



the Volunteer

YEARBOOK ■ 2014



Government
of South Australia



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Volunteer Yearbook is an annual publication that captures significant CFS activities and incidents from the past 12 months.

The views and opinions expressed through the contributions in this publication are not necessarily those of the SA Country Fire Service or the Government of South Australia.

Welcome



GREG NETTLETON

Chief Officer

Welcome to the latest edition of Volunteer. Last year saw the commencement of Vol E-News - an electronic version of Volunteer but published more frequently. Vol E-News is distributed bi-monthly via the Volunteer Portal.

This hard copy edition of Volunteer is a compilation of many of the past year's stories from Vol E-News and is intended to be the CFS 'Yearbook'.

I encourage you to access the Portal frequently. It is the source of important and valuable information for volunteers and helps to keep you up-to-date on what is happening from news to incidents, to your personal training records. Every CFS volunteer has access to the Portal so I recommend you log in and have a look.

The past year has been another busy one for CFS volunteers and staff across South Australia. This is not just with respect to the number of

incidents brigades attend - it is the accumulated time and effort CFS volunteers contribute to serving their communities. As well as incidents, it includes time spent educating communities on home and bushfire safety, on school visits, skills training, brigade meetings and the many other things that brigades do to make their communities safer.

Last summer's fire season broke records. The intensity and complexity of fire fighting operations over a prolonged period was a true test for staff and volunteers alike. In the opinion of many experienced and seasoned volunteers and staff, the past fire season was the busiest they can remember. At the height of fire operations, CFS was well supported by our interstate colleagues from New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and Western Australia and we thank them for their assistance.

I also extend a special thanks to the MFS, DEWNR, SES, SA Police, Forestry SA, Salvation Army, SAAS and St Johns Ambulance for their invaluable support.

We should all feel proud that throughout the busiest season ever no lives were lost, no one was admitted to hospital with life threatening injuries and the number of properties lost was low when compared to the number of

properties at risk that we saved. This was an excellent outcome against the odds.

One of the things I enjoy as Chief Officer is presenting awards to CFS staff and volunteers. My congratulations go to the recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal, the National Medal and the CFS Long Service Medal and their respective clasps. I would also like to acknowledge CFS volunteers who had Life Membership bestowed upon them. A number of brigades also celebrated milestone anniversaries during the year.

Overall, the cumulative years of service by CFS brigades and members that have been celebrated during the past year is impressive. The public value of CFS volunteers to South Australia and its visitors is immense and immeasurable.

I thank all staff and volunteers for your contribution throughout the year. I also acknowledge the support and encouragement of our families who allow us to be part of the CFS family and our extended family of employers and supporters. This includes the hundreds of farm fire-fighting units for without their support, our job would be much harder. Together, we all contribute to making our state safer. Well done.

ROGER FLAVELL

President
Country Fire Service Volunteer
Association

The fire season last summer was another testing one with significant fires in several regions.

Volunteers and staff from across the state can be extremely proud of what was achieved to keep communities as safe as possible and at the same time, mostly returned home safely having worked in extreme and challenging conditions.

While there was some unfortunate loss of property etc., fire fighters are to be congratulated for what was achieved in a safe and responsible manner.

The fires from Rockleigh, Eden Valley and Bangor, certainly stretched the personnel resources and to those who sacrificed their time and in many cases their annual leave to be able to



help their communities we thank you for your dedication.

The CFSVA continues to work with the government and other political parties on the presumptive legislation for our members, to cover the 12 types of cancer which research shows that fire fighters have a greater chance of developing.

Our policy document was well received by all parties in the March State election but through the current tough economic times the state seems to be enduring we've yet to secure any increase in funding, however the document remains live

and will be altered as required.

We congratulate Minister Tony Piccolo in taking up the Emergency Services portfolio and look forward to working with the newly-elected government.

In response to the Holloway review of the current Emergency Service legislation we are also working with the Minister in association with other services, including unions to ascertain where improvements can be made across the services that may provide savings. This may be put towards some of the requirements of our policy document.

Finally, I encourage volunteers to look out for the new CFSVA/Easy fuel membership card to be launched in the coming months, offering many benefits. Thanks to Jeff Clarke, Sonia and Kirsti for the many hours they have contributed towards this scheme.

Thank you for your continued provision of voluntary Fire and Rescue services across the state.

HON. TONY PICCOLO MP

Minister for Emergency Services

The tremendous work done by our volunteers, many of who fought bushfires on the frontline for weeks on end, has reaffirmed to me that the generosity of the South Australian community spirit is alive and well.

It also highlighted that the threat of bushfire is inherent in the Australian landscape, and the devastating impact of such events has a profound impact on those fire affected communities.

In my previous role as Minister for Volunteers, and in new role as Minister for Emergency Services, I have heard first-hand accounts of



the bushfires that transpired which has given me an acute sense of the dangerous fire events that unfolded this Fire Danger Season.

These anecdotes have made one thing clear - volunteers are the backbone of our communities. CFS volunteers are our unsung heroes, consistently demonstrating an unwavering dedication to protecting their communities.

Highly trained and committed, CFS volunteers form an integral part of

our emergency services and I convey my personal thanks and gratitude to the many CFS firefighters who put their lives at risk to make sure other people are safe.

I also acknowledge the support provided by employers of volunteers who release their staff to fight the fires. Without their endorsement, it would be difficult for volunteers to commit to their communities as unreservedly as they do.

I have already had the pleasure of attending fire stations in my electorate of Light and around the State. I look forward to continuing to traverse the CFS regions and visit the various brigades and CFS volunteers along the way. I also look forward to both working and consulting with you on the issues that are important to our CFS volunteers.

The efforts of CFS volunteers have not gone unnoticed and I thank all for their keen perseverance and steadfast approach to safeguarding their communities.

Executive



Andrew Lawson, Deputy Chief Officer

AIIMS 4: READY AND ROLLED OUT

By: Andrew Lawson

The Fourth Edition of the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) has now been running for more than a year.

This Incident Control System which updated the previous 2011 edition has been the foundation of emergency incident management in Australia for over 20 years.

During that time it has been applied to thousands of emergency incidents including some of the most devastating and tragic which have affected Australian communities.

AIIMS 4 is the product of an extensive process of review and revision that led to an expanded set of core principles and the creation of three new functional sections, taking the total from five to eight.

The AIIMS Manual now offers a revised approach to the way an Incident Controller and their team is expected to manage information and develop incident intelligence.

It also describes refinements to the structure of an Incident Management Team to support the process of building and applying information from the field.

Other existing roles that were elevated include Intelligence and Finance, with Investigation as a new role to AIIMS.

The CFS is committed to implementing AIIMS 4 into our Doctrine and Systems of Work.

An **AIIMS 4 Implementation Plan** has been prepared and implemented progressively by engaging staff and volunteers.

All volunteers have been encouraged to familiarise themselves with the updates, which have resulted in the production of AIIMS and you will hear more in the coming months as the CFS AIIMS 4 Implementation Plan is rolled out.

Additional information is available through the Volunteer portal and the AFAC website.

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Malim Watts, CFS Director Operational Capability Planning

MAL HEADS TO THE US FOR ELITE COURSE

CFS Director of Operations Capability Planning Malim Watts has been selected to take part in an elite training course offered by the United States Fire Administration's Academy, near Washington DC.

Each year the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) invites fire, land management and emergency service agencies to nominate individuals for the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP).

The EFOP is designed to provide skills and knowledge to senior fire and emergency officers to help their organisations become more proactive, reflect the communities they represent, develop research and engage in lifelong learning.

Malim who has also been awarded a 30-year service medal with the CFS was one of two Australians from a worldwide field of 350 applicants chosen to take part in the EFOP this year.

"It's a great honour to be an ambassador for the CFS but to also represent the fire industry and fire emergency services internationally and I'm looking forward to strengthening my research and decision-making processes," he said.

"This will offer me a unique opportunity to share knowledge, build new relationships and bring a lot of

value to the CFS by developing ideas and discovering new innovations."

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton congratulated Malim on his achievement.

"This is a highly-recognised and prestigious course that has become an international benchmark in fire management," he said.

The EFOP will involve an applied research project which Malim has yet to decide on the topic of his first assignment.

"The program is definitely a significant commitment and a challenge that I'm looking forward to because the outcome will be professionally rewarding," he said.

Mal is scheduled to travel to the USA on July 7 to begin the first part of the EFOP course.



In Brief

INTRODUCING CFSVA MEMBERSHIP CARD

The CFS Volunteers Association is introducing a new membership card that will see volunteers receive discounts on a range of goods and services.

The discounts will apply upon presentation of the membership card at the time of purchase, from selected suppliers and retailers.



Participating organisations will nominate a discount or benefit to provide to CFSVA members, and members are encouraged to support the businesses that support them.

The listing of the businesses that are involved across the state will be made available on the CFSVA website at www.cfsva.org.au.

The new membership card will be launched in the coming months, with the aim to encourage a mutually beneficial relationship between local businesses and volunteers.

The card also represents recognition for our volunteers within the community they protect and serve.

The membership card will also be linked to the MOGAS Easyfuel Scheme, which allows for fuel points to accrue at participating business across the state.

Further details on this scheme are available at www.easyfuel.com.au.

To register your interest in this program or to obtain additional information, contact the CFSVA State Office on (08) 8244 6500 during office hours.

SUPPORTING CREWS THROUGH FFUs

CFS firefighters throughout South Australia will reflect on the 2013/14 Fire Danger Season as one of the most eventful and busiest they have experienced.

There were almost 20 major incidents recorded during the season with some lasting several days and Bangor in the state's Mid North required a commitment of almost 31 consecutive days but fortunately there were no significant injuries.

This is often attributed to the professional approach undertaken by a legion of well-trained and committed CFS volunteers who are quick to respond and maintain a vigil at bushfire incidents until they're declared safe.

In many cases these efforts are not confined to the CFS but involve a considerable input from farming communities through a rapid first response with farm fire units or FFUs.

In November, a header fire at Roseworthy cost local farmer Peter Kemp more than \$100,000 in damages but conceded that his situation would have been much worse had it not been for his FFU.

His son Ben was reaping on their property when a bearing in the comb of the header caught fire and could not be put out with fire extinguishers.

Within minutes after detaching the comb from the header more than 30 private farm fire units turned up on the property to extinguish the fire.

Peter Kemp lost around 25 hectares but said his entire crop would have been completely destroyed if it wasn't for the extra help he received.

"We would have lost it all if the personal units didn't come to help out," he said.

FFUs played a significant part in preventing the spread of fires during the fire danger season and as a consequence went unnoticed by the wider community and not reported by the media.

Their valuable contribution in supporting the CFS to keep communities safe from bushfires also extends to the potential cost savings in millions of dollars through insurance payouts.

The CFS in conjunction with Primary Producers SA has developed Joint Guidelines for Operating Farm Fire Units which is available through the CFS website under "Fire Safety".

Roseworthy farmer Peter Kemp with his farm fire unit.

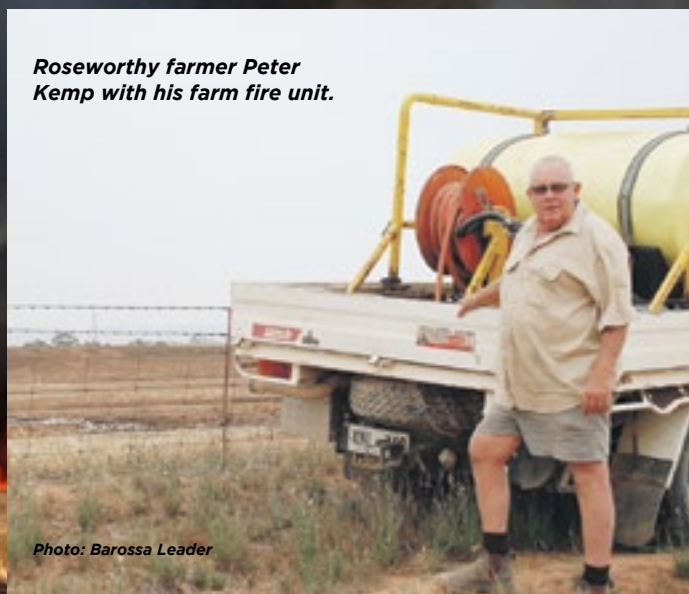
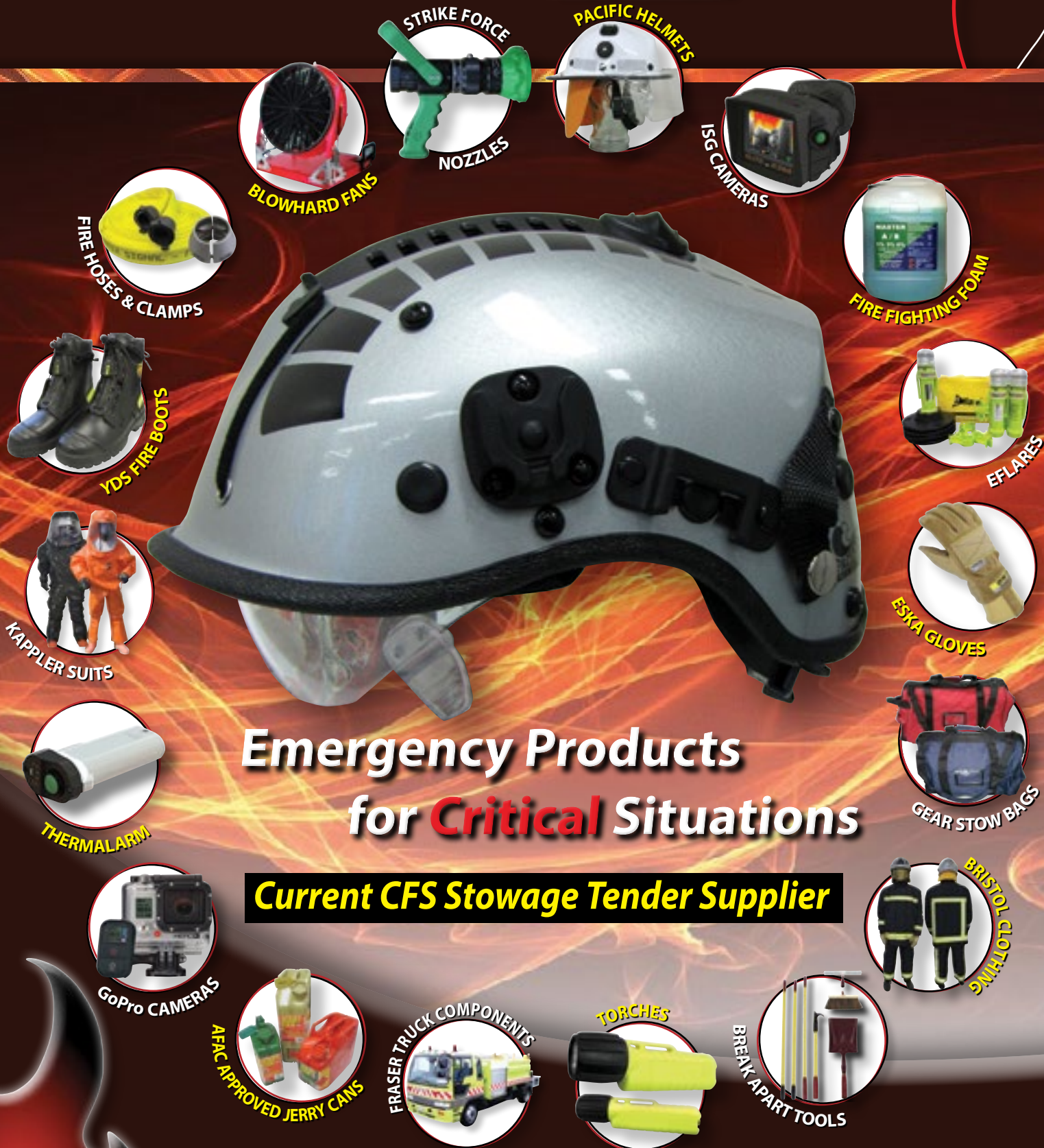


