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*the*  
VOLUNTEER  
YEARBOOK

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2017



Government  
of South Australia







**CFS Foundation**  
For our local heroes



CFS volunteers give their all for others.  
When something happens to them,  
it's *our* turn to give

## CFS Foundation – always there in a time of great need

Although he claims he “just did what anyone would do”, young CFS volunteer Brad Dennis stands out for his bravery in facing great risks to help others who are in danger.

More than a year after the devastating Pinery fire, its effects are still evident in the lives of many individuals and communities. Brad’s story of great courage and resilience reminds us of this.

His story also demonstrates the clear need for the work of the CFS Foundation. Bushfires are a constant in South Australia, and we are well served by the selfless volunteers of the SACFS. However their service can at times come at great cost and they deserve our support in times of need.

Brad, from Baroota and a member of the Port Germein brigade, suffered life threatening injuries in the Pinery fire. Family and friends have supported Brad at every step of his recovery. The CFS Foundation is proud to have contributed to the support offered to Brad as he undertakes his rehabilitation. Assisting volunteers in need, who have risked their lives for others, is the core of the Foundation’s work.



Brad Dennis

### Please help – you can make a real difference

It’s inevitable that nature will again show us its almighty force in the future. CFS volunteers are always at the ready – 24/7, 365 days each year, placing their lives in danger to protect our communities. Our work to support CFS volunteers will continue to be our focus and we need your help to achieve our mission.

Please donate through our website: [www.cfsfoundation.org.au](http://www.cfsfoundation.org.au)

You could also consider a monthly donation and become a key supporter of the CFS Foundation’s commitment to assist CFS volunteers and their families when nature significantly intrudes on their lives. If you wish to make a monthly donation – or organise a bequest to the CFS Foundation – please contact the CFS Foundation on **1300 270 278** or email us at [office@cfsfoundation.org.au](mailto:office@cfsfoundation.org.au) In advance, thanks for your consideration.

## Country Fire Service Foundation

### Our Vision -

Honour, support and care for SACFS volunteers.

### Our Mission -

To assist in the relief of suffering, disability, distress or misfortune of SACFS volunteers resulting from their community service activities.

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# CFS 2017 Volunteer Yearbook

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Volunteer Yearbook is an annual publication which 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.

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## CFS Chief Officer

●  
*Greg Nettleton*

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SA Country Fire Service (CFS) this year showed its might as a responsive and agile emergency service, we cover most of the state and are able to tackle all types of incidents.

To say it's been a quiet bushfire danger season would be inaccurate. Everyday CFS attends incidents such as road crashes, building alarms or structure fires, hazardous material jobs etc, that occur year round. The difference this year is that we have had no iconic events, such as a Sampson Flat, Pinery or Bangor fire. In fact this year, our crews were protecting the community from the very thing that they usually use to extinguish a fire - water!

Severe and frequent storms meant CFS attended more trees down, flooding and storm incidents than usual, helping our colleagues from the State Emergency Service (SES).

In the case of the storms SES are the Control Agency – who run the major incident (or several minor ones), and CFS is a support agency. As the support agency we had the vital role in ensuring the ground work is undertaken, CFS volunteers were often on scene first.

The Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) allowing our well trained people to seamlessly integrate with their interstate counterparts. In March our

Incident Management Teams were called upon to help SES with the Queensland floods after Cyclone Debbie. CFS also continues to have national capability through crews and trucks to our people providing expertise in national issues.

Our number of volunteers, geographical coverage and depth make us the biggest player in SA for emergency services and without our volunteer workforce there would be a big hole to fill.

In many towns and villages across SA, CFS is the only fire service to serve the community. Our role here is to not only fight the bush, grass and scrub fires, but also to protect people in their homes.

Looking to the future we will have more of an emphasis on training and urban risks. We already have a comprehensive training program, however we can always improve giving our members the ability to upskill. Another major focus is firefighter work health and safety. We are working with Beyond Blue around mental health and wellbeing of our firefighters. We're advocating for changes in legislation so volunteers will be covered the same as police and career firefighters if they are injured in the line of duty.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this Volunteer Yearbook looking back at our achievements this past year.

Come home safe.

Greg.



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# Minister for Emergency Services

●  
***Peter Malinauskas***

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We have been fortunate to have ended this year's Fire Danger Season without a major incident.

However, this was more than good luck - the tireless work undertaken by our volunteers to reduce bushfire risk, and to educate and prepare the community, has no doubt contributed to a favourable summer.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your sustained effort and dedication. As we know, your commitment spans much further than the summer - it is a 365 day a year, seven day a week sacrifice.

This summer the CFS responded to twice the number of storm related jobs than the summer before. We saw a season of unprecedented storm activity, and while South Australians huddled in their homes, CFS volunteers were out in the weather responding to calls of distress.

The breadth of skill and experience of our valued CFS volunteers is impressive, and was certainly demonstrated this season. From the large number of jobs related to flooding and fallen trees, to volunteers going to the aid of our Queensland counterparts, Mother Nature has continued to challenge us.

Your commitment and skill is noticed and revered across the community. As winter sets in, I know you will continue to train,

respond and prepare for the next Fire Danger Season – all the while continuing to respond as needed to the challenges thrown our way by the winter months.

The community continues to take greater comfort knowing we have such impressive CFS volunteers ready to respond with vigour and valour wherever needed, and for this we thank you.



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## CFS Volunteer Association President

●  
*Andy Wood*

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Four years ago when the CFS Volunteer Association (CFSVA) launched its document *“Building a strong CFS – 2014 and beyond”* it was anticipated that we may achieve some of our goals set out in the document.

However, I am pleased to report that we have actually managed to achieve 80 per cent of policies set out in the booklet. This is a fantastic achievement and a clear indication that the CFSVA's direction has been successful and is a formula that we hope to replicate as we head towards the next State election.

Having just returned from a Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA) (national body) meeting it is clear in my mind just how well positioned both the CFSVA and CFS are nationally. When I hear from some of our interstate counterparts how they must fight for just basics, such as protective clothing and equipment, it brings into perspective what

we have gained over the years.

The CFSVA has this year, been successful in securing one of 10 – 2016-17 Community Voices Program grants. The grant made available through the Minister for Volunteers, in partnership with Flinders University, assists community organisations to develop media and products designed to improve their exposure and attract volunteers. The CFSVA's submission towards this grant supports the CFSVA's Strategic Plan by providing another method through which to promote and communicate with our volunteers.

The Return to Work legislation for emergency responders remains on the agenda, as

Government works towards drafting legislation that will see the extension of Return to Work conditions currently available to other emergency service agencies also available to CFS volunteers. Both Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas and the CFSVA are keen to have this matter finalised so that CFS volunteers injured in the line of duty can focus solely on their recovery.

The CFSVA's achievements of ensuring the recognition of volunteers as equals to paid emergency responders under Return to Work is of great significance and highlights the fact that the work of CFS volunteers is highly valued and respected.

In December 2016 the CFSVA launched its five year Strategic Plan, which broadly outlines the CFSVA's future direction, and now we actively seek input from volunteers to ensure that the CFSVA's position is truly reflective of volunteer

needs. As part of this process the CFSVA will be undertaking a round the state roadtrip over the coming months to meet and connect with volunteers and other key stakeholders from all parts of the state. The Strategic Plan together with a revised position document will pave the way for the CFSVA as we head towards the next state election and beyond.

In closing I would like to acknowledge and thank the many volunteers who regularly give their time to the CFSVA, for it is with your support that the CFSVA is able to continue to build strong relationship with our sector partners, both State and Federally. Your support ensures that the voice of CFS volunteers is heard at all levels; that the welfare and best interest of our volunteers is protected; and that CFS volunteers remain masters of their destiny.



## Upper Sturt CFS anniversary celebration

The Upper Sturt CFS Brigade celebrated 60 years of service with a grand dinner at the Soldiers' Memorial Hall on Saturday, November 12.

About 80 past and present members attended during which Isobel Redmond MP and the Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton spoke of the wonderful commitment of the group to community service.

Brigade Captain, Moose Dunlop OAM paid tribute to the group for their past

contribution of many thousands of hours for the protection and safety of all.

All but two of the Captains dating back to 1956 attended along with many past members. In the words of one of the old hands, "this is just like a school reunion".

Specially labelled wine, etched glasses for the guests, a cake and a plaque unveiled by the Chief Officer were the evening highlights.



*Standing: Moose Dunlop OAM, Dave Ellery, Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Rod Slater, Anne McLean. Sitting: Lindsay Peterson, Allan McGough, George Young and Brendan McEvoy.*

## Belair turns 125



*Belair National Park turned 125 recently with a public celebration. CFS Community Engagement Officer Natasha Huber attended to speak to the community about bushfire safety in the area.*

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## Long Lasting Power



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## Nearly 30 years service

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Sue Langsford started with CFS 28 years ago and retired last year.

“You don’t stay in a job that long unless you’re getting something back,” she said.

“It’s been a good place to work, with caring colleagues and bosses. I’ve been very fortunate that I could count the bad days on two hands.”

Beginning at the Brookway Park Training Centre in 1988, Sue has worked as the Administration Officer in various CFS offices ever since.

Her appointment was one of the first administration positions in regions, training and prevention. She spent five years at Brookway Park, Campbelltown, a shared training facility similar to Brukunga. When training was decentralised Sue moved to State Headquarters – which at the time was based at Keswick.

Next up she joined the Bushfire Prevention team at the Region 1 Stirling office and enjoyed the pretty drive from Tea Tree Gully everyday. When training staff were located out of STC Brukunga Sue was asked to set up admin there for two days a week before then Region 1 Commander, Russell Greer convinced her to join Region 1.

She spent 10 years in that office, but fate soon had a part to play in her eventual move to Region 2. The Region 1 Headquarters



*Sue Langsford with Region 2 staff at an afternoon tea to celebrate her retirement.*

was in stages of moving to their current location, a bit far for Sue to commute. At the same time a short term contract came up at the Willaston office so she jumped at the chance - that was 12 years ago.

Working with volunteers in Region 1 and 2, as well as a deployment to New South Wales, Sue has also had a role in operations.

“I’ve made numerous connections with volunteers and built a good rapport. I’ve really enjoyed the people I’ve worked with throughout the organisation, both staff and volunteers. I’ve tried to give them quality service and a good product.”

Sue’s service and friendship was well recognised on her last day, with volunteers popping in to farewell her with small gifts of appreciation.



*The National Medal and Clasp winners.*

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## Region 2 awards

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Region 2 has celebrated many milestones recently, with medals being awarded to more than 70 volunteers- some with 50 years’ service and above.

The region held a special awards night to celebrate their achievements.

The CFS would like to thank everyone for the continuous hard work and hours that are put in to help our community.

## Jervois clocks half century

*By Ali Martin*



*Jervois captain John Heaven with the oldest serving member of the brigade, Laurie Golder and the station's official registration from 1967.*

Registered in 1967, the Jervois CFS brigade has a proud history of firefighting and fundraising throughout its 50 years.

The brigade now has 32 active and associate members, with a station housing the brigade 34, the Swanport Group's spare appliance as well as the Group command car and bulk water carrier.

Captain John Heaven said the brigade was always looking for ways to improve with VHF radios being used from 1969, breathing apparatus sets coming soon after.

"Former captain Fred Clifford was considered well before his time, he was always looking for ways to implement technology and getting things out of people," he said.

The large station was built after years of fundraising and favours from local trades people. The brigade's fundraising started with collecting paper to recycle, and conducting burnoffs for farmers wanting to control weeds.

"Then an opportunity to transport calves to Naracoorte came about so our members would drive there up to three times a week, with all payments coming back to CFS," he said.

They also ran the Wellington Rodeo for several years.

"We've always been a very active brigade, available no matter what time or where we are needed."

"Traditionally Jervois has also always maintained public awareness of fire, and I think that's continued to today."

The formal celebration of the birthday was held on Sunday, June 18.

## Karoonda's 350 years of service



*Volunteers presented with their medals.*

Volunteers left with plenty of bling after a Karoonda medals night at the end of July 2016. There were 16 recipients with more than 350 years experience amongst them.

Denis Roberts and Richard Cheriton have been part of the service for 40 years so received their CFS medals and clasps. Gregory Turner, Jeffery Stone, Paul Hoff, Paul Roberts and Robert Bridge received their 20 year medals, while Helene Norman and Thomas Kerr got a decade's recognition.

In the national medals a first and second clasp went to David Kerr for 35 years service, while the first clasp went to Daryl Sparks, Ian Mumford, Ian Simon, Kevin Burdett and Russell Norman for 25 years.

The National medal for 15 years service went to Gregory Herrmann, Gregory Turner, Jeffery Stone, Paul Hoff, Paul Roberts and Robert Bridge.

Thirteen volunteers were then presented with Life Memberships: Daryl Sparks, David Kerr, Denis Roberts, Gregory Turner, Ian Mumford, Ian Simon, Jeffery Stone, Kevin Burdett, Paul Hoff, Paul Roberts, Richard Cheriton, Robert Bridge and Russell Norman.



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## Jamestown scores century

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Jamestown's CFS brigade celebrated 100 years of firefighting at the end of August.

The brigade held the centennial event attended by past and present volunteers.

Historic displays of photos, books and awards were on display, as well as current turnout gear, hazardous materials and breathing apparatus uniforms and equipment. Smokey was there to entertain the kids.

Members of the public toured the station and were able to ask questions of brigade members, enjoying morning tea and a barbeque lunch.

In the evening, the brigade presented medals and life memberships at a formal function.

Peta Caulfield was awarded a 10 year service medal along with Wayne McLean. Stephen Leesong was awarded his 20 year medal along with a national medal and life membership. Paul Duke was given a 30 year medal and first clasp for his national medal with Brian Thomas while Captain Shaun Irrgang receiving a 30 year medal. Tim Cooper was given a first and second clasp for his national medal and Debra Duke was awarded life membership.

*Region 4  
Commander Bluey  
Devine, Jamestown  
Captain Shaun  
Irrgang and Director  
Regional Operations  
Daniel Austin with  
the birthday cake*



*Jamestown's current brigade with Smokey.*

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## Stirling North open day

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*Region 4's Stirling North held a Brigade Open Day in August. More than 50 people attended with the brigade putting on live fire demonstrations, Smokey visit and free barbeque.*



## Wirrabara brigade commemorates 100 years

More than 200 people gathered at Wongabirrie Park to commemorate the Wirrabara CFS Brigade centenary on Sunday, February 26.

Several CFS members received service medals at the commemoration, marked by special edition pannikins that were handy for keeping hydrated on the hot day.

