, slightly opened it and put a find cone spray into the room, before closing the door and after 20 seconds repeating the process.

BJ and Stuart entered the room and found smoke down to the top of the bed and flames were almost reaching the ceiling.

With the heat in the room diminishing but still around 300 degrees, the BA crew applied a very small amount of water to the seat of the fire and made a thorough search of the bedroom. They located an occupant with a leg at each corner, a tail and a fortunately still wet nose. A further search of the house revealed no casualties and the structure was ventilated.

The Port Clinton 3 4 and Command Vehicle arrived and a second BA crew with Ian Hicks from Ardrossan and Dave Birkin (Port Clinton Captain) were committed following the discovery that another four-legged friend still remained in the house. Following strict instructions to ensure the fire was extinguished and locate the puppy, the crew entered the house.

The second puppy was found behind the toilet pan and was a little apprehensive about being rescued by someone looking and sounding like Darth Vader from Star Wars.

Thank you to so many people for their assistance with this job.

Playing with Trains

The evening of Tuesday 18 January saw 30 CFS volunteers and 12 MFS firefighters fight a blaze burning in a disused Commonwealth Railways break van at Dry Creek, north of Adelaide.

Donning breathing apparatus, the volunteers from One Tree Hill, Salisbury and Dalkeith brigades spent around an hour fighting the fire. Volunteers were forced to call additional appliances to supply more water and used a combination of foam and water to extinguish the blaze.

The fire left around \$5 000 damage and whilst the cause of the fire is unknown, it is expected to be suspicious.



Firefighters extinguishing fire.

Photo courtesy of Matt Bonser

Semi Trailer Runs off the Road

Wednesday 9 February, saw another early morning start for CFS volunteers, when they responded to a semi trailer incident on Port Wakefield Road, around 10 kilometres north of Dublin.

Reported to CFS shortly after 4am the semi had crashed through 169 metres of scrub before coming to rest and sustaining a fuel leak.

Three vehicles from Dublin worked to clear the debris, which included damaged fence line. The driver of the semi trailer was taken to hospital with minor injuries.

The northbound lane of Port Wakefield Road was closed for some time while the truck was recovered and crash investigators surveyed the scene. Damage to the semitrailer was estimated at \$50 000.



Photo courtesy of Terry Halford

The semi was lucky not to overturn.

Region 2 Round Up

Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula and Lower North



CFS volunteers present cheque to Red Cross Representative.

Raising Funds for a Worthy Cause

**By Rebecca Hawkins,
Cudlee Creek CFS**

Cudlee Creek CFS held a quiz night on the 12 February raising a total of \$2 656 for the Australian Red Cross Asian Quake and Tsunami Appeal and the Port Lincoln bushfire appeal.

With the planning process for the Tsunami fundraiser already underway

when the tragic fires occurred in Port Lincoln, the planning committee decided to split the funds raised from the quiz night to allow funds to go to both causes.

Held in the Cudlee Creek Soldiers Memorial Hall, the night was a roaring success! All tables were booked out a week before, with an overwhelming response from the community.

Quizmaster Kevin Ryan kept everyone entertained and contributed to the success of the night. The evening involved a range of games including heads and tails, north and south, raffles, auctions, pick the face and even a competition for the best paper plane!

Brigades within the Gumeracha Group fought a fierce 'Battle of the Brigades', with Hermitage CFS the victors with the highest score.

The Honourable Alexander Downer our MP and Minister for Foreign Affairs attended the night, sharing with us his personal experience of the Tsunami devastated areas. His speech gave those present a heightened appreciation of how funds raised will benefit the devastated communities.

The amount of money raised on the night, exceeded our expectations, and a total of \$531 has been donated to the Port Lincoln bushfire appeal. A Red Cross representative visited the Cudlee Creek CFS Station on 1 March and accepted a cheque for \$2 125 for the Tsunami appeal.

Prizes for the night were kindly donated by businesses from Cudlee Creek, Gumeracha and Lobethal. On behalf of the organising committee I'd like to thank the businesses who made these donations for their support. I'd also like to thank the quiz night participants and everyone who kindly donated both their time and money.

The support from the community enabled the night to be a great success with everyone pulling together to raise much needed funds for both a world and local disaster.

The organising committee for the event included; Rebecca Hawkins (quiz coordinator), Melissa Hawkins, Tyson and Jasmine Obst, Sue and Ian Baines, Terry and Fran Dymond, and Margot Radford from Cudlee Creek CFS.

A Narrow Miss at Auburn

Five CFS volunteer brigades, SES crews and volunteer ambulance operators responded to a truck crash near Auburn on 20 December.

The refrigerated truck travelling east along Port Road, missed the Main North Road intersection before crossing Main North Road and down an embankment around 2am.

The driver of the truck was lucky to escape without injury, as the vehicle came to rest, wedged against a tree around half a metre from a gas bullet at a local service station.

The truck narrowly missed service station petrol bowers and a nearby house.

CFS crews were required to undertake fire protection and assist with cleaning



Truckworks removing the truck with CFS assistance.

up around 500 litres of diesel leaking from the trucks ruptured fuel tank.

The incident saw Main North Road closed for around eight hours.

In attendance were volunteers from Watervale, Saddleworth, Clare, Auburn and Riverton brigades

Photo Courtesy of The Northern Argus

Region 2 Round Up

Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula and Lower North



CFS volunteers fighting blaze at Seppelts Winery.

Letter of Thanks - Seppelts Winery Fire

I write on behalf of my father Karl, mother Lotte and brother Peter, to convey our thanks for the efforts the CFS crews made in minimising the damage caused by the fire in the workshop and winery at Karl Seppelts Grand Cru Estate on Sunday 7 November 2004. Although we lost a great deal, we are aware of the level of destruction caused by the long duration of fire development prior to the arrival of the first CFS crews. I must congratulate the first crews on scene for saving the winery structure and the floor above the winery under the roof space. This prevented several tonnes of stored material from collapsing into the ground floor and destroying some very important fermentation tanks and grape crushing equipment.

I have spoken to the Officers from Mt. Pleasant and know of the dangerous conditions prevailing in the roof space, and appreciate from experience, the risks taken by the firefighters who entered and suppressed the fire in this area.

I arrived toward the end of the suppression activities to find a scene of destruction. You can imagine how this scene would upset any person directly involved. I must say I was immediately given confidence to deal with the

situation with the expressions of empathy being shown toward my family and especially my mother, my son, niece and nephew by all CFS personnel they spoke to. I was very pleased to watch the manner in which the crews were organised, and grateful for the extra effort they made in overhauling the store in the roof space.

On a personal note, I thank those who know me well and had personal words of understanding to extend to me.

If it is possible, I would ask if you could convey our thanks to the personnel who were involved. No amount of thanks is truly enough in light of the efforts made by these crews. I personally congratulate them for their professionalism, firefighting skills, and understanding of the stress my family were experiencing. All the firefighters who attended brought credit upon themselves and the CFS organisation.

On behalf of the Seppelt family, to those personnel who attended, thank you all for your efforts.

Gerold SEPPELT

Please forward these sentiments to the following Brigades. Mt. Pleasant, Springton, Eden Valley, Birdwood, Lyndoch, Williamstown, Concordia and Paracombe.

Para Wirra Fire

Shortly after 6:30pm on 8 January, firefighters from the SA Country Fire Service and the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) responded to two deliberately lit fires at the Para Wirra Recreation Park.

Both fires were going well when CFS and DEH appliances arrived with the larger of the two fires burning at Devils Nose in the Recreation Park. The smaller of the fires was burning along the edge of the park.

More than 30 appliances and 300 firefighters from CFS and DEH fought the fires, burning in scrub and grass.

Aerial water bombing aircraft were called in to drop water onto the fire, providing assistance to ground crews who were working hard in extremely steep terrain covered by thick scrub.

Although the night was relatively cool, the wind, gusting up to 15kph caused some difficulty as it helped the fire to spread.

No homes were threatened, and the fires were contained shortly after 8:45pm.

The fire burnt a total of seven hectares.

Several appliances and crew spent the night patrolling and mopping up at the fire ground, with additional crews returning the following morning to assist.



Volunteers mopping up at Para Wirra.

Photo by Ashley Hosking

Region 3 Round Up

Murraylands and Riverland



Overturned on National Highway One.

Driver Shaken in Road Accident

Bryan Jenke, Waikerie CFS

Shortly after 6:30 am on 1 December 2004, 16 CFS volunteers from Waikerie responded to a semi trailer rollover on National Highway One.

The fully loaded 'B' Double carrying empty champagne bottles overturned at a notorious "S" bend giving crews an early start to the morning.

The driver received minor injuries and was taken to Waikerie hospital while volunteers spent a good portion of the day cleaning up the area.



A mess for volunteers to clean up.

Region 3 Round Up

Murraylands and Riverland

Cambrai and Sedan CFS Brigades Close the Town

**Courtesy of River News,
9 February 2005**

Held on Sunday 23 January, the Cambrai and Sedan CFS Eyre Peninsula Fire Appeal was a huge success. The town of Cambrai was a buzz with activity, with a partial roadblock, stopping motorists, asking for donations.

Both ends of the town were marked with a round bale of hay, and two Semi trailers loaded up with 30 round bales of cereal hay ready to be delivered to the victims of the recent West Coast fires.

It was a combined effort between the Sedan and Cambrai communities, with local truckers Louie Seidel, Craig Schultz, Alex McGorman and Kym Simounds donating their trucks and time to deliver a load of 30 bales each, with another 90 after the fundraising event still to go. Local hay producers donated the bales as Cambrai Hotel proprietor Pam Graetz credited Paul Wiencke and Louie Seidel for rounding up all the hay from everybody.

The event jointly organised by CFS members and Pam Graetz was held outside the hotel in the street. Pam said, "it was great with everybody sitting out the front, having the John Thomas band playing on the back of the truck really added to the atmosphere". The Grieger family of Sedan kindly donated this truck for the day.

A sausage sizzle hosted by CFS members helped to keep everybody happy, as did the Black Hill CWA stall selling cakes, home produce and lucky dip prizes for the children.

Entertainment was provided by the local band and also by Maurice Rogers and Graham Tremaine. Maurie brought along his vintage and classic cars, and Graham his Harley Davidson, both giving rides for people during the day for a gold coin donation for the cause.

Later in the day an auction was held selling donated goods, which raised nearly \$3 000, the CFS traffic patrol raised \$600. All stalls sold out and with their proceeds, and some previous donations including a percentage of the hotel's takings over the bar, added to the other monies raised on the day came to a total of \$5 900.

"It was a very good job done by all, and especially by the community for their support and help, for without them the day wouldn't have gone ahead at all", stated Pam.

Supplied by Mardi Wiencke

Photo courtesy of Debra Wilson



Local residents stopped traffic to collect donations.



Donated bales of hay ready to go to Eyre Peninsula.

Cliff Rescue Near Blanchetown

An adventurous climbing teenager stuck up a cliff saw CFS and SES volunteers gather their climbing gear to perform a high angle cliff rescue on 30 December.

Shortly after 10am, the male teenager climbed 70 feet up a cliff face just below the Blanchetown lookout off Swan Reach Road in the Murraylands.

Feeling unsafe to venture any further upwards, the boy stopped 30 feet from the lookout and requested help from family nearby who called Emergency Services for assistance.

In scenes reminiscent of Mission Impossible, CFS volunteers from Blanchetown and Waikerie and SES crews abseiled down the cliff and secured the boy before he was lifted to safety.

The teenager was not injured but a little shaken by the experience.

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Region 4 Round Up

Flinders, Mid North and Pastoral Areas

Photo courtesy of Suzie Hawthorne



All that remains of the caravan.

Keep an eye on Those Chips!

Volunteers from Coober Pedy CFS travelled around 110km to the north of Coober Pedy to respond to a caravan fire on 19 January 2005.

When volunteer firefighters arrived, the caravan, parked in a bay along the side of the Stuart Highway, had been completely destroyed.

It is believed that the owner of the caravan had been cooking lunch at the time of the incident and had left it unattended.

Southern Flinders Ranges are Now on the Map

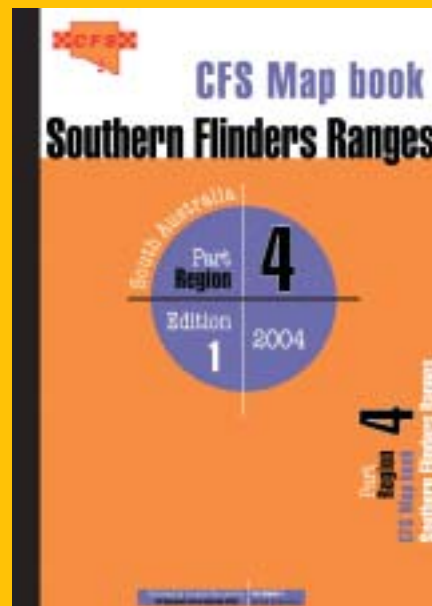
The SA Country Fire Service has released another Regional Map Book as part of a series, which will cover much of regional South Australia.