Photo: Barossa Leader

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Regions Round Up

REGION 1

COROMANDEL VALLEY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

John Hall, Coromandel Valley President

The Coromandel Valley Brigade reached a significant milestone on 5 May, celebrating its 75th Anniversary with the CFS.

A formal ceremony was held to mark this landmark occasion, which was attended by around 70 people who gathered to celebrate the efforts of CFS volunteers in the community.

The Brigade opened its fire station doors to the public and hosted an exhibition of early appliances, uniforms and historical records of brigade business.

Included in the display were copies of the first official meeting minutes of the Coromandel Valley Fire Fighting Organisation dating back to 1939.

Children were in for a treat with Smoky making a special appearance, delighting a young audience.

Dignitaries attended to mark this special occasion, including the Minister for Emergency Services the Hon. Tony Piccolo MP, CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Region 1 Commander Chris Martin and the local Member for Davenport, Iain Evans.

The Chief Officer awarded National Medal clasps to Hugh Magarey (45 years), David Suter and Glen Partridge (25 Years respectively).

Minister Piccolo unveiled a plaque commemorating the day, emphasising the importance of the work done by CFS volunteers by offering well-deserved recognition to family members and employers who support those who serve the community.



Before a formal fire service was ever established locals would use whatever they had available. Pictured is a Chevrolet used by the Coromandel Valley Fire Fighting Organisation which was a huge step up from wet bags on a stick, as it had a manually operated pump and a hose.



L-R: Grant Elliott Coromandel Valley Captain, Greg Nettleton CFS Chief Officer, Hugh Magarey, Glen Partridge, David Suter and John Hall Coromandel Valley President

CFS PRAISES BRAVERY RECIPIENTS

A group of CFS volunteers and a staff member are among the 2014 Australian Bravery Decorations recipients which recognise acts of bravery by members of the community.

Thomas McPeake from the CFS Goolwa Brigade has also been awarded a Commendation for Brave Conduct.

It follows an incident that involved the rescue of a woman, who was trapped in floodwaters that swept through Finnis River in the Fleurieu Peninsula in the early evening on 27 July, 2012.

Mr McPeake and five other members of his Brigade responded to the emergency following a report of woman who attempted to drive

across a flooded ford but became trapped.

The team of CFS volunteers checked several crossings and located the distressed woman after hearing her screams while clinging to a tree branch in the main river channel.

In the darkness guided by torchlights, the group made their way through uneven terrain and chest-deep water to reach the woman.

Mr McPeake entered the torrent upstream with a rope tied around him and used the current to reach the woman where he reassured her and tied a second rope around her to be pulled back to safety by his colleagues.

He also received a Group Bravery Citation which included the other members of his team from the CFS Goolwa Brigade, Andrew Gabell, Paul Thurkle, Cory Johnson, Ken Smirke and Amos Zadow.

The Bravery Decorations form part of the Australian honours system and are announced by the Federal Government twice a year around April and August.

All recipients will be invited to a ceremony at Government House in their state to receive their award.

The CFS congratulates all of this year's Brave Conduct and Group Bravery Citation recipients.

REGION 2

INCIDENT COMMAND VEHICLE REPLACES OSV

It's been almost a year since the new Region 2 Incident Command Vehicle (ICV) was officially commissioned for service.

The vehicle, based on an Isuzu 2 wheel drive chassis, was designed by Region 2 staff and members of the Region 2 Operations Brigade with input from volunteers across the Region.

The ICV is self-contained, with communications facilities, computers and its own generators.

The vehicle also has the capability of being utilised as a small command centre, (or to provide extra space for a larger Incident Management Team), a forward command post, or to assist at protracted incidents, such as a Hazmat, where extra shelter for crews can be beneficial.

The Region 2 ICV which was built by Aldom replaced the 22-year-old Hino-based bus - Region 2 OSV.



The R2 ICV which replaced a 22-year-old Hino based bus

The new ICV draws a crowd



TEAMING UP WITH SA POWER NETWORKS

In August, members of the Oakbank/Balhannah CFS Brigade took part in a photo shoot for publicity material for SA Power Networks.

The new series of photographs which have been distributed widely has highlighted the close relationship that exists between the CFS and SA Power Networks.



Frank Crisci, SA Power Network's Manager of Emergency Management at the Oakbank/Balhannah CFS Brigade

Regions Round Up

REGION 2

CONCORDIA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS



All past and present Concordia Brigade Captains from the rear left, Steve Batson (2007 - Present), Colin Menadue (1980 - 1991), Rex Bergen (1965 - 1978), front row from left, Bill Dunstan (1991 - 2007) and Ray Teusner (1978 - 1980).

Concordia Brigade celebrated its 60th Anniversary with a formal dinner at the Hewett centre on May 24th, 2014.

Among the 80 guests were the CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Regional Commander John Hutchins and the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Tony Piccolo.

All five Captains in the history of the Brigade were also present, including foundation member Mr Ray Teusner.

A commemorative plaque was presented to the current Captain Steve Batson, and 10 year service medals were presented to Nick Gehlert, Diane Borgo, Andrea Finlay and Steve Bromley.

Concordia Brigade has a rich history dating back to January 14th 1954, when several local farmers gathered together and formed the 'Concordia District Communal Fire Unit'.

A tank and pump were purchased and stored on a local property, and were lowered onto a farmer's truck when a fire broke out.

They climbed on the back and, according to Foundation Member Ray Teusner, "you had to immediately begin to start the pump because it was such a jolly stubborn thing to get going!"

The Concordia District Communal Fire Unit' joined the EFS in 1965 and purchased a Ford Thames

from the Bridgewater EFS which had its roof and doors cut off, and in 1970 purchased a 1958 Austin Series 111 from the ETSA auctions.

The addition of an International D1310 4WD 100 litre in 1980 made Concordia a two-truck Brigade that saw them attend many incidents, locally and state-wide in years to come.

In 1992, the CFS gave the Brigade a Hino34 diesel, resuming its one appliance status, and in 1994 a new shed was built on Barossa Valley Highway.

The Brigade now has an Isuzu34 and is configured as an urban/rural unit, being situated on the edge of the Barossa Valley and the growing township of Gawler.

According to the Captain Steve Batson, the Brigade has witnessed a lot of changes over the years, especially improvements to training, PPC, equipment and appliances, with safety a major factor.

"Changes have also brought about preparing us to respond to the many and varied emergencies other than fires that have now become part of the CFS as an emergency service," he said.

"We are proud as a brigade to reach 60 years of service to the community, which is a major milestone for us."

SAPOL ACCOLADES FOR SONIA



Regional Prevention Officer Sonia Post

The CFS works closely with other agencies including SAPOL which commits resources through Operation Nomad for the prevention and threat of deliberately lit fires.

The value of these partnerships was recently highlighted by the Assistant Commissioner of Police and Operation, Nomad Commander, Bryan Fahy.

The Commander acknowledged CFS Region 2 Regional Prevention Officer Sonia Post's contributions through a Certificate of Appreciation.

The certificate cited Sonia's dedication, professionalism and commitment to Operation Nomad.

The certificate also noted that Sonia was instrumental in providing continued support to SAPOL through the development of intelligence in arson activity and the provision of statistical and mapping data over several bushfire seasons.

Those at the CFS who know Sonia will agree that she is a worthy recipient of this certificate. Congratulations Sonia.

REGION 3

MURRAY BRIDGE HOSTS R3 FIELD DAY

CFS Brigades from Region 3 took part in their bi-annual Field Day at Murray Bridge in August.

The event featured a range of activities including hose drills and a basic defensive fire suppression drill.

Murray Bridge CFS and SES crews also demonstrated their response capabilities and skills in a boat fire and rescue simulation at Thiele Reserve.

Field Day Coordinator Dawn Hunt described the event as a productive and enjoyable day.

"The Field Day offered our staff and volunteers an opportunity to participate in training activities that may not be readily available to them at their local brigades, to prepare ahead of the fire danger season," she said.



FAREWELL OLD FAITHFUL

Farewelling old faithful, Salt Creek bestowed a fitting send off for their trusty 23 year old CFS truck.



Salt Creek 34 CFS crew and regional Training Officer Dawn Hunt farewelling old faithful, Salt Creek's twenty three year old CFS truck. L-R Chis Cutchie, Captain Mark Scobie, Mandell Tiver, Regional Training Officer Dawn Hunt, Second in charge Brenton Materne, Lisa Hurrell, Kerry Martin, Justin Hurrell, Sarah Pearson, Training Officer Graham Thompson, Harrison Pearson and Glenn Power.

Sadly saying goodbye to what has been an extremely reliable work horse, members of the Salt Creek Brigade welcomed the delivery of their brand new, state of the art CFS firefighting truck on 23 February.

Arriving in the back streets of Salt Creek and assembling at the soon to be replaced CFS shed, Captain Mark Scobie of Policeman Point and his crew gathered to reflect their achievements over the years and take delivery of their updated CFS appliance.

"For her age she was a good old girl, and we received our old truck just like tonight," Captain Scobie said.

"We went from farm built Internationals and Bedford's, that had hose fittings and equipment that wasn't compatible with anyone else's set ups to a tricky CFS fitted Hino, which was compatible with all our neighbouring CFS units."

Captain Scobie said 'old faithful' never let Salt Brigade down at an incident.

"She only did one clutch cylinder, a few batteries and some pump seals over the years - nothing major," he said.

The Salt Creek CFS crew are looking forward to putting their even more reliable and updated, technological advanced fire truck through its paces.

"It has electric hose winders, and a much more powerful pump," Captain Scobie said.

"Regarding safety, there's a full crew cab, halo cab safety sprays and even a compressed air breathing system.

"My aim is to have the Salt Creek Brigade trained to confidently handle any situation, working safely and effectively with the all the new equipment within a week."

Crew members believe that with the completion of their CFS facility to house their latest truck, Salt Creek Brigade will be set to meet the community's expectations for another quarter of a century.

Regions Round Up

REGION 4



Shannen Ellis from Stirling North Brigade at the fire station.

RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH ROYALTY

At just 21 years of age, Shannen Ellis who is a Lieutenant with Stirling North Brigade is already considered a young leader within the CFS.

It was this sense of leadership that prompted an invite by His Excellency the Governor Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce for Shannen to represent his region at a reception for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, during their recent visit to Adelaide.

The State reception for the royal couple which was hosted at the Playford Civic Centre on April 23 offered Shannen a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of a historical and prestigious event.

"I was quite shocked to be invited to attend a royal event, particularly when

I received the invite which included the formal seal," Shannen said.

"It was a real honour to represent young people and the CFS, as I've been a member since joining as a Cadet."

Having being with the CFS for eight years, Shannen is the youngest officer in his brigade. However, it is his sense of leadership and camaraderie that sets Shannen apart.

"Being a CFS volunteer provides you with unique experiences while allowing you to contribute to your community," Shannen said.

"Since joining, I have refined my decision making skills and gained greater confidence in using these skills

in stressful situations".

Shannen also sits on the Youth Advisory Council, where he puts forth his view with other council members about how to support our future leaders.

"Part of my role as lieutenant is to train our younger members, so being involved in a council where I can advocate for the next generation of firefighters is beneficial," he said.