Mount Remarkable Group Officer, Tony Tenney and Wirrabara Brigade Captain, Noel Curtis gave speeches. With Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, presenting a commemorative plaque along with a feature panel on Wirrabara's newest fire truck – an unexpected surprise.

"The truck was taken from us the week before the centenary. They said it needed repairs already. When it came back the blokes said 'come look at what they've done to the truck' and I said 'oh no', thinking it had been damaged," he said.

Former Captain of 25 years Ron Borgas, ceremonially cut the cake with the help of fellow veterans Tuck Cockburn and Colin Murdoch accompanied him.



*Captain Noel Curtis with brigade member Lou Morris and Community Engagement Officer Kylee McNamee*



*CFS veteran Ron Borgas*



*Wirrabara Captain Noel Curtis, Chief Officer Greg Nettleton and Group Officer Tony Tenney with the custom sign on the Wirrabara truck.*



## Volunteer snapshot



*Kalli Quinlan*

The Millicent CFS brigade (R5) has an emphasis on development beyond technical skills and actively seeks to place members in challenging environments.

The brigade has seen many members rapidly progress through the ranks, displaying increased confidence not only in CFS but in their lives beyond CFS.

Kalli Quinlan is testament to the strength of the growing culture and recently shared her view on life and experience as a CFS volunteer newly promoted senior firefighter.

For nearly five years in the SA Country Fire Service I have answered that high pitched screaming pager tone in the middle of the night. Before work, after work. On your day off while you're in your most comfortable and desirable attire (trackies). I get dressed. Or I go wearing a skirt or dress under my gear. Or bathers in the middle of a hot summer new year's day. Set new trends when attending a house fire containing asbestos and my uniform had to be taken and cleaned. Boots and bathers and a long truck ride home. We switch from a relaxed afternoon or evenings to moving as fast as we can to put on the yellows on. No hair done. No make up. Just raw, honest people helping when needed. I got voted in for a senior position which has taught me, I can in fact guide a group of older and younger people with different views and opinions. A group of people with little in common, come together. To be in charge of a front line job is intense. Intimidating. Exhilarating. My friends ask how I can walk into a house fire or burning building. The truth is I don't know. But I can, we can. That is someone's home and life. They ask how I can go to a high speed car accident and see horrific impacts. It's someone's life. If there is something we can do to remove a patient from a car. A chance to help them survive. We do so many different jobs. Everything is different. A cliff rescue. A motorbike accident in the sand dunes with a helicopter on its way. Smoke alarms and assisting local ambulance crew with a patient lift. Which, in some cases end up coming to the hospital I am working in as a nurse. They are looking at me with a familiar glance. I nod. They smile.

## Stair climb in BA

*By Ali Martin*



*Ryan Jellesma finishing the 2016 stair climb*

Millicent's Ryan Jellesma and Penola's Andrew Rogers took part in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb 2016.

They were two of the 500 firefighters to climb the 28 floors of the Crown Metropol wearing 25kg of PPC Gold and breathing apparatus.

Ryan said it was a fantastic atmosphere at the September event – reconnecting with firefighters they'd met during the Tasmania deployment and some from Victoria's CFA who assisted at Pinery.

Firefighters from throughout Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, took on the challenge to raise money for the Firefighter's Charity Fund, this year supporting "Healthier Kids and a Healthier future" at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The pair trained at Mount Gambier for months before the challenge.

"We did lots of training in the gear as you have to get used to the heat and weight – everyone has the same weight strapped to them," Ryan said.

"The training also helps with general fitness and when we do attend structural incidents."

Andrew finished the climb in 5 minutes 59 seconds and Ryan in 8 minutes 50. Eager to improve on their times, they are taking part next year and are encouraging others to get involved. They want to raise \$30,000 as a team. To donate go to [www.firefighterclimb.org.au](http://www.firefighterclimb.org.au) and search *Millicent*.

## Tumby Bay Group Prepares

At the beginning of September, Tumby Bay Group held a field day to ensure their brigades were ready for the upcoming season.

Crews from Tumby Bay, Butler, Koppio, Port Neill, Lipson, Ungarra, Cockaleecheie, Yallunda Flat, White Flat and Brooker gathered at the Yallunda Flat Oval for Skills Maintenance (burn over) drills.



*Volunteers from Cockaleecheie ensure pumps are working.*



*Ungarra, Tumby Bay and Lipson brigades line up for their burnover drill.*

They also stocked their appliances with supplies and checked the equipment, including drafting from a local creek.

Newly appointed Group Officer Brenton Stratford was on site to give crews an update on operational activities as well.

## Cleve GO Recognised

Bryan Trigg is part of the Cleve brigade and has been a long serving member on the Chief Officer's Advisory Council (COAC) since 1994.

At a recent presentation night, Region 6 Commander Gavin Wornes thanked Bryan for all his years' service to the region and for taking their issues to COAC.

The Eastern Eyre Group Officer has helped Region 6 grow and develop over his many years. By supporting the region's ideology, it's sometimes meant Bryan has had to keep his personal views out of it.

Bryan continues to be a valued asset to the region and CFS as a whole.



*Group Officer Bryan Trigg (right) being presented with a branch from Region 6 Commander Gavin Wornes.*



## Storms keep vols busy



It's been a stormy winter period, with major storms in May, July and two in September. The worst hit on September 28 and continued for days after, first with electricity outages, then the initial clean up before already filled dams and waterways meant a risk of flooding in many areas across SA.

The worst storm of our generation hit causing chaos throughout the state and one of many nights in the cold for our volunteers.

Further storms following Christmas also saw volunteers clearing roads,

sandbagging infrastructure and helping clear flooded areas.

CFS responded to more than 1,000 incidents in the week of September storms and had at least 1,500 volunteers on the ground.

It's an outstanding effort by all of our crews to work the thousands of hours they did in preparation to the storm and in the fall out.

Some of our volunteers also needed to call on their volunteer colleagues for help, with trees falling on cars, landslides

and flooding impacting many in the community.

CFS attended 928 storm related jobs in May 2016, 601 in June, 1,499 in July and before the storms hit in September they attended 249 on September 14 and assisted SES with their 733 jobs on that day.

Thank you for your outstanding efforts during this time, and always.



## Bowmans burns for days

*By David Silkstone*

A fire at Balco Australia's Bowmans plant saw CFS crews on site for five days fighting the blaze.

The fire broke out in the early hours of Saturday, January 28 and was declared safe the following Wednesday. The glow of the initial fire could be seen for kilometres, with smoke causing visibility problems for motorists the following day.

Crews from the Wakefield Plains Group initially attended, but specialist appliances were called in for the following days to ensure embers didn't spread. Compressed air foam systems (CAFS) from Tea Tree Gully, Eden Hills and the Sturt Group Bulk Water Carrier.

Thermal imaging cameras were also used to detect hotspots as crews spent days moving smoking hay bales from inside the shed, spreading it and wetting it down.

The fire caused approximately \$11 million damage and sadly affected more than 30 workers.



*The cleanup continues – brigades used compressed air foam systems to help extinguish the hay fire.*

## Burnoffs keep crews busy

*By Daniel Hamilton*

The Season may have been quieter in terms of large-scale incidents but CFS did see a flurry of responses to out of control burn offs across rural South Australia in Autumn.

On one April day alone CFS crews attended about 15 escaped broad acre stubble post-harvest burns across the Mid-North and Eyre Peninsula.

One incident at Kimba caused 200 hectares to be burned.

Leigh Miller, Director of Preparedness Operations, said many of the fire escapes were caused from complacency.

"Once a permit is issued it will identify what needs to be in place when conducting the burn off, it will include aspects such as: time of day, people in attendance, fire breaks and firefighting equipment," he said.

"The permit system is designed to reduce the risk of fire escape."

"Land managers may not appreciate being told what to do but certainly if volunteers see an unattended fire burning in their community it is appropriate for them to check it is safe.

Mr Miller said the CFS typically attends about 300 of these fires each year.



## Incidents of note this Fire Danger Season

*By Daniel Hamilton*

Even in quieter years we are always busy. Emergencies and fires will always happen and even with more rain, this season was no exception.

### Waterloo

The Waterloo fire on January 17 tore through 50 hectares of land in the State's Mid-North.

Falling within Region 2's response area the fire picked up just after 2pm on a day of Severe fire weather. About 140 firefighters attended with strike teams arriving from Regions 1, 3 and 4 to assist with clean-up efforts.

The fire was mostly contained before the day was out and crews performed well to prevent the loss of a house and adjacent wind turbines.

The incident presented challenges for those on the ground with large timber trees falling across the fireground. The call to maintain 'situational awareness' was adhered to and there were no injuries as a result of the falling trees.



### Curramulka

Late afternoon on January 5 saw crews in the Yorke Peninsula attend a haystack fire at Curramulka.



As with most haystack fires, little could be done to stop the inferno within the shed but crews secured the perimeter to ensure there were no further losses.

The total damage bill came to over \$200k but could have been significantly more had the fire escaped into nearby cropping land.

Attending crews diligently watched over the blaze until it was safe enough to hand over to the owner.

### Nullarbor

A fire spanning 17,000 hectares but hundreds of kilometres from any CFS resources the Nullarbor fire in mid-December provided a unique circumstance.

The fire was causing concern for the Perth-Adelaide bound road transport and at one stage closed traffic.

The tyranny of distance meant crews were unable to attend and all effort went towards providing the public information warnings and waiting for the blaze to fizzle out.

## Yacka



Photo by Spalding CFS

Another Mid-North fire provided headache for crews but this time it was in Region 4 near Yacka.

The fire first kicked off on January 5 before more difficult weather contributing to the fire kicking on for a couple more days burning more than 600 hectares.

Attending crews faced difficult and sometimes inaccessible terrain, but did a superb job constructing fire breaks to ensure risk to the community was minimalised.

Despite the fire spread no significant losses were reported and crews prevented the fire from getting close to the townships of Yacka and Clare.



Photo by Derek Cattle

## Lyndhurst fire

Hawker CFS and emergency crews from Leigh Creek mine site responded to a fire at Lyndhurst, north of Leigh Creek on the Outback Highway on Tuesday, January 24 at about 5pm.

Firefighters focused on defending the neighbouring property and were successful in limiting the fire to a house and two sheds.

About 15 CFS fire fighters attended and crews were commended for working alongside the Leigh Creek Mine contracted fire fighters.

## Hawker

Crews north of Port Augusta spent a long afternoon battling a grass fire at Hawker two days before Christmas.

Caused from lightning two dozen firefighters sweltered in 39 degree heat but managed to quell the fire and limit the spread to just 300 hectares.

The job blacking out job was commended given the extended forecast for hot weather over the Christmas period

## Keilira

In the South East difficult to access terrain provided a challenge for crews at Keilira on January 12.

More than 65 firefighters braved the difficult conditions and halt the spread of fire which had the potential to destroy assets.

Crews implemented earth breaks for control lines and after a long afternoon contained the fire to just over 400 hectares.



## Agencies protecting riders

Emergency Services agencies worked together to protect the riders of the 2017 Tour Down Under.

For the first time CFS, MFS and SES provided a dedicated fire and rescue vehicle to both the women's and men's races.

Stations were also on active standby while the event was in their area, personnel in the TDU command at the police operations centre, and dedicated firebombing aircraft.

Dedicated CFS staff worked in the police operations centre liaising with local crews, response units and regional coordination centres, to provide quick responses to reported incidents. There were incidents every day, including vehicle accidents on the course and fires nearby.

Some CFS brigades offered sausage sizzles as part of community celebrations with the races.



*CFS crews worked with MFS and SES along the route of the 2017 Tour Down Under.*

## Farmers get better protection from fire

Farmers can be a vital resource when fighting fires in rural communities, providing support for their own properties as well as their neighbours.

Tragically though in the past few years, two local farmers have lost their lives on the fire ground - Andrew Harrison during the Nantawarra fire and Allan Tiller during Pinery fire.

These deaths prompted Allan's nephew Clinton Tiller, farmers, and businesses to take action, with Mark Heaslip from Gilmac and local Elders Agronomist Michael Brougham also instrumental in this initiative. They were voluntarily assisted with a former SA Country Fire Service employee, Arthur Tindall.

More than 200 farmers in the Pinery and surrounding districts received Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) which can be kept in the cab of a utility and used if a fire starts.

Five local companies including Gilmac Pty Ltd, Balco Australia, JT Johnsons & Sons, Casella Family Brands and the Pinery Fire Funds (that were delivered to the Grainflow sites) have all donated \$11,000 each.

"The sponsorship will see 250 plus sets of the lime green, which do differ from CFS PPC, to be distributed to five Ag Bureau groups who were impacted by the Pinery fire, as well as those in the Nantawarra area," Mr Tiller said. "The funding was centralised with the support of the Agriculture Bureau of SA."

*By Ali Martin*



*Trevor Clifford trying out the new PPC on his Farm Fire Unit.*

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Platinum AG Services- Balaklava 08 85272166

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## Joint effort to save Edinburgh factory

*By Nicole Ely, Media and Communications Manager – SA Metropolitan Fire Service*

SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), supported by the Country Fire Service (CFS) and other agencies, saved a multi-million-dollar plastics business from a significant fire in Adelaide's north during January.

The fire rapidly grew, spreading to an estimated two acres of plastics products, with MFS and CFS firefighters instituting an aggressive attack on the fire.

Firefighters contended with flames estimated to be up to 25 metres high, low visibility, extreme radiant heat and strong gusty winds to save the factory, protecting the jobs of up to 100 local workers. The

fire was extinguished in under four hours.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Paul Fletcher said saving the factory was made possible by the team effort of several agencies.

While the plastics factory has lost a significant amount of product, the factory itself remains intact, meaning up to 100 workers can continue to be employed.

The incident is an example of the emergency services sector working together to protect a vital asset, local jobs and the economy.

"I'd like to commend all MFS and CFS

firefighters who worked in challenging conditions to bring this intense blaze under control." Mr Fletcher said

"It was a gruelling firefighting effort with a positive outcome for the plastics factory and its workers. The fire came within 20 metres of the factory, with intense radiant heat threatening the facility."

"Firefighters remained inside the business, working to shift and save equipment and machinery, while the firefight continued outside."



*Photo by MFS Twitter*

*The scene at the Edinburgh plastics factory.*



## SEMP Review released



New emergency management arrangements and a new State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) was released in December 2016.

The new plan encapsulates the outcomes of a thorough review process which involved 21 agency and stakeholder submissions and the identification of over 130 opportunities for improvement.