The latest release, which focuses on the Southern Flinders Ranges is the sixth book released in the series, which already covers the Lower South East, Mt Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island, Riverland and Murray Mallee, Yorke Peninsula and mid-North and now the Southern Flinders Ranges.

CFS Regional Commander for the Mid North and Flinders region, Mick Obst welcomes the publishing of this book and is in the process of issuing it to each CFS Brigade in the Region.

"This map book is a wonderful tool for our volunteer firefighters to use. We've always had the traditional maps however they can be cumbersome and often start to get tired and rip after frequent use, these books are more user friendly," Mick said.

"Maps in this book cover an area, from its northern point at Orparinna



Wilpena, south over the southern Flinders Ranges to just east of Hallett in the Mid North Region. In total an area of approximately 32 000 square kilometres," he said.

The map book is currently available to brigades through the CFS and will be available to the general public through bookshops and upon request from CFS brigades within a few weeks.

Ouch That's Hot!

Shortly before 3am on Friday 28 January, Coober Pedy CFS responded to a fire involving a Mack Truck.

The Mack Truck was seriously damaged and the intense heat generated by the fire melted the plastics of another vehicle parked around a metre away.

Four volunteers attended the fire whilst another assumed a communications role.

The damaged Mack Truck.

Photos courtesy of Suzie Hawthorne



Melted by the heat of the fire.

Region 5 Round Up

South East

New Volunteers for Region 5

By Bill Corcoran,
Naracoorte CFS Brigade

An overwhelming demand for new members to be trained in BFF1 this summer led to two courses being held in Region Five, one in Mount Gambier and the other making use of the Training Centre located near Naracoorte.

Some 30 new members attended the course, run from Friday night through to late Sunday night with the course a great success.

The new members from CFS and national parks have completed their training and are now back at their brigades readily waiting to respond to calls.

These welcome new members are able to bolster the numbers of volunteers in some brigades that were fairly low in numbers, allowing the CFS to yet again serve the community.

A big thank you must go to our volunteer instructors and the staff from Region Five HQ. These courses could not have been run without their help and dedication.



New volunteers being trained in the South East.



\$25 000 damage caused by haystack fire.

Hay – It's a Fire!

Late November saw two separate haystack fires occur in the State's South East with the most serious of the two incidents occurring north east of Naracoorte. The fire resulted in more than 200 bales of hay being destroyed by fire on Saturday 27 November.

Three CFS appliances crews arrived at the farm to find the hay bales ablaze. The crews worked quickly to provide asset protection to the property and contain the blaze which caused an estimated \$25 000 damage in lost hay.

The other incident, near Keith, was fortunately detected before fire totally destroyed any hay bales after a farmer discovered some internal smouldering in a haystack and quickly, worked to prevent the bales igniting.

Photo courtesy of Dean Ludwig

Region 5 Round Up

South East

Region Farewells a Respected Commander

On Saturday 12 February, volunteers from Region 5 held a barbecue farewell for Rob Sandford. The function was held at Pioneer Park in Naracoorte and co-ordinated by Mr Rex Hall on behalf of the VFBA.

Around 60 volunteers attended, with representation from each of the groups in Region 5.

Special guests included representatives from other emergency service agencies. George Rodis (MFS), Dale Russel (CFA Region 17), Dennis Page (SA Forestry) and local CFA Volunteers. An apology was received from Peter Creak (CFA Region 4) and Greg Malseed (SES Regional Manager).

The guests gave thanks to Rob for his commitment and enthusiasm to the

role of Commander and all believed that the relationship has grown between all services during Rob's term and hope that it continues to flourish.

Rob left with several mementoes including a new red gum coffee table presented by Rex Hall on behalf of the volunteers from the South East.

Rex went on to describe Rob's time in the region as outstanding and thanked him on behalf of all the region's volunteers wishing him well in his appointment as Manager of Operations Planning

The volunteers and staff thank Rob and wish him well for the future. "HONK HONK"

Phil McDonough and Rex Hall



Photo courtesy of Rex Hall

Volunteers and staff wished Rob well for the future.



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Region 5 Round Up

South East



Naracoorte CFS volunteers receive pre fire season blessing.

Naracoorte Blessing of the Fleet

By Rex Hall, Naracoorte CFS

Naracoorte CFS Brigade recently held their annual blessing of the fleet.

This annual breakfast is held just prior to the start of the fire season and brings volunteers and their families together as a thank you to the families who give so much during what is usually the busiest time of the year.

This year the blessing of the brigade appliances and members was carried out by Naracoorte brigade member Graham Dixon, a Lay Assistant in the Anglican Church of Naracoorte. 'Dicko' as he is affectionately known, gave a moving talk on fire brigade families, and completed the service by leading the brigade in the Fireman's Prayer.

A Combined 1345 Years of Service Recognised

On 15 October 2004, the Port MacDonnell Group invited Chief Officer Euan Ferguson to present National Medals to eligible members. In addition to this, the Group also presented long service awards to the dedicated volunteers of the Group.

Invited Guests included Rory McEwin, MP, the Mayor of the District Council of Grant, Don Pegler (a long serving member of the Group), as well as Acting Regional Commander, Phil McDonough. MC for the evening was John Probert.

The Guest Speaker for the night was Bob (Dogs) Kearney, who gave an animated speech which was to be only 15 minutes long, but the audience was so captivated that they did not notice the 40 minutes slip by.

The Group also used the night to recognise the significant contribution

of Eileen Blacksall, and Bill and Irene Dihm, who have been long serving auxiliary members and always ready to help in any way.

The 18 months of planning by the hard-working committee culminated in an excellent evening, with 67 people being recognised for their CFS volunteering service. In total, there were 1345 years of combined experience awarded on the night.



Award recipients.



And they said it was only water.

Region 6 Round Up

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast

Courtesy of the Port Lincoln Times



Mr Patrick Conlon, Euan Ferguson and Elliston volunteers officially open the new fire shed.

New Fire Station for Elliston CFS

More than 130 people attended the opening of the new Elliston Country Fire Service station, including several former firefighters who returned to the district for the event on 28 January.

Attending the opening were Emergency Services Minister, Pat Conlon, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, Member for Flinders Liz Penfold, as well as CFS Group Officers from all over Eyre Peninsula.

Elliston Group Officer Les Kammermann welcomed and introduced the speakers who included Mr Conlon, Mr Ferguson, as well as Elliston District Council Chairman Mike Wandel and Elliston Brigade Captain Graham Meyers.

Mr Wandel, who currently serves with the Sheringa Brigade, said firefighters in the district had waited a long time for their own facility. When he first joined the Elliston Brigade 30 years ago, the members were housed in a

small shed at the Waterloo Bay caravan park.

When the fire engine outgrew that shed, a bigger district council shed became the CFS shed for the next 15 years. Mr Wandel said the new shed showed the Emergency Services Levy was being put to good use and the Government should be commended for providing the purpose-built facility.

"Having somewhere to put the radios, somewhere to get changed and take a shower makes a big difference for the firefighters," Mr Wandel said.

CFS Volunteers Receive their National Medals

On Friday 5 November 2004, the LeHunte CFS Group in Region 6, had a presentation evening at the Wudinna Hotel to recognise the service to the CFS by members of the group.

National Medals were presented to eight CFS volunteers from Minnipa, Wudinna, Mount Dampier and Warrambo.

Keith Foale was presented with a Gold Star for 45 years Long Service. A member of Warrambo CFS since 1953.

Andrew Lawson, AFSM, Manager Strategic Services, presented National Medals for 15 years of diligent service by Fire Service members to the following people:

Donald Bartley, Wudinna (1984)
Brian Hampel, Wudinna (May 1984)
Bryan Oswald, Mt Dampier and Wudinna (1979 and 1981)
Neville Scholz, Wudinna, (1967)
Barry Franklin, Minnipa, (1974)
Christopher McBeath, Mt Dampier, (1977)
Darrell Tree, Mt Dampier, (1977)
Leighton George, Minnipa, (1974)

First Clasp for additional 10 years service was awarded to:

Barry Franklin, Minnipa
Christopher McBeath, Mt Dampier,
Darrell Tree, Mt Dampier
Neville Scholz, Wudinna

Second Clasp for a further 10 years' service was awarded to Neville Scholz



National Medal Recipients

Back Row left to right: Donald Bartley, Barry Franklin, Christopher McBeath (partially hidden), Leighton George.

Front: Darrell Tree, Bryan Oswald, Brian Hampel and Neville Scholz

Photo courtesy of West Coast Sentinel

Region 6 Round Up

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast



Road Crash Rescue at Minnipa

Shortly after 6am, on 10 February a semi trailer carrying freight left the Eyre Highway, around 4km out of Minnipa.

The vehicle travelled a reasonable distance from the road before overturning.

CFS volunteers from Wudinna, Minnipa and Wirrulla responded to the incident and found the driver of the vehicle, awkwardly trapped in the vehicle.

Crews used heavy rescue equipment to free the driver who was then placed in the hands of medical staff.

The truck was recovered, with the assistance of a local farmers tractor.

Photo supplied by Paul Hutt

A lucky escape for the driver.



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General News



SAVFBA Update

By Wendy Shirley

The SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (SAVFBA) releases it's Strategic Plan and unveils a free offer to it's members.

Your brigade should have received a package last month from the VFBA.

This package included a copy of our strategic plan brochure in which we have set out the goals and objectives of the Association for the next six years.

The colourful brochure would look great on the station notice board for all volunteers to see.

Also included was a copy of the member's brochure. Bulk copies of this brochure are now being distributed to brigades for handing out to both current and future members. It includes details of your local VFBA Branch, with contact numbers and meeting information.

The 2005 raffle is well underway, and flyers for application for tickets have been posted to brigades. Last month we contacted those supporters who purchased tickets in last years raffle, and have had a pleasing response. The prizes are great – first prize is a Holden Astra Hatchback , and the second is a home theatre package, plus there are six other very nice prizes.

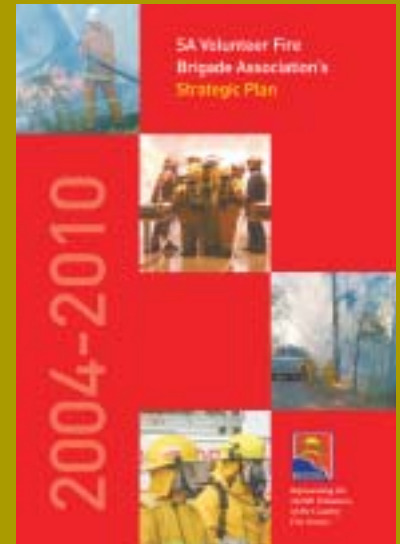
A feature of the raffle is a \$2 000 donation to the CFS brigade nominated by the first prize winner! So buy your tickets today, and better your brigade's chances of receiving \$2 000 cash!

All tickets are sold through our office. If you would like to make a purchase, telephone us on 8244 6500. Or you can post back or fax the tear off slip at the bottom of our full page advertisement on **Page 51**.

A new product called "Home Asset List" is featured in this issue of Volunteer. This product allows subscribers to list their assets on the internet in a very secure system for insurance purposes. **Home Asset List.com is offering 4 545 free subscriptions (valued at \$22 each inc GST) to CFS volunteers.** The subsequent annual fee to continue the service is \$11 inc GST. If your brigade has not yet received information about

this offer, please ring Wendy on 8244 6500. A further feature of this offer is a \$2 donation to the VFBA for every subscription sold in South Australia (this of course does not include the free subscriptions to CFS volunteers).

The Association is currently negotiating with "Top Gear" to supply models of WW2 Blitz fire fighting trucks for sale to collectors and the public in South Australia. This will be a fundraiser for brigades, with all purchasers nominating a brigade of their choice to receive a \$50 donation. The model sells for \$99 inclusive of the donation. This offer will commence in May, and more information will be sent out to your brigade at that time.



Free Promotion Offer to all SAVFBA Members

The SAVFBA Management and www.homeassetlist.com have partnered to provide 4 545 free subscriptions (approximately \$100 000) to our members. The normal retail joining fee is \$22 GST inc. for each subscription – this is waived for our members for one year.

www.homeassetlist.com is a web site designed to assist subscribers to record their assets and reduce the stress associated with events such as fire or theft, by having a detailed off site record of items owned. We feel the site is one of the truly valid uses of the Internet and is of merit to ANYONE that owns anything of value. It can help with valuing your assets for accurate insurance coverage, bank loans, keeping details of warranties on items etc. **It is secure and does not record subscriber names or addresses to protect asset owners.**

Should a disaster occur, logon to www.homeassetlist.com from anywhere in the world (home, office or café), type in your secure account no and password, print out or e-mail the list of assets with all relevant information to your insurance company, police, and any other required sources! For example: for an Insurance claim in the event of theft or fire, speed up the claim process and possibly provide the best \$ return for you by providing accurate details on all of your assets!

And what's in it for www.homeassetlist.com and SAVFBA?

Volunteer firefighters do a massive amount of good for all members of the community and on that basis they deserve to be recognised. The provision of the free subscriptions goes part way to doing this. As well there is a strong correlation to the impacts of a fire and the benefit of this web site being "off site" storage of information, should such a catastrophic event occur to a subscriber.