"I am keen to see more young people join the CFS and support their communities, as it is a very rewarding experience.

"Joining the CFS is one of the best decisions I've made."



Phil Dunkley with Lily Neville at Iga Wata in Northern Flinders Ranges who also recorded the "Fire Information Talking Poster" in Adnyamathanha language.

NEW OUTBACK OFFICER

Phil Dunkley who has been appointed the new CFS Regional Officer attached to Region 4 and has now been in this role for nine months covering the Unincorporated Areas of SA in Regions 4 and 6.

In that period of time he has travelled over 45,000km visiting a diversity of

communities, from the small Stuart Highway outposts of Glendambo and Marla to the larger mining and tourist communities of Roxby Downs and Coober Pedy.

"My role is to support over 15 existing CFS Brigades and to work towards achieving a greater level of fire safety for outback communities in the pastoral regions of South Australia including the communities within the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands (APY Lands)," Phil said.

"I have found it extremely challenging but immensely rewarding as I have had the opportunity to connect with the generous volunteering spirit of our CFS volunteers across the Outback," he said.

"What I have discovered is the incredible work that has gone on before me by CFS staff and volunteers in establishing these Brigades and the many hours that has already been volunteered across the Outback in both the training of members and their attending a wide range of incidents."

He lists among his highlights the successful completion of a BF1 course at Glendambo, with 12 trainees from Andamooka, Coober Pedy, Woomera and Glendambo, achieving 'blanket permit' status for CFS staff and volunteers to enter the APY Lands.

Also conducting SAGRN training at Woomera and burn-over drills at Ernabella, participating in a Buffell grass burn on the Stuart Highway with Coober Pedy and being involved with our Ernabella Brigade in the containment of a 7000 hectare bushfire.

Phil has been a CFS volunteer for 33 years and remains a member of the Eden Hills Brigade.

"Joining the CFS is one of the best decisions I've made."

OUTBACK SHOPPING COMPLEX FIRE

In July, CFS fire fighters were praised for their efforts in preventing a fire from completely destroying a major shopping complex in Coober Pedy.

The alarm was raised just after 7pm when fire crews were called to the town's main shopping precinct in Hutchinson Street.

About 15 firefighters with additional support from local State Emergency Service crews, police and council workers, took about five hours to bring the fire under control.

The cost of the damage was estimated at more than one million dollars after the fire destroyed five commercial premises and an adjoining residential building.

The fire was caused by an electrical fault.

CFS Regional Coordinator Sam Quigley said crews managed to prevent the fire from spreading to seven other shops in addition to three residential properties.

"This was a very difficult fire to contain but through the



CFS crews battle a shopping complex fire at Coober Pedy

efforts of CFS crews they managed to stop it from spreading and causing further damage," he said.

"The fire was contained around midnight but one crew remained at the scene until 4am to monitor and extinguish any hotspots."

Regions Round Up

REGION 5



Ben Kha, formerly a member of Millicent CFS, is now with the Summertown CFS Brigade

HOW MILLICENT CHANGED MY LIFE

Ben Kha, Summertown CFS Brigade

Originally a city boy who had always lived in metropolitan Adelaide, I joined Adelaide CFS State Operations and Support Brigade as a hotline operator.

In late 2011, I moved to the Lower South East of the state where I joined the Millicent CFS Brigade. This is where my life changed dramatically.

As city boy who had never really left the 'nest' so to speak, I had moved 400Km from my family to pursue my career as a primary school teacher in a country town.

During my time in Millicent, I was fortunate to have the opportunity

to become qualified in Road Crash Rescue, Hazmat and Breathing Apparatus to name a few.

The CFS Captain, Phil Richards, was the most inspiring mentor. He delivered training to the highest level and made training exciting and gave it purpose.

After my first year in Millicent Brigade, I received the Honorable Millicent CFS Firefighter of the Year award for showing the most improvement through the year of 2012.

Phil's passion and dedication to the brigade inspired me to nominate for a CFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) position in 2013, where I won the position as the Region 5 YAC proxy.

In the same year, I was nominated as a Senior Fire Fighter of the brigade and given the opportunity to further

develop my passion of volunteering.

Due to family reasons, I had to return to metropolitan Adelaide in 2014 where I have now joined the Summertown CFS Brigade.

The highlight of this journey has been the transformation during my short time within Millicent CFS, and how it changed my life.

This would not have happened if it had not been for the dedication of the Millicent Brigade and Captain Phil Richards who always puts in 110% to all his work.

Phil was an amazing mentor who would give freely of his time, even weekends, to help develop skills of the brigade members, and I cannot thank him enough.

NEW PUMPER DISPLAYED AT AFAC

Naracoorte Brigade's new pumper was showcased at the AFAC and Bushfire CRC annual conference, in Melbourne in September.

The new Iveco Eurocargo pumper features state-of-the-art technology with a rear mounted pump and 3,400 litre-per-minute capacity along with a 60-litre foam tank.

The pumper can carry a crew of six and has replaced an Isuzu after 17 years in service at the Naracoorte Brigade.



Photo: Peter Ikonomopoulos, Coober Pedy Brigade Captain



CFS personnel working through a mock scenario

READY TO RESPOND

A group of CFS members in Mount Gambier have completed Level Two incident management training at the Region 5 Emergency Services facility.

The intent of the training was to develop skills in incident management as part of the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) framework.

Participants were challenged by using realistic scenarios and their responses to incidents were refined, to help them function effectively as part of an incident management team.

AIIMS offers an accredited standard that applies to all CFS incidents with versatility to apply relevant parts of the system in any given scenario.

A small incident will require an Incident Controller to be identified and carry out Incident Management responsibilities and cascaded as the incident grows in size or complexity.

The five key functional areas of AIIMS are Incident Control, Planning, Public Information, Operations and Logistics.

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Long Lasting Power

Regions Round Up

REGION 6

LAUREN LEADS THE WAY



Lauren Wait (pictured on left) with participants at the Change It Up forum.

At just 24, Lauren Wait from Port Lincoln Brigade is already being recognised for her abilities as a leader since joining the CFS seven years ago.

Lauren was one of two South Australians selected to attend the Change It Up forum in April 2014, which coincided with National Youth Week.

The AFAC sponsored youth event in partnership with the Foundation for Young Australians aims to empower young people with the tools to identify issues and come up with workable solutions.

The two-day forum held at the Australian Emergency Management Institute in Victoria targeted youth who are currently engaged in the Volunteer Emergency Management sector.

Maintaining a focus on volunteer recruitment and retention of young people, this was the ideal opportunity for Lauren who runs a cadet program in Lincoln.

"I've run the cadet program over four years now, and I have a really good group of cadets," Lauren said.

"The program is a great way for them to transition into the service as it desensitises them to the role, so they can just get onto a truck and go for it."

The Change It Up forum consisted of team building exercises and workshops on developing public speaking and leadership skills.

Participants were required to generate ideas on how to effectively recruit and retain young volunteers in the emergency management sector.

The ideas were later presented to a panel of judges which included the NSW RFS Commissioner Shane Fitzsimmons, along with the opportunity to request funding to implement the various ideas.

"Having like-minded people from different emergency backgrounds proved to be a great way to create ideas that could assist in the engagement of young people into emergency management volunteering", Lauren said.

"The representatives from the panel are now offering support on how the various ideas presented during the presentations can be implemented, which is a really positive outcome."

Representatives will have the opportunity to attend the 23rd IAVE World Volunteer and Youth Conference in September 2014 to present ideas for the recruitment and retention of young people into emergency management volunteering within an international forum.

KEVIN SIGNS OFF ON A DISTINGUISHED CAREER



It was with mixed emotion that last year we farewelled one of our most committed and long-term staff members – Kevin May.

Kevin joined the CFS as a volunteer with the Aldinga Beach Brigade on 1 September, 1975.

In 1983, Kevin entered the CFS as a career officer in Region 6 and had since undertaken a variety of roles across the state.

Kevin enjoyed an extensive history with the CFS and during this time he provided outstanding leadership, planning and management to staff and volunteers alike.

Kevin's accomplishments are varied and many achieving high-level outcomes for the community.

Kevin was instrumental in leading the post-Wangary recovery following the 2005 Eyre Peninsula fires, with the tragic circumstances proving to be a difficult time for all involved.

He also provided significant support to the volunteers and community impacted by the Wangary fire, with his commitment to our volunteers being second to none.

A quality he possessed was empathy with our volunteers and the broader community.

Kevin represented the very essence of what it means to be a staff member who understands and cares for volunteers.

Although he retired as a staff member Kevin remains an active volunteer with the CFS.

We congratulate and thank Kevin for his time at the CFS and for his many contributions and we thank him for his ongoing support during the last Fire Danger Season.

WELCOMING A NEW COMMANDER



Region 6 CFS Regional Commander Robin Marlin has described his new role as his "dream job".

Having had a number of different roles leading up to his appointment in Port Lincoln, including 30 years in the defence industry as an engineer and project manager, he was well qualified to deal with his new responsibilities.

Robin had also worked with Shared Services SA in a change management environment, as well as the army reserve as a commander and disaster

response specialist in South Australia and Tasmania.

He said that these roles have allowed him to bring a range of skills to the position including the ability to contribute to the management and governance of the CFS.

Robin has also brought to the CFS his skills in business and finance as well as being able to work with and alongside volunteers, which he believes is vital with the CFS boasting 13,500 volunteers spread across more than 430 Brigades.

The Regional Commander's position was vacated by Kevin May in August and temporarily filled by Justin Woolford, both men described by Robin as "very capable" and "very pro-active", which is important when picking up the reins at the start of the Fire Danger Season.

"It's been a smooth and professional handover," Robin said.

"Since starting in November I have had the opportunity to observe the volunteers and staff responding to a busy season for the service, especially in mid-January which was one of the busiest operationally I have experienced."

Robin said he was proud of how Region 6 volunteers responded to the

call to assist in Bangor and for Region 1 and 2 volunteers deployed to assist local crews near Ceduna.

"Ceduna was particularly rewarding because planning was performed overnight to achieve the objective, strike teams were deployed at short notice and even the SES assisted by driving Region 6 strike team appliances from Port Lincoln to Ceduna," he said.

"From a personal perspective what was a real eye-opener for me, was the dry lightning fires on the 1 December, with over 30 logged incidents, but many more were dealt with in that 24 hour period.

"We also had a number of fires that started on the 12 January, each with their own problems and complexity including a fire near Sheringa that lasted for three days in difficult, vehicle breaking, country."

Robin said that every day is a new learning experience and is keen to meet as many volunteers as possible and develop a three-year plan to boost the number of volunteers and training attendances.

"I feel very proud to have joined a service with such a strong ethos to assist the community in its time of need and with volunteers who will drop everything to help."

KARCULTABY AREA SCHOOL VISIT

Staff members from the CFS Community Engagement Unit will occasionally hit the road to talk to community groups and visit schools as part of their important role to educate South Australians about fire safety.

In August, Felicity Hopkinson and Therese Pedler did just that, by visiting the Karcultaby Area School near Minnipa where they had an enthusiastic reception from its 60 students and teachers.

They covered a wide range of interesting topics including how fires start, the different types of fires and how to respond to them.

"We also explained what a Total Fire Ban is and other important things such as Fire Ban Districts and Fire Danger Season," Therese said.

"It was fun because we used puppets and dressed up and were animated but it was also important for our messages to be understood by the children which I think we achieved judging by their responses."

A few weeks later the children put into practice their Bushfire Survival Plans when prompted by a series of lightning strikes that swept through the region and started several bushfires.



CFS hopefuls at Karcultaby Area School, from left, Sahryah Herbert, Chelsea Phillips, Zahra Burford and Toby Baker

News and Updates

NORTON SUMMIT ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

*John Naumann,
Captain Norton Summit - Ashton Brigade*

Early last century, the small towns and hamlets of the Adelaide Hills were decimated by sending their young men off to the Great War - World War I. The monuments in the hills commemorate the many members of local families who lost their lives in the war.

Unfortunately over time the local Adelaide Hills RSL branches have been slowly withering and eventually in June 2000, the local Uraidla sub-branch closed.

At a time when general interest and attendances at Dawn Services were increasing across Australia, hills residents were left with very few local services to attend on Anzac Day.

Brigade minutes from February 2004 first mentioned hosting the Anzac Day Service and through the efforts of Brigade President Lee Watson and former Captain Doug Munn the first successful Dawn Service that followed in the same year, was hailed a success.

Since then, the Brigade has continued this tradition and providing a "gun-fire" breakfast of sausages in bread and tea and coffee at the CFS station after the service.

Donations from the collection during the service help offset the costs with the remaining proceeds making a very large donation towards the RSL Anzac Day Appeal.

The Dawn Service has also been supported by the Adelaide Hills Council which also supplies a wreath for the most senior veteran to lay on behalf of all returned servicemen and women.



Captain John Naumann and cadet Elise Banks lay a wreath on behalf of the Norton Summit - Ashton CFS brigade.

DUBLIN CFS SHOOTING FOR GOLD

CFS members proudly represented South Australia in the 2014 Australasian Police and Emergency Services games, including members from Dublin and Wilmington CFS Brigades.

Held in Melbourne during April, the games are where competitors come to engage in a tradition of friendly competition and camaraderie between police and emergency services.



Emma Woodroffe won gold at the 2014 Australasian Police and Emergency Services games.

Emma Woodroffe from Dublin CFS successfully competed in the 3 position .22 rifle, bringing home a gold medal for her efforts.

Yet while the games encourage a spirit of friendly competition and rivalry, they are about more than winning first place.

Richard Davis from Wilmington CFS was a competitor in the men's singles for Ten Pin Bowling, with the event being held in Moorabin.