The review process was overseen by the State Emergency Management Plan Review Steering Group, which reported regularly to the State Emergency Management Committee. Key changes from the review process include:

- Reinforcing collective responsibility, the Prevention Preparedness Response Recovery (PPRR) principle, and the importance of public information and warnings.
- Reinforcement and greater clarity around the role of the Control Agencies and Support Agencies.
- Changing the name of Functional Services who are not Control Agencies to Functional Support Groups to better reflect their role.
- The State Emergency Centre (SEC), when activated, will contain a mix of Control Agencies, Support Agencies and Functional Support Groups. All Control Agencies will be present in the SEC, with allowance for the State Coordinator to determine ongoing presence. This will bring the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (Control agency for ICT failure) and Department of State Development (Control Agency for fuel, gas, energy shortage) to the State Emergency Centre in their Control Agency role.
- Inclusion of Local Government as a Functional Support Group to be supported by the Local Government Association.
- Inclusion of Mapping as a Functional Support Group to be supported by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources.
- Changes to the Communications Functional Service to a new Functional Support Group to focus on the SAGRN.
- Introduction of the term capability to support aspects of state-wide incident management, training and exercising
- Development of the role of local zone support to Control Agencies with the expansion of the Zone Emergency Centre concept into Zone Emergency Support Teams (ZESTS) that will operate in all of the eleven zone areas (country and metropolitan) in support of the Control Agency. Zone Emergency Management Committees will continue to operate in all of these zones
- Transfer of the management of the SEMP to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) as part of the SEMC Secretariat role

This version of the State Emergency Management Plan should now be considered a complete replacement for all previous versions of the State Emergency Management Plan.

**Do you have a story to tell?**

CFS Media and Communications Team would love to hear about it - be it a birthday, achievement or just something quirky.

Contact Ali or Dan on 08 8212 9849  
or email [CFSCorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au](mailto:CFSCorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au)

Government of South Australia

CFS

## CFS joins DEWNR for prescribed burns



*Happy Valley brigade helping with a DEWNR prescribed burn last year.*

In last year's State Budget the State Government increased funding by \$16.1 million to help reduce the threat of bushfires by expanding its fire management program.

The money was provided to the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) but also benefits the Country Fire Service (CFS) and other emergency management agencies.

Benefits to the fire service include additional mapping support and enhanced spatial information, which will aid response and enhance information issued in warnings to the public during emergency incidents.

Funding was also provided to upgrade the Emergency Services Mapbook Review and Update. These books provide critical

emergency management information across the scope of the Emergency Services Sector, encompassing the recent introduction of Rural Street Addressing.

It also meant CFS could join DEWNR in assisting with their prescribed burn program, which has been extended to include private land. Last spring Happy Valley brigade assisted with a prescribed burn in the Onkaparinga Conservation Park. Local CFS also assisted with burns in other regions, including the Hinks Wilderness Area and Ngarkat Conservation Park.

A total of eight prescribed burns on private land were planned for the 2016/17 season with five undertaken in spring.

Environment Minister Ian Hunter said extreme weather last September and

October delayed some of the spring prescribed burns and during autumn some burns have been postponed due to the risk of smoke taint to local grape growers.

"Prescribed burns are a crucial measure to more easily control a bushfire, provide a safer environment for firefighters, and ultimately save lives and property," Mr Hunter said.

"We work closely across government to carry out the annual fire management programme to reduce the impact of bushfires on our communities.

"Burning on public and now private land increases the prescribed burning programme's effectiveness to reduce South Australia's bushfire risk across the landscape."



## Para Reserve Brigade Official



*Para Group's Reserve Brigade became official in its own right in August. The brigade officially gazetted and presented with a certificate. Pictured are Regional Operations Staff Officer Brenton Hastie, Acting Region 2 Commander Nik Stanley, Para Reserve Brigade Captain Travis Thomas and Para Group Officer Rob Stirling.*

After a successful trial of a Reserve Brigade, the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) will look to further build its capacity to support existing brigades.

Reserve Brigades are not deployed on the first report of a fire but are deployed to support crews at major bushfires. They can be deployed to long standing fires in the state, or to support other fire services interstate.

Regional Operations Staff Officer, Brenton Hastie said unlike brigade members, those in a Reserve Brigade don't necessarily have to live close to the station to volunteer and attend fires.

"The trialled Para Reserve Brigade, was the first of its kind in South Australia and currently has full membership," Mr Hastie said.

"It has already been deployed to large fire and now, as a standalone unit is busily training for the upcoming fire season.

"The CFS is now looking to determine the level of interest from potential city-based volunteers in order to determine whether more Reserve Brigades could be an option should further funding become available."

## Warning all South Australians

Alert SA is the official South Australian Government website and app for access to timely, relevant and personalised event and warning information sourced from a wide range of emergency service agencies, government and community partners.

The Alert SA app has continued to grow throughout 2016/17 with a current total of 140,000 downloads. This was assisted across the latter half of the 2017 summer with a low level multi-media campaign using radio, digital advertising and print media to heighten product awareness.

An ongoing business priority throughout the year has been the review of all Alert SA services with the objective of identifying any issues or opportunities. In February 2017 public research was undertaken to test usability of new design concepts and shape future enhancements. As a result, existing and new users can look forward to an exciting upgrade of the Alert SA app in July 2017.

An advertisement for the Alert SA app. It features a hand holding a smartphone that displays the app's interface, which includes a map with a 'Home' location pin. Surrounding the phone are several warning icons: a red triangle with a flame for 'Fire Warning', a white triangle with a black border for 'Road Closure', a black hexagon with a white flame for 'Total Fire Ban', a yellow triangle with a black border for 'Weather Warning', and a blue triangle with a white flame for 'Flood Warning'. The background is dark blue with the text 'Vital updates when you need them most' in white. At the bottom, it says 'Emergency info and updates. You never know when you'll need them, but at least you'll know where to find them. Download the AlertSA App today.' and provides the website 'www.alert.sa.gov.au' and the 'Government of South Australia' logo.

**Vital updates  
when you need  
them most**

Fire Warning  
Road Closure  
Total Fire Ban  
Weather Warning  
Flood Warning

Alert SA

Home

Emergency info and updates. You never know when you'll need them, but at least you'll know where to find them. Download the AlertSA App today.

[www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au)

Government of South Australia

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## Executive Report



*Andrew Stark*

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*Deputy Chief Officer and  
Executive Director Frontline  
Services, Andrew Stark.*

Frontline Services is usually focussed on the operational duties during the fire danger season. Although we were activated several times this year, the relatively quiet fire season meant we could focus on getting projects finished.

The new uniform has just been released and it's great to see everyone matching in their navy day dress. Group Officers will receive their uniforms soon, if they haven't already and then we'll look at rolling it out further to our members.

Regional Operations conducted a review last year and have some recommendations you may see start being implemented in the coming months. We're always looking at ways to improve our management of regions and volunteers so hopefully some of these changes will be well received.

In aviation, our contracts will be negotiated at the end of next season, so that may mean we'll see aircraft in

different locations. We've already seen that a bit this year with our current aviation contractor, Aerotech, opening their Claremont Airbase near Brukunga in the Adelaide Hills. This worked well during the season so we're looking forward to utilising those resources again next year.

CFS joined the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) in conducting prescribed burns this year. Additional State Budget funding meant we could help conduct prescribed burns on private land – our crews completing six this year. This has been a good partnership so far and we look forward to helping protect environments more with these burns next year.

We continue to welcome new staff with extra training officers in both regions and the State Training Centre, who are providing additional training to our volunteers and helping in the Regional Officer on call roles.

After a directive from the Premier, we've also helped to install Last Resort Refuge signs in some towns, with more to be rolled out shortly. Read more about that on page 25 so you know where to direct people if there's a fire and they are too late to leave.

So there's been plenty happening in Frontline Services, and there are more projects covered in the following pages.



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## *Interagency Partnerships* Bureau

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*By Rob Sandford, Director State Operations*

The embedded meteorologist working from the CFS State Coordination Centre (SCC) has again proved a vital part of the SCC team.

Working for the Bureau of Meteorology, meteorologist provides support for CFS during the fire season, as well as State Emergency Service during storms and flooding.

They're able to not only give CFS dedicated forecast information, but also actual fire weather enhancements providing information in real time fashion for State Planning and Intelligence Coordinator.

There's not only benefits for CFS but also the Bureau, with the meteorologists getting greater exposure to the criticality of



*Bureau embedded meteorologist Kylie Egan with State Coordinator Phil McDonough.*

weather information to CFS operations. They're invaluable when it comes to forecasting weather during a bushfire.

As part of the three year agreement, several staff have undertaken the Fire Weather 1 and 2 courses. This has given them a greater understanding of weather and how to interpret and the forecasting linked to managing incidents.

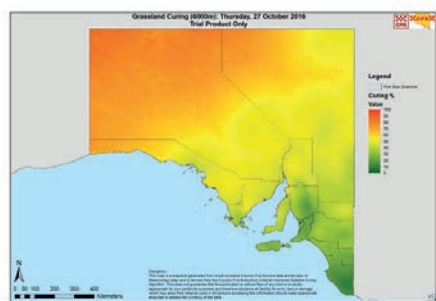
This is the second year of a three term agreement which is expected to renegotiated.

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## Improved assessment of Grassland fuels

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*By Rob Sandford, Director State Operations*



CFS has a new system to track the drying of grass (curing), which has a significant impact on fire behaviour in grasslands.

In Australia, grassland curing is an integral component of the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI), used to determine the Fire Danger Ratings (FDRs), and is also an integral component of fire behaviour models used in Australia.

Owing to variation in climate, topography and fuel types and owing to dissimilarities in decision-making between fire agencies; methodologies used to assess grassland

curing and fire behaviour vary between states and territories.

Variation in such methodologies causes inconsistent GFDI values across the continent, and inhibits the continuity of GFDI values at state/territory borders. Additionally, inaccurate assessments of curing provide inaccurate information for modelling fire behaviour.

This project aims to collaborate with state and territory fire agencies to improve methodologies for:

- (i) estimating grassland curing (using a combination of field data and satellite data),
- (ii) estimating fire behaviour in grasslands, by initiating a series of experimental burns of grasslands in multiple jurisdictions. The research will improve the accuracy and continuity of GFDI calculations across Australia, and will improve input into

fire behaviour models and information for community preparedness and warnings.

From 2010 to 2014, the Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) developed and deployed an automated technique for operational curing assessment that entails the amalgamation of satellite and ground-based observations.

The automated technique has since been trialled for other jurisdictions to improve the assessment of grassland curing across Australia, SA have participated in this trial and have used the system for the 2016/17 fire danger season.

A number of Council Fire Prevention Officers have been contributing to the provision of online observations which has enabled verification of the final curing output, it is planned to move to this system for all district in the lead up to the 2017/18 fire danger season.

## Air Operations initiative applauded

*By Daniel Hamilton*



*Mt Crawford base setting up for a load.*

They perform a task not too dissimilar to the role of formula one pit crew.

As a bomber aircraft lands it pulls off the runway to the awaiting crew who are tasked with reloading suppressant as quickly as possible allowing the aircraft to return to attack the fire in under five minutes.

It is a role undertaken from SA Country Fire Service Air Operation Brigades which is crucial at times when the heat is on during a major bushfire such as Pinery or Sampson Flat.

Launching 3,000 litres of suppressant through a hose weighing up to 100 kilograms is not without engineering and physical challenges.

During the Bangor fire of 2014 a volunteer was injured due to the repetitive strain of the then heavy manual lifting and manoeuvring of the refilling hose.

Enter Captain of the Region Two Air Operations Brigade Tony Lange and his team.

"We noticed that the banjo (pump) that we hook onto the aircraft was very heavy

on the end of a charged hose and it would not only take muscle strength to manoeuvre but it would take longer too.

"There had to be a way to speed it up and decrease the fatigue load on our crew."

After months of trial and error the brigade came up with a solution of using tracks and handles to wheel the hose to the aircraft.

"We went through a number of fittings trying to work out how we could set up a system where we could comfortably wheel the system out and do it quickly.

"The system needed to avoid personnel bending over and putting strain on the back and one of the concepts we came up with included handles.

"It was a case of see what worked and the first fire we had we actually broke the fitting on the hose.

"My wife Leonie and I pulled a skate system around our house up and down a hill hundreds of times testing and working with members of our brigade we came up with a system that works."



*Trialling the skate handle.*

The brigade could deliver a refill faster and without causing the stress and fatigue of lifting a charged hose.

When Air Operations staff observed the track in action they were impressed.

Aviation Operations Officer, Corey Dunn, said the system was 'brilliant' has now been rolled out across the State.

"Ingenuity like this is what we as an organisation pride ourselves on," he said.

"We commend and congratulate Tony and the brigade for taking initiative to come up with a cost effective solution that will not only mean the reloading aircraft is safer but the aircraft can have the load delivered quickly.

"It could mean over the course of an intense fire campaign, because of the quicker turn round time, a bomber could make an extra drop or two which may lead to getting hold of a fire sooner.

"All brigades are now using the system, and it's proven to be a success across the state and I would think it is something our interstate colleagues will soon want to implement too."



# Preparedness Operations

## Bushfire Management covers state

Bushfire Management Planning Unit is currently finalising the last of the nine Bushfire Management Area Plans across the state.

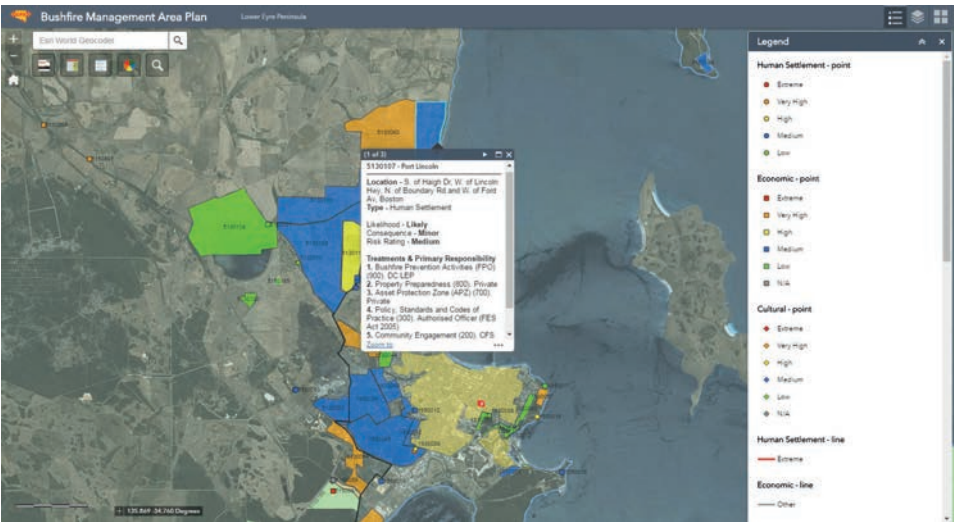
The nine plans will be used to prioritise prevention measures for local councils, CFS and stakeholders in the lead up to the fire season and during it.