Each brigade leader will receive a list in March containing the account numbers/password for the members assigned to that brigade, please select an account, logon and change the password supplied immediately, enter your asset details then or over a period of time.

Encourage your family and friends to join this useful service and the SAVFBA will receive \$2 from www.homeassetlist.com for each new SA subscription. That way everyone wins!

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www.homeassetlist.com has provided 4 545 free subscriptions to our members (approximately \$100 000 value).

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\$2 for every new subscription in SA will be donated to

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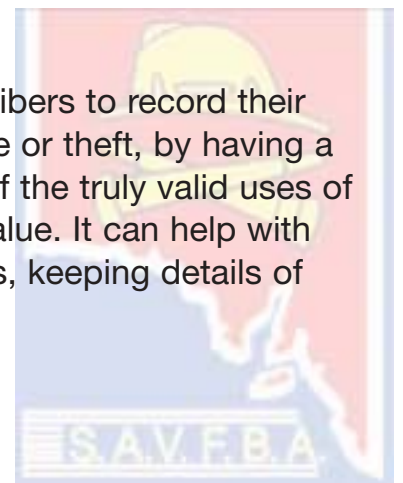
Fire...Flood...Storm...Earthquake...Theft

Destroys all Records

www.homeassetlist.com is a web site designed to assist subscribers to record their assets and reduce the stress associated with events such as fire or theft, by having a detailed off site record of items owned. We feel the site is one of the truly valid uses of the Internet and is of merit to ANYONE that owns anything of value. It can help with valuing your assets for accurate insurance coverage, bank loans, keeping details of warranties on items etc.

www.homeassetlist.com is SA owned and operated.

1st year subscription of \$22, ongoing \$11 per annum.



COAG National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management

January 2004 saw the release of the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) report on the National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management.

By Tim Davis,
Manager Bushfire Safety

The report highlights the need for a common understanding and approach to bushfires throughout Australia.

COAG focuses on an opportunity to enhance national cooperation and achieve best practice in response to the 2003 bushfire season. One of the themes of the inquiry is that Australia needs to learn to live with the risk of bushfires.

Interestingly, the COAG report also emphasises that there is no way we can fire proof Australia, but instead need to better prepared and learn to live with fire.

Why was the report commissioned?

On 10 October 2003 the Prime Minister announced an Inquiry into Bushfire Management in Australia. This Inquiry was commissioned following the loss of four lives and around 500 homes in the ACT and the Victorian Alpine fire that occurred during the 2002-03 Fire Danger Season.

The essence of the inquiry was to add value to the work already occurring in the state and territory jurisdictions by considering issues and identifying situations where there may be opportunities to enhance national cooperation and achieve better practice. The final report was delivered to the Prime Minister on 2 April 2004 with release to the public occurring on 24 January 2005.

Who conducted the Inquiry?

The Inquiry was completed by a panel of experts on behalf of (COAG). Former SA Country Fire Service CEO Stuart Ellis headed this panel. The panel gathered information related to the Inquiry Terms of Reference from each agency with involvement in Bushfire Mitigation and Management in Australia. Anyone was invited to make submissions for consideration by the panel. Once this information was collected, an analysis

was made and recommendations proposed in the final report.

CFS had a high level of involvement in the preparation of information and the recommendations that have evolved. In particular the work completed from the Premier's Bushfire Summit in 2003 was highly regarded.

What were the Terms of Reference?

The Inquiry's terms of reference focused on the current state of bushfire management in Australia, including:

- Risk factors contributing to bushfires, including deliberate fire lighting
- Bushfire mitigation strategies in national parks, state forests, other Crown land, other open space areas adjacent to urban development and private property
- The impacts of bushfires on the environment, human life, property and the economy
- The impacts of fire mitigation strategies, such as hazard reduction, on the environment, human life, property and the economy
- The adequacy of infrastructure and human resources for fire mitigation purposes

- The use of existing firefighting resources, including an examination of the efficiency of resource use and co-operation between agencies and between jurisdictions and
- The identification of best practice national measures, cooperation and standards that can be undertaken by all levels of government, industry and the community, and the economic, social and environmental costs and benefits of such measures.

Report Recommendations

The COAG report made 29 recommendations. Eight of these recommendations have been acted upon including, the National Aerial Firefighting Strategy and agreement with ABC on the broadcast of warnings.

Fourteen recommendations need further work including fire regime mapping, land use planning issues, zoning approach to fuel management and operation response matters.

The remaining seven recommendations relate broadly to ongoing research need and data collection.

The COAG report provided some important recommendations for the CFS.



COAG National Inquiry on Bushfire Mitigation and Management



These include:

- Develop and implement national and regionally relevant education programs about bushfire, to be delivered to all Australian children as a basic life skill. These programs should emphasise individual and household preparedness and survival as well as the role of fire in the Australian landscape.
- Formalise non-exclusive agreements with the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) as the official emergency broadcaster, providing an assured standing arrangement. Similar protocols with commercial networks and local media should also be established.
- Adopt and continue to use the AIIMS Incident Control System in accordance with Australasian Fire Authorities Council guidance and policies.
- The Inquiry endorses the recommendations on warning systems in the report *Natural Disasters in Australia*. In addition, it recommends as follows:
 - That all fire ban advice and subsequent 'bushfire threat warnings' related to specific fires be conveyed consistently in all states and territories, including the use of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal when lives or property are threatened.
 - That the final structure of the warnings be based on the findings of the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre's project *Communicating Risk to Communities and Others*.

The Inquiry recommends as follows:

- That the approach that gives residents the option of leaving when confronted by a major bushfire threat or making an informed decision to stay and defend their home or property be adopted as a common national policy.
- That implementation of a 'go early or stay and defend' policy must be fully integrated, with effective community education programs to improve preparedness and support timely and informed decision making.
- Provision of training for fire, police and emergency services personnel in the application of the 'go early or stay and defend' policy is essential if this approach is to be applied safely—with particular emphasis on minimising evacuations at the height of fire events. This should be supported by formal agreements between the relevant authorities.
- Australasian Fire Authorities Council and Emergency Management Australia—in partnership with state and territory agencies and other education and research institutions coordinate a national program of professional development focused on bushfire mitigation and management. Under the program, partners would deliver nationally coordinated professional development services to all jurisdictions.
- COAG support and fund the establishment of an Australian Centre for Bushfire Lessons Learnt, for an initial period of five years.
- COAG adopt a statement of national principles as the framework for the future direction of bushfire mitigation and management in Australia.

What are the next steps for implementation?

Progress has been made on many of the recommendations of the Report with the Australian, State and Territory governments.

COAG has developed an action plan for the implementation of the remainder of the recommendations. Many of the recommendations will be actioned by the Australasian Police Ministers Council acting on the advice of the key agencies.

From a South Australian perspective CFS and others will be briefing the Minister for Emergency Services and the Minister for Police on the direction of any of the recommendations or resulting initiatives.

It is important to note that some of the recommendations are of a strategic nature and will need to be progressed over the long term.

More information on the Inquiry can be found at the COAG Website www.coagbushfireenquiry.gov.au



The Nature of Ngarkat

By Brenton Ragless

While many Australians made the most of the Public Holiday on 26 January, about 300 SA Country Fire Service volunteers gave up their day off work to combat fires across the State.

Thousands of lightning strikes occurred prior to Australia Day causing many fires to break out in grass and scrub.

The worst hit areas were the Riverland, Murraylands and South East where CFS volunteer firefighters actively fought grass and scrub fires ranging in size from 20 square metres to 250 hectares.

However, it was once again the Ngarkat Conservation Park that was the biggest blaze.

Locals were not surprised when they awoke from a night of heavy lightning activity to find plumes of smoke rising from the scrub. Ngarkat Conservation Park has a history of devastating fire events caused by lightning, which have impacted on the community through loss of both environmental and built assets.

After aerial observers confirmed reports of fire activity within the park, local CFS Brigades together with crews from the Department for Environment and Heritage went into action and planned their attack. Many of the firefighters and incident managers had just returned from assisting the firefighting effort on the Eyre Peninsula. With the fire burning through dense, inaccessible scrub, the crews knew this would not be a short job and preparations were made for a week long combat.

Originally two fires were reported. One of the fires commenced burning in an area known as Rabbit Island on the southern boundary of Ngarkat. About 100 firefighters on the ground, together with the assistance of three aerial water bombers, concentrated their efforts on extinguishing the southern flank of the blaze as it broke free from the scrub. Another fire burned through inaccessible scrub in an area known as Jimmy's Well.

While the fires posed no threat to homes, they produced significant amount of smoke, which slowed traffic on the Dukes Highway and affected the areas of Keith, Bordertown, Naracoorte, Lucindale, and Kingston.

Nearly four days after the fires had started, the two separate fires spread in size and joined together to form one large blaze.

It was as a result of a major fire in the park in 1999, which burnt more than 100,000 hectares of heritage scrub, that prompted the Tatiara CFS Group to create a dry firefighting strategy. This involves using heavy iron bars in the shape of an 'A' frame dragged behind a tractor to flatten and push over the scrub, leaving a fire break in hope of reducing the fire spread.

It was this strategy that recently won the Group, an Australian Safer Communities Award from Emergency Management Australia. The 'A' frame was once again put to good use in creating fuel breaks working along side many other earth moving appliances.

In total, more than 400 firefighters worked around the clock to bring the blaze under control. Many hours were spent back burning establishing containment lines ahead of the fire's perimeter. Five aircraft, including aerial intelligence and water bombing aircraft, were also used to provide visual assessments to crews working on the ground.

The mammoth effort was finally brought to a close as favourable weather conditions caused the fire to drop in intensity allowing crews to contain the blaze on Wednesday, seven days after the fire was first reported. In total, the fire burnt 26 821 hectares of heritage scrub. Fortunately no homes were affected.



The intensity of the fire was immense.

Photos by Peter Brookman, Coombe CFS Brigade

Photo by Rex Hall, VFBA

Training

Ash Wednesday Memorial

Wednesday 16 February marked the 22nd anniversary of the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983.

To remember the 28 people who lost their lives, including three SA Country Fire Service volunteers, a special memorial service was held at the Mount Lofty Summit at 3.30pm – the same time fire swept across the summit destroying the kiosk.

The service not only remembered the Ash Wednesday II victims but all CFS volunteers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

SA Premier Mike Rann made special mention of the two CFS volunteers who lost their lives in the 11 January Eyre Peninsula Bushfire – Trent Murnane and Neil Richardson

A total of 13 volunteer firefighters have died in action while serving in the CFS between 1979 and 2005.

The Ash Wednesday II fires saw the largest number of volunteers called to duty from across Australia at the same time – an estimated 130 000 firefighters and support crew.

In South Australia alone more than 1 587 square kilometres was burnt, 257 350 farm animals perished, 564 vehicles were incinerated and 312 homes destroyed – a total damage bill of \$400 million.



Remembering Ash Wednesday.

New State Training Officer for Built Environs

The CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga has welcomed a new member to the team. Brett Pollini is the new State Training Officer for Built Environs. Brett has an extensive background in the military as a firefighter with both the Navy and Air Force. In 1997 Brett left the Defence Force to take up a position as a firefighter with the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service. After reaching the rank of Station officer within the Education and Training Department, he then moved to Hamilton, Victoria in 2002 as a structural instructor for the Country Fire Authority.

In November last year, Brett moved to Adelaide with his wife and two children to take on his current role at the CFS State Training Centre. Brett's projects will

include the development of courses in compartment fire behaviour training, tactical ventilation and vertical rescue. A long-term project for him will be to establish a CFS Marine Response Unit.

Welcome aboard Brett!



Have we lost you?

If you have changed address please notify your brigade administration officer so that your address can be updated on CFS records.

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For further information please Contact:
CABA Project Manager:
Garth Hogarth
SACFS State Training Centre
Pyrites Rd
Bulunga SA 5252
Ph: (08) 8398 9900
Fax: (08) 8388 6997
e-Mail: hogarth.garth@cfs.org.au



Around the Traps

CFS Public Affairs arrive in your Region

As of April 2004, members of CFS Public Affairs team will be arriving in your Region as part of a new program designed to enhance relationships between news media, volunteers and staff.

The first rotation of the media liaison program begins in early April in Region 4 with Region 2 to follow, then Region 6, Region 1, Region 3 and Region 5 in June.

It is planned that a media liaison officer will spend a week in each Region to 'meet and greet' with volunteers and staff, attend Group meetings, deliver media awareness trainings, participate in a brigade training nights and generally gain a better understanding of each area.

The also program also aims to:

- Keep CFS volunteers and staff informed of each region's activities and achievements through communication tools such as the Volunteer magazine and Firefront
- Improve the accuracy, timeliness and consistency of information to the media
- Create awareness among volunteers and Regions of the role of media through media training
- Provide volunteers and regional staff with information on how to create newsworthy stories within their regions to increase profile
- Gain a greater understanding and knowledge of issues specific to each region.

The program will be reviewed after the first rotation and hopefully continue each year.

An interesting read in the Daily Telegraph

Burning desire for pizza

By Simon Benson

7 February, 2005

To the ordinary person, it would appear to be a fire engine. But to one firefighter at the Maroubra fire station, it's a pizza delivery van. So when a fire alarm was activated at the Eastern Suburbs station three weeks ago, a problem arose. There was no truck.