Although there was no medal won, Richard enjoyed the sporting experience and particularly the social interaction offered by meeting various inter-agency counterparts from across Australia.

THUMBS-UP FOR FIREFIGHTING MUSEUM

After almost 10 years of negotiations with the State Government a dedicated team of CFS volunteers have managed to secure a lease for a fire-fighting museum in the South East.

Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum Chairman Rex Hall AFSM said an agreement has been reached for a parcel of government land in Naracoorte.

"The agreement with the State Government will pave the way for the museum to be built on land in Smith Street at Naracoorte, which is subject to the creation of the allotment," Mr Hall said.

"This essentially ends almost a decade-long bid by volunteers to acquire a suitable site to house and display a constantly growing range of heritage items".

The Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum has accrued various items of memorabilia, firefighting equipment and several historic fire trucks with some restored by volunteers. These items are being temporarily housed in sheds and shipping containers at the Naracoorte showgrounds.

"The museum has in its collection 20 former fire trucks, uniforms, protective equipment, training aids, maps, photos, and general memorabilia, some dating back almost a century," Mr Hall said.

"CFS has a long and proud history and it is therefore appropriate that we present items that reflect this history as a dedication to our volunteers and in a way that shares it with the people of South Australia and the museum will do that," he said.

Mr Hall said that he is now hoping that the first stage of the museum will be completed within the next 18 months.



Museum Chairman Rex Hall, with committee members from left, David Ghezzi, Alan Hall and Roger Bennett with a 1943 Ford Blitz fire appliance. Photo: Peter Grieve

News and Updates

FIRE WEATHER ONLINE

Andrew Lawson, Deputy Chief Officer

In August 2103, the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) launched a new online weather system called MetEye which has made it easier to access fire weather information.

MetEye is a great tool for firefighters and Incident Management Personnel alike.

It provides a quick and easy way of looking at the current and forecast weather conditions, on the fireground, in the general area and right across the State if required.

It has proven to be an exceptionally high quality product and is easily accessible in the field as well as at Incident Management Centres.

When firefighters enter MetEye, a map of all the current temperatures around Australia is displayed. You can then zoom in to your local area to get a closer view.

The latest rain radar activity is also shown on this map and allows users to select from a wide range of options to weather information including:

- Current temperature
- Current relative humidity
- Rainfall since 9am
- Rainfall in the last 10 minutes
- Wind speed and direction



The next main section shows options of forecasts on the map, such as temperature humidity, wind and rainfall.

While MetEye is great for a quick overview, I strongly encourage all firefighters and Incident Management personnel to delve deeper to be rewarded with highly detailed forecast information out to 7 days for very specific parts of the State, a regional areas or the entire State.

A link to both MetEye and the Simple User Guide is now available via the Links page on the Volunteer Portal, which is accessible from:

https://www.sacsvolunteer.org.au/site/operational/weather_information.jsp

This tool does not replace the official forecasts and warnings issued by the Bureau.

MetEye is available to CFS staff and volunteers and in preparing for the 2014/15 Fire Danger Season, everyone is encouraged to become familiar with this service.



CFS volunteers deployed to the NSW bushfires prepare for a briefing in the Blue Mountains

NSW DEPLOYMENT

There was a heightened level of activity for the CFS in October although it didn't involve emergency incidents or bushfires in South Australia.

Over a one week period, close to 400 CFS firefighters, incident management teams and support crew were deployed to New South Wales to assist in efforts to contain multiple bushfires.

In a relative short time frame, personnel were sourced from all six CFS regions and State HQ, MFS, SES, DEWNR and SAFECOM, typifying a commitment and comradeship,

not just for those who were deployed but also those who remained behind and covered duties in their absence.

The first deployment took place on Monday 21 October that saw a crew of 44 people comprising fire fighters, field commanders, logistics officers, GIS Operators and commanders, leave their families and workplaces within hours to answer the call for help.

In the days that followed, five more deployments took place including moving 32 CFS fire trucks to the Blue Mountains adding to a multi-state contingent of resources that included fire agencies from Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and the ACT.

This was described by the Fire and Rescue Commissioner in NSW, Greg Mullins, as "one of the largest mobilisations in the state's history".

Incidents



FIRE COMES CLOSE TO HOMES AND ABALONE FARM

An aerial view of the Boston Point fire that threatened an abalone farm and housing development

Lower Eyre CFS Group Officer Barry Hetherington recalls the Boston Point fire on Eyre Peninsula in mid-January by describing it as “brilliant”.

Barry was the rostered Duty Officer when the alarm was raised and the first to arrive at the scene where he assumed the role of Incident Commander.

Fire trucks from North Shields, Lincoln and Greenpatch Brigades soon followed with fire crews assisted by aerial bombing aircraft.

Barry said he initially “breathed a sigh of relief” as the fire was being driven by a northerly wind towards Boston Bay with no buildings or infrastructure under threat.

“This sense of relief quickly changed as the wind direction swung to a south-westerly, driving the fire towards a land-based abalone farm and a housing development on Boston Point,” he said.

The fire continued to burn intensely with flames up to 10 metres.

“A good call was made by the North Shields Captain, Rohan Bock, when he suggested it was too dangerous to attack the fire from the narrow dirt tracks leading into the fire front,” Barry said.

“The safest option for CFS crews was to retreat to a defensive position and put efforts into protecting assets, letting the fire cross the bitumen road leading to Boston Point and prevent it from impacting on buildings and infrastructure between the road and the sea.”

The combined efforts of fire crews and water bombers was successful as the bombers took some of the heat out of the fire head as it approached the road and ground crews were able to stay in place and knock the fire front down as it hit the road.

“I could not believe that we were able to stop the fire crossing the road and had never seen such a demonstration of brilliant, courageous firefighting, leading to such a successful outcome”, Barry said.

“The training and skills of fire fighters on the ground, combined with the skilled work of the bomber pilots really showed what is possible under the worst of fire conditions.”

ONE IN 100 YEAR EVENT

Adelaide entered a record-breaking heatwave in January, experiencing 13 consecutive days of 40 degrees or more. However, this was not to be the only rare weather event that would occur.

Tuesday 14 January saw lightning occur throughout the day across all districts resulting in over 260 rural fires, a number of which were high impact fires.

These occurred from Ceduna to Port Lincoln, Bangor to Koolunga, Flaxman Valley to One Tree Hill, Charleston to Harrogate, Rockleigh to Caltowie, Delamere to Antechamber Bay, Billiatt to Calperum Station and Ngarkat to Tintinara and Tilley Swamp – essentially, from Ceduna to the Victorian state border and all points between.

State-wide Total Fire Bans were imposed on Thursday 16 January, including the Adelaide metropolitan district.

Friday 17 January saw South Australia experience an unusual weather pattern that would later be described by the Bureau of Meteorology as a 'one in 100 year event'.

The Bureau provided a preliminary forecast that indicated a trough would move across the state on Friday and be hot to very hot generally with winds strengthening, and the change bringing a potential for more lightning.

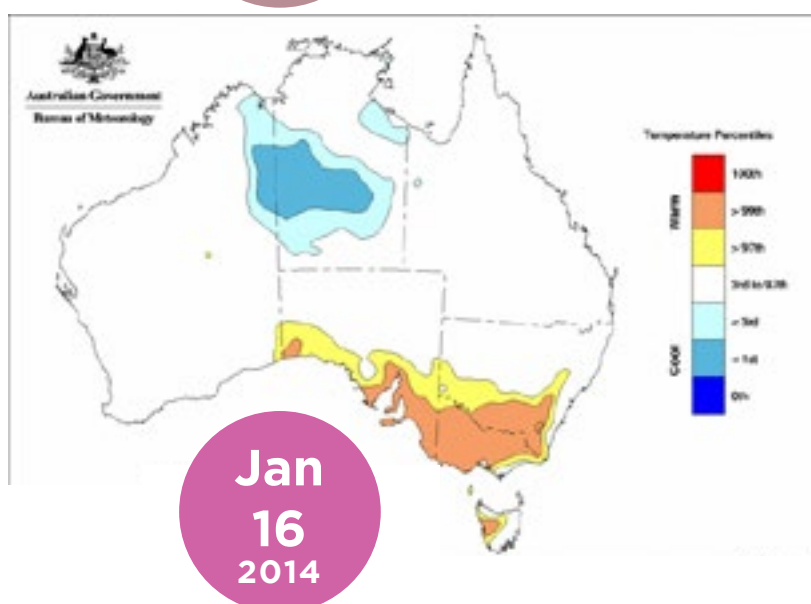
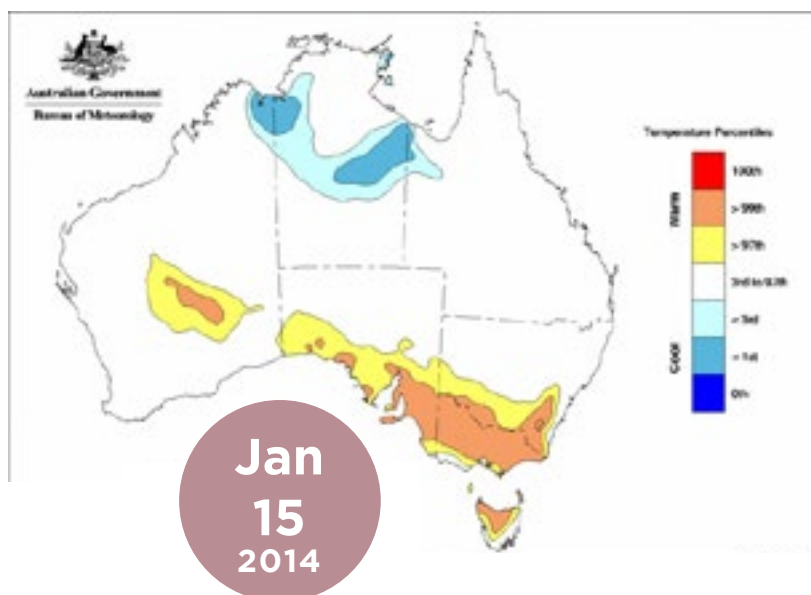
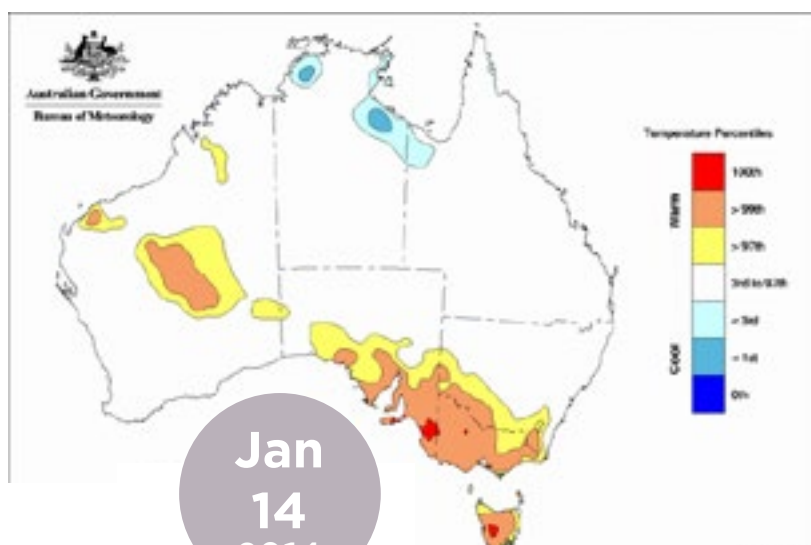
As the change progressed across the state it brought with it stronger, more sustained winds and a band of dry lightning, resulting in a number of new fires.

Between 14 – 17 January the CFS recorded over 400 rural fires with approximately 445,000 hectares burnt state-wide.

The fires were dealt with by Groups and Brigades in very trying conditions, with increased winds causing complicated consequences for spotting.

These recent simultaneous and protracted events saw the subsequent operational pace exceed what has ever been experienced in the history of the CFS.

Considering the conditions, it is a tribute to all involved that no life was lost and only minor injuries reported.



Incidents

LONG BUSHFIRE AND CAMPAIGNS

The Bangor fire like other significant bushfires in South Australia including Wangary, Ash Wednesday and Kangaroo Island will become etched in people's minds with stories about the resilience of communities, high spirits and tireless efforts of CFS firefighters.

Yet before the first strike of lightning that ignited a series of fires across the State on 14 January including Bangor in the Southern Flinders Ranges, most South Australians were unlikely to have even heard of this small community.

What ran for 31 days began as a small fire about 25 kilometres north-east of Port Pirie that expanded on the following morning to what firefighters later described as an area "the size of two football ovals" in inaccessible and difficult terrain.

By nine o'clock that evening, this fire had burnt 10 hectares and began moving slowly although it was posing no threat to life or property.

On the same day on 14 January, more lightning strikes sparked fires just north of Ceduna, in the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula and another at Rockleigh in the Murraylands.

On the West Coast, a scrub fire began burning in the Yumbarra Conservation Park with an estimated 20-kilometre front, with more fires that began burning in surrounding areas including within the Pureba, Yellabinna and Watraba Conservation Parks.

CFS and Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) fire crews worked closely with local Farm Fire Units to strengthen control lines and prevent the spread of fire into neighbouring agricultural areas.

Over 46,000 hectares of conservation parks were burnt, with all of these fires declared contained by 17 January.

When a fire ignited near Rockleigh also on 14 January, it marked the third time it had happened in this region within a 12-month period.

More than 80 CFS firefighters responded to this incident, with asset protection being the initial priority as the fire burnt through open country.