The State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) is reviewing what has been identified as risks in each area and looking at gaps in resourcing to protect those assets.

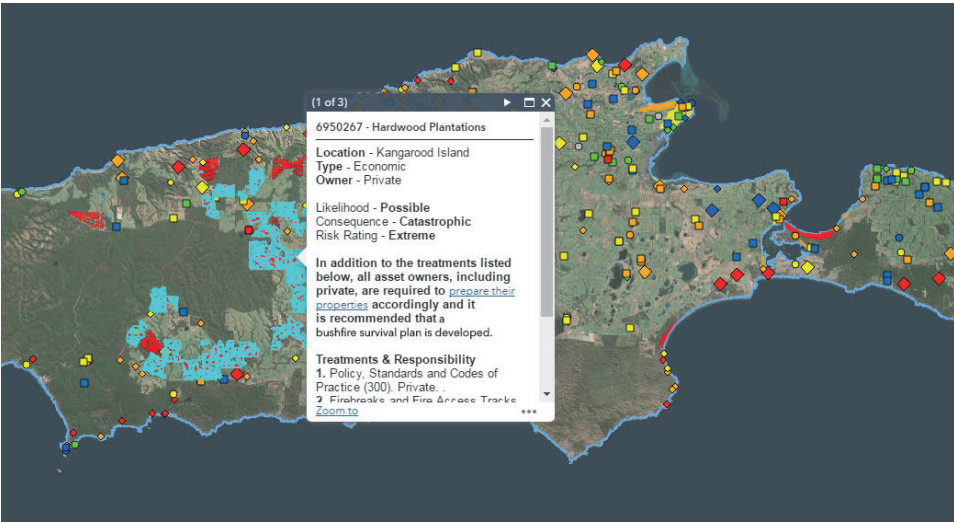
In some areas it's also been useful for locals, opening discussion at local BMCs, for example with the Limestone Coast identifying a trend in electric fences starting fires, leading to the development of a Fact Sheet on the issue.

If CFS volunteers wish to have input on the BMAP for their area check the website (<http://bit.ly/2kjAlSN>) and they can contact BMPU email: [CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au](mailto:CFS.BushfireManagementPlanning@sa.gov.au) or phone: (08) 8463 4151

Or they can call their regional office and speak to the Regional Prevention Officer.



A screenshot showing the assets on the Eyre Peninsula identified in the Bushfire Management Area Plan.



The Kangaroo Island BMAP showing examples of assets needing protection.

## Preparedness Operations

### Last Resort Refuge signage

Last Resort Refuges will soon have signs displayed notifying the public, that this is a place to go if they are caught in a bushfire and all their other plans have failed.

Funding for the project came following the review into the 2015 Pinery fire. Premier Jay Weatherill requested CFS review how Bushfire Safer Places are communicated to the community, this is to assist people in identifying where they could go when all else has failed in a bushfire.

A working group identified the use of three tiers - Safer Settlements, Safer Precincts and Last Resort Refuges was confusing, so Safer Precincts and safer settlements will now be known as Safer Places, leaving just two classifications.

It's important to note that a Safer Place is not completely safe, but is suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire. It could still be subject to spark and ember attack and be impacted by smoke.

A Last Resort Refuge shouldn't be a place where the community gathers before a fire hits, but should as the name suggests be used as a last resort.

It's often a myth that all ovals are Last Resort Refuges, in fact many are not. It's important as a CFS member you know where your local Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges are.

In events such as the Pinery fire – the fire can be fast moving with significant smoke, and this had a significant influence on people's decision making and their need for immediate communication. Knowing what the right course of action was; either to stay or flee, was for many, something they had never planned for particularly under such pressure.

So knowing where to go became critical within the decision making process, particularly for those not familiar with the area or without support in terms of friends and family.

Such an event confirmed the need for designated Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges in South Australia, with signage to help clearly identify them when people are in their pressurised state.

Installation of the Last Resort Refuge signs has started and is due to be completed in the coming months.



**BUSHFIRE  
SAFER  
PLACE**

**Inner Adelaide Metropolitan  
area & outer suburbs and rural  
settlements.**

Suitable for use during forecast bad fire weather or during bushfire. May be subject to spark and ember attack and smoke.



**LAST  
RESORT  
REFUGE**

**Ovals, buildings in rural areas.**

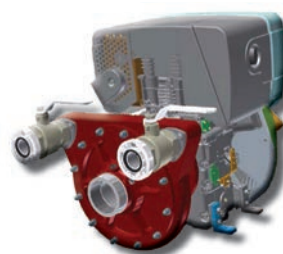
Not suitable for extended use and may provide only limited protection during bushfire.

To find out where your local Safer Place is go to the CFS website ([http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare\\_for\\_bushfire/know\\_your\\_area/bushfire\\_safer\\_places.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_bushfire/know_your_area/bushfire_safer_places.jsp))



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## *Community Engagement*

### Fire Safe Group's success

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Community Fire Safe is a program initiated by the CFS that encourages residents living in high-risk areas to form small action groups. These groups may consist of just a few families living in the same street or area who face a common bushfire threat.

Allan and Ruth Fox of Tonto Road, Hay Flat decided to initiate a Community Fire Safe group in their area after attending a Rural Management Course last year, where they learned about bushfire preparedness.

This is their story:

"Several Tontonian families gathered for a 'street' Christmas party, late December, and with a little trepidation (being the 'new boy' on the block) I raised the topic, and offered the benefits of being a supportive united community in the possible event of a bush fire ravaging our properties," Allan said.

To my joy there was unanimous agreement that we should set up the community.

I approached the CFS and the Community Engagement Officer - Laura Gemmell - and organised her to come and lead us through getting prepared. The group, as set up, consists of eight local families. Since then others have indicated their desire to join.

We learned about bushfire preparedness as individuals and the benefits of being a united community to help and support in the unlikely, but possible event, of a wild fire ravaging our little community.

The sessions were not only extremely informative - Laura was an excellent presenter - but they were an excellent opportunity to get to know our neighbours and cement together a community bond.

To summarise, the event was very successful, we all have developed individual and unique preparedness plans for our specific properties including preparing our sites to be have a 'defendable' zone. To get them fully functional may take several years.

We have set up and tested an emergency communications loop, and have made a submission to Regional Capability Community Fund (RCCF) for support in purchasing equipment that will enhance our ability to 'defend' and 'support' in the event of a serious fire." - Allan Fox.

To find out more about how you can host a Community Fire Safe Group in your area call 8212 9858.



*Community Engagement Officer Laura Gemmell.*

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## *Community Engagement*

### Teaching kids fire safety

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*Region 6 Community Engagement Officer Therese Pedler attended the Cleve Show and spoke to children about fire safety. She's pictured with Theo and Tilly Baumann, who tried on some personal protective clothing.*

## Information Operations

# Plan to Survive - 2016/17 CFS Bushfire Ready Campaign

*Neil Charter, Principal Communications Officer*

Every year, the CFS aims to reduce the risk to people living within fire prone areas by providing them with critical bushfire safety messages. These key messages are a direct result of research findings that look at behaviour change trends of those living in bushfire risk areas over time.

The public very clearly state that they want to hear from those that have experienced bushfire as well as receive simple guidance on how to prepare for or respond to the threat of bushfire.

As a direct result of the 2015 Pinery fire and the lessons learnt, CFS knew they needed a campaign that was both real and straight to the point in order to engage with those living with bushfire risk.

The 2015/16 campaign delivered a series of heartfelt campaign testimonials from farmers and residents of the Pinery and Sampson Flat regions who were more than willing to tell their bushfire stories so that others may benefit. It was a simple message Plan to Survive as Bushfires will happen.

The extensive television campaign was supported by radio, press and print, social, online and digital media.

To further support the campaign message, the CFS introduced a new online product called My Plan to Survive; a Bushfire Survival planning tool that conveniently only takes five minutes to complete.

This downloadable personal plan and check list can be filled out and saved or shared with friends and family detailing what you will do and need to do in a bushfire situation. It is aimed at reducing some of the confusion and panic that can occur in a bushfire.

My Plan to Survive can be saved to your phone and accessed in the event of a bushfire to provide you vital pre-populated information on what you plan is should you choose to leave early or stay and defend, or are forced to stay and defend.

There are already over 1500 confirmed completed plans. This is the first time CFS has produced a measurable Bushfire Survival Planning tool against which they can benchmark.

The 2017/18 campaign will look at further promoting this essential and convenient bushfire safety tool.

Over the past six years the awareness of the public's understanding of why they need a Bushfire Survival Plan has been steadily increasing.



*Advertising agency Black Sheep collecting John McMahon's testimonial after he experienced the Sampson Flat fire.*



*Ian Hampel also gave a testimonial on his experience of the Pinery fire.*

This currently sits at around 91 per cent of people living in a bushfire risk area. Out of that percentage however less than half have actually done anything about it in terms of making a plan.

This is an ongoing concern, challenge and opportunity the CFS has to build community resilience and thereby reduce pressure on the response of their emergency service.

Just as there will always be a focus on educating people on the prevention of life threatening diseases so will the CFS continue to explore ways to further educate and influence people on the prevention of the loss of property and life to bushfire.



## Bushfire Action Week

### Bang!

*By Ali Martin*

Bushfire Action Week (BAW), starting on the last weekend of October, is a chance for CFS to once again shine light on preparedness for the upcoming fire season.

Last year 40 brigades held Open Days with some brigades pitched the idea at children, sending flyers to the local primary school and holding hose demonstrations. For others it was a chance for community members to ask questions about what they should be doing around their home.

Open Days are a great way for brigades to connect with their community and give them a look behind the scenes.

The Community Engagement Team was also busy with 37 events, ranging from Firey Women, Bushfire Ready, How to Write a Bushfire Survival Plan workshop and Bushfire Blitzes at different events for businesses.

Media also ramped up its exposure with a number of stories featured on television and newspapers in the week leading up to BAW, and more throughout the week. Emergency Services Minister Pete Malinauskas launched BAW in rainy conditions at Uraidla Oval. Thanks must go to the Summertown brigade who supplied their tanker and the old Blitz, which is featured in the advertising campaign this season.

ABC 891 then broadcast from CFS State Headquarters on Monday morning with Spence Denny hosting the Mornings Program and Cassie Hough broadcasting the Country Hour with special CFS guests including volunteer Andy Newton, Deputy Group Officer of Wakefield Plains. Emma Tiller, who experienced the Pinery fire was also a special guest.

FIVEAA radio also threw their support behind the week, hosting a special guest in Alan Hickey's nightly program.



*Bushfire Action Week launch was held at Uraidla, with volunteers from Summertown CFS providing an appliance along with MFS and SES. Chief Officer Greg Nettleton explained the importance of having a Bushfire Survival Plan and including your pets, he's pictured with his dog Daisy.*



*CFS Community Engagement Officer Helen Hennessy with Emma Tiller from Pinery and ABC's Spence Denny during the live broadcast from State Headquarters.*



*Beachport CFS Open Day*



*Piccadilly volunteer Shane Barnard with his children Louisa and Edward.*



*Hermitage Open Day saw the Group welcome about 400 people, and had demonstrations from CFS and the local MFS.*

## Information Operations

# CFS Embracing New Media

By Daniel Hamilton

Communicating today is both easier and more difficult than ever before.

At the CFS significant resources are put into getting safety messages to the community in times of an emergency but it is becoming a tricky business.

The community's media habits are broad. Some will be transfixed to the wireless (arguably the most reliable form of media) some on Facebook, others on Snapchat, some other social media or television. Some will rely solely on one source, while others will rely on many.

To reach further the Corporate Communications team has begun some initiatives you may have seen.

The Facebook accounts continue to grow and we have introduced Facebook Live streaming. This allows us to provide live video direct to the community and give messages in real time. We've used this in press conferences and also as live interviews during an event. So far the videos have been watched by tens of thousands of people and is a means of cutting out the delay of media organisations compiling reports.

Instagram is now a place to find CFS also.

The online medium has close to 200 followers and is used to visually engage with viewers. We do not yet use it for messaging about safety events but see it as a means of showcasing the CFS and its members. There is a current crop of image stories showcasing CFS members based on the Humans of New York series.

If someone approaches with a camera please be generous and tell us about your time in the CFS.

Another forum to now find CFS is Snapchat.

The image/video based phone application sends temporary stories or messages to your followers.

Again it's not being used for those critical times for safety messages but to talk about behind the scenes life at the CFS. The Communications team admittedly have found Snapchat



more difficult to grasp so if you want to find us scan the Snapchat code on the page.

What's next?

Who knows where communications will go in the next five years. Facebook has suggested augmented reality is the next big thing... so we may be donning head gear and entering a virtual reality world to understand the nature of a bushfire.

Either way it's certain tradition wireless radio is going nowhere and it's still the most reliable technology when surrounded by smoke and without power.



An example of our Humans of CFS profile on Instagram.



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## Executive Report

●  
*Ann De Piaz*

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*Executive Director Frontline  
Services Support, Ann DePiaz*

There's been a lot going on in Frontline Services Support this past year.

Lots of our work is behind the scenes, but with many flow on effects to volunteers, in one way or another.

The Federal Government has recently gazetted Heavy Vehicle guidelines, in which CFS have been successful in gaining their own. Metropolitan Fire Service, SA Ambulance, State Emergency Services and Police have a set a joint set of guidelines. Ours though will greatly assist our volunteer firefighters who's day job is truck driving. The guidelines won't add on hours to their log books, meaning they can still work a whole day.

The building of new stations is often not straight forward with CFS going to Federal Court for Land Title issue for the first time this year over the Rockleigh brigade site. Thankfully that is now going ahead.

Our Communications team has had success, building a state of the art communications trailer, and Mario D'Agostino being awarded an industry award. You can read more about that on page 43.

Our fresh new uniform will give CFS a more modern look, with the practical uniforms being introduced at the end of May. Our Infrastructure and Logistics team looking after the implementation of those over the past 18 months.