"Apparently the firefighter decided to take the pumper to a pizza shop at Maroubra Junction for a bite to eat," a relieving fire officer said in a letter of complaint to Emergency Services Minister Tony Kelly.

The letter, obtained by The Daily Telegraph, describes the ludicrous situation in detail. A firefighter has since been suspended over the incident.

"Whilst at Maroubra Junction, the firefighter met some friends and decided to take them for a joyride," the officer wrote.

"In the meantime, Sydney Communications Centre activated the fire station's alarm system to respond to a call.

"Obviously the crew at the station couldn't respond because the pumper was being unlawfully used to take civilians for a joyride."

Fortunately, it wasn't a triple-0 call to a burning house.

"On returning to the station to pick up the crew, the civilian joyriders were still on board the pumper," he went on.

"The relieving officer in charge of the station challenged the AWOL firefighter regarding his behaviour and why he had civilians on a brigade vehicle. He was told to 'Go and get f....d.'"

A series of incidents three weeks ago at the station - which only has one pumper - are being investigated by the NSW Fire Brigade.

The whistleblower also claimed the station had failed to respond to a

"white powder" alarm aboard a Virgin Airlines plane at Sydney Airport in August last year because a change of shift was imminent.

"We can confirm there was an incident at one of our fire stations and a firefighter has been suspended pending the outcome of an internal investigation," a NSW Fire Brigade spokeswoman said.

"It would be inappropriate and unfair to the parties concerned to make any public comment about the incident while it is under way."

Opposition emergency services spokesman Andrew Humpherson said it was "deeply alarming" that fire engines had not been able to respond to emergency situations.

"The fire brigade is a public service. This inquiry needs to be public, and all circumstances and recommendations released.

"This is about the public being able to be confident that an emergency service such as a fire brigade is able to respond to save lives and property ... as a priority over pizzas."

Mr Kelly's office confirmed it had received the letter.



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SA Fire Services Launch Major Cigarette Butt Campaign

Australian smokers now litter seven billion cigarette butts every year.

In South Australia last year, cigarettes were the cause of about 8 per cent of structure fires and 2.5 per cent of all bushfires.

To combat this, the SA Country Fire Service and SA Metropolitan Fire Service joined with Australia's leading environment groups to launch Australia's biggest ever campaign against cigarette butt litter on 21 February.

In South Australia almost 400 fires are caused each year by cigarettes and smokers' materials. Across Australia that figure is around 4 500.

Carelessly discarding cigarette butts can also be attributed to starting an unknown portion of the 78 894 fires nationally where the origin cannot be determined.

"As litter, cigarette butts can be a serious threat to people and the environment," CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said.

To help solve this problem, Planet Ark, Clean Up Australia and Landcare have just distributed half a million 'Go Green' pocket ashtrays into 1 000 Coles Myer retail stores. Reusable and fire-resistant, the pocket ashtrays are designed to make it easier for smokers to do the right thing with their old cigarette butts. The potential fire danger of cigarettes is a key reason why the South Australian fire services are backing the campaign.

Nationally 14 people die each year from cigarette-caused fires. Smoking -related fires also cost the country tens of millions of dollars every year.

"With a little bit of care, however, all of these fires are preventable," Mr Ferguson said.



The new 'Go Green' pocket ashtray.

Research shows that many new cars no longer have ashtrays, so more smokers are throwing cigarette butts out of car windows where they can potentially cause roadside fires given the right fuel and weather conditions. A solution to stop cigarette butts being thrown out the car window is for smokers to carry pocket ashtrays with them.

The \$1.59 'Go Green' personal ashtray are available from today in 1 000 Coles and Bi-Lo supermarkets and selected Coles Express, Liquorland, Theo's and Vintage Cellars retail stores. Ten cents from each ashtray sold will be given to the environment groups supported by the Coles Myer 'Go Green Environment Fund'.

Is there something happening in your brigade?

Wherever possible *Volunteer* magazine includes contributions from volunteers and stories on brigade events, incidents or general happenings.

This includes incident reports, thank you letters from the community, information about award winners or significant anniversaries for brigades or groups.

So send in those photographs and stories and help us to spread the word of the wonderful role your brigade is undertaking in the community.

Around the Traps

Smoke Alarms

Every home in Australia is now required by law to have a smoke alarm. To increase community awareness in maintaining these, the South Australian fire services, along with Duracell, are once again running their 'Change your clock, change your smoke alarm battery' campaign.

Research shows the majority of South Australian homes have battery-operated units. But according to South Australia's fire services many are not in working order because batteries have been removed or have gone flat.

This message of the campaign is simple – only working smoke alarms can save lives. Keeping smoke alarms

in working order means testing them regularly and changing the batteries once a year. A \$5 battery for your smoke alarm is the cheapest insurance and will provide the best early warning signal of a fire for your family. Using a long-lasting alkaline battery provides year-long protection so you only need to change your smoke alarm battery annually.

Easter Sunday is the end of daylight saving which marks the beginning of the smoke alarm campaign. The launch for this event was held on Sunday 13 March with activities occurring right across the State.



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US firefighter experiences SA Fire Danger Season

From the Rocky Mountains to the steady slopes - US firefighter has a taste of SA's Fire Danger Season

Howdy! My name is Brenna Dill and yes; my last name really is 'Dill'. I married into the name but I never knew it as a joke until I came down under.

I am a member of the Golden Fire Department (GFD) in Golden, Colorado. With a community of about 18 500 people and a daytime population that can swell to nearly 50 000 due to commuters working in and around the city, Golden is located just outside Denver in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, 6 500 feet above sea level. Last year the GFD responded to 1 400 calls.

My department has an average base of 55 volunteers, supported by six paid staff. GFD covers an area of approximately 13 square kilometres, with four stations divided into two districts. We also service a section of a winding road that travels along a river with high canyon walls, and respond to incidents on an adjacent major interstate highway. You may recall from last year a story that gained international coverage about the 'Post' family who lost their lives after a bridge girder came loose and fell on their car. That tragic incident occurred on our section of highway.

I have been an operational volunteer firefighter for more than five years and have an extensive background in Community Education. GFD's community education programs include the Fire Wise Program, which focuses on wild land fire mitigation and is delivered to over 6 000 year six students each year.

A relatively recent innovation is the delivery of Fire and Life Safety programs through puppetry and clowning characterisation. Additionally, GFD provides a range of Fire and Fall programs to Golden senior citizens using various delivery methods, with the most recent being a cooking show aired twice a day on the local television information station.

GFD also provides the Golden community with a Child Passenger Seat

(CPS) installation program supported with a series of 'check-up' events. This program involves certified firefighters installing and/or checking child passenger seats.

Another very successful program is Every Fifteen Minutes, which focuses on the problems of teenage drinking and driving, targeting high school level students, and uses a collaborative approach between police, ambulance and fire.

The Juvenile Fire Setters program (JFS) has GFD firefighters assisting other agencies in the assessment process of young arsonists.

During Home Safety Surveys, GFD personnel visit residential homes and advise on every aspect of fire, life and fall safety including offering advice on the safe storage of chemicals and poisons to parents with young children.

The File of Life program is based on providing Golden residents with a medical information card, which contains all of a person's pertinent medical information. The card slides into a red sleeve with a magnetic back and is placed on the fridge. It is then available for quick and easy access by emergency responders so that they can identify a person's medical history.

Like most volunteer fire departments, fundraising is always important and the GFD holds a Pancake Breakfast every year in the summer and a fundraising drive in autumn. Both have enormous support from the community.

All GFD members are required to undertake a five-month part-time (around 48 hours per month) training program at the academy once they are voted into the department. One of the months includes a comprehensive medical First Responder course.

GFD responds to a wide range of incidents including wildland, structure and industrial fires, road crash rescue, swift water rescue, ice rescue, high angle rescue, hazmat, as well as general medical emergencies.

I am currently working under a three-month contract with the SA Country Fire Service in the area of community education, in anticipation of acquiring an assortment of new programs and



Brenna Dill.

ideas to be incorporated into Golden's community education curriculum as well as other neighbouring departments.

I arrived in SA on 5 January, began work on 11 January and was thrown directly into the firing line (so to speak) of the Wangary fire. I spent a week and a half working with the CFS/CSIRO/CRC investigations team over on the Eyre Peninsula. This trip proved to be a bit of a crash course and an extremely graphic and educational experience into the devastating impact bushfires can have in SA.

I appreciate the generous SA hospitality I have received since my arrival. I have met a number of helpful, friendly folk who have assisted me in making my stay 'down under' very enjoyable.

I will have nothing but good stories to tell my work associates and friends back home.

One final comment, however - I won't say too much about the courteous drivers out on the roads, and one question - "what do you mean I can't turn left on a red?"



Clowning around as part of Fire and Life Safety programs.

Community Bushfire Safety

By John Gawen, CFS Prevention and Community Awareness Officer

The 2004/05 Fire Danger Season marks the 7th year for the Community Fire Safe program. Each year offers new challenges for the program. The balance of supporting community groups formed in previous years and assisting the development of new groups remains a key issue as the program grows.

Assistance from Bushfire Blitz and new approaches in delivering fire safety and property planning information aim to meet the increasing demand for bushfire education.

Community Fire Safe Facilitators Jeff Ayres, Shirley Smith, David Goodwin, Terry Hassam and Fiona Dunstan are joined this season by Rowena Morris. The team has a great mix of skills relating to fire knowledge, facilitation and community development as well as a good mix of experience with the fire safe program.

Bushfire Blitz Officers Natasha Burton and Justin Baxter will be taking the message to more residents in high population density areas throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges and linking their activities with the Community fire safe efforts.

New initiatives such as Bushfire Safety and Planning Workshops have enabled education about bushfire safety to reach more people living in bushfire threat areas beyond that targeted by the Community fire safe and Blitz programs. Workshops target rural communities and offer a more convenient approach to learning about bushfire safety and preparedness.

All CFS community education initiatives have a common aim; to increase awareness and understanding of how bushfires occur, how they can impact on us personally, on our livelihoods and on the community and most importantly how we can reduce the impact and threat of a bushfire occurring.

Volunteers in Prevention

In partnership with the Grant District Council and CFS Region 5 a group of

dedicated volunteers have been actively spreading the fire safety message to the community.

The Volunteers in Prevention Team lead by Ron Telford include Jenny Newlyn, Richard Harry, John Beimans and Graham Hughes. With assistance from CFS brigades in the Grant District the team have visited schools delivering life saving bushfire information to over 800 students.

The program aims to capture the efforts of Ron's team including how many hours they dedicated to providing the service to the community through to the type of resources required and cost of maintaining the valuable service.

With a better understanding of what is required to support efforts like those of Ron and his team, the CFS Prevention unit is better able to develop resources and training that could assist other volunteers that undertake similar activities in their community.

Chaffey Group Continue Fire Safety Efforts

Trevor Pryse from Chaffey CFS Group has continued to teach hundreds of students about the CFS and fire safety.

"It's a job I feel that has to be done", Trevor said.

"We often hear how the kids of today are the future and for the CFS this is critical. The kids I meet today could well be our volunteers of tomorrow.

"Most importantly however, is the information we can teach the kids about fire safety. Not only could the information we teach prevent them or a family member from injury from a fire now but also what the kids learn will be with them for life," Trevor said.

Trevor has a team of volunteers to help spread the fire safety message.

"Without the dedication of Gilbert Pilgrim, Tanya Everarts and Philip Heading. I would not be able to reach the number of students we have.

"Like all things in the CFS it's a team effort. We're a small team with a huge amount of dedication," Trevor said.

"It's seeing the fun the kids are having as they learn and knowing that even if we only save one child from burning themselves, it's all worthwhile and you never know we just might inspire some of them to one day become Chaffey Group volunteers."



Working with the community.

Emergency Management Act

The introduction of the *Emergency Management Act*

The *Emergency Management Act* was proclaimed on 25 November 2004 to provide greater flexibility for emergency services in dealing with emergency management. This Act supersedes the previous *State Disaster Act*.

Emergency Management involves a much broader range of issues and strategies than those generally linked with the management of day-to-day emergencies. These include the use of prevention (mitigation) and recovery strategies and functions.

Due to the complex nature of an emergency, a higher level of response is required than is for the management of day-to-day emergencies, such as the incidents that CFS volunteers attend on a day to day basis.

Emergencies due to their wide spread impact, involve a wider and more diverse range of agencies and interests, e.g. Treasury, Health, Community Services, Engineering, Agriculture, Transport, Community-based service agencies, Commonwealth support programmes such as Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements and industry and commerce.

While the new Act has very little direct effect on the everyday operations of the CFS, there are a few changes to Emergency Management arrangements that CFS volunteers should be familiar with.

Identified Major Incidents

Black Tuesday saw the first implementation of the *Emergency Management Act* since its proclamation. Mal Hyde, SA Police Commissioner, took the role of State Coordinator.

Had the *Emergency Management Act* been proclaimed some years ago, the following incidents may have been classified as Identified Major Incidents and covered under the Act.