The scrub fire initially travelled in a south-easterly direction towards Reedy Creek Road, before a wind change pushed it north-easterly around 8pm that evening.

The fire which was burning under extreme conditions generated thick smoke and was visible as far as Murray Bridge.

Crews worked to establish control lines, eventually managing to hold the fire at Law and Talbot Roads, and Reedy Creek Road.

While significant fencing and livestock losses including a dwelling were sustained, it was due to the

concentrated efforts of firefighters working in challenging conditions that multiple assets were saved.

The Rockleigh fire burnt for four days before finally it was finally declared "controlled".

On the Southern Fleurieu Peninsula on 14 January, more than 100 CFS firefighters responded to a fire at Delamere which burnt slowly in a north-easterly direction in steep terrain and threatened 20 properties in the vicinity of Salt Cliffs and Nowhere Else Roads.

The fire burnt 100 hectares before being declared contained on 15 January, with firefighters continuing to patrol the fireground until 28 January.

On 15 January, the Bangor fire had increased in size requiring additional firefighting resources including the deployment of two aerial bombers.

By the following day it had burnt through 3,500 hectares with a change in wind conditions causing it to spread more rapidly in a southerly direction.

On 17 January, it threatened the townships of Wirrabara, Murraytown and the small community of Wongyarra.

This was on the same day that more lightning had ignited other fires at Ngarkat Conservation Park in the State's Upper South East and at Eden Valley in the Barossa which firefighters took three days to contain before it burnt through 25,000 hectares.

The Ngarkat complex of fires burnt through more than 90,000 hectares before it was contained on 20 January.

At Bangor it would take 14 days of continuous efforts by firefighters working in shifts around the clock before this fire would be declared 'Contained' on 30 January and 'Controlled' on 6 February.

However, two days later with the onset of winds and hot temperatures above 40 degrees it returned to a 'Going' status when it broke through control lines in the south-western corner posing its biggest threat to the townships of Laura, Wirrabara, Stone Hut and Beetaloo Valley.

Thirty-one days later on 14 February after burning more than 35,000 hectares, it was finally declared 'Controlled'.



Flames tower over a CFS fire truck and farm fire unit during the Bangor fire.

Photo: Tait Schmaal. News Ltd Newspapers



Firefighting aircraft tackle a section of the Bangor fire.



Photo: Naomi Jellicoe, News Ltd Newspapers

BANGOR

Jan 14 – Feb 14

■ 35,000 hectares burnt

YUMBARRA

Jan 14 – Jan 17

■ 47,000 hectares burnt

SOLOMAN

Feb 4 – Feb 8

■ 400 hectares burnt

MT DAMPER

Feb 11

■ 400 hectares burnt

CLEVE

Mar 20

■ 100 hectares burnt

LOWER LIGHT

Dec 28

■ 400 hectares burnt

FLAXMAN VALLEY

Jan 14 – Jan 17

■ 120 hectares burnt

EDEN VALLEY

Jan 17 – Jan 25

■ 24,300 hectares burnt

DELAMERE

Jan 14 – Jan 17

■ 100 hectares burnt

ROCKLEIGH

Dec 18 – Dec 20

■ 1,000 hectares burnt

Jan 14 – Jan 17

■ 4,400 hectares burnt

KOOLUNGA

Jan 14 – Jan 15

■ 1,090 hectares burnt

OWEN

Jan 17

■ 600 hectares burnt

WOOLSHED FLAT

Jan 14

■ 100 hectares burnt

STUART

Jan 16 – Jan 18

■ 280 hectares burnt

RIVERLAND COMPLEX

Jan 14 – Jan 23

■ 58,000 hectares burnt

BILLIATT

Jan 15 – Feb 1

■ 84,000 hectares burnt

NGARKAT COMPLEX

Jan 15 – Jan 23

■ 93,000 hectares burnt

WILLALOOKA

Dec 4

■ 490 hectares burnt

TINTINARA

Dec 20

■ 675 hectares burnt

The Delamere fire scar captured from the air.

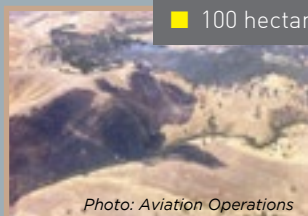


Photo: Aviation Operations

The Rockleigh fire captured by air in its early stages.



Photo: Aviation Operations

Incidents

BUSHFIRES STRIKE THE RIVERLAND

A number of fires ignited in the Riverland area following a band of dry lighting that progressed over the state on 14 January.

Just after 6pm several fires had ignited in the Margaret Dowling Campsite, Billiatt (Halidon), Katarapko and Kringin (Korah Bore), with additional lightning on the following day sparking the Calpurum fire.

Termed the 'Riverland Complex' of fires, an incident management team was established in Berri operating from the Chaffey Group Base to manage these fires.

Combining the fires into a complex brought additional management pressures, yet allowed for better management of resources, information flow and a reduction in the number of incident management personnel required.

Billiatt and Calpurum were the priority fires which were fought by the CFS in partnership with Department of Environment, Water, and Natural Resources (DEWNR) crews.

Strike teams from Victoria's Country Fire Authority and the New South Wales Rural Fire Service provided tremendous support to the firefighting effort, despite the challenges of working with unfamiliar vegetation and terrain.

The Billiatt fire travelled rapidly through the Billiatt Conservation Park, posing challenges for fire crews.

Incident Controller Mark Thomason said the sandy country within the park made access problematic and presented limited capacity to undertake fire suppression activities.

"The initial strategy was to contain the fire west of Pinnaroo Road in Alawoona, however the fire jumped the road offering little opportunity for crews to get in and contain the outbreak given the significant fire behaviour experienced at the time."

Mr Thomason said it was exceedingly frustrating for crews to wait for the fire to exit the eastern park boundary into farming land where a direct attack could be applied.

Despite the best efforts of CFS and DEWNR firefighters, the majority of the Billiatt Conservation Park was burnt out.

The Calpurum fire burnt intensely through Mallee woodland and Incident Controller Thomason said the priority was to keep the community informed.

"The biggest concern was the wind change that we knew was coming in, which would turn the eastern flank into the front and impact directly onto Renmark North and other Riverland communities".

Mr Thomason said a south-westerly influence would also push the fire further into the pastoral area, north of Renmark.

"If it ran north easterly it would head towards the Chowilla Regional Reserve, offering little opportunity for crews to pull it up."

Burning in Mallee and grassland the fire spread quickly, yet due to its inaccessibility a direct attack was impractical.

"Access to water was problematic due to the location of the Calpurum fire, so establishing mineral earth breaks was the most viable option," Mr Thomason said.

Following the valiant efforts by the CFS and DEWNR in managing the Riverland Complex, the fires were declared safe on 23 January.



The Billiatt fire captured by CFS Parilla 24 crew while undertaking asset protection west of Sandlewood



Some of the NSW RFS firefighters who responded to the call for assistance from the CFS at the Eden Valley fire.

EDEN VALLEY FIRE

John Hutchins,
R2 Regional Commander

The Eden Valley fire ignited just after midday on Friday 17 January and three days later had burnt through almost 25,000 hectares.

The fire threatened townships including Truro and at one point progressed towards Angaston, with conditions beginning to deteriorate by Sunday.

The Eden Valley blaze was declared 'contained' by Monday 20 January much to the relief of those on the front line and the personnel involved in managing the incident, and by the fire-affected community.

At the early stages of the fire 371 homes were counted in what would end up being the fire scar.

Despite the best efforts of CFS crews, unfortunately four homes were lost and multiple sheds were also destroyed along with livestock, native fauna and hundreds of kilometres of fences.

Caused by lightning, this is the biggest fire for this area seen in many years.

Although challenging, it has reinforced the confidence we hold in knowing that CFS volunteers and staff are well prepared. It is reassuring knowing we have farmers with firefighting units ready to respond to assist the CFS and their community.

The efforts by CFS volunteers and staff, Farm Fire fighters, various government support and community agencies and our interstate fire service colleagues in the fight against this fire were nothing short of extraordinary.

Long hours were invested in this operation in a variety of roles

including involvement as part of the incident management team, as radio operators, ground observation, sector commanders, divisional commanders, water carters, logistics drivers, air crews and delivering vital information to the public.

The communities of Eden Valley, Springton, Cambrai, Sedan, Keyneton, Nuriootpa, Angaston and Truro, as well as the smaller ones in between demonstrated their resilience and support to our volunteers during this fire.



WA DFES personnel operating the night shift IMT at the Eden Valley fire.

Planning for the future

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

A selection process took place before the Fire Danger Season to determine the new Regional Delegates and their Proxies for the Chief Officer's Youth Advisory Council.

The following position holders were elected in addition to delegates and proxies:

- **Chairperson** - Kirstie McGarrity
- **Deputy Chairperson** - Ruth Coveney
- **Communications Officer** - Stewart Germaine

Region	Delegate	Proxy
CFSVA	Stewart Germaine	Nil
Region 1	Scott Kennedy	Hannah Cox
Region 2	Ruth Coveney	Alex Hill
Region 3	Kirstie McGarrity	Megan Parsons
Region 4	Shannen Ellis	Nil
Region 5	Jamie Partridge	Benjamin Kha
Region 6	Krystal Mills	Nil
Mentor	Lisa West	Nil
Staff (non-voting)	Andrew Lawson	Sam Quigley

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) comprises a group of young CFS volunteers aged between 16 and 30 years who share a passion for young people volunteering in the emergency services.

The YAC meet six times a year and is represented at various other committees including the Chief Officers Advisory Council (COAC).

The YAC has also established a Facebook page to communicate with young CFS members at www.facebook.com/SACFSYouthAdvisoryCouncil.



Back Row: From left, Jamie Partridge (Region 5 Rep), Scott Kennedy (Region 1 Rep), Ruth Coveney (Region 2 Rep), Krystal Mills (Region 6 Rep), Stewart Germaine (CFS Volunteer Association Rep) and Alex Hill (Region 2 Proxy)

Front Row: From left, Andrew Lawson (CFS Staff Rep), Kirstie McGarrity (Region 3 Rep), Lisa West (Mentor) and Benjamin Kha (Region 5 Proxy)

Absent: Shannen Ellis (Region 4 Rep), Hannah Cox (Region 1 Proxy) and Megan Parsons (Region 3 Proxy).

CADETS' ANZAC VIGIL

Dana Campbell, A/Youth Development Officer, Volunteer Services Branch



CFS cadets who took part in the Anzac Eve vigil at the State War Memorial

On Thursday 24 April 2014 twelve Country Fire Service cadets took part in the fifteenth ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil at the South Australian State War Memorial on North Terrace in Adelaide.

The young people from Arno Bay, Ceduna, Cowell and Port Lincoln CFS Brigades joined members of various other youth volunteer organisations to recognise the legacy of ANZAC.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil stems from the military tradition of 'Holding Ground' whereby a reconnaissance patrol would find and hold a strategic position in preparation for the arrival of their army.

This would often involve an all-night vigil, staying awake on watch and ensuring that the area of battle remains secured against a threat.

This year, young people from 12 different youth groups including CFS cadets took part in various duties in the ceremony and throughout the night for the 12 hours leading up to the Dawn Service.

At dawn it was handed over to the Defence Force Catafalque Party who in turn 'held ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

This event encourages CFS cadets and other young people to keep the ANZAC Day spirit alive.

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www.nowaaustralia.com.au

FRONTLINE SERVICES:

Aviation

AIR ATTACK BOOST FOR FIRE SEASON

The Country Fire Service (CFS) announced ahead of the last Fire Danger Season an increased aerial firebombing capacity from the renewal of its aircraft fleet contract.

State Aviation Operations Manager David Pearce said the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) tender process which occurs every five years secured 17 aircraft for South Australia – four more than the previous season.

“To achieve this result the CFS worked towards securing the best first-strike capability, so we’re now about 25 per cent better off in terms of first-strike-litres on the ground,” Mr Pearce said.

“This represents an overall increase of 7,900 litres.”

The new CFS fleet comprises 10 Single Engine Air Tankers (SEAT) and one high volume helicopter (Erickson Air-Crane) for firebombing, along with two rotary and four fixed-wing aircraft for surveillance.

“SEATs have a combined collective firebombing drop capacity of 32,000 litres of fire suppressant and with the Air-Crane’s huge load capacity of 7,500 litres, the total fleet initial attack firebombing drop capacity is now 39,500 litres,” Mr Pearce said.

The timing of the additional resources could not have come at a better time for what turned out to be a busy 2013/14 Fire Danger Season with a total of 347 aircraft activations and 1,467 flying hours.

Aircraft was also sourced from interstate during periods of high demand to temporarily support existing CFS fleet.

Additional aircraft deployed included an Aircrane in December, three helicopters from Queensland, two fixed winged aircraft from NSW and one from the Northern Territory.

“We also used two other helicopters from SA contractors,” Mr Pearce said.

The aerial firefighting fleet in South Australia flew a total of 1446 hours being responded to fires 347 times and dropping a total of 5,555,500 litres of fire suppressant.

The AT-802 single-engine Air Tanker that played a vital role in the Fire Danger Season



FRONTLINE SERVICES: Community Engagement

INTRODUCING EASY ENGLISH

The CFS Community Engagement team has introduced a Bushfire Safety Guide featuring a suite of products written in what is described as 'Easy English'.

Research from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) indicates that 46 per cent of adults living in Australia have difficulty reading and understanding written information.

CFS Community Partners and Engagement Officer Amy Riebe said most fire services have key written documents, such as a Bushfire Survival Plan containing detailed and sometimes complex concepts.

"A strong reliance is often placed on the written word through websites, apps, printed documents and brochures but will often ignore the significant number of adults with reading difficulties and understanding written information," Amy said.