The training team has been busy with nine full time trainers employed after a budget announcement last year. They've also had a move to more online courses available on the Volunteer Portal. We're also encouraging members to use the portal and the Microsoft Office 365 emails available through there. We have a licence with Microsoft that will be in jeopardy if not utilised so use it now or we risk losing it.

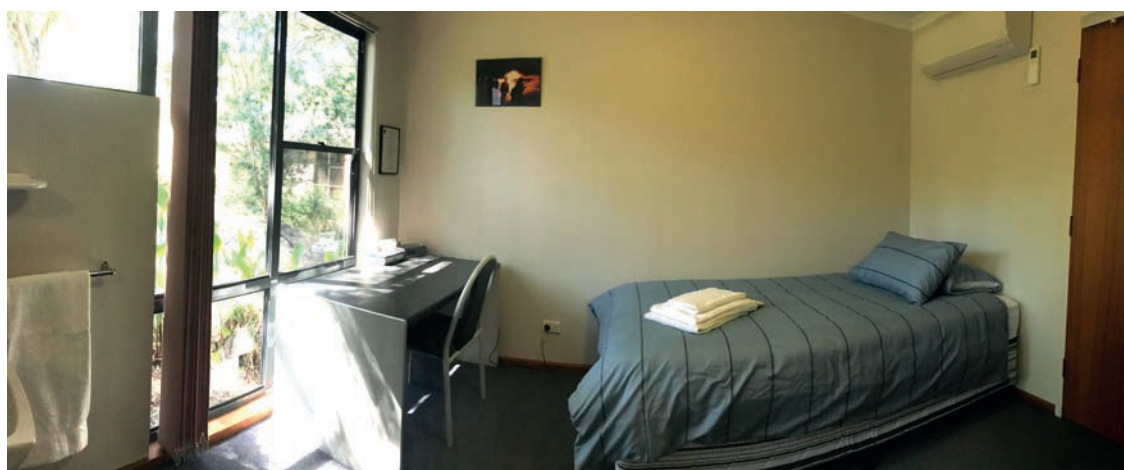
Meanwhile the State Training Centre has a new look in the accommodation suites. New beds have been purchased to make them more comfortable for volunteers staying on site during training courses. The old beds were donated to a village in Cambodia.

There's plenty of other work being done as well, but you can find out more in the following pages.

## Training

# New look State Training Centre

*By David Jeffree, Manager Training Support*



*The new look accommodation at the CFS State Training Centre.*

Next time you stay at the State Training Centre you may not recognise the accommodation.

The 36 rooms now have new king single beds, quilts and covers, replacing the old bunk beds.

The old beds didn't go to waste though with CFS donating them to South Aussie with Cosi's Cows for Cambodia program. The 30 bunks and 60 mattresses made their way to Asia at the end of February.

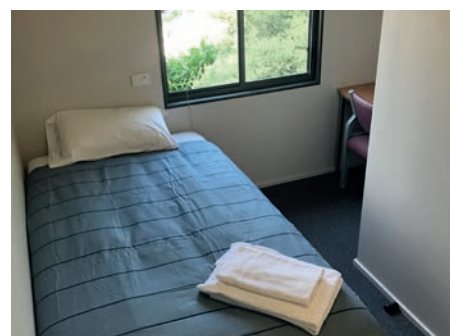
In excess of 2,000 volunteers and staff attended the training centre last year and the level of commercial bookings continues to rise each year. It's good to know they will be more comfortable in this new environment. Accommodation capacity has been significantly reduced as a result of creating single room accommodation; so many volunteers into the future will need to be accommodated off-site in commercial hotels and motels.

For this reason it is vital that if you are scheduled to attend training at the Training Centre, that you confirm your attendance well in advance. If you are not able to attend, please provide as much notice as possible.

The rooms aren't the only place to see a change, the training centre now has a diesel powered generator. This will enable the entire site to continue operating if mains power is compromised. In previous blackouts, everyone attending had to leave, so this will mean less disruption.

Upgrades have also started on our water reticulation infrastructure. Existing concrete tanks will have concrete lids constructed, two additional concrete tanks will be constructed, and all existing steel tanks will be removed. This will enable the site to store in excess of one million litres of firefighting water.

By the commencement of the new financial year, the centre will have a significantly increased network capacity, offering wi-fi across the entire site. This will greatly enhance not only the day to day productivity of staff but will enable new technologies to be used throughout the centre.





## Training

# New Full Time Training Officers for the CFS

By David Silkstone

The CFS Training Department is a Registered Training Organisation (RTO) that is responsible for the professional development of members of the CFS along with other state wide emergency service organisations.

In the 2016-17 State Budget, the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) was awarded funding for an additional nine full time trainers across the state.

The funding has been used to help recruit more trainers for the State Training Centre (STC) and across the regions to meet increasing demand for high quality learning and professional development opportunities.

So what's it like to be a full time trainer with CFS? We spoke with some of our newer staff members to go behind the scenes and find out more about training with the CFS.

**Tim McNeilly** has been a Regional Training Delivery Officer in Region 3 since December and previously worked as a professional firefighter and volunteer Captain with the CFA in Victoria.

"I had been involved with the CFS Compartment Fire Behaviour Training program for a number of years as a CFA instructor," said Tim, "Training, and in particular the world of structural firefighting and urban operations is my passion."

Tim is committed to sharing that knowledge with fellow firefighters in the hope that his training and expertise will help ensure the effectiveness and safety of his colleagues, emergency services and public on the fire ground.

**Nicoli Ackland** is Regional Training and Delivery Officer for Region 4 and based at Port Augusta.

Originally running her own First Aid Delivery business, Nicoli also has experience across project management and worked as a trainer with several RTOs. She has been involved with the SAAS for many years and after moving to Port Augusta decided to give the CFS a try.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working with CFS and found the volunteers very welcoming," said Nicoli, "In a new town with new people, CFS was – for someone without a workplace – somewhere to belong."



Region 3 Training Officer  
Tim McNeilly.

Nicoli said it's fantastic to be a trainer with the CFS and a real privilege to be able to help people develop their existing and new skills.

"It's a great privilege to give something back to those who contribute to the volunteers," she said, "And some of our closest friends are those made through the CFS."

**Bruce Lacey** is currently the Regional Training and Delivery Officer for CFS Region 5 and has also worked as a member of the State Rural Training Team at STC.

Prior to joining the CFS, Bruce worked for ForestrySA where he was involved in producing their first fire training package.

"I had the opportunity to join the CFS State Rural Training team which involved assisting the Regional Training Officers (RTO) deliver and coordinate courses across the state," he said.

"After being appointed as Regional Delivery Officer (RDO), I've found that we deal more closely with Brigade and Group Training Coordination along with more Regional issues."

Bruce says that no matter what type of training organisation we're working with, our aim is to support and deliver a professional and friendly service for all our volunteers.

**Ben Lupo** is one of the CFS Rural State Training Officers based at the STC and a volunteer with his local Strathalbyn Brigade.

Originally working as a Corrections Officer at Mobilong Prison, Ben joined the CFS in 2009 and has held positions as Lieutenant and Assistant Group Training Officer.

"I joined the State Rural Training Team in November 2016 and have really enjoyed my time so far," said Ben. "I get great job satisfaction in knowing that the training we deliver is helping keep the community safe and giving CFS volunteers great life skills and knowledge."

Ben specialises in breathing apparatus training and looks forward to meeting many more volunteers through his role at STC.



Ben Lupo

**Lonica Collins** is Regional Training Delivery Officer for Region 6 out at Port Lincoln.

Previously living in Esperance, Western Australia, Lonica worked for the Esperance Council as Community Emergency Services Coordinator. This involved managing seventeen Bush Fire Brigades including administration, training and operational support.

Lonica was also a member of the Esperance Volunteer Fire and Rescue brigade, for 8 years, achieving the rank of Captain before moving to Port Lincoln and joining the CFS in January 2017.

"I would like to gain a better understanding of how the CFS operates compared to Western Australia," she said, "I've met many experienced and professional people, and I'm really enjoying my time in South Australia."

So what's it like to be a trainer?

"Challenging and rewarding," is Lonica's answer. "Sometimes



it's challenging to get people interested and come up with new ideas. Rewarding because you're assisting someone increase their knowledge and know that you've helped someone else."

"I am passionate about the emergency services and ensuring that everyone goes home at the end of the day and training is an important part for emphasising safety on the fire ground. "

**Mitchell Fitzgerald** is the State Training Officer in Digital Learning Systems based at the State Training Centre.

He has been a volunteer with the Belair Brigade since 2013 and joins the CFS from Flinders University where he was an Educational Designer (Multi-Media) within the Learning Technology Unit.

Mitchell has a background in web programming and will deliver digital learning resources for the Online Learning Hub while supporting training staff in the development of online and blended training courses.

Focusing on making pre-course material available online, Mitchell will be working on digital learning solutions to enhance training that the CFS offers members and provide more flexibility for people to engage in and complete training.

So if you're looking for high quality, effective firefighting, road crash rescue and HAZMAT training through to personal development, leadership and team working, the CFS has you covered.

We look forward to seeing you at training!





### Training

## IMT training boost

*By Scott Turner, Senior State Training Officer - Leadership IM*

Incident Management (IM) training opportunities have been greatly enhanced this year with additional State Training Centre staff appointed to the IM Training Team, new courses have been developed and delivered, a number of courses have been reviewed and additional Regional Training Officers have been appointed to support local delivery options.

A priority of the CFS is to ensure all incident management personnel are trained in the latest version of Australian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS). Volunteers yet to be trained in AIIMS4 should be making contact with their regional staff for this training to be completed within the region. Volunteers interested in incident management should contact their region to nominate for the AIIMS course.

The IMEX program remains as the key course for all Level 2 Incident Management personnel, and this year we have a number of Level 3 trained IM career and volunteers' personnel assisting with the facilitation. These courses are delivered regionally and at state level, if you are planning to perform an IM role, then please ensure you are nominated for this course.

In the area of specialist courses, a number of courses are being rolled out this year, including:

- Introduction to Weather, adapted with the SABoM from the Victorian Fire Weather 1.
- Weather Intelligence, adapted with the SABoM from the Victorian Fire Weather 2.
- Public Information Officer, incorporating the areas of media officer, community liaison and public information.



*The Incident Management Team made up of CFS and DEWNR representatives on their way to Queensland to help with Cyclone Debbie destruction in March.*

- Ground Observer, focused on gathering fire ground intelligence.
- Situation Officer, focused at detailed situational analysis and predictive modelling.
- Safety Officer, focused on the role of the Safety Officer within an IMT.
- Resources Officer, focused on the management of resources from within the IMT.
- Divisional Commander, focused on the strategic tactical management and linking the incident ground with IMT.
- Plant Manager, focused on developing the skills of people to manage plant on the ground on behalf of the IMT.

Course overview for the new courses and current range of Incident Management training is available via the Volunteer Portal.

CFS incident management training and exercising continues to blend the theories and practises of incident management to enhance the skills of incident management practitioners. The vast majority of the training is facilitated by incident management personnel (career and volunteer) from across CFS, DEWNR and SES

AIIMS courses across the whole of the Emergency Services Sector, as well as local government, and other agencies. The CFS continues to make AIIMS and incident management training courses move beyond bushfire and adopt an all hazard management system.

## Training

# Flexible Learning Options for CFS Members

With the aim of being able to offer our members more flexible ways to learn, the CFS employed a new staff member in October 2016 in the role of State Training Officer, Digital Learning Systems.

Mitchell Fitzgerald will be looking for ways to enhance the training that the CFS offers members through a range of digital learning solutions designed to offer greater flexibility and increased options for members.

Over the coming year, members enrolled in training programs will increasingly be given opportunities to complete pre-course work on the Online Learning Hub (OLH) via the CFS Volunteer Portal. Of course, online learning is not for everyone, so pre-course material will always be available in traditional, hard-copy formats too! Where technology, connectivity or hardware is an issue, in time pre-course work will be made available in other ways, such as from smartphones.

Working in partnership with the SA Metropolitan Fire Service and State Emergency Service, a range of other short-module courses have been and will continue to be developed and made available on the OLH, in topic areas ranging from Leadership to Power Tool Safety. As members complete online courses and materials, their ESOTAS Training Record will be instantly be updated.

While there are many benefits to digital learning, it will be used as a platform to build knowledge and will never replace the need for face-to-face, practical learning and assessment but rather, it should complement traditional methods and provide members with more choices about how they would like to learn.

Interested in having a look to see what's available?

Log onto the CFS Volunteer Portal and click on the OLH button and take a tour!

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions please contact Mitchell at [cfs.elearning@sa.gov.au](mailto:cfs.elearning@sa.gov.au).

### Benefits of digital learning:

- fast, flexible and adaptable
- interactive and creative
- fun quizzes and gamification of traditional learning
- user friendly interface and learning environment
- instant marking, grading and feedback
- all needed resources and references available in one spot
- can be completed on-the-go; come back to where you left off
- no wasted paper and pens for those that prefer to learn online
- available more quickly rather than having to wait for learning materials to arrive in the post
- options to complete assessments more than once
- theory learning that can be completed in small chunks, at your own pace, freeing up face-to-face time for a greater focus on practical learning.

## Training

# Unique Student Identifier – do you have yours?

Each quarter, the CFS Registered Training Organisation (RTO) is required to report all of its Nationally Recognised (accredited) training activities to the National VET Regulator.

Where Statements of Attainment or Qualifications have been issued, the CFS RTO has to provide those results together with the member's valid USI (Unique Student Identifier).

Unfortunately, many members enrol in CFS courses without providing a USI. On the other hand, a USI has been provided but the members' personal details on ESOTAS, doesn't match the personal details that they provided to the USI office in the initial application process. This means that the USI they have provided cannot be validated. Either way, as a result, the member is unable to be issued with a Statement of Attainment at the end of the course.

Do you know you can apply for your USI via the Update Personal Details Form on the CFS Volunteer Portal?

A one stop shop – it couldn't be easier! Before coming along to a course, log onto the CFS Volunteer Portal and check that your personal details are up-to-date and your USI is recorded. This will automatically update your ESOTAS record. If you don't have a USI, using the Update Personal Details Form, give the CFS permission to apply for it on your behalf.

It's easy to use, so check it out and spread the word!

### CFS Volunteer Portal

- > Training
- > Training Policies & Procedures
- > Unique Student Identifier (USI)



## *Training*

# Remote communities get driver training

There are five brigades in the remote APY Lands in the north west of the state.

Local volunteers are eager to gain more training and experience in emergency service responses. Recently Region 4 Training Officer, Phil Tapscott and Regional Officer Outback Areas Peter Ikononopoulos organised training in Driver Vehicle Under Operational Condition.