- William Creek bus crash
- Tulka bushfire
- Salisbury rail crash
- Burton chemical incident / fire
- Eastern water crisis on Yorke Peninsula
- Glenelg flood



11 January saw the *Emergency Management Act* implemented.

What is an Emergency?

Section 3 of the Act determines an emergency as an event that causes or threatens to cause:

- a) the death of, or injury or other damage to the health of, any person; or
- b) the destruction of, or damage to, any property; or
- c) a disruption to essential services or to services usually enjoyed by the community; or
- d) harm to the environment, or to flora or fauna.

This is not limited to naturally occurring events.

SAPOL is the coordinating agency for all emergencies (not just declared emergencies) unless the State Emergency Management Plan designates it to a different body. This change of coordinating agency may occur if the emergency is of a specialised kind.

In an example of a bushfire, CFS is the control agency and SAPOL is the coordinating agency. The role of the control agency and coordinating agency exists regardless of any declaration.

Salisbury rail crash may have been declared a major incident.



Emergency Management Act

The introduction of the *Emergency Management Act*

Some Terminology

Clarifying the Control Agency

Where two or more persons or agencies are assigned the control function; or where it is unclear which person or agency is in control; or where no person or agency has the control function, then the control agency for that emergency will be a person or agency determined by the coordinating agency (SAPOL).

Command

'Command' is the direction of an organisation's members and resources in the performance of that organisation's role and tasks.

Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement within the organisation.

Command related to individual organisations and operates vertically within the organisation as per their organisational hierarchy or chain of command.

Control

'Control' is the overall direction of emergency management activities in an emergency disaster situation.

Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency plan, and carries with it the responsibility for tasking and coordinating other organisations in accordance with the needs of the situation.

Coordination

'Coordination' is the bringing together of organisations and elements to ensure an effective response and is

primarily concerned with the systematic acquisition and application of resources (organisations, personnel and equipment) to meet the potential or actual need as determined by the threat or impact of the emergency.

Coordination relates primarily to the management of resources and operates through an organisation's chain of command or horizontally between organisations as a function of the authority to control.

Interagency cooperation at truck rollover at Birdwood.



Emergency Management Act

Control Agency

The term 'control agency' replaces the term 'lead combatant agency' and identifies the lead agency for certain incidents.

The control agency is assigned the function for exercising control of persons and agencies involved in response operations relating to emergencies.

The control agency for various incidents is set out in the Emergency Management Plan. Some of these roles have only recently been identified and formal procedures have yet to be implemented.

Identification of control agency for various accidents under the *Emergency Management Act*.

Incident	Agency
Aircraft accident	No specific agency
Animal, plant and marine disease	PIRSA
Bomb threat and incident	SAPOL
Earthquake	No specific agency
Evacuation – Public areas and mass	SAPOL
Fire	SACFS or SAMFS
Flood	SASES
Food/drinking water contamination	Department of Health
Fuel, gas and electricity shortages	PIRSA
Hazardous material emergencies	SACFS or SAMFS
Hostage	SAPOL
Human epidemic	Department of Health
Incidents where primary requirement is para-medical patient care	SAAS
Marine transport accidents	DTUP
Oil spills - marine and inland waters	DTUP
Rail accident	No specific agency
Riot	SAPOL
Road / transport accident	No specific agency
Road crash rescue	SACFS, SAMFS or SASES as per the Road Rescue Resource Directory
Space re-entry debris	SAPOL
Search and rescue – land and sea	SAPOL
Search and rescue – structure (USAR)	SAMFS, SASES or SACFS
Storm / Tempest	SASES
Terrorist incident	SAPOL

What does this mean for CFS?

The everyday management of an incident by the CFS is not directly affected by this new Act.

The CFS are the control agency as designated in the table on this page and the CFS Incident Controller is still at the top of the chain of command at incidents where CFS are the controlling agency.

The CFS Standard Operating Procedures, the Chief's Standing Orders and relevant legislation still govern CFS operations.

Should an emergency be declared under the act the Police Commissioner will take on the role of State Coordinator.

The State Coordinator will work with CFS to resolve any incident, however the on ground firefighters will continue to receive any taskings in the normal manner.

Higher level command and control at Incident Controller level and above will continue to be the subject of multi-agency discussions so as to get agreement in as many areas as possible before any event.

To assist in this staff from all agencies must continue to actively work together and report any issues through their chain of command for addressing at the various multi agency committees.

The state Emergency Management Plan is currently being reviewed. CFS will be actively involved in that review.



AFAC Volunteer Leaders Program 2004

By Rob Styling, Salisbury CFS

During December 2004 I was fortunate to be sponsored by the VFBA to attend the Australasian Fire Authorities Council Volunteer Leaders Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly NSW.

The course was a five day residential program and included participants from all mainland States and Territories, including one from Palm Island Qld. The program was intense as one would expect and covered a variety of topics relating to leadership.



Rob Styling (Salisbury CFS) and Jeanette Lindsay (Inman Valley CFS) on board tall ship SVANEN on Sydney Harbour.

The program covered areas including media presentations by a former ABC presenter, the analysis of our leadership styles and looked at the decision making process, particularly focusing on stressful situations.

The highlight was a team building session that had us sailing a tall ship around Sydney Harbour. It certainly made us realise very quickly just how hardy those sailors, who sailed from England over 200 years ago, must have been.

The course highlighted for me the important differences between management and leadership. Management is about systems, controls, policies and procedures and structure, whereas leadership is about trust and integrating your people into the management processes. Management focuses on efficiency and leadership focuses on effectiveness.



AFAC VLP 2004 Course photo with Mick Kelty, Australian Federal Police Commissioner and instructors.

One particular subject that interested me was covered as a team project. It was Crew Resource Management. The concept was developed by the airline industry in originally dealing with emergency situations in the air, but has now broadened from that considerably. On the surface it appears to have some benefit in our service and I intend to research the subject in greater detail.

It is based on the fact that in emergency situations it has been proved that democratic aircraft Captains get better outcomes.

These Captains involve all crew in the decision making process and do not make unilateral decisions. They take into account the differing levels of experience of the crew's and their differing views of the situation. This recognises the valuable input crew can have in the decision making process.

This does not mean the leader does not make the final decision and is not accountable for it. Rather it enables a decision based on a broader understanding of the situation to be made to achieve a suitable outcome.

We also analysed the Black Hawk helicopter crash and the more recent ACT fire as well as the exploits of

the explorer Shackleton. All were valuable in hopefully making us better decision makers.

I would encourage anyone who holds or aspires to a leadership role in the CFS to apply for this course if it is offered in the future. It is very worthwhile, not only for self development but as a life experience.



'Blind man's' tent assembly.



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Safety



Asbestos Audits and Labelling

By Paul Sargent, Asset Services

The SA Country Fire Service and State Emergency Services have employed JTA Risk Management Pty Ltd to undertake asbestos audits for all required stations (approximately 285 stations) to ensure we meet our legal obligations. Inspections commenced on 23 February 2005 and are anticipated to be completed by mid April.

Occupational Safety and Welfare Regulations have a number of requirements that owners and employers of all workplaces must follow in order to comply with the legislation.

These requirements include:

- The need to inspect buildings to determine if any asbestos is present;
- The need to conduct a risk assessment to ensure that the asbestos is in a stable condition and presents no risk to the health and safety of employees or people entering each building;
- The need to have an asbestos register on each site that is readily available for any people who may be working on the building (ie. builders, electricians etc).

- The need to label (where practicable) any identified asbestos materials.

Labelling of asbestos materials serves as an indicator to warn people of its presence and to ensure the materials are not disturbed. It also alerts any contractors installing powerpoints or conducting minor works on a building of the materials they are working with and ensures they take the necessary precautions.

The asbestos materials identified and labelled are not harmful to building occupants performing their normal duties.

Join the RSL now...

**As a CFS Member you are eligible to be an Affiliate of the
RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE of AUSTRALIA**

The RSL is a National Organisation, which is committed to helping Serving, and Ex-Service personnel of the Australian Defence Forces and the Local Community.

Over the years local RSL Sub-Branches have been a focal point in most Country Communities, with many of its members serving with the SA Country Fire Service.

The tradition of the CFS "To protect, life, property and the environment from fire and other emergencies" is similar to that of the Armed Forces "To protect our Nation".

By being a member of the RSL you would ensure the continuation of the Australian way of life, "To support a mate" and uphold the ANZAC tradition in your local community.

During the recent West Coast Disaster the RSL Sub-Branches in the area supported the volunteers. Tumby Bay RSL clubrooms were used as an R&C centre and with the aid of the community supplied more than 8,000 meals.

**For more details including Sub-Branch membership fees
please contact your nearest RSL Sub-Branch
or telephone RSL Headquarters on 08 8232 0322 or Email: admin@sa.rsl.org.au**

Download application forms directly from the RSL website:

www.sa.rsl.org.au



Red Flag Warnings

If the asbestos is in a stable condition and not crumbling apart, then it is not a risk to your health.

If at any time asbestos is identified as being in poor condition and requiring attention. Please report the matter to the CFS Manager Asset Services (Phone 8463 4097) who will ensure the necessary action is taken to rectify the situation.

As part of the legal requirements an annual inspection of sites where asbestos has been identified will be undertaken and recorded in the asbestos register.

An Asbestos Register and display folder will be distributed to each brigade as soon as possible following the completion of the inspection by staff from JTA.

Relevant brigades have been contacted and provided the date inspections are likely to occur. Updates of the time will be provided closer to the inspection being undertaken.

If you should have any queries or concerns about asbestos or the inspections please contact

**Paul Sargent,
Manager Asset Services**

Phone 8463 4097

Fax 8211 9555

Mobile 0427 822 131

Email sargent.paul@cfs.org.au

At any incident, safety messages may need to be issued to ensure all CFS volunteers and other personnel on the incident ground are made aware of a potential safety risk or danger.

These messages are known as 'Red Flag Warnings' and replace the previously used 'Safety Message' as documented in the Chief Officer's Standing Orders and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) issued in November 2004.

Red Flag Warnings may be issued at any incident from bushfires to motor vehicle incidents and are distributed through the Chain of Command.

Recent Red Flag Warnings relate to falling trees, disturbed bee hives, falling rocks and sharp objects.

Red Flag warnings can also be used to notify firefighters of:

- Fireground wind changes
- Other changes to actual or forecast conditions which may adversely effect the safety of personnel
- Aerial fire bombing activity in the area
- Critical incident information
- Emergency withdrawal.

CFS Sector Commanders, Divisional Commanders, Operations Officers, Incident Controllers, Regional Coordinators or Regional Duty Officers may issue Red Flag Warnings, however any volunteer who observes possible dangers such as erratic fire or weather behaviour should notify their officer-in-charge immediately.

How do I know a Red Flag Warning has been issued?

All Red Flag Warnings, no matter how conveyed, will be preceded by the words 'Red Flag Warning'.

When conveyed by radio, Red Flag Warning transmissions will take priority over all traffic other than "MAYDAY" transmissions.

The transmission, receipt and acknowledgement of a Red Flag Warning will be logged at each level within the Chain of Command. Red Flag Warnings MUST be passed to every individual at the incident, including those from other agencies and private individuals.

These messages must be brief, precise and must convey the critical information and will be passed through the entire incident Chain of Command by any appropriate means available including in person, by radio (specific or general broadcast), telephone, fax, pager or in writing.

Paging is not acceptable as a primary method of conveying safety messages and may only be used as a back up.

Red Flag Warnings are covered under the Chief Officer's Standing Orders Number 13.



The Dead Man Zone

Predicting Rate of Spread of Forest Fires

The 2001 CSIRO Project Vesta bushfire experiments have unearthed some new, critical information relevant to anyone who is involved in forest firefighting (including scrub, bush and plantation firefighting).

The Project Vesta research has shown that there is a common tendency by personnel to **overestimate the distance to a fire** when observing through a forest.

Wind changes and The Dead Man Zone

Following a wind shift, a line of fire will burn at its potential rate of spread immediately and extreme conditions combined with wind shifts have also shown that fire will travel up to three times faster than previously thought.

If firefighters do not take these wind changes into account in relation to slope and the resulting headfire width they may find themselves lulled into a false sense of security and in **The Dead Man Zone**.

It's important to remember that visual indicators which often provide an indication of a coming wind change are not easily observed in a forest.

If firefighters get too far away from the safety of burnt ground, they may

find themselves in The Dead Man Zone, where there is not enough time to return to a safety zone.

The Forest Fire Meter UNDER ESTIMATES rate of spread:

Project Vesta research has provided strong evidence that the table of fire spread given on the Mark 5 Forest Fire Danger Meter, (McArthur 1967), seriously underestimates the rate of spread at all fire danger indices and fuel loads.

CSIRO recommendations state that the rates of fire spread calculated from the Mark 5 Forest Fire Danger Meter should be trebled (ie: X 3) to ensure safety of personnel on the fireground.

Safely Fighting Forest Fires

CSIRO reinforces that the safest method for attacking a forest fire is through direct attack (that is; on the very edge of the fire) or working from a burnt area within the fireline (that is; staying 'on the black').

If a wind change occurs, and you are downwind engaged in indirect attack (that is; working away from the edge of the fire), **YOU MUST** abandon your task and go immediately to a safety

zone without waiting to see what the fire is going to do.