"Easy English supports people with limited literacy to understand written

information which is written in every day words, using simple sentence structures and supporting messages with meaningful and clear images."

People who seek information written in Easy English include those with limited education, people with English not as their first language, those with intellectual, mental or acquired disabilities and those who are aging.

The CFS Bushfire Safety Guide is made up of 12 booklets that cover a range of topics including understanding how a fire acts, emergency kits and Fire Danger Ratings and Warnings.

Amy also presented on CFS developing the Easy English suite of products at the 2014 Australian Community Engagement and Fire Awareness Conference.

If you know of someone in your community that would find these brochures useful you can download them through the CFS website www.cfs.sa.gov.au or request copies by emailing community.ed@cfs.sa.gov.au.



LI'L LARRIKINS TARGET PRIMARY STUDENTS

**Felicity Hopkinson,
CFS Project and Program Development Officer**

The importance of providing an early education about bushfire safety to the young has been reflected in a new national project that is being developed by the CFS aimed at primary students across Australia.

It features a series of 30-second video clips using the Li'l Larikkins characters from Ettamogah Entertainment who take part in adventures solving mysteries in their small outback town.

There are eight different presentations currently being produced which introduce topics such as Total Fire Ban days, preparing a property for bushfire and school bushfire plans.

These short clips will become a catalyst for classroom discussions, the development of session plans by teachers and for students to explore more ideas.

Although the program is targeted at teachers, CFS staff and Brigades who visit primary schools are encouraged to contact me at the CFS Community Engagement Unit to help optimise the use of these videos in particular fields.

The Li'l Larikkins program will be launched in September and we'll be shouting it from the rooftops to all staff and volunteers as soon as becomes live.

An example of one of these videos can be viewed through the following link: <http://vimeo.com/31114061>



Loveable Li'l Larikkins Amy and Jim educating young students about bushfire safety

FRONTLINE SERVICES: Communications

PANIC IN A FIRE...WELL THAT'S GOOD NIGHT NURSE

Neil Charter,
CFS Principal Communications Officer

Every year the CFS invests significant time, money and resources into developing highly strategic awareness campaigns to alert the South Australian public to key bushfire preparedness and safety messages.

Without the consistent promotion of such messaging the community would be left vulnerable to their own interpretation of what bushfire risk and staying safe from it actually means.

The CFS capacity to reach people living in fire risk areas across the state with expert advice is unsurpassed.

Over time their awareness campaigns along with the CFS Community Engagement Programs and influence of CFS volunteers within local communities has helped to build greater public resilience to the risks of bushfire.

The direct result of this is a safer community through the protection of life and property.

In December 2013/14 the SA Country Fire Service Bushfire Ready Campaign was voted best Government Campaign over \$200k by Marketing and Communication professionals across SA Government.

The campaign beat a field that included Government heavy

weights SA Water, SA Tourism and Motor Accident Commission (MAC) to name a few.

Promoting the facts of fire and the need to plan as recalled by two senior CFS volunteers and an Adelaide Hills resident who had survived the Cherryville fire of 2013 resonated with the general public.

The television advertisements captured the public's interest in a personal and very real way as Ray Goodes, Ray Cutting and Rachael Mead told their stories.

The strength of the television testimonials was developed further by providing extended versions of their stories online through the CFS website.

These provided even greater insight and information around bushfire planning and behaviour and the promotion of key messaging.



Ray Goodes and Ray Cutting during filming of the 2013/14 CFS Bushfire Ready Campaign.



EP FIRE SERVICES MEDIA FORUM

The CFS and DEWNR hosted a successful forum on Eyre Peninsula in October to engage local media and familiarise them with their activities.

Pictured is DEWNR Fire Management Officer Joe Tilley demonstrating some of his equipment to Brooke Niendorf from the ABC and Jason Regan from Radio 5CC.

Regional Commander Kevin May left, Mick Ayre, Peter Samuel and Di DeLaine, look on.

This was part of a field trip to various sites where prescribed burn techniques were demonstrated to members of the media.



NEW LOOK CFS WEBSITE A STEP ABOVE THE REST

**Pete Freeman,
CFS Web Design Manager**

The CFS website provides South Australians with their most immediate and credible source of CFS information, with research indicating that the website is the preferred source of bushfire information.

As one of our most pivotal communications tools, the site received 4.2 million visits totalling nearly 9 million pages viewed over the 2013/14 Fire Danger Season.

During this time, the site also delivered information to smart phone users via the CFS FireApp.

The website received over half of these visits in just one month between 14 January and 14 February, and despite the overwhelming activity experienced managed to withstand the excessively high user demand.

The robustness of the system is testament to the infrastructure work undertaken during the winter months to ensure the system was vigorous and able to cope during periods of increased and sustained activity.

In order to satisfy the increasing public demand for immediate and credible information, the CFS developed a new interface to the website which was launched to the public on 9 April 2014.

Recognising the increase in mobile devices with 46% of visits to the site being from mobile phones or tablets, the CFS developed the site to display simply and effectively on any size screen without the need to create separate versions.



The new website design is fresh and simple, making finding information quicker and easier.

Staff have worked to “tag” content in the site based on respective Fire Ban Districts and a collection of interest areas. This enables visitors to customise their experience and see content that is most relevant to them.

We’ve also improved discoverability through a more advanced search function that drills down into content to return more relevant material to visitors.

Building on our new relationship with the Google Crisis Response team has allowed us to improve the interactivity of mapping on the site.

A new ‘photos@cfs’ function gives visitors the opportunity to share photos with us, helping to publicise our work and get additional intelligence on incidents.

Visit the website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au and explore the various links and content on your new look website.

***“South Australia’s
volunteer firefighter
service punches above
its weight with this clean,
modern website.”***

InDaily, 24 April 2014

FRONTLINE SERVICES: Operational Systems

VOLUNTEER PORTAL

Yvette Dowling, Manager Operational Systems

Many members are already using the CFS Volunteer Portal since its inception in May 2013 to access training updates, operational and administrative information, and to take advantage of the available email service.



The Portal which replaced the CFS 'Members Only' site also provides access to Microsoft Office 365 which includes email, calendar and contacts.

Members have 25GB of email storage with anti-spam and antivirus protection which can be accessed from phones and tablets, as well as personal computers.

A number of online training packages are being made available through the Portal, including Induction and Safety Induction for new volunteers, and Workplace Health and Safety Training.

When you complete online training, your ESOTAS Training Report will be automatically updated, and can be accessed through the Portal.

Recently, State Training Centre staff have been adding videos for Basic Firefighting and Fire Ground Practices training - stay tuned for further additions.

CRIMSON IN THE CLOUD

Yvette Dowling, Manager Operational Systems

The Volunteer Portal provides access to the new CRIMSON in the Cloud, which was initiated in 2013 to improve CRIMSON access for members, regardless of their location.

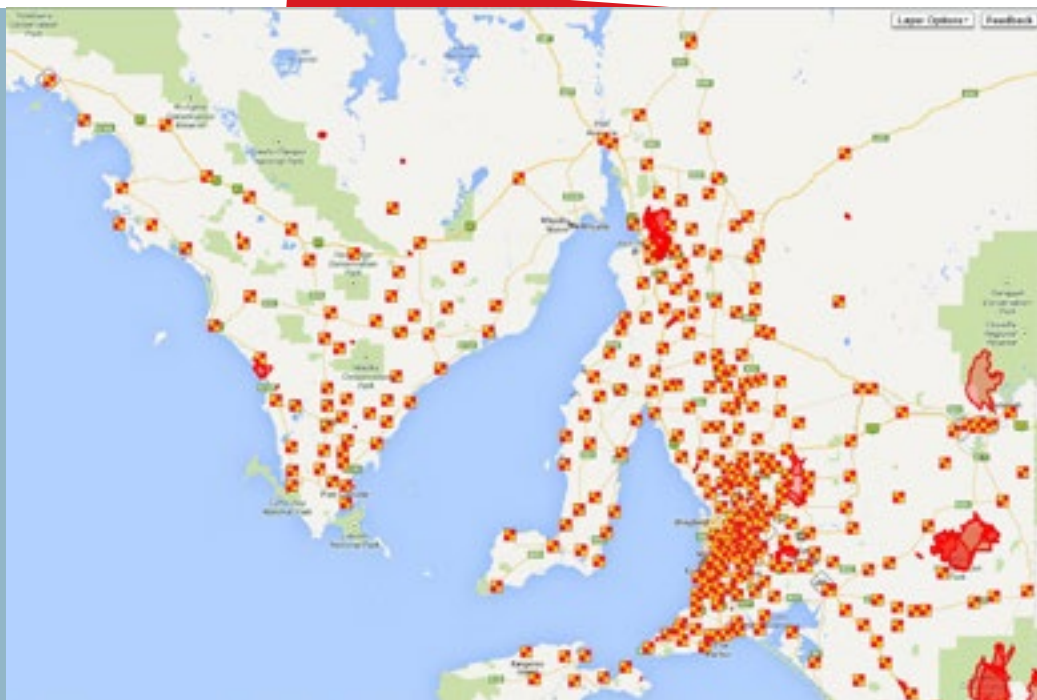
The need for information flow within the CFS and at an interagency level during incidents resulted in CRIMSON being available via Cloud computing, allowing access from any web-enabled device in the field.

Availability, speed and security have all been maintained or improved by the new system, which worked without fault over our last Fire Danger Season.

Another new feature in CRIMSON is the 3D mapping function, which was added just prior to the start of the 2013/14 Fire Danger Season.

The CFS identified spatial functionality as a gap in its ability to support informed decision making during an incident.

To address this gap, the CFS developed an interface to Google Maps and Google Earth that allows us to import and



New CRIMSON mapping showing fire station locations and fire scar history.

display data in layers on a map in the CRIMSON environment.

To date, the CFS has deployed layers to show incidents, wind, fire stations, Bushfire Safer Places, Safer Precincts and Last Resort Refuges, Fire Ban Districts, and Fire Area shapes.

It's planned to display a selection of these layers on the CFS website in time for the next Fire Danger Season.

SACAD

*Phil McDonough, CFS Compliance Officer
Prevention services*

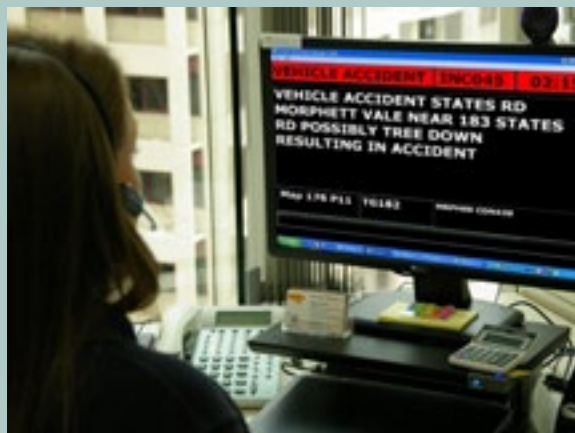
We have gone through another fire season with the SACAD system working well during record dispatches to multiple events.

This system works by having brigade areas broken into logical areas with pre-determined back-up lists in each designated areas.

SACAD selects the number and type of resources required for each incident based on CFS SOP2.1, using the back-up list for each area.

This in itself can cause issues where roads are used as boundaries between zones when the road needs to be in one zone and may cause the wrong response to some event types. As a rule of thumb these zones are drawn on the Eastern and Southern sides of roads.

We have also seen a significant drop-off in registered issues with Brigades and Groups looking to change their data and customise zones to give them a better response in their own areas.



What's coming up for SACAD?

A new version of SACAD is on its way. SACAD 9.3 is currently being tested by MFS, CFS, and SES and expected to be rolled out in September.

So far InterCAD has not been implemented due to security issues surrounding the SAPOL system. We are hopeful that after all agencies transition to 9.3 we will see InterCAD introduced and reduce response delays between agencies.

The CFS Map book is currently being converted into a layer in SACAD so that references can be included on response pager messages in rural areas.

It is envisaged that a grid reference will be given so that the grid square can be identified of where the reported incident has occurred, to help crews in locating incidents.

SHARING KNOWLEDGE 'ON THE COUCH'



Yvette Dowling chats to Neil Charter during an On the Couch discussion

It almost goes without saying that for every practical, successful or enterprising activity that we may encounter or undertake daily, it began at some point as an idea.

That's exactly what happened last year when CFS Bushfire Management Spatial Analyst, Susan Barrie, approached the Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with her suggestion of occasionally bringing HQ staff closer together in an informal setting.

"Although many CFS staff and volunteers are involved in innovative and interesting work, there hasn't been an opportunity for them to tell others what they are doing," Greg said.

This prompted Susan to survey staff members where it became apparent there was widespread interest among them to hear what was happening in other areas within HQ and beyond.

This led to a monthly information session to become known as "On the Couch" to coincide with the end-of-month wind down and afternoon tea in HQ.

The first of these information sessions began in November featuring Basket Range Brigade Captain, Pip McGowan who shared her experience as a CFS volunteer.

Others who have featured in these informative sessions have included Serena Eales from the State Training Centre, Aviation Standards Officer Janet Inman and Deputy Group Officer from the East Torrens Group, Doug Munn.

Recordings of these sessions are now available through the Volunteer Portal under 'WHS' - 'On the Couch'.

Anyone who would like to share their experiences with the CFS or would like to drop in to listen to the next interesting speakers, can contact Susan Barrie on 8463 5087 or by email barrie.susan@cfs.sa.gov.au

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT: State Training Centre



NATIONALLY ACCREDITED TRAINING MILESTONE

The CFS State Training Centre (STC) has this year issued its first Diploma qualification as a Registered Training Organisation, awarding State Training Officer Darren Chapman with the Diploma of Public Safety [Firefighting Management] PUA50513.