The training began at Marla and progressed through brigades in the APY Lands, until they reached Pipalyatjara.

The trainers covered 3,174 kilometres in 12 days and visited the Marla, Mintabie, Mimili, Ernabella, Amata and Pip-Kalka brigades.

The training was a huge success, having delivered the training across five brigades and training 26 brigade members from the remote outback areas of CFS Region 4.



*APY Lands volunteers during their driver training*

## Lessons Learned

# Now you can debrief online

*By Mark Thomason, Manager Lessons Learned*

Add your debrief comments at the click of a button

A new virtual debrief now allows CFS volunteers and staff to provide observations for lessons management via the Volunteer Portal.

The standard protocol is that incidents and call-outs are followed by a debrief. However, this is not always done, or there may be an observation which is outside any specific event - in which case you can use virtual debrief.

The virtual debrief process feeds directly into the lessons management system and can create change in the organisation. Without these observations being reported, we can't identify trends in the organisation.

The process can be anonymous or you can leave your volunteer membership number (this is helpful as we can then contact you for clarification if necessary).

To complete a virtual debrief, which will take you through a step-by-step process [http://www.knoco.com.au/virtual\\_debrief/](http://www.knoco.com.au/virtual_debrief/)



*Manager Lessons Learned, Mark Thomason*

## A tool to help build good teamwork during an emergency.

When teams aren't working effectively a variety of problems can result, including confusion, miscommunication, differing plans and unexpected actions. It is important then to ensure that teams are performing as well as possible.

To help people think in more detail about how their teams are functioning the CFS and researchers from the Bushfire & Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council (CRC) have joined together to develop a straight-forward, practical set of teamwork checklists.

The checklists contain a number of questions that help people consider the communication, coordination and cooperation of the team. If issues are identified then this prompts a discussion with members of that team about how to resolve the issue. A number of high level resolution strategies are suggested in the checklists.

The tools provide a very flexible way to look at teamwork. The tools can be used by team-members; team-leaders; or by people close to, but outside the the team (such as group officers). The

## Lessons Learned

# Teamwork Checklists

*By Chris Bearman, Central Queensland University, Appleton Institute and Bushfire & Natural Hazards CRC and Mark Thomason, SA Country Fire Service*

tools can be used as a health check during an operational response, to identify suspected problems, as a debrief tool or to promote better teamwork during training.

The research conducted on the checklists has been very positive and suggests that the checklists provide useful information that helps people identify issues in teams. If you are interested in finding out more about the teamwork checklists please contact Manager, Lessons Management; Mark Thomason at [mark.thomason@sa.gov.au](mailto:mark.thomason@sa.gov.au) or [lessonsmanagement@sa.gov.au](mailto:lessonsmanagement@sa.gov.au).



## *Operational Capability and Planning*

### SFEC – what is it?

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In trying to learn more about planning side of the business Ali Martin from the Media team sat down with State Operations Planning Officer Ali Walsh, and Operations Analyst Martijn van der Merwe to learn more about Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover, or SFEC as you may know it best.

Their team has a slightly new focus this year with Martijn coming on board to use evidence based data to define and quantify risks which then starts the conversation about Brigade capabilities and equipment.

The core principle of SFEC is risk mitigation - assigning resources in an effective manner, taking into account risk and nuanced factors of brigades, as well as state and strategic factors.

Ali explains there are as many as six steps to the process - for example, Martijn will look to quantify the risks in each response zone and this in turn reflects the policy and procedures that are implemented for that brigade. He doesn't

just look at the frequency of call outs for any particular incident, but the likelihood of those incidents occurring, as well as the consequences if they were to occur.

From there, the team is able to work with the regions to identify capabilities required and assist Infrastructure and Logistics (I&L) and Operational Training and Professional Development Report (OT&PD) to develop the appropriate capabilities to Brigades to mitigate those risks identified.

I&L will use the SFEC modelling to determine which appliances and stowage best suits the Brigade and is in line with budgets and state priorities. Operational training and Professional Development will use the SFEC model to determine what training needs to be delivered in discussions with Regional Commanders.

The team uses evidence based capability to ensure public gets value for the service we provide.



*Martijn van der Merwe and Ali Walsh discussing Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover.*

## Operational Capability and Planning Strategy Plan

*By Robin Marlin, Manager Strategy and Governance*

In late March, the Regional managers and Executive Leadership Group spent two days at a planning and review workshop. This follows on from a similar workshop in early 2016 which developed the 2016-20 CFS Strategic Plan.

The workshop explored what CFS does well and what CFS could improve on. We were divided into groups based on the length of time we have worked for the service, so we could get a view from people who have recently joined, and those who have been with us for a long time. What was clear from all groups was our strong commitment to remain community focused.

Each year, with the commitment of all its members, the CFS succeeds in looking after our community, but there are always things we can improve. From a range of points raised in the workshop, we agreed on three key areas that we will focus on in addition to our everyday business in the 2017-18 Financial Year. These are:

### **Asset Management**

We need to better identify and effectively manage our assets with one system and set of processes, whether they are trucks, radios or other valuable equipment. This will allow us to track these items, and know when they need to be updated, serviced or replaced more easily.

### **People Management**

There are a range of tasks to be done in this area, around maintaining and developing the way we do business. This includes developing our leaders and succession planning, and ensuring there is clarity around our staff roles and requirements. One important task that is overdue focuses around a review of staff terms and conditions, to ensure our staff can continue to support our volunteers and our conditions match those required for a modern service.

### **Internal Communications**

We currently have many ways of getting information to our people, but we have a diverse membership and sometimes the message still gets lost. We need to ask all our members how we should communicate to all our people, in terms of content, delivery and technology. Our target for 17/18 is to find the best ways to communicate to most of our people and then work out how to put these in place to make sure we continue to talk, grow and learn as a service.

The time spent together at the workshop was very valuable, and confirmed that we do much of our work very well, but we can



always do better. In focusing on the above three areas for 2017-18, we are aiming make a big difference to how we conduct our business activities to better support our volunteers and serve our community.

A draft Corporate Plan for 2017-18 was posted on the Volunteer Portal for feedback, and we will have the updated plan including feedback published ready for the new financial year. Through this plan we will make our service even better, and continue to deliver.



## Infrastructure and Logistics

### New HAZMAT suits

*By Wayne Atkins, Hazmat Operational Capability*

CFS is providing new Liquid Tight Suits (LTS) to hazardous material (HazMat) brigades – these have a greater resilience to modern chemicals and because it is a single unit it is easier to decontaminate and to undress our officers more safely. The supplier, Respirex has modified its standard design suit to meet the CFS user requirements

The LTS can be reused when the suit has been appropriately decontaminated then deemed as operational for reuse by the on call HazMat/CBRN (Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defence) Officer.

The Chemprotex built suit fully covers the HazMat combatant and the SCBA with the true value being its one piece construction giving full chemical liquid

protection capabilities within the suit environs.

CFS HazMat Technician brigades conducted an evaluation and trial to replace the aging 'First Strike' Tychem 'F' suits and unanimously supported the Chemprotex 300 LTS suit configuration.

The new suits were necessary as Respirex no longer could source the Tychem 'F' material previously used in the build of the LTS within the service amongst the HazMat brigades.

There are only minor changes to the fire ground practices for dressing and undressing which can be referenced through the volunteer portal/Training/ Fire ground Practices.

The replacement of LTS is being directed



to those brigades which have suits at their end of life or where the CFS technician brigades have suits which are unserviceable at the completion of an incident.

On call regional staff and HazMat combatants will need to be aware that at some incidents there will be both the new and old style LTS in operation.

The \$7million rollout of a second set of personal protective clothing (PPC) continues, with the four year project now in full swing.

The 2015/16 State Budget included additional funding to provide 1,300 CFS volunteer firefighters with a second set of structural personal protective clothing (PPC).

Currently the second set of structural PPC have been delivered to:

- Heysen Group and Mt Lofty Group (Region 1)
- Morphett Vale, McLaren Flat, (Mawson Group), Range Hope, and Sellicks, (Kyeema Group) (Region 1)
- Para Group (Region 2)
- Caralue Group, Eastern Eyre Group, Western Eyre Group, Lower Eyre Group and Tumby Bay Group (Region 6).
- Kyeema Group, Mawson Group and Sturt Group (Region 1)
- Swanport Group (Region 3)



## Infrastructure and Logistics

### PPC rollout continues

*By Stephen Boucher, Operational Specialist Equipment Officer*

The Emergency Services Levy State Budget also accounted for a second set of rural PPC, and 1,150 sets have so far been distributed.

The second set of structural PPC has been delivered to:

- Region 1 - Mawson Group
- Region 2 – Southern Yorke (not all brigades)
- Region 3 - Chaffey Group
- Region 4 – Spencer Group
- Region 5 – Tatiara Group
- Region 6 – Eastern Eyre

## Burnover systems retrofitted

*By Ali Martin*

Retrofitting of SA Country Fire Service trucks without burn over safety systems will begin in July. It's the first time CFS has ever retrofitted its trucks.

A State Government budget promise of \$2.6 million was made last year to retrofit safety systems to existing CFS, Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Department of Environment Water and Natural (DEWNR) fire trucks and accelerate the replacement of old single cab CFS fire trucks to significantly improve the protection of fire crews exposed to burn-overs during bushfires over four years.

The process will begin with Isuzu FTS 750 trucks being fitted with deluge (halo) systems, in cab breathing systems and in cabin pump control as well as roll down curtains.

Tankers from around the state will be collected by Project Managers Andrew

Banner and Peter Bonython, who will transfer them to Moore Engineering in Murray Bridge for the retrofit as well as a full mechanical inspection.

"We believe it will take about 18 months for those tankers to be complete, we will then work on putting systems on urban pumpers, and bulk water carriers – including hook lifts and prime movers," Andrew said.

"At the end of the project, the Isuzu FTS 800 series trucks will have in cabin pump control installed. There will also be an opportunity for brigades with older in cab breathing systems to be upgraded."

Although that process can be facilitated through the project team, it will come at the cost of the brigade. This should be discussed with the project team members prior to retrofit to arrange.



*The view from inside the cabin with curtains rolled down and breathing apparatus installed.*

"Brigades who's tankers are being retrofitted will be supplied with a spare tanker, and we hope to have them back to brigades within one or two weeks," Peter said.

At the conclusion of the projects CFS will have 195 trucks retrofitted with water safety systems, meaning 86 per cent of the fleet will have these systems in place.

The State Engineering Functional Support Group (sponsored by SA Water) has partnered with CFS to provide bulk water carting support for emergency operations.

Last year the Engineering Functional Support Group (EFSG) offered to assist in a minor project to provide additional water carting capabilities for regional firefighting activities through CFS.

CFS accepted the offer and worked closely with the EFSG to develop fit for purpose plans for two Bulk Water Carrier (BWC) pods with a 9,000 litre capacity built. Each are valued at approximately \$35,000 and currently housed at the CFS State Training Centre, and ready to be deployed when necessary. These pods will offer additional water supply capacity for CFS operations as well as assist filling Private Farm Fire Units.

The pods are designed to be deployed by a Hooklift truck and were built locally by Reynella Steel with plans being of a similar design to that of the Metropolitan Fire Service pods to allow for fire service interoperability.

## New BWC innovations

*By Lee Watson, Director Infrastructure and Logistics*





## *Infrastructure and Logistics*

# Sandy's looking after the stations

Sandy Pope is the CFS Manager Operational Facilities and has many projects on the go.

The multitasker starts a new station build about 18 months before it's delivered, ticking the various essential boxes to ensure the correct building approval processes are followed and meets the brigades requirement.

With 436 stations, that's not an easy job for one person.

One of her tasks is achieving Development Assessment Commission (DAC) approval before any construction work can commence. DAC refer each project to multiple agencies to seek comment and include in the conditions into each DAC Notification of Approval, for example comments can be from: Local Councils, Native Title, Aboriginal Heritage and Department of Planning Transport & Infrastructure (DPTI) Traffic Management. Just recently CFS went through Federal Court in relation to a potential Native Title claim on the proposed Rockleigh Station land, the process taking more than a year.

"I'm now happy to report that construction of the Rockleigh station began on May 8, so finally that brigade will have a place to store their tanker and hold training sessions later this year," Sandy said.

Regional Commanders regularly identify stations and are included on the Capital Program, so Sandy has a long list of those needing attention. However, there are a number of factors which determines the priority order – including: existing structural issues or a new truck won't fit and Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC).

"For example SFEC determines a new tanker should be located at a brigade (brigade prescription changed) but the new tanker won't fit in the existing station (eg: not long enough or the door isn't tall enough) this identifies and increases the priority to include within the Capital Program build list to receive an extension or new station."

When a new station is necessary there are many factors to be considered, including location, land availability, the brigade needs according to the SFEC Brigade Prescription, as an example this determines the number of truck bays, operational areas (radio room, meeting room, office) to carparks.

Some brigades, like Piccadilly, are held up for years due to parcels of land being unsuitable.

We have been working with Adelaide Hills Council including a consultation process with the local community for a new parcel of land suitable for a new Piccadilly station. The Piccadilly brigade received their new tanker which is secure stored in a brigade members' shed until a new station is built.

Members also can get deterred by the red tape, including the building codes and standards CFS must to abide by.

CFS is mandated by the National Construction Code (NCC) (formerly known as the Building Code of Australia (BCA), to build our stations to Importance Level 4 which requires additional bracing and structural engineering.

"CFS is listed under "buildings essential to post-disaster recovery or hazardous materials facilities", so if there's a significant incident (such as an earthquake) in an area, our stations will remain standing so our tankers and volunteers can attend the incident and help their community."



*Work Starting at Rockleigh Station*



*The newly built Gawler River station.*

## Mario's efforts recognised

*By Ruby Woodward*

CFS Manager Communications, Mario D'Agostino has been awarded the 2016 South Australia Industry Professional of the Year award at the Australian Radio Communications industry Association award presentations, for his roles in radio and communications within the industry.

Mario's Telecommunications career began in 1995 when he joined the SA Ambulance, where he stayed for five years before moving to Telstra where he worked on building and constructing the South Australian Government Radio Network.

It was in 2010 that Mario made the move to CFS, where his contributions to radio and communications within the organisation begun. Mario's innovation and operational capabilities have played an instrumental role in developing the plan and roll out of the CFS VHS tactical radio replacement program.

This program has also been integrated into the CFS state-wide network by Victoria's Country Fire Authority after successful negotiation from Mario. This award recognises Mario's professionalism and technical skills.