Fire operations and planning personnel should take these findings into account when developing forest fire behaviour predictions and when deciding on tactics and strategies for forest fire control.

These findings reinforce the need for personnel who are involved in forest firefighting to be aware of **LCES**:

Lookouts: Establish lookouts and task all members to be alert to changes in fire behaviour.

Communications: Establish and test clear lines of communications.

Escape routes: Identify escape routes and make them known to everyone.

Safety zones: Identify safety zones and make them known to everyone. The best safety zone is previously well burnt over ground. Using the direct attack method means that firefighters are immediately adjacent to the safety of burnt ground.

More details of the CSIRO research can be found on the CSIRO website at: www.bbm.csiro.au/vesta/deadman



Equipment



New Appliances for 2004/05

From Technical Services

By Sandy Paterson

This financial year CFS is purchasing a range of new appliances, including:

- Two Light Rural
- Eight 1 4's
- Nine 3 4's
- Eight 3 4P's
- One Medium Urban Pumper.

Light Rural

The two Light Rurals (LR) are based on Toyota Land Cruisers with an upgraded chassis Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) of 3.7 tonne. One of these will be fitted with a Quik Spray high pressure pump and hose reel system.

This concept has been developed to reduce the volume of water used when firefighting and is fitted as a prototype for CFS.

The other unit will be equipped with a conventional pump and hose reel system. At the time of preparing this article the design and layout of the body work is yet to be finalised.

1 4

The 1 4's are built on Mitsubishi Canter crew cab chassis's with a Hale BB4 pump driven by a Briggs and Stratton 18 HP petrol engine. The body includes a rear facing single hose reel with 30 metres of 25mm rubber hose and a 900 litre capacity water tank.

The general layout of the body is very similar to previous model 1 4's built in 2000 and 2001. The new models will incorporate a crew protection awning similar to the system fitted to the 3 4's last year.



A new 1 4.

3 4

The nine 3 4 type tankers will be very similar to last year's models. Based on information provided through consultation and feedback from volunteers this year, the 3 4's will be fitted with 60 metre hose reels and these will be fitted above the tray.

With the exception of a fibreglass water tank, all bodywork will be constructed from aluminium.

As with last year, Moore Engineering are constructing the 3 4's and they also have the contracts for the 1 4's and LR's.

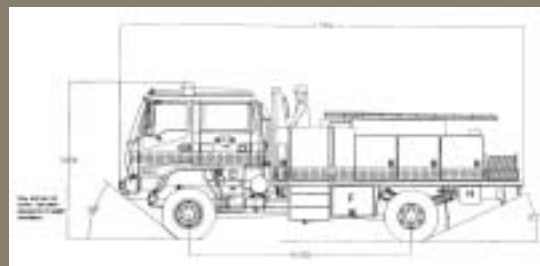
The chassis and pumps are the same as last year. The chassis is an Isuzu FTS750 crew cab 4X4 and the pump is a Waterous CPT-2 driven by a Deutz F4L2011 air cooled diesel motor.

3 4P

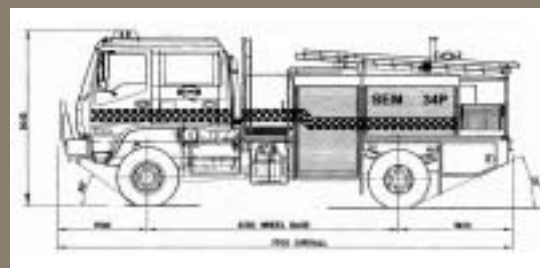
This year CFS has managed to develop the "3 4P". This is due to the GVM of the cab chassis being increased to 13.7 tonne, up from the previous 13 tonne, and this increase has allowed for a 3 000 water tank to be installed instead of the previous 2 000 litre tank. These will be fitted with Darley HE500 pumps driven by Deutz BF4L2011 air cooled motors.

One of the eight 3 4P's will be a prototype with a PTO driven main pump and a small engine driven auxiliary pump. FESA in WA have been using this format for a couple of years now with good results.

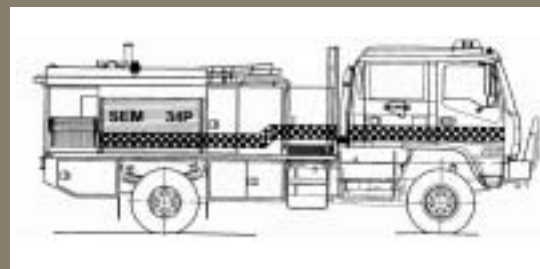
These appliances are currently under construction at SEM Fire and Rescue in Ballarat.



3 4. These images are for example only and the completed appliance may differ in some way.



3 4P. These images are for example only and the completed appliance may differ in some way.



Dennis Arrives

Medium Urban Pumper

This year will see another urban pumper of the NSWFB “Type 2” design come into CFS. This design has been very successful with agencies in Northern Territory, Vic and SA, as well as NSW operating them.

There are currently two of these appliances in CFS, at Nuriootpa and Millicent and feedback from these brigades has been very positive.

SEM Fire and Rescue are also building this pumper for CFS as part of a much larger contract with NSWFB.

This appliance is based on an Isuzu FTR900 4X2 crew cab chassis and is fitted with a rear mounted Rosenbauer NH30 pump capable of 3 000 l/min at 1 000 kPa and with the separate high pressure stage engaged, 400 l/min and 4 000 kPa.



Mount Barker volunteers inspecting their new appliance.

The long awaited refurbished Dennis pumper from the UK has been delivered to CFS. The appliance is currently being fitted with communications equipment and undergoing final testing prior to being handed over to Mount Barker CFS brigade.

The pumper is based on a Dennis RS model chassis with a 4 500 l/min Godiva pump with a separate high-pressure stage that provides 500 l/min at up to 3 500 kPa to the two 60 metre side facing hose reels.

The Dennis has been a long time coming due to various delays including a ban applied by the UK firefighters union in 2002 which delayed the departure of the appliance out of the UK and a very steep learning curve for the NZ supplier and CFS regarding the process to certify the appliance as being compliant with appropriate ADRs.

The ADR certification was a very big challenge that has now been overcome. Any future RS model Dennis's will have a more rapid path into Australia.

This allows future possibilities for integration of worldwide resources into the CFS fire appliance program.

The appliance is powered by a six cylinder turbo charged Cummins developing 169 kW of power. The transmission is a five speed Allison automatic with a PTO attached to drive the rear mounted pump.

Other features include –

- Full air braking system with ABS.
- Air conditioning for the crew cab.
- Four CABA seats in the rear of the cab.
- Roller shutter lockers providing ample stowage space.
- Air operated lighting mast fitted with three 500 watt, 240 volt lamps.
- Air operated hose reel rewind systems.
- Excellent on road performance for the hills around Mount Barker.

TEMPEST™ TECHNOLOGY



Mobile Ventilation Units

Tempest has a range of Mobile Ventilation Units (MVU) for fires in large structures. When building an MVU, you have a number of alternatives including size, power systems, fan adjustments and mounting configurations. Other options include misting systems, telescoping lights, generator, equipment compartment and a lowering system.

Power Blowers

You name the job - Tempest has a the perfect blower. With a choice of sizes, belt or direct drive and a selection of gas or electric engines, Tempest has the largest range on the market. All blowers are built with the highest quality materials available and are engineered to last. And with safety features such as front and rear grills and exhaust extension you can be assured you're also getting the safest blower on the market.



PPV Training System

Positive Pressure Ventilation techniques allow toxic fumes to be replaced by clean, fresh air, making it easier and safer for fire fighters to enter a structure, locate victims and extinguish the fire. Tempest offers a number of comprehensive PPV training packages.



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A Job Well Done



Australia Day Awards

The contribution volunteers make to the community through their CFS involvement is recognised in many ways.

Through letters of thanks, a carton of beer dropped off at the fire station, to medals and ministerial commendations or even just a simple thank you.

Although the prime motivator for many volunteers isn't recognition, a pat on the back and thanks every now and then doesn't go astray.

This section highlights awards given to CFS volunteers and expressions of thanks from the community.



Photo By Grant Wood

Craig Holt

Burnside CFS, Australian Fire Service Medal.

Craig originally joined the Hope Valley EFS Unit in 1974 before moving to Burnside CFS Brigade in 1978. As Captain of the Brigade his passion has been to see the younger recruits reach their full potential as firefighters. The enthusiasm of Brigade members reflects this passion and is testament to Craig's attitude to serving the community.

Craig is highly respected within CFS circles with a number of specialist qualifications including multi agency response. He's also been on three interstate deployments including Victoria in 2003, and New South Wales in 1994 and 2002. Outside his valuable contribution to the community, Craig continues to build the family business, H Holt & Sons, in furniture upholstery. His ambition is to piece together some of the memorabilia of the Burnside Brigade which celebrated it's 70th Anniversary last year.



Photo courteous of the Northern Argus

Peter Smallacombe

Bundaleer Group, Australian Fire Service Medal.

Peter became a member of the Gladstone EFS Brigade in 1978. He's been a Group Officer since 1994 – originally with the Rocky River Group before it amalgamated with Jamestown to become the Bundaleer Group.

It's not the first time Peter has been recognised for his contribution to the CFS – In 2003 he was awarded a Ministerial Commendation.

Peter says the only reason he's been able to contribute to the CFS is through the valuable support from his family and employment at the Laura Hospital. He's been on two interstate deployments including Victoria in 2003 and New South Wales in 2002.

Peter has an excellent reputation in the community and is keen to expand his CFS involvement in other areas such as incident management.



Photo courtesy of the Mount Barker Courier

Peter Hammond

Echunga CFS, Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia.

Peter has been a CFS volunteer with the Echunga Brigade for 25 years, and the last 14 of those as Captain.

Peter is well respected within the community and was awarded the Medal for his significant contribution to the growth and leadership of the Brigade.

Medals and Commendations 2004

SA Emergency Service Medals and Ministerial Commendations 2004

In November 2004, Minister Patrick Conlon awarded eight CFS volunteers with the Emergency Service Medal and Ministerial Commendations in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the CFS and in turn the community.

All volunteers are exceptional people, going out of their way to assist the community, however these eight have been recognised in this way

Ronald Telford

Group Delegate, Bushfire Prevention Committee, Grant District Council – SACFS

Joining the CFA at Nelson in 1957, Ron was instrumental in the establishment of the Emergency Fire Service at Donovans in the South East in 1963.

In 1969 Ron joined the Wandilo Emergency Fire Service and received an Outstanding Community Service Award from the Mount Gambier Rotary Club for his involvement in the Ash Wednesday fires in 1983.

In recent years Ron has undertaken a variety of community fire safety programs and represents the District Council of Grant in a number of community fire safety areas.

Ron was a driving force behind organising the Jubilee 150 Fire Parade and wrote a book, "Bushfire, Bags and Beaters" in 1988, about the history of fire fighting around the Mount Gambier District. He also participated in the Premier's Bushfire Summit in 2003.

Ron's involvement in a number of initiatives within the CFS over a long period of time is testament to his commitment to the organisation.

Robert Chambers

Group Officer – Lower Eyre Peninsula Group – SACFS

With a large fire threatening Port Lincoln, Robert followed a family tradition set by his father and uncle and joined the CFS when he was 16 years old. He is currently the Group Officer for Lincoln Brigade.

His interest in the welfare of his colleagues has lead him to becoming Group representative to the Eyre Peninsula Branch of the SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association and representative at the State general meetings.

He has assisted at Lake Gairdner (SA), as a firefighter at the Dry Lake Racing, went to Sydney in December 2001, December 2002 and in January / February 2003 and to Victoria twice to assist with bushfires. At home he will always be among the first to volunteer to go on a strike team within the state when it is required.

Robert works as an instructor and has also represented the region at the Premier's Bushfire Summit and other conferences relating to fire prevention. He encourages the younger members to take on roles of responsibility and is always willing to help and guide them. He has a firm belief in not asking anyone to take on a task that he himself would not undertake and this has earned him respect from many quarters.

On Australia Day in 1988, in recognition of his commitment to young people and his long service with the Naval Reserve Cadets, he was recognised as Citizen of the Year by Port Lincoln City Council.

Robert Davis

Brigade Captain – Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell – SACFS Groups Operational and Logistics Brigade

Robert (Bob) started his career with the OB Flat Emergency Fire Service in 1965 and became Group Officer for the Mount Gambier Group in 1976. In 1999 Bob became Brigade Captain of the Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell Group Operations Support Brigade and it is in this capacity that Bob has worked tirelessly in the background giving operational support to Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell groups.

In more recent times Bob has embraced the new Government Radio Network (GRN) communications system. He conducts all GRN training in the Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell Groups and works closely with Forestry in providing GRN training to their crews. Bob often takes a role at large incidents in the Forward Command structure and is a valuable member of any Incident Management Team.

Bob also attends and actively participates in Regional Disaster Committees (G3) and holds the position of Fire Intelligence Officer.

Bob's commitment within the CFS has been of significant benefit to the organisation. He is willing to participate in a wide range of forums, beyond that which is expected of a volunteer member.