This is a significant milestone for the CFS in being able to award a Diploma qualification from within the Public Safety Training Package.

Awarding fire related qualifications adds further recognition to the efforts that CFS members make to attaining new skills and competencies, so they can more effectively undertake their roles.

Since July 2013, the CFS has awarded more than 20,000 nationally accredited units of

competency through both course participation or as a result of recognising prior learning.

Please join in congratulating Darren for his academic pursuit.

CFS members are encouraged to continue participating in nationally accredited training aligned to Public Safety qualifications which are aligned with their brigade's capabilities.

ESOTAS PROMPTS MEDAL REMINDER

The Emergency Services Organisation Training and Administration System (ESOTAS) now has the capacity to advise potential National Medal recipients of their eligibility, due to a recent re-configuration of the system.

This new innovation can now notify prospective recipients and their supervising officer that they have served sufficient time to be considered for the National Medal.

Current records indicate there is a pool of around 3000 active CFS members with more than 15 years of eligible service which would allow them to qualify as a National Medal recipient.

Qualifying candidates must fill out an application form which is endorsed by their Brigade Captain and respective Region, and must agree to the conditions as per the applicant's declaration.

The prestigious National Service Medal was established in 1975 as part of the Australian Honours System and was first introduced in recognition of 15 years' of service by members of the Australian Defence Force, police force, fire and ambulance services.

Nominations are made by the Chief Officer of an organisation that meets criteria of protecting life and property where there's some degree of risk to its members.

All applications are investigated and approved by the Governor General in Canberra.

The National Medal itself is awarded by the Governor-General and presented by Senior CFS Operational Personnel at Regional ceremonies.

Application forms are available on the Volunteer Portal and must be forwarded through the member's Regional Office.



The prestigious National Medal awarded for 15 years of service.

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT: Telecommunications

GRN UPDATE

Mario D'Agostino,
*Manager
Telecommunications*

The CFS is now well on the way to transitioning from our current Command and Control Network to a fully P25 Digital network.

To make this changeover, we will firstly have to upgrade the firmware in our current radios to be P25 capable and then program the radio with a P25 Channel Plan.

This project has given us a great opportunity to review our current Channel Plan and develop a more versatile profile from our lessons learnt over the last ten years.

One of the innovations has been to develop and implement a Common Channel Plan which will see the addition of all the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services talk groups.

This will involve the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), SA State Emergency Service (SES), the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) and Forestry (FSA).

For the first time since the introduction of the South Australian Government Radio Network, the CFS will be able to move across to other fire and emergency agencies Channel Plans (talk group) to assist with their operation, or vice versa.

The development of the Channel Plan has been agreed to and signed off on by all the agencies involved (MFS, SES, DEWNR and FSA). These agencies have confirmed their commitment to the implementation of the common codeplug across agencies, to ensure commonality.

The new Channel Plan will consist of 6 Zones, 5 Digital Zones and one Analogue Zone (Zone E).

The analogue zone will be used until we are ready to switch to digital. Although the additional zones will be visible, they will not be operational until we transition across to digital.



The State Volunteer Telecommunication Advisory Committee convened late last year to approve and endorse the common codeplug.

During this meeting the CFS Channel Plan was discussed, and any variances were rectified to the operational requirements. We also tested the radios and confirmed that the button configurations were suitable.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Volunteer Steering Committee supported and endorsed this profile.

The codeplug was also quality assurance checked and the anomalies and inconsistencies identified during this process were sent to the Attorney General's Department (AGD) for amendment.

AGD has now completed the default common codeplug for our GRN Portable, Mobile Remote Head and Controller Mic radio and are now working on the remainder of our profiles which include Codeplugs for Aviation, State Rescue Helicopter Service and fixed bases.

We are now in the process of preparing documentation for the required training and a request for tenders to be released to market to select a suitable vendor to undertake the installation and reprogramming of existing CFS SAGRN radio terminals.

VHF RADIO COMPLIANCE WARNING

Greg Nettleton, CFS Chief Officer

This is a reminder and warning to those who may be unaware of a compliance action by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) relating to the use of VHF radios in South Australia.

The investigation identified radios that were purchased in good faith on the internet that do not comply with Australian licensing requirements, therefore rendering their use as illegal.

Unlicensed operation or possession of non-approved communications devices carries a penalty of up to \$165,000 in fines or two years imprisonment.

We understand that some volunteers may wish to enhance radio communications in their local area but if they do so without following due process and complying with relevant telecommunications legislation they will leave themselves open to legal action over which CFS has no control.

CFS is an authorised user of the SA Government Radio Network, (SAGRN) and has licences for some HF and VHF Simplex frequencies and licensee authorisation to use others.

It must be noted that our VHF licenses and authorisations are for ambulatory (mobile) use only. A license is not required to use UHF CB services.

If any CFS member, Brigade or Group has or operates any non-complying equipment including non-compliant radios and/or fixed, (in Station), VHF bases they must cease using them immediately.

Contact CFS Manager Telecommunications Mario D'Agostino on (08) 8463 4242 for advice on what action needs to be taken.

Volunteer Services Branch



VERSP certificate recipients in Port Augusta in recognition of their ongoing support for emergency services volunteers

VERSP ACKNOWLEDGES SUPPORT IN PORT AUGUSTA

Port Augusta hosted the second Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) in September with a dinner at the Port Augusta Golf Club.

This annual event offers local members of the CFS, SES, MFS and VMR the opportunity to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by employers and self-employed volunteers and retained MFS members.

The event was attended by over 150 volunteers, CFS Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, SES Acting Chief Officer Dermott Barry, MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton, SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place and representatives from State and Local Government.

Certificates were presented to local organisations including Alinta Energy, Aztec Analysis, Coles and Port Augusta City Council for their commitment to supporting staff who volunteer for emergency services activities.

Each of these organisations have staff who are members of

the CFS, SES, Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR) or a retained member of the MFS.

Jointly presenting the awards with the Emergency Services Minister Michael O'Brien were SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place, CFS Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, SES Acting Chief Officer Dermot Barry, MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton and Manager Volunteer Marine Rescue Darryl Wright.

Mr O'Brien said CFS, SES and VMR volunteers and MFS retained members play a crucial role in South Australia's emergency services sector.

"It's great to see that in today's economic climate, employers still value and understand the importance of the work their staff undertake in their emergency service roles," he said.

RECRUITING FOR OUR FUTURE

By: Aaron Hughes
Recruitment & Development Officer (Volunteers)
Volunteer Services Branch

Successfully recruiting new CFS members can become difficult unless a Brigade is prepared to invest some time on a strategy to yield a positive outcome.

This was demonstrated by the Virginia Brigade which wanted six new members to help ease its operational load.

With the help of the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) including utilising its recruitment resources, the Brigade brainstormed its ideas to help it achieve its goals.

This included VSB conducting a “health check” of the Brigade which identified impediments to recruitment and suggestions for improvements.

Brigade Captain Jamie Hutchinson and his training officer led the charge through their leadership by involving his members in several recruitment events at key locations around Virginia.

With the support of VSB the necessary planning, logistics

and equipment was determined for each event to engage with local communities and businesses to promote the need for more recruits.

VSB offered the Brigade access to the promotional trailer, brochures, posters and other recruitment materials which resulted in twelve new members joining the CFS and completing their training requirements within four weeks with the regions assistance.

This was one example that demonstrated when the culture of a brigade is suited to recruiting by planning its goals in partnership with VSB and regional staff, then the outcome will generally be a good for everyone involved.



Road crash rescue demonstration

Honours

ACO APPOINTMENTS

In January the Chief Officer Greg Nettleton announced the promotion of two staff members, following a formal assessment process.



Director Regional Operations Mick Ayre with Executive Director Frontline Services Support Ann De Piaz, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.



Director Operational Capability Planning Malim Watts with Executive Director Frontline Services Support Ann De Piaz, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Chief Officer Greg Nettleton

Both Director Regional Operations Mick Ayre and Director Operational Capability Planning Malim Watts were promoted to the operational rank of Assistant Chief Officer (ASO).

Both officers have now joined ACO Rob Sandford on the senior officers' on-call roster.

Congratulations to Mick and Malim for their new operational rankings.

YVETTE AND JOE AWARDED AN AFSM

On Australia Day this year, two CFS members were recognised for their long standing contributions to the service by each being awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM).

The CFS congratulates Yvette Dowling and Joe Tilley for becoming the most recent recipients of this prestigious award and for their ongoing achievements.

Yvette was acknowledged for her passion for information sharing and knowledge transfer which has been instrumental in the development of best practice data sharing systems within the CFS.

Yvette was the instigator and visionary for the development of a significant system of work known as the Critical Resource Incident Information Management System Online Network (CRIIMSON), which is still used today.

Her commitment, expertise and professional diligence has been an inspiration to both CFS volunteers and staff alike.

Joe's extensive knowledge of fire behaviour as a long-term CFS volunteer and as an employee of the Department of Environment, Water and

Natural Resources (DEWNR), was also acknowledged in the Australia Day Awards.

He has played an integral part in helping develop the Greater City of Port Lincoln Prevention Plan following the Wangary fires in 2005, to achieve a balance between conservation values and fire prevention.



**Yvette Dowling
AFSM**



**Joe Tilley
AFSM**



EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDALS

In December the former Minister for Emergency Services Michael O'Brien presented the 2013 SA Emergency Services Medals and Ministerial Commendations, which included four CFS members.



From left, Russel Branson, Greg Nettleton, Garth Hogarth and Matt Davis

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Police Commissioner Gary Burns, MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton and SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie attended this prestigious event.

CFS veteran Russel Branson was awarded the Emergency Services Medal for 48 years of service that acknowledged his commitment and involvement with major incidents both interstate and locally, including the Wangary bushfire.

Matt Davis who has been with the CFS since 1989, Robert Pope from the Chaffey Group, and Garth Hogarth who was recognised for his work in designing the "pod" breathing apparatus each received Ministerial Commendations.

Everyone at the CFS will no doubt share their praise for these recipients in recognition of their contribution to the CFS and ultimately benefitting South Australian communities.

STATE TRAINING OFFICERS RECOGNISED FOR THEIR SERVICE

The Chief Officer Greg Nettleton has presented three CFS State Training Officers with National Medals in recognition of their long and diligent service towards their communities.



From left: training officer Scott Haynes, Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, training officers Bruce Lacey and Wayne Richardson.

Scott Haynes has been recognised for his eight years of service with the CFS in addition to seven years with the Defence Force, Bruce Lacey was acknowledged for 23 years' service and Wayne Richardson for 22 years' of diligent service.

This prestigious National Service Medal was established in 1975 as part of the Australian honours system and was first introduced in recognition of 15 years' of service by members of the Australian Defence Force, police force, fire and ambulance services.

Nominations are made by the Chief Officer of an organisation that meets criteria of protecting life and property where there's some degree of risk to its members

CFS HONOUR ROLL

Greg Nettleton, Chief Officer

A new webpage has been launched to commemorate firefighters across Australia who lost their lives in the line of duty as members of their respective fire service.

The CFS along with other fire agencies nationally has developed an Honour Roll to acknowledge our firefighters who have passed away while serving their communities.

The link to the CFS Firefighter Honour Roll features on the new webpage hosted by the National Arboretum Canberra which displays links to the honour rolls of individual fire agencies across Australia in the one location.

For those who are unacquainted with the National Arboretum in Canberra, this is a 250 hectare plantation of trees designed for study, display and

preservation, which was created after the 2001 and 2003 Canberra bushfires.

The site holds significance to the sacrifice of firefighting in Australia and it is therefore fitting that the collective honour rolls are presented on the National Arboretum Canberra website.

To acknowledge and remember our courageous firefighters not only from the CFS but others who served within interstate fire agencies, I encourage you to visit the firefighters page at: www.nationalarboretum.act.gov.au/about_us/fireandrescue

Thanks to the CFS

The CFS has received many expressions of support from individuals, volunteer groups, government agencies and other sectors of the community, through letters, posters, emails, social media and the mainstream media.

These are just some examples of the correspondence received this year praising CFS volunteers for their ongoing efforts and tireless commitment to serve South Australia's regional and urban fringe communities.



Government
of South Australia

SA Health

Mr Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer
Country Fire Service

Thank you for the exceptional support that was provided to units within Country Health SA Local Health Network during the recent bushfires. At various points a number of hospitals and critical services were in areas of significant fire activity.

We had good communication about the impact on hospitals in fire impacted areas and were able, via a variety of means- either a State Emergency Committee, Zone Emergency Committee or local information- to establish the potential threat and requirement for defence of all Country Health SA LHN facilities.

Country Health SA Local Health Network staff commented on the professional leadership and responses from your agency and I also take this opportunity to pass on my thanks to both your retained and volunteer staff who have worked under extremely difficult conditions for a long period of time over recent weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Maree Geraghty
Chief Executive Officer
Country Health SA Local Health Network Inc



The following is an extract from a letter to the CFS Chief Officer **Greg Nettleton** from the **SAPOL Officer in Charge of the Hills Fleurieu LSA, Rob Williams**, which was dated August 7, 2013.

Dear Greg,

You would be aware that on Saturday 3 August 2013 a small 7-year-old boy (Simon Kruger) went missing in the Deep Creek Conservation Park and remained missing for about 24 hours in thick and unforgiving terrain. I wish to thank your staff for their commitment and professionalism in assisting the Police to undertake this search over often difficult and unforgiving terrain.