"It's a great honour to work in radio and the award doesn't only reflect my efforts but the organisations, from executive to



volunteers on the ground."

Mario is always actively speaking to volunteers to identify any shortfalls to continuously improve safety within the organisation, a contribution to CFS that is commended.

"I'd like to thank the State Volunteer Telecommunications committee who have spent lots of time, effort and faith to provide an outcome for all of our teams and volunteers," he said.

CFS thanks Mario for his outstanding achievements, and wishes him the best with future contributions to the organisation.

## Infrastructure and Logistics New communications trailer

*By Clayton Ellis, CFS Telecommunications Support Officer*

A new CFS rapid deployment communications trailer has been built, featuring the newly acquired ability to repeat South Australian Government Radio Network (SAGRN) transmissions over a range of mediums including VHF, UHF, 3G/4G, satellite and HF.

This gives CFS the ability to temporarily increase the SAGRN footprint into areas where blackspots currently exist, and can open up clear lines of communications back to Regional Coordination Centres and Incident Management Teams during incidents.

Equipped with an AVL (Automatic Vehicle Location) system, the trailer can be tracked and its location plotted on a map to determine its exact location during an incident. The trailer was successfully deployed during the Gawler River flood event in September/October 2016.



*Inside the new comms trailer*

The end result of this new technology will provide voice communication in areas where previously unachievable and a safer working environment for our volunteers in remote areas.

Also providing more resilient communication system that can be used during major disaster. The trailer will provide redundancy in a situation of major disaster where all power infrastructures are lost and interim communication systems need to be deployed.



## Infrastructure and Logistics

### CFS now in blue!

By Ali Martin

After almost 40 years in khaki, CFS personnel will now be dressed in navy.

The change in uniform was 18 months in the making, with a Uniform Review Working Group established early last year, made up of both male and female volunteers and staff.

The group looked at a range of options and recommended navy. Volunteers and staff were consulted throughout the process, along with the CFS Volunteers Association, Chief Officer's Advisory Council and Youth Advisory Council.

The new uniform is fit for purpose with many practical elements and a more modern design for both male and female.

There are three new uniforms launched, a field uniform, day duties and a ceremonial uniform for senior staff up to the Chief Officer.

The field uniform is constructed of a fire retardant fabric to improve safety which will be distributed to volunteer trainer/assessors, with Group Officers also being issued with day duties and field uniforms all before the end of June 2017. The field uniform is also intended to be provided to all volunteers who are sent to interstate or international deployments and may be rolled out to other volunteers.

It features the CFS Star Insignia on the shoulders, fire and rescue on the left breast and Country Fire Service on the back of the field uniform. Fire and Rescue describes our function in relation to public service, not our brand.



*A showcase of CFS uniforms throughout the ages.*



#### The meaning of the CFS Star Insignia

The star is not unique to the CFS, as it is recognised by fire services all over the world. It is the Cross of Saint John which originally emerged from the Maltese Cross. The eight points that reflect the virtues of a CFS volunteer are - Tact (using discretion), Loyalty (remaining committed), Dexterity (being versatile), Observation (applying awareness), Sympathy (valuing compassion), Explicitness (using expertise), Gallantry (boldness) and Perseverance (remaining determined).



*Group Officers and Deputies along with Regional Commander Richard Coombe wear the old day dress uniform for a final time at the Region 3 RVMC in May.*



*The current day dress, ceremonial and field uniforms.*



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## New vaccine for volunteers

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Volunteers attending road crash rescues are eligible to receive Hepatitis B immunisations.

Hepatitis B is a virus that is found in blood and other body fluids. It is highly infectious and causes inflammation of the liver, it is a notifiable condition and there is a vaccine to prevent the illness.

A variety of local arrangements have been put in place over past years to provide CFS volunteers with Hepatitis B immunisation. Generally this has been funded from Brigade or Group budgets and organised through Brigade or Group leaders. Whilst this has and will continue to work well for some Brigades and Groups, CFS will assist volunteers who respond to road crash rescue incidents with easy access to immunisation for Hepatitis B through a CFS Hepatitis B Immunisation Program paid for by CFS centrally and to commence in July 2017.

A contract is being negotiated with a well-established State-wide provider to provide Hepatitis B immunisation, education and follow up information to our road crash rescue personnel particularly in rural areas.

This service is offered as an alternative and volunteers can continue with their current arrangements or change to the CFS Program. Our greatest concern is that our volunteers take the



time to get the Hepatitis B immunisation but don't follow up on the test results and are often unaware if the immunisation has taken or not.

The new service will maintain contact with the individual, including at renewal times, provide education to assist CFS members and their families and maintain records in accordance with health regulations.

We trust this program will be provide another option to assist our people. Further information will be sent to all Group Officer and Brigades commencing in July 2017.

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### South Australian Country Fire Service

# doctrine

*Standing orders, procedures  
& guidelines*

- Supporting you in the field
- A common understanding when responding within your community
- Look out for quarterly updates

[http://www.sacfsvolunteer.org.au/site/operational/operational\\_doctrine.jsp](http://www.sacfsvolunteer.org.au/site/operational/operational_doctrine.jsp)



## Cadets

### Showing their respect

On Monday 24 April 2017 cadets from the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) and SA State Emergency Service (SES) participated in the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil held at the South Australian War Memorial on North Terrace.

Ten CFS cadets from Region 2 joined members of various other youth volunteer organisations to recognise the legacy of ANZAC.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil commenced at 6.00pm on Monday 24 April and concluded at 5.30am on Tuesday 25 April, with the handover to the Defence Force Catafalque Party who in turn 'held ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

The young people were excellent representatives for the formal ANZAC Eve ceremony performing duties such as laying tributes to the fallen, meeting His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia, standing guard and delivering eloquent speeches to the assembled guests.



*Cadets who took part in the Adelaide ANZAC Day vigil.*

CFS Cadets also participated in a number of other ANZAC Eve Youth Vigils across the state.

Congratulations to all the cadets who participated in this year's ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil.

The State Emergency Services (SES) asked CFS for their assistance in rescuing a large animal in distress last year. Not unusual you might think, but this was a little more out of the ordinary – the horse was fake!

The reason behind the rescue, to teach the cadets and film for Network Ten children's TV program, Totally Wild.

The story was based around the large animal rescue training that has recently been developed, with the focus of the story for Totally Wild being how the SES might rescue a horse from the water.

SES swift-water and land based rescuers were involved in the rescue of the training prop (horse) with the CFS initially asked to provide an appliance and a crew to assist with decontaminating the SES rescue crews and equipment.

Once CFS were on site, we were also asked to participate in the exercise, hauling ropes and other general duties to facilitate the successful rescue of the unfortunate beast.

This was a great opportunity to be part of a multi-agency exercise with the CFS crews involved gaining a good understanding of the hazards involved in water rescues, and how to help in a similar situation.

Working together on this exercise for Totally Wild has also provided a great opportunity to raise the profile of both the South Australian SES and CFS with the new episode due be broadcast on national television networks.

A fantastic opportunity and outcome for all the services involved!

## Cadets

### SES & CFS Go Totally Wild

*By David Silkstone*



*SES get a good hose down from the CFS*



## YAC initiates change

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*By Scott Kennedy, YAC Chairman*



The 2016-17 year marks the second of the CFS Youth Advisory Council's (YAC's) third term and so it's fair to say that the YAC continues to build on its successes.

The YAC again ran a Future Leaders course for youth at the State Training Centre from May 19-21. The course involved a youth forum with the ability to ask questions directly of the Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Stark, and gave participants the Frontline Leadership qualification.

The YAC has also been working on developing other leadership programs, including a five month program for youth who aim to take on senior volunteer roles in the future. The YAC applied for Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) funding to deliver a course to 23 young CFS volunteers which would accredit them with a Certificate IV in Leadership and Management.

This would be useful to both the operational and non-operational aspects of senior volunteer roles in the CFS along with given them a useful qualification external to their CFS duties. While unfortunately the YAC was not successful in securing the NDRP funding, the YAC will continue to investigate alternative funding opportunities.

We are exploring opportunities to run a pilot week long urban firefighting course is also being explored with the State Training Centre. We took into account feedback from a previous Future Leaders course, which suggested youth would like the opportunity to attend weekday courses, especially if held during

university holidays. If a week long course is run successfully for youth then hopefully it may become a common option for all members.

It's been rewarding to see the work YAC did with the Uniform Review process, come to fruition. Initially we submitted recommendations to the Chief Officers Advisory Council and then by Chairing the Uniform Review Working Group in 2015-16 it's now great to see the uniforms being rolled out to staff, Group Officers and Trainers. The YAC hopes that the new uniform will be worn well into the future by many of today's young members.

The YAC has been further identifying ways to communicate with youth by creating a Facebook SA CFS Youth Advisory Council Forum. This has been extremely useful in opening up discussions with youth directly and will hopefully continue to be used for open discussions well into the future.

With the end of the third term approaching the YAC is getting ready to say goodbye to some older/young faces and welcome some newer/young faces by developing a transition program. For those interested in becoming a YAC member please contact [yac@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:yac@cfs.sa.gov.au) for more information or a nomination form.

Finally, congratulations to Stewart Germaine who was awarded the South Australian Emergency Services Medal after serving as YAC Chair for two years.

**Note: Scott Kennedy also received an Emergency Services Ministerial Commendation.**

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## VSB training opportunities

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*By Lisa Greig, Manager, Volunteer Services Branch*

The Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) is responsible for the delivery of people skills training which is available to all CFS volunteers. The training sessions that VSB deliver aid in promoting effective and harmonious brigades.

For CFS volunteers, development and enhancement of people skills will improve individual and team effectiveness and the capacity to deliver the practical skills safely. Improved self-awareness and team functioning builds capability to operate under sustained pressure by increasing communication, cohesion and commitment.

Benefits of the VSB training sessions include:

- Improve brigade team effectiveness
- Increased volunteer retention
- Improve job satisfaction
- Brigade stability
- Minimise turnover and volunteer dissatisfaction

VSB has the following courses available:

### **Team Strengths Assessment**

A Team Strengths Assessment measures brigade member's opinions about how they are functioning as a team in six key areas:

- Operational skills
- Team harmony
- Administration
- Organisation
- Teamwork
- Leadership quality

Assessments are completed manually, or online. VSB compiles the results highlighting the brigade strengths and areas of improvement. A feedback session can be facilitated by VSB, to assist with the development of a plan to increase team effectiveness.

### **Building High Performing Teams**

This session helps to develop a better understanding of what makes teams perform well under the pressure of operational

incidents. Members will learn skills to be a more effective team member and how to build emotional intelligence. The session includes a number of fun, interactive activities to help members learn more about each other and how to work well together.

### **Ethical Conduct**

The Emergency Services Sector is committed to providing an environment that is free from bullying, harassment, discrimination and other unacceptable behaviour. This session explains the concepts of bullying, harassment and discrimination and what to do if you are experiencing these behaviours.

### **Dealing with Challenging Behaviour**

Recognising and understanding the causes of difficult behaviour and self-awareness of our own behaviour and its impact on others are fundamental people skills.

This session provides participants with both the knowledge to appreciate the reasoning behind what we might call difficult behaviour, as well as tools to manage and overcome difficult behaviour.

If you would like to know more about these training sessions or arrange for them to be delivered at your brigade, please contact the Volunteer Services Branch on 1300 364 587 or email [vsb@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:vsb@safecom.sa.gov.au).

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## **Retirement**

### Chris Genoff

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*By Ali Martin*

Chris Genoff has been Executive Assistant to the Chief Officer for the past eight years. She started in a temporary position before gaining the permanent role seven years ago.

Working under former Chief Officer, Euan Fergusson for just over two years, and then with Greg Nettleton for now more than five, Chris had a range of responsibilities.

She works as a Ministerial Liaison Officer, in an operational capacity and administration work – a lot to wrap her head around when she first started.

“You have to be a jack of all trades, working with staff, volunteers, the VA (CFS Volunteers Association), CFS Foundation,



the Minister's office and other government agencies, as well as AFAC (Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Council) and NAFC (National Aerial Firefighting Committee),” she said.

“Part of my role is to be a calming influence, especially when we have going incidents and regular duties get pushed back, it's my job to keep things going in that space as much as possible.



## Four recognised for AFSM

*By Ali Martin*

Congratulations to the six SA Country Fire Service volunteers presented with the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the past year.

The 2016 Queen's Birthday honours saw Richard Munn and Ian Tanner receive the award, while Robert Davis and Corey Dunn were recipients on Australia Day 2017. Only just announced, Dennis Turner and Shane Wiseman were given the honour in the 2017 Queen's Birthday Honours and will be presented later in the year.

### ***Ian Tanner***

Ian Tanner joined the CFS in 1990 and has maintained his commitment to the service whilst in his employment with the Department of Woods and Forest, through to his current employment with the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR).

Ian has undertaken senior incident management roles at numerous bushfire incidents including the Pinery and Sampson Flat fires. He has planned and delivered complex fuel reduction prescribed burn in high risk areas.

As a qualified, competent and proficient Fire Behaviours Analyst,

Ian has contributed significantly to the development of bushfire spread modelling in south Australia he and been instrumental in developing and delivering prescribed burning training courses in incident management training delivery across government and has delivered presentations at interstate conferences on his specialist areas.

### ***Richard Munn***

For many years Richard Munn has balanced the demands of employed senior leadership within the Department of Woods and Forests, ForestrySA and SA Water, with his passion and commitment to volunteering.

He had always been prepared to use his skills and abilities to coordinate harmony between all agencies for the betterment of the CFS.

During his volunteer career, he has organised and mentored Forestry Driver Training, taught chainsaw safety and operation and introduced CFS volunteers to specialised forestry firefighting methods.

He also committed six years to logistical support of regional field days and lent his carpentry and fundraising skills to oversee the construction and fit out of the Gumeracha Base and Brigade Station and was the main coordinator in the development of the airstrip at Mount Crawford.

### ***Robert Davis***

Robert Davis began with the OB Flat brigade in 1965. He developed as a leader and later became a Zone supervisor for the Mount Gambier Firefighting Association having 13 brigades under his command.

Mr Davis played a significant role in Ash Wednesday in 1983 as a Fire Group Officer and played a leadership role in incidents since. He has continued in his role as Captain of Mount Gambier Operations Brigade.