Roger Grigg

Group Officer – Barossa SACFS

Roger has been in the CFS for about 27 years. In that time he has been involved with Coonalpyn, Darke Peake and Kimba brigades before joining the Mt Pleasant brigade approximately 22 years ago. He has worked his way through the ranks and is currently the Group Officer for the Barossa.

At Mt Pleasant he worked with various community bodies and schools promoting home fire safety and with farmers on fire suppression. Roger also became one of the first in the area

Medals and Commendations 2004

to become a BA operator in the late 80s before going on to become a State BA instructor in 1993 until 1998.

Roger was instrumental in getting the brigade trained and resourced in Road Crash Rescue and in starting a Cadet programme. He was a member of the Region 2 Training Committee and an organiser of the Region 2 field day for several years. Recently Roger has worked with local residents in setting up a community fire safe organisation.

Karl Kehl

Brigade OH&S Representative – Pinnaroo SACFS

In 1969, at the age of 18, Karl joined, what was then the Emergency Fire Service, as a firefighter. He progressed through the ranks to become Deputy Group Officer for the Mallee CFS Group, a position he has held for 16 years.

Over the years, Karl has completed a large number of courses and served on a variety of committees. He attended the 1994 New South Wales bushfires as part of a Strike Team.

Karl is a willing person who assists in any way he can and happily provides new recruits with information about the service and makes them feel involved within the brigade. He willingly participates in a wide range of forums beyond that expected of a volunteer.

John Probert

Former Volunteer Support Officer – SAFECOM Office

John was appointed to the newly created position of ESAU Volunteer Support Officer for the South East in October 1999. A total of 3 000 CFS and SES volunteers were supported by John in the areas of recruitment/retention, conflict resolution, workplace dignity, leadership, youth programs and volunteer administration. John gave distinguished service in this position meeting the needs of volunteers and Regional staff, his commitment in visiting Brigades and Units both at night and weekends has been recognised by both CFS and SES Regional

Commanders and Regional Managers. Of particular note has been John's commitment to assisting the Volunteer associations and his support for the programs in the South East.

John was always available to assist members of the Volunteer Management Branch with timely advice and has done so in a willing and cooperative manner. John has demonstrated a commitment to serving volunteers and has been a member of the SES for 24 years and is currently a CFS member as well. John transferred to the CFS position of Regional Operational Planning in October 2003.

David Przibilla

Group Officer – Kyeema SACFS

David Przibilla has been a member of the SA Country Fire Service for more than 40 years and for the last 20 years has held the position of Group Officer.

David is held in enormously high regard. His understanding of the bigger picture, when handling both large and small incidents is unsurpassed. He has a highly professional approach and empathy for those needing assistance and those who provide it, whatever the incident. He also has the rare ability to understand the needs of all members under his control however Senior or Junior, which means they are comfortable in talking with him, expressing their views and afford him the respect his rank deserves. His quiet manner exudes calm, enabling others to react in a similar manner when faced with a serious situation. David has an ability to direct in a professional manner and a recognised practical knowledge from the experience he brings to all incidents.

David has given selflessly to his community and continues to be a shining example within the CFS for all to see.

John Savage

Brigade Captain – Seaford SACFS

Thirty six years is a long time to be a volunteer firefighter. As a 27-year-old, John joined the urban CFA in Scoreseby in Victoria. Relocating to South Australia, he joined the Port Noarlunga EFS in 1971 and went on to become Brigade Captain.

In 1980 and 1982, John was heavily involved in combating the fires of both Ash Wednesdays. He was also the driving force to build up the International Acco's purchased from SANTOS and Woods and Forests Department in 1985 and worked diligently towards the relocation in 1995 of the Port Noarlunga EFS.

John has had the support of a loyal and loving family and as a father of four sons has been actively involved in school soccer. His two eldest sons have followed in their father's footsteps and are involved with the Country Fire Service.



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Service Awards

Since August 2004, there have been 392 medals awarded through the Volunteer Management Branch. These medals recognise service to the CFS as well as award life memberships.

Name	Region	Issued	Certificate	Years	GSB
Alistair Crooks	1	Dec-04	Life		
Angus Archibald	1	Aug-04	Life		
Annette McDougall	1	Dec-04	Life		
Bradley Ross	1	Nov-04	Life		
Bronte Richter	1	Nov-04	Life		
Christopher Cotton	1	Sep-04	Life		
Colin Craig Holt	1	Oct-04	Life		
David Dearman	1	Sep-04	Life		
David Foreman	1	Nov-04	Life		
David Wilson	1	Oct-04	Life		
Eric Harvey	1	Oct-04	Life		
Gary Candy	1	Nov-04	Life		
Greg Richter	1	Nov-04	Life		
Gregory Heyer	1	Dec-04	Life		
Hugh Stewart	1	Dec-04	Life		
Jeanette Dallwitz	1	Dec-04	Life		
John Dillon	1	Nov-04	Life		
John Lees	1	Nov-04	Life		
John Long	1	Nov-04	Life		
Julie Lovett	1	Oct-04	Life		
Kevin Harvey	1	Oct-04	Life		
Kingsley Sutton	1	Aug-04	Life		
Lenard Brooks	1	Nov-04	Life		
Les Falkai	1	Oct-04	Life		
Malcolm Yeates	1	Nov-04	Life		
Mark Thomason	1	Sep-04	Life		
Philip Zanker	1	Oct-04	Life		
Phillip Schultz	1	Sep-04	Life		
Robert Cross	1	Oct-04	Life		
Robin Holmes	1	Oct-04	Life		
Ronald Liebelt	1	Nov-04	Life		
Rory Liebelt	1	Nov-04	Life		
Russell Hassam	1	Oct-04	Life		
Samuel Thornton	1	Aug-04	Life		
Wayne Altmann	1	Sep-04	Life		
Wayne Savage	1	Nov-04	Life		
William John Richardson	1	Oct-04	Life		
Aileen Pederson	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Alan Jordan	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Andrew Grocke	1	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Angus Archibald	1	Aug-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Annette McDougall	1	Dec-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Athol Rayson	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Barbara Brock	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Barry Graham	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Barry Langbein	1	Nov-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Brian Brock	1	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Christopher Pederson	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Colin Craig Holt	1	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Craig Fox	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Craig Shepherd	1	Dec-04	Long Service	17	Bronze
Daniel Austin	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Daniel Wright	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Darren Fox	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Darryl Van Heythuysen	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze

Service Awards

David Osborn	1	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
David Treen	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
David Wilson	1	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Donald Herrmann	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Edna Winkles	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Garrick Lehmann	1	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Gary Candy	1	Dec-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Graham Lovell	1	Sep-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Grantley Wood	1	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Hugh Stewart	1	Dec-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Ian Dolman	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Ian Taverner	1	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Jason Stichel	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Jason Wright	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Joan Herrmann	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Johan Hoogland	1	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
John Dillon	1	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
John Marshall	1	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Julie Lovett	1	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Karel Jansen	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Kathryn Seyfang	1	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Kylee Merritt	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Lorraine Hammond	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Lynette Jane Burbidge	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Malcolm Dallwitz	1	Dec-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Malcolm Stanbury	1	Nov-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Margaret Wright	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Martin Downing	1	Aug-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Matthew Davis	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Milton Prosser	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Nick Papavasiliou	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Pamela Schultz	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Patrick John Forster	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Peter Hammond	1	Jan-05	Long Service	25	Silver
Philip Roberts	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Philip Schmidt	1	Jan-05	Long Service	15	Bronze
Richard Hennig	1	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Robert Hay	1	Dec-04	Long Service	19	Bronze
Robin Connerty	1	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Robin Holmes	1	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Shirley Standbury	1	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Terence Sweetman	1	Sep-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Valerie Cavies	1	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Wayne Hobby	1	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Alistair Crooks	1	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Andrew McKenzie	1	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Angus Archibald	1	Aug-04	Standard	30	
Barry Graham	1	Jan-05	Standard	20	
Brenton Wood	1	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Brett Merritt	1	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Brett Sedunary	1	Jan-05	Standard	10	
Bronte Hanam	1	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Cameron Garner	1	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Christopher Cotton	1	Sep-04	Standard	20	
Colin McPherson	1	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Craig Paschke	1	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Daryl Stichel	1	Nov-04	Standard	15	
Daryl Stichel	1	Nov-04	Standard	10	
David Baker	1	Oct-04	Standard	10	

Service Awards

David Bradley	1	Aug-04	Standard	30
David Coates	1	Jan-05	Standard	10
David Doyle	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
David Frahn	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
David Hollamby	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
David Page	1	Aug-04	Standard	10
David Treen	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
Debra Parker	1	Dec-04	Standard	13
Elaine Polomka	1	Dec-04	Standard	30
Eric Harvey	1	Oct-04	Standard	30
Eva Treen	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
Garrick Lehmann	1	Aug-04	Standard	10
Garry Holder	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Gary Parker	1	Dec-04	Standard	12
Gideon Douglas	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Glen Roberts	1	Sep-04	Standard	10
Grantley Wood	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Gregory Lowe	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
Harold Gelzinis	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
James Drummond	1	Nov-04	Standard	30
Jason Carroll	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Jeanette Dallwitz	1	Dec-04	Standard	30
Jeffery Anderson	1	Aug-04	Standard	20
Jeffrey Langbein	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
John Dillon	1	Nov-04	Standard	20
John Follett	1	Dec-04	Standard	20
John Mashall	1	Sep-04	Standard	30
Julie Holt	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Julie Lovett	1	Oct-04	Standard	30
Kathryn Seyfang	1	Aug-04	Standard	10
Kelly Wing	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Kevin Harvey	1	Oct-04	Standard	30
Kevin Van Heythuysen	1	Nov-04	Standard	40
Klaus Stichel	1	Sep-04	Standard	30
Lee Filz	1	Aug-04	Standard	10
Lorraine Hammond	1	Jan-05	Standard	20
Louise Dearman	1	Sep-04	Standard	10
Lynette Jane Burbidge	1	Jan-05	Standard	20
Malcolm Yeates	1	Oct-04	Standard	20
Margaret Dearman	1	Sep-04	Standard	20
Martin Downing	1	Aug-04	Standard	30
Michael Holt	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Michael Rossi	1	Dec-04	Standard	20
Michael Watts	1	Aug-04	Standard	30
Paul Schmidt	1	Jan-05	Standard	10
Philip Roberts	1	Jan-05	Standard	20
Philip Schmidt	1	Jan-05	Standard	20
Philip Zanker	1	Oct-04	Standard	20
Phillip Schultz	1	Sep-04	Standard	20
Rainer Kiessling	1	Oct-04	Standard	10
Raymond McVey	1	Nov-04	Standard	10
Robert McDougall	1	Dec-04	Standard	40
Robert Squired	1	Sep-04	Standard	10
Robin Connerty	1	Nov-04	Standard	20
Samuel Thornton	1	Aug-04	Standard	20
Shirley Stanbury	1	Sep-04	Standard	40
Simon McDougall	1	Dec-04	Standard	10
Simon Oowler	1	Aug-04	Standard	10
Stephen Williams	1	Dec-04	Standard	10

Service Awards

Tanya Wutke	1	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Veronica Hollamby	1	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Vivienne Williams	1	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Wayne Altmann	1	Sep-04	Standard	20	
Andrew Murphy	2	Aug-04	Life		
Brenton Henschke	2	Aug-04	Life		
David Youl Freebairn	2	Sep-04	Life		
Geoffrey Sawgenschnitter	2	Oct-04	Life		
Gerald Thomson	2	Aug-04	Life		
Graham Charles Pontt	2	Sep-04	Life		
Harold Bryant	2	Dec-04	Life		
Jeffrey Kernich	2	Oct-04	Life		
John Sydney Freebairn	2	Sep-04	Life		
Kathleen Sandford	2	Nov-04	Life		
Matthew Bain	2	Aug-04	Life		
Michael Allen	2	Dec-04	Life		
Noelene Hunt	2	Aug-04	Life		
Peter Ashcroft	2	Sep-04	Life		
Peter Kemp	2	Sep-04	Life		
Raymond Owers	2	Aug-04	Life		
Vaughn Charles	2	Aug-04	Life		
Andrew Hogg	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Andrew Stewart	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Anthony Costello	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Benjamin Griggs	2	Dec-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Brenton Rodda	2	Aug-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Bronwyn Starr	2	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Christopher Cowan	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Colin Milton	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Colin Steward	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Darren Cox	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
David Sagenschnitter	2	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
David Youl Freebairn	2	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Dean Rodda	2	Aug-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Douglas Clark	2	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Garry Davies	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Gary Hicks	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Graham Sobey	2	Aug-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Jeffrey Miller	2	Aug-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Jenice Stewart	2	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Johannes Nederpel	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
John Sydney Freebairn	2	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Joylene Milton	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Katrina Milton	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Kevin Julyan	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Lex Phillip Robertson	2	Sep-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Lyle Walter Rohrlach	2	Nov-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Mark Goold	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Martyn Bell	2	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Michael Boehm	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Michael Edwards	2	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Michael Toole	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Muriel Griggs	2	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Neil Fisher	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Nigel Charles Krollig	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Pasquali Cannizzaro	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Richard Gregory	2	Jan-05	Long Service	25	Silver
Robin Phillip Falkenberg	2	Nov-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Russell John Butler	2	Nov-04	Long Service	25	Silver