I am aware that approximately 50 plus SES volunteers and 20 plus CFS volunteers were directly involved in the search. I was the Police Forward Commander for the majority of the operation and express my sincere appreciation to you for the volunteers' assistance.

I am very pleased to report that Simon was safely located and rescued. I am also very pleased to reiterate my thanks to you and your volunteers and request that you pass my thanks on to those who participated.

Rob Williams

**Superintendent
Officer in Charge
Hills Fleurieu LSA**



Mr Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer
Country Fire Service

As the MEDSTAR doctor who flew to Roxby Downs on 27 October 2013 to retrieve a motorbike accident victim, I write to ask if you could pass on my thanks to the two CFS members who were waiting at the hospital to assist.

The patient had been impaled on a tree branch and some 40cm was still protruding. I had requested that the local rescue service be present on our arrival as it was likely that we would need to shorten the branch to allow the patient to be moved.

Whilst we ultimately elected not to shorten the branch, I was reassured to see that your two members were not only waiting for us at the hospital, but had already assessed the patient and experimented on some similar branches to determine that a hydraulic "steering wheel cutter" was the appropriate tool for the job.

Please convey to them my thanks for their professional input.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Bruce Paix
MEDSTAR Retrieval Doctor

NSW DEPLOYMENT PRAISE

The appreciation for CFS support was widespread, including from the NSW RFS which placed an advertisement in the Sunday Mail thanking everyone for their efforts.

Others from New South Wales wrote directly to the CFS or posted messages on social media including these on this page.

We live in Blackheath in the Blue Mountains. I just saw a convoy of your S.A. rural fire service vehicles driving past and just wanted to send a big Thank You from us in the mountains to all your lovely people for coming up to help out in our bush fire emergency. We needed all the help we could get and thanks to people like those in your organisation it happened.

Once again THANK YOU.
John and Wendy Semple

Dear Mr Nettleton,

On behalf of the St Columba's (Catholic College, Springwood) Community, I would like to thank you for keeping us and our school safe during the recent devastating fires. We are grateful for your bravery, skill and generosity. Could you please convey our thanks to all of the (CFS) personnel who protected us and the community?

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Delma Horan
Principal St Columba's Catholic College



Mr Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer
Country Fire Service
Dear Mr Nettleton

I write to congratulate you and the Country Fire Service for your outstanding contribution towards fighting the recent New South Wales fires.

The fires have been described by NSW authorities as the worst in four decades, however when the request for assistance arrived, not once, but three times, CFS staff and volunteers were ready.

Transferring approximately 200 firefighters and more than 30 appliances over 1300km was a significant logistical operation, and the entire country witnessed first-hand the speed and professionalism of your service.

After performing so admirably, it is my understanding the remainder of CFS volunteers will return from NSW this weekend, and I am extremely pleased to hear that all have thus far returned safely.

I have no doubt the NSW Government will provide its own recognition in due course, and will not hesitate to reciprocate assistance to South Australia; however please accept my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the South Australian Government and our grateful community.

Yours sincerely

Hon Michael O'Brien MP
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

Mr Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer
Country Fire Service



Dear Greg,

I am writing to personally thank you for the exceptional support provided to the RFS by the South Australian Country Fire Service during the recent bush fire emergencies in NSW.

The South Australian Country Fire Service's deployment of more than 370 personnel to the Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Lithgow and Lower Hunter greatly assisted the RFS's response to a number of large and destructive fires.

As is always the case, the RFS's management of major emergencies is dependent on the team work of many people from a number of government and non-government agencies. The response from our members, our emergency management partners, interstate counterparts and the community was truly remarkable.

Again, my sincere appreciation to all from the South Australian Country Fire Service involved in assisting the RFS during the bush fire emergencies.

Yours sincerely

Shane Fitzsimmons AFSM
Commissioner
NSW RFS

Thanks to the CFS



Dear Greg,

On behalf of the ABC I would like to extend our thanks and gratitude for the tireless and consummate way your organisation worked with us to provide fire information to South Australian communities over the last week.

A consistent comment from our broadcasters and journalists regarding the fires is one of appreciation and gratitude for the way the CFS has worked with us. Repeatedly I hear stories of improved access to your media team and Area Commanders and also high praise in particular for the clear and detailed updates/interviews done with Brenton Eden and Mick Ayre.

Regards,

Drew Radford
A/State Director - SA



ElectraNet
electricity transmission

Dear Greg,

Re: Bushfire Threat - 17 January 2014 - One Tree Hill

I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the outstanding efforts of the CFS resources deployed on the evening of 17 January, to protect ElectraNet's high voltage transmission infrastructure located on Black Top Rod at One Tree Hill, from a fast-moving bushfire approach. The prompt mobilisation of the One Tree Hill CFS station, the CFS Regional team, and the CFS State Coordinator ensured the containment of the fire that was in the close proximity of the Para Substation, which plays a critical role in providing electricity supply to South Australian customers. I ask that you pass on ElectraNet's gratitude and congratulations to the CFS personnel involved in the bushfire activities on 17 January.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Brown
Executive Manager Corporate Services



ForestrySA

Dear Greg,

I would like to take a few moments to extend ForestrySA's thanks to the Country Fire Service and its staff for their lead role in fighting the Bangor Fire in the Remarkable Range. The country is harsh, dry and steep and fighting a fire in these conditions is a very risky business.

... it would also be appreciated if you could extend a special thank you to the local CFS brigades who bore the brunt of the initial fire fighting effort, often while their own property and homes were being threatened or were sadly lost.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Hatch
Chief Executive
ForestrySA



Dear Mr Nettleton,

Appreciation - CFS Volunteers and Crews

Council, at its full Council Meeting held on Monday, 20 January 2014, expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the South Australian Country Fire Service volunteers and crews.

The work undertaken by these crew, not only locally, but on a broader scale, at the beginning of this fire season, and year is very much appreciated by this community and Council.

Volunteers contribute many hours of selfless service ... Their expertise and professionalism is something to be proud of and Council greatly appreciates their efforts in keeping our community safe and secure through the fire season, and the year.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Smart
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We would sincerely like to thank Region 2 Headquarters and Command Units and SA Police, all CFS Units and volunteers, all adjoining neighbours and landowners, all private water tankers and aircraft bombers who helped to extinguish the fire at Woorilla, Roseworthy, on Wednesday November 27th.

We would also like to thank everyone who helped move stock away from the fire front.

Many thanks to the strike teams who worked through the night and following days extinguishing burning trees.

Bill, Diane, Paul and John Fennescey
Roseworthy



Thank's for
everything for

Standing in the heat

and trying your
hardest to get

the banger fire
out



SA Ambulance Service

Just a brief email to thank your members for their invaluable assistance at a road crash on Sunday, 18 August 2013 near Mt Jagged; a job well done under quite difficult circumstances.

The seamless manner with which everybody worked as part of one great team shows that all of the SA Emergency Services can really come together when it counts.

I know that in the almost two hours on scene, we all got very wet and windswept during two complex extrication processes - this could not have been done without the direct support from your attending crews.

I think that the interagency cooperation from SAPOL, CFS and SES was outstanding and I would ask that you relay my appreciation to those members so concerned.

Overall, a really difficult job done well.

My thanks to all.

Lee Francis
SA Ambulance Service



Dear Greg,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Country Fire Service for your quick response and outstanding effort to control the grass fire at Kingsford Homestead on 8th December 2013. Kingsford Homestead is a very special place to our family and everyone who has been involved in its restoration over the past five years. We are greatly indebted to all of the firefighters and volunteers who assisted on the day.

Kind regards,

Stefan Ahrens

CITY OF



MITCHAM

Mr Dale Thompson,
Sturt Group Officer
Country Fire Service

Dear Dale,

On behalf of the Elected Members and residents of the City of Mitcham, please convey our appreciation to all units involved in containing the fire in Belair National Park on 8 February 2014.

It was a day of extreme weather conditions and without the prompt action of the Country Fire Service it may have resulted in a very different scenario.

Communication by the mobile telephone network seems to work extremely well and meant that residents in the affected areas were able to implement their Bushfire Action Plan.

Please pass on our best wishes to the members of the Country Fire Service who were injured on duty and we wish them a speedy recovery.

Once again on behalf of all residents of Mitcham thank you for your dedication and service to the community.

Yours sincerely

Michael Picton
Mayor
City of Mitcham

Obituaries

NIGEL PETERSEN



Nigel Petersen joined the CFS Ardrossan Brigade in the early 1970s and his first Captain was Chris Martin.

He was well drilled and was taught all the basic skills of fire fighting which served him well in later years.

Nigel and his wife Jenny moved to the Mangalo District on the Eastern Eyre Peninsula and immediately joined the Mangalo CFS brigade whilst expanding his farming activities.

He was an excellent farmer and his lambs were eagerly sort after at the Dublin market regularly topping the market and year after year he produced high quality prime lambs.

Nigel was elected a Lieutenant for eleven years, Brigade admin officer for five years and Captain of Mangalo for six years, before he became Deputy Group Officer of the Eastern Eyre Group, a position which he held for six years until his untimely death.

Nigel was part of the CFS contingent to Sydney in 1994 and was a member of many Strike Teams including to Wangary, Kangaroo Island and the Victorian fires in February 2009.

As part of his group duties he was the Group Duty Officer at times and managed fires within the District and became the first and so far only DGO 3 in his Group.

He is missed by everyone in the region and for his commitment to volunteering.

Nigel battled with his health for several years and was sad to lose a valuable member who was only in his 50s.

He is survived by his wife Jenny who was a great support for Nigel with his volunteering and their two children.

ROBERT MICHAEL WAIT



1947 - 2013

"Chaffey" as he was known to his family and friends, lived his entire 66 years at the family farm at Yallunda Flat.

His official start date with the CFS took place at Yallunda Flat Brigade on 1 August 1993 but he had been active with the local Brigade long before this date.

Always willing to pitch in, he took his turn as Captain from 2000 to 2004 followed by time as BL1 and BL3.

Never one to put a job off until tomorrow he once authorised a \$3,000 pump repair for Yallunda Flat 34 and not wasting the time consulting with the Group Officer or Regional Commander.

Unfortunately Chaffey passed away after a farm accident on 26 November, 2013 and will be greatly missed by his mates at the CFS.

KATHLEEN SANDFORD

1925 - 2014

Kath Sandford was a life member of the Tea Tree Gully CFS, having served as part of the Ladies Auxiliary from 2 June 1969.

She was part of a very busy Ladies Auxiliary who were called upon to provide many refreshments, particularly tuna and onion sandwiches and other catering support for the Brigade.

During the time Kath was a member, she undertook the role of Ladies Auxiliary Coordinator for some 6 years.

This entailed the responsibility of facilitating the catering for major fire events, catering for other events, fundraising and representing the ladies' interests with the Brigade management committee and Officers.

Included in this period, Kath was responsible for coordinating, organising and distributed catering associated with the Ash Wednesday 2 fires of 1983, not just on the day but the following three days, to a number of different brigades and areas, not just Tea Tree Gully.

Kath was a dedicated member who made herself available when the call went out for assistance and showed leadership and motivation for the other members and the Brigade as a whole. Nothing was too much trouble and a number of processes she developed are still utilised today in providing support for operational activities.

Kath's involvement with the EFS / CFS dates from around 1955 when on



RYAN MARK KELLY



1992 - 2013

Ryan joined the Tumby Bay Brigade as a 17 Year old and completed his BFF1 just in time to be deployed on his first call out to Port Lincoln for the Winters Hill Fire.

This very intense rural/urban fire swept through the back of Port Lincoln destroying houses mobile property and livestock.

This was followed by other rural fires, car roll overs and a trip to the Ceduna CFS Station to assist during the Oyster Fest weekend.

Ryan's work as a motor mechanic took him away from us to Adelaide & Roxby Downs in 2012.

Unfortunately he succumbed to his injuries after coming off a jet ski in mid-December 2013.

He sadly passed away in the RAH on 15 December 2013, aged 21.

BRUCE PATERSON



1943 - 2013

Bruce Paterson was born in Bute in South Australia's Mid North in 1943 where he grew up before moving to Adelaide to complete his secondary school education at Prince Alfred College.

He later completed a wool classing course before farming in Keith and in the Mt Charles region..

In 1964 Bruce joined the Laffer CFS where he was an integral part of the Brigade as 1st Lieutenant with an unrivalled enthusiasm in fire prevention until he moved to Adelaide in 2001.

His involvement with the CFS extended to housing the Brigade's firefighting trailer and truck on his property.

Those who worked with Bruce knew him as an inspirational role model and driving force behind the Laffer CFS who was an active member, attending training, meetings, call outs, organising crews and hosting annual AGMs in his home.

Bruce's leadership skills extended to the Upper South East Drainage Board, the Merino Breeders Association, the Keith Cricket Association, Keith Apex Club and he was also a member of SACA.

He also found time to support the Adelaide Crows and enjoyed playing golf and fishing, then adding woodwork to his hobbies in latter years.

Bruce lost a long brave fight with cancer on 12 April 2013.

He is survived by his wife Margaret and daughters Sarah, Kate and Rebecca and two grandchildren.



the Black Sunday fires, she and another made a hair raising dash from Tea Tree Gully to the Royal Adelaide Hospital with a burnt fire fighter.

Her husband Gordon was also a member of the TTGCFS during the

1950's, with her sons Jim, Bill, Mike and Rob still serving as volunteers.

Kath's family life was always part of the CFS as many family functions were disrupted when called out to incidents, but a meal was always ready upon their return home.

Kath was also well known around the CFS as she travelled to many functions with Rob and took a keen interest in all that was going on.

Kath is survived by her eight children, two daughter in-laws, one son in-law, four grandsons, and two great grandsons.

Contacts



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