Service Awards

Shaun Phillip Falkenberg	2	Nov-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Shirley Morgan	2	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Adrian Shepherd	2	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Alfred Buttery	2	Dec-04	Standard	40	
Carol Clark	2	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Colin Stewart	2	Nov-04	Standard	30	
David Bussenschutt	2	Aug-04	Standard	20	
David Materne	2	Oct-04	Standard	20	
David Proeve	2	Dec-04	Standard	10	
David Tillson	2	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Douglas Clark	2	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Fred Munzer	2	Aug-04	Standard	30	
Geoffrey Saegenschmitter	2	Nov-04	Standard	30	
Jeffrey Clark	2	Dec-04	Standard	30	
Jeffrey Kernich	2	Nov-04	Standard	30	
Jenice Stewart	2	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Kevin Parker	2	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Linda English	2	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Mark Andrew Hoffmann	2	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Michael Shane Furnell	2	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Neil Fisher	2	Nov-04	Standard	30	
Peter Rehn	2	Sep-04	Standard	30	
Reginald Webb	2	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Richard Gregory	2	Jan-05	Standard	30	
Richard Jones	2	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Shane Atze	2	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Troy Darren Rohrlach	2	Nov-04	Standard	20	
Raoul Henri Otto de Grancy	3	Nov-04	Life		
Anthony Craig Wachtel	3	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Barry Gowling	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Barry Manuel	3	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Doug Parker	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Frank Griffiths	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Gavin Durdin	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Geoffrey Redden	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Grant Dixon	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Jeffrey Pfitzner	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
John Berger	3	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Neville Lines	3	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Patricia Lines	3	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Peter Arthur Lutz	3	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Peter David Smith	3	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Randall Smith	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Terry Neil Wundenberg	3	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Trevor Kerley	3	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Adam John Lee	3	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Bevan Schubert	3	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Darren Mark Schubert	3	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Dave Simpson	3	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Harold William Pope	3	Dec-04	Standard	20	
John Kain	3	Oct-04	Standard	10	
John Nash	3	Nov-04	Standard	10	
Katherine Finlayson	3	Oct-04	Standard	20	
Laurence Keith Pope	3	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Michael Smith	3	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Robert John Pope	3	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Rodney Pridham	3	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Thomas Graeme A Wachtel	3	Dec-04	Standard	30	
Frank Wallace	4	Aug-04	Long Service	15	Bronze

Service Awards

Michael Wood	4	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Kathleen Marshall	5	Sep-04	Life		
Rex John Hall	5	Sep-04	Life		
Shane Francis	5	Sep-04	Life		
Alan John Hall	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Barry Kelvin Schriever	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Brian Arthur Joseph Vawser	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Cathleen Lorraine Cottier	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Dennis Allen Merrett	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Drew Pegler	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Garry Edward Talbot	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Garry Edward Talbot	5	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Glenn Charles Leggett	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Graham Clifford Lucas	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Graham John Hutchesson	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Graham John Hutchesson	5	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Graham Jones	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Gregory Wayne Bowering	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Jeffrey Ellis	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
John Wayne Holland	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Kenneth Taylor	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Leonard Maurice Laslett	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Lesley Smith	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Malcolm Unger	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Malcolm Unger	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Mark Anthony Swaffer	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Max Clarence Carrison	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Michael Anthony Geraghty	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Neville Robert Telford	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Peter David Lucas	5	Dec-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Peter William Laslett	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Robert Craig Rowley	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Robert John Cottier	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Robert Ratcliff	5	Sep-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Terry James Smith	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Thomas Bertram Megaw	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Trevor John Coutts	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Trevor John Coutts	5	Oct-04	Long Service	25	Silver
Trevor Leslie Jones	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Trevor Neil Ashby	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Victor Clarke	5	Sep-04	Long Service	50	Gold
Walter Winston Jenkin	5	Oct-04	Long Service	15	Bronze
Anthony Noble	5	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Barry Kelvin Schriever	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Beverley Ellis	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Brian Arthur Joseph Vawser	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Bronwyn Rapp	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Cathleen Lorraine Cottier	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Cathleen Lorraine Cottier	5	Oct-04	Standard	20	
Corrine Tedham	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Craig Robert Perryman	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Dale Brant	5	Dec-04	Standard	10	
Darren Craig Berkefeld	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
David Moreland	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Dennis Allen Merrett	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Evelyn Jackway	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Garry Edward Talbot	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Geoffrey David Johnson	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Glen Charles Leggett	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	

Service Awards

Graham Clifford Lucas	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Graham Gordon	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Graham John Hutchesson	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Graham Jones	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Graham Leslie Fartch	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Gregory Wayne Bowering	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
John Holland	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
John Wayne Barnes	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Joseph Lapatha	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Klaus Kanahs	5	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Leonard Maurice Laslett	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Lynne Roberts	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Malcolm Unger Unger	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Mark Anthony Swaffer	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Maxwell Clarence Carrison	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Michael Anthony Geraghty	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Neville Robert Telford	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Nola Howe	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Paul Juurt Pannenburg	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Peter David Lucas	5	Dec-04	Standard	20	
Peter Rapp	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Peter William Laslett	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Peter William Laslett	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Richard Sage	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Richard Sage	5	Oct-04	Standard	20	
Robert Craig Rowley	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Robert John Cottier	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Russell Mackenzie	5	Sep-04	Standard	20	
Shane Edward Smith	5	Sep-04	Standard	20	
Terry James Smith	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Thomas Bertram Megaw	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Trevor John Coutts	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Trevor Leslie Jones	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Walter Winston Jenkin	5	Oct-04	Standard	10	
Wanda Osis	5	Sep-04	Standard	10	
Wayne Busbridge	5	Dec-04	Standard	30	
John William Zerk	6	Oct-04	Life		
Keith Foale	6	Oct-04	Life		
John William Zerk	6	Oct-04	Long Service	35	Gold
Keith Foale	6	Oct-04	Long Service	45	Gold
Brian Leo Nagel	6	Oct-04	Standard	10	

With Thanks CFS

Help Appreciated

We were called home from our weekend away to a different yard than we had left it in due to the freak storm on Saturday, December 11.

We would like to thank our close neighbours and friends for helping our son Chad lift valuables off the ground before too much got damaged, along with blocking up the doors.

A special thank you to all CFS and SES crews for their help in pumping out the water from our damaged areas.

It is very much appreciated.

We wish all the surrounding homes that were damaged well with their clean up.

**Doug, Jill and Chad McMartin,
Murray Bridge**

Murray Valley Standard, 14 January

Flood Thanks

We would personally like to thank all the CFS and emergency personnel who pumped many thousands of gallons from our property after the flash flooding.

You took away our despair and gave us hope and chance to return to semi-normality.

Your efforts were very much appreciated

**Carlene and Colin Strauss,
Murray Bridge**

Murray Valley Standard, 23 December

Well Done Greenock CFS

Dear Sir,

Well done to the Greenock CFS for half a century of service in the Greenock area and the opening of the new amenities block both of which were celebrated at the Greenock Tavern on November 20.

Mr Geoffrey Saugenschnitter and Mr Jeffery Kernich both received Life Memberships and Captain David Materne received an award for his twenty years of service to the Greenock CFS. All well deserved.

The highlight of the evening for me at least was Mr Raymond Obst's reminisces of the past fifty years of the Greenock CFS, recalling names like "pinger" Gottwald, Albert Kernich, Gordon Handke, Norm Krollig and many many others.

In a world that has become more and more self-obsessed, it was good to be in a room crowded with people who give up their time and energy to the community, quite often doing jobs that many of us could not do.

Again, well done to those involved in the Greenock CFS, past and present

Michael Schluter, Greenock.

Barossa Valley Leader, 1 December

CFS Volunteers

The role that volunteers play within communities is invaluable and we need only look at the recent devastating Eyre Peninsula fires.

Our local community has some wonderful volunteers we would like to mention.

We were unfortunate to have a fire started by the Australia Day lightning storm and are so thankful for the assistance of the Karoonda, Halidon, Brown's Well and Wunkar CFS crews that attended the fire.

These volunteers spent all night and the next extremely hot day containing and mopping up the blaze.

We also thank our neighbours, who alerted us and gave much assistance, along with their time.

What wonderful people. We want to say a very grateful thank you

**Mac and Pam, Gary and Jull Obst
Wanbi / Mindarie**

Loxton News, 2 February

Thank you

To all those who will work through Xmas day, thank you. To those who will keep our communities safe, help the sick and provide a hand to those in need tomorrow, thank you. To the CFS and SES volunteers who will be there at a moment's notice, including those who will be working communications centres and fire towers, thank you, for keeping us safe.

Sharon, Aldgate

The Advertiser, 20 December

Obituaries

John Bell Kidd, Seaford CFS

John Bell Kidd, dedicated and life member of the brigade, passed away on 9 January 2005 as an active auxiliary member aged 73.

John joined the brigade (Former Port Noarlunga / Christies Beach) in 1961 and was fully committed to the brigade and community.

John held several positions, both operational and managerial with the brigade and gained life membership in 1981.

Our sympathy is with wife Ann and family and David (Mouse) their eldest son who is an active member of the Seaford brigade.

Submitted by Seaford CFS

Brian Dalling, Corny Point CFS

Corny Point Brigade Captain, Brian Dalling, passed away suddenly on 30 December, 2004.

Brian joined the Country Fire Service at Corny Point in 1994, and was Brigade Captain for eight years.

An extremely dedicated CFS member, he was also Southern Yorke CFS Group Equipment Officer for six years.

Well respected by fellow volunteers and staff, 60 uniformed firefighters formed a Guard of Honour at his funeral service.

Greg Butler

Group Officer
Southern Yorke Group

Wangary Fire Fatalities

Two registered firefighters from Region 6 died in the 11 January fires at Wangary on Eyre Peninsula.

Neil Richardson, a member of the Ungarra Brigade, and Trent Murnane, from Cummins Brigade, were travelling to assist with the fire efforts when tragedy struck.

Trent Alan Murnane, Cummins CFS

Trent "Wig" Murnane, was a well respected, popular and active member of the Cummins Brigade since joining in 1992.

A competent CFS volunteer, Trent completed training in Road Crash Rescue, CABA and many other fire fighting activities and as well as travelling to New South Wales for the 1994 fires.

Trent operated his own agricultural spraying business and was also actively involved in the local football club as well as many other community clubs.

Trent, the son of Lorraine and Barry Murnane, is survived by his wife Paula and their one year old daughter Chloe.

Neil George Richardson, Ungarra CFS

Neil "PeeWee" Richardson joined the Country Fire Service as a volunteer in 1977, initially as a member of the Cockaleechee Brigade. When the Brigade was closed, Neil's membership was transferred to the Ungarra Brigade.

He was an active member of the Cockaleechee and Cummins communities and was a talented sportsperson who excelled at Football and Cricket, having played football for Sturt in the SANFL.

Neil is survived by his wife Judith and children Mark, Kate and Lisa.

Phamous Photos

Keep those camera shutters snapping!!
Send us your photos for the Volunteer photo competition or any others you feel will raise a laugh.



Tim Wilson, the Two Wells brigade training officer, showing off his handiwork at beach driving.

Kev Shortt, Two Wells brigade



Fire and Ice

Photo taken on 5 June 2004 at Brukunga while Region 6 crews were training on the hotfire pad. This is one of the training props and the LPG is frozen.

Kylee Merritt, Meadows brigade



My two week old daughter, Cassandra Joy Letcher wearing her first CFS uniform (borrowed from a trauma bear).

Ann Letcher, Lincoln brigade



Heli-tack launch.

Evan Higham



Heli-tack water drop.

Anonymous



That's one way to fill a birdbath.

Anonymous



You can win a \$50 James Place Cameras gift voucher by entering the VOLUNTEER photo competition. The competition is open to amateur photographers, with the winner from each edition eligible for the annual grand prize of a \$100 gift voucher.

Send your photos to:
VOLUNTEER Photo Competition
SA Country Fire Service
GPO Box 2468
Adelaide SA 5001

Conditions of entry:

1. The competition is open to amateur photographers only.
2. Photographs may be of any subject but must either include CFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform, or include CFS events or incidents attended by CFS brigades.
3. Photographs must have been taken by the entrant and the photograph or its negative must not be enhanced by computer or other means.
4. The size of each photograph must not exceed 210 x 295mm (A4 size).
5. Only one entry per person per quarterly competition.
6. All entries become the property of the CFS. The CFS may use the entry for any of its non-profit publications or displays with due acknowledgment made of the photographer.
7. Please enclose your name, address, brigade (if applicable), telephone number and a description of the photo on a separate sheet of paper.



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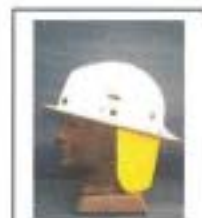
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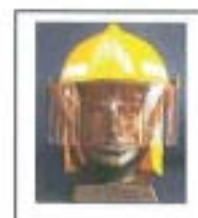
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