*Richard Munn (left) and Ian Tanner (right) with Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark after they were presented with the AFSM.*



*Robert Davis, Chief Officer Greg Nettleton and Corey Dunn after receiving their medals.*

### **Corey Dunn**

Corey Dunn started volunteering with the Salisbury CFS brigade in 1993 and later with Tea Tree Gully brigade until 2016. Alongside volunteering Corey became a CFS staff member in 2001 as an Air Attack Supervisor with the Aviation team at State headquarters

Over the course of the 23 years experience Corey has been instrumental during significant incidents including the recent Wangary, Bangor, Sampson Flat and Pinery fires where he performed highly demanding roles with aviation operations.

Corey has also play pivotal role in the development of training resources, curriculums and procedures which have been disseminated across the organisation for the benefit of the many volunteers and SACFS staff members.

### **Dennis Turner**

Dennis Turner's service has spanned 48 years and continues today with the Region 1 Operations Support Brigade. During his years of service, Dennis has been instrumental in providing leadership within the CFS organisation through his positions as Lieutenant and Group Officer. He continues to perform key Incident Management roles at both Regional and State level incidents.

During his time with Mount Barker Brigade, he was instrumental in the designing and building of the current Mount Barker CFS station, a project undertaken solely in a volunteer capacity. He's now passionate about Incident Management capacities and assisting in redefining the Region 1 Operations Support Brigade as to its role and function. In his diesel mechanic business, he has supported his employees over the past 20 years to enable them to engage in CFS activities when required which he as a business owner has absorbed as an additional service to the community and CFS organisation.

### **Shane Wiseman**

Shane Wiseman began his career as a Ranger with the Woods and Forestry Department in 1975, in 2004 he won the role of Senior Fire Operations Officer with the Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources and was soon promoted to the Manager of the statewide Fire Management Program in 2007.

On 16 February, 1983 Shane was the frontline leading crews during the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires. He safely led suppression activities during the fire in some of the most challenging terrain at Cudlee Creek. He was awarded the National Medal in 2008 for long service and good conduct.

As manager of the DEWNR Fire Management Program, Shane has made a significant contribution, such as the adaption of 18 comprehensive Fire Management Plans, the development of DEWNR's Prescribed Burn Program and increased the capacity to deliver the program up to 100 Project Firefighters in 2016. He has actively supported the development of aerial ignition equipment and techniques and the addition of the fire spread modelling tool 'Phoenix Rapid fire' here in South Australia.



## Emergency Service medals awarded

*By Ali Martin*

Congratulations to Trevor Bennett from Southern Fleurieu CFS Group and Minlaton brigade's Stewart Germaine who were awarded Emergency Service Medals in 2016.

They were joined by Coorong Group's Adam Hurle, Athelstone's Scott Kennedy, Napperby's Sydney 'John' Lane, and Greenhill's Trevor Wing who all received commendations.

For more than 54 years, Trevor Bennett has held positions of firefighter, Lieutenant, Captain and President within brigades and is currently a Deputy Group Officer for the Southern Fleurieu CFS Group.

Cape Jervis and Rapid Bay brigades have often found it difficult to find new members as well as holding on to existing fire fighters and Trevor has played a major part in promoting and holding these brigades together. Through his enthusiasm and dedication he has maintained stability within the group ensuring that the area has a great CFS representation.

Trevor is a quiet achiever and is an exemplary role model for service and commitment to the CFS and the communities they serve.

Trevor is highly regarded in the group. He is always there when you need him. His fellow other firefighters at ease knowing that Trevor will be at the incident. He exudes confidence and calm. Trevor is well supported by his family - his daughter is now the Captain of Cape Jervis brigade, his son in law is the first lieutenant and his son is also in the Rapid Bay Brigade.

Stewart Germaine continues to demonstrate an outstanding commitment, encouragement and leadership by participating in leading Youth Advisory Council initiatives and activities inclusive of Chairperson Youth Advisory Council (2014-2016), co-presenter to AFAC conference on youth (2015) and delegate to the Chief Officers Advisory Council.

Whilst Youth Advisory Council Chairperson, Stewart has overseen the successful running of two youth frontline

leadership forums, a submission to the Sector Reform and involvement in establishing and reviewing the CFS Social Media policy.

Adam Hurle joined the CFS as a cadet in 1994 at 15 years of age and became a firefighter at 16. At 20, his leadership abilities were clear and he became Brigade Captain at 22.

He now holds the position of Deputy Group Officer of Coorong CFS Group. Demonstrating exceptional service to the community since 2001, Adam orchestrated and participates in the CFS Driver Reviver station in Meningie; demonstrates bushfire awareness activities at the Meningie Show; and coordinates farm firefighting community forums.



*CFS Community Engagement Officer Kylee McNamee was also recognised for her commitment to MFS in her retained role. The senior firefighter has over 20 years of experience, specialising in breathing apparatus and road crash rescue training.*



*Acting Chief Officer Andrew Stark, with volunteers John Lane, Adam Hurle and Scott Kennedy after receiving the Emergency Service Medal Commendation.*

Scott Kennedy has demonstrated outstanding commitment, encouragement and leadership to the youth of the CFS by participating in and leading Youth Advisory Council initiatives.

Scott is the current Youth Advisory Council Chairperson and was the Council representative to the Sector Reform in 2015. Scott is hands on in delivering substantial recommendations for service and organisational improvements.

Sydney Lane or John as he's known to most is recognised within the brigade, group and community as an exemplary volunteer on many levels.

His care and considered approach and practical support in maintaining the safety of appliances and stowage over many hours during the Bangor incident in 2014, resulted in volunteers being able to attend incidents with confidence in the knowledge they are in the best position to respond with equipment that is in the best working order. Currently, he spends most of his time transporting trucks throughout the region, to and from service or repair agents.

Trevor Wing joined the Emergency Fire Service, later to become the CFS in 1970. He has continuously demonstrated his outstanding firefighting and leadership skills at numerous incidents over the years, including the devastating Ash Wednesday fires.

Trevor played an integral role in the development and build of Burnside's first Volvo fire appliance. The acquisition of the Volvo appliance, capable of being both a rural and urban appliance, was a significant turning point within the Burnside CFS, as it was one of the first appliances able to support the MFS within the Adelaide metropolitan area.

## SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum

# Forestry firefighters remembered

The annual South Australian Fire Fighters Memorial Service was attended by more than 100 people on Saturday, April 22.

SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum (SAVFFM) Chairman Rex Hall said the occasion was a way to reflect on those lost in service to the community.

"Firefighters could otherwise be at home in the comfort of friends and family, but instead they go out and risk their life when a fire threatens a community," Mr Hall said.

"In the blink of an eye, they are out the door on a truck and heading for an inferno all others are trying to escape.

"It's a great sadness when we lose a fire fighter so it is important we pause to reflect on their sacrifice and never forget the bravery they displayed."

A plaque in memory of the eight Woods and Forests firefighters who lost their lives in the Wandilo Forest Fire, was also unveiled at the service. Ben Damhuis was the youngest killed in the fire, at just 16 - more than 20 members of his family attended the memorial.

ForestrySA Chief Executive Jerome Coleman said the plaque was a poignant reminder of the men who died in the course of their work on that fateful Saturday, 5 April 1958.

"Almost 60 years on, this tragedy remains in the forefront of the minds of local fire fighters," Mr Coleman said.

"The lessons learned have led to major improvements in fire equipment, training, communications and inter-agency cooperation. Their terrible loss will never be forgotten."

The memorial is located at the SAVFFM site in Naracoorte.



*CFS cadets at the Memorial ceremony.*



*SAVFFM Chairman Rex Hall speaking to the crowd.*



*Special guests at the Memorial Ceremony.*



*The new memorial.*

*Photos: Stuart Stansfield, ABC*



## New era for Foundation with appointment of Mark Howells



*New CFS Foundation CEO Mark Howells.*

The CFS Foundation has taken an exciting step in its evolution with the appointment of leading executive Mark Howells as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Mark – who has extensive experience in the not-for-profit sector – is poised to expand the activities and awareness of the CFS Foundation as it enters the next phase of its growth.

“I look forward to building on all the great work of the CFS Foundation,” Mark said. “It’s a great organisation that has now reached a milestone in its development.

“With the support of the CFS Foundation Board, I believe we can reach the next level in our goal of honouring, supporting and caring for CFS volunteers. It’s an exciting time and I’m glad to be involved.”

Prior to his appointment to the CFS Foundation, Mark was CEO of Disability Recreation and Sports SA (formerly known as Wheelchair Sports SA). His strategic direction helped the organisation build new income streams and partnerships throughout South Australia.

He has also held executive positions in organisations as diverse as YMCA, Softball SA, SA Rowing Association and Cora Barclay Centre. He has also held positions with corporates including Siemens, Collex Industrial Services and Practical Sales and Marketing.

A former Royal Marines Commando, Mark will bring significant skills in sales, management and operations, following his successful work in building and developing social enterprise businesses in his various charity roles.

CFS Foundation Chairman Rob Snowdon welcomed Mark and said his appointment was a coup for the organisation.

“Mark is highly regarded in the not-for-profit sector in South Australia, and will bring his skills to bear as the CFS Foundation continues to build its resources and profile to help CFS volunteers and their families,” Rob said.

“With more than \$1 million in funds under management, CFS Foundation is now looking forward to working with Mark as we take our organisation into a new era in its development.”

## Major businesses support Foundation

Key business organisations continue to swing behind the CFS Foundation as it continues to provide support to our brave volunteer firefighters.

Platinum sponsor **ElectraNet** has once again committed to a three-year program of significant financial support for the CFS Foundation’s defibrillator rollout and the highly regarded ElectraNet Fellowships, enabling CFS volunteers to undertake a professional learning project specific to their needs.

**SA Power Networks** and **Casella Wines** contribute significant funds into the Volunteer Support Fund, where the money is held in trust to support CFS volunteers in their times of need.

Another supporter of CFS Foundation, **National Pharmacies** has sponsored the donation of 10 oxygen therapy kits, which are a valuable and lifesaving tool.

**Australian Executor Trustees** sponsors the CFS Foundation’s Future Leaders Grants, enabling volunteers to develop their skills to perform their roles more safely and effectively.

And CFS Foundation’s major lottery sponsors include **Mitsubishi**, **Phil Hoffmann Travel**, **Metropolitan Machinery Pty Ltd**, **John Deere** and **Barbeques Galore** – all great companies supporting the work of CFS volunteers.

Media partners Channel 9 and 7 and Radio 5AA are also helping promote the Foundation’s ongoing great work.

CFS Foundation Chairman Rob Snowdon said the Foundation relied heavily on its loyal and long-standing sponsors to achieve its goals of supporting CFS volunteers and their families in their times of need.

“We are incredibly grateful to these organisations – and many others – who understand and support the role the CFS Foundation is playing,” he said.

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## *Stress Prevention and Management*

# Mental Health at forefront of CFS mind

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*By Jane Abdilla, Health and Wellbeing Consultant with SAFECOM*



*We trained the peers in Pre incident Training sessions which we would like to conduct during the next year across the State*

The nature of our work means that our people, staff and volunteers, are likely to be regularly exposed to potentially traumatic events, which may or may not impact their mental health and wellbeing.

During the past 12 months there has been a huge volume of information and discussion about the prevalence of anxiety, depression, suicide and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) amongst first responders in the emergency services.

The launch of the Beyond Blue Good Practice Framework for Mental Health and Wellbeing in first responder organisations gave impetus to the increased awareness and the high level of response to developing a strategy to address gaps and mental health issues in the emergency services sector.

Looking at the Beyond Blue Framework, it was pleasing to note that the CFS is providing services in every action area, with some gaps and room for improvement. There were five action areas identified:

- Adopt a systematic approach to risk management
- Develop and implement a mental health and wellbeing strategy
- Develop leadership capability
- Take action to reduce stigma
- Educate and prepare your workforce

An Action Plan is now being developed under these five key action areas, as we aim to create a strong workplace culture and effective systems that enable our people to achieve their best.

The CFS is committed to raising awareness and reducing stigma

around mental health, supporting employees and volunteers with mental health conditions and promoting positive working environments.

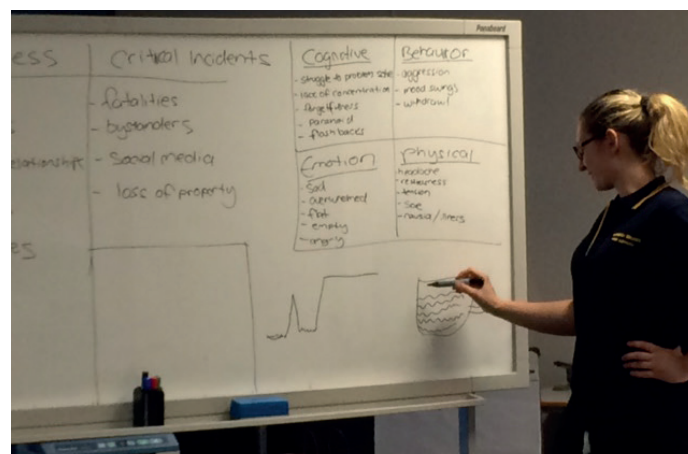
We already have an extensive evidence based strategy to meet the needs of our workforce in times of responding to a potentially traumatic event. The Stress Prevention and Management Program (SPAM) has now been in place for almost 30 years, and the team of Mental Health Professionals and volunteer Peer Support Officers have responded to assist volunteers at challenging times and post traumatic events. We recently have contracted the services of three external Psychological Teams to provide professional counselling services and the critical incident response to our workforce.

One of the objectives of the Action Plan is to expand the volunteer peer support team, give them a greater presence amongst the brigades and develop and deliver more stress and trauma awareness programs to volunteers and their partners in order to educate and prepare our workforce. Currently we have 18 volunteers who are from CFS and SES and who are trained as emergency services peer support officers (thirteen from CFS and five from SES).

Another objective of the Action Plan is to reduce stigma and increase leadership capability by delivering training programs with the accredited Mental Health First Aid course initially to the staff and volunteer leaders in CFS.

This training program will enable participants to be able to identify signs and symptoms of anxiety, depression, trauma, eating disorders, suicidal ideation and psychosis, and to understand how to approach people with these symptoms and have a conversation about seeking help early.

This exciting venture will commence with a pilot program during early part of 2018.





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## CFS providing support to kids

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Each year Anglicare SA conduct Star Bear camps for bereaved children the ages of five and 12 and a Star Bound camp for teenagers aged 13 to 17 years old several times a year.

Piccadilly CFS brigade are some of the volunteers who attend programs as mentors for the children. As part of the activities the crew from Piccadilly attend the Star Bear Camp on the Sunday morning and show the kids the appliances and let them squirt water, and go for a ride which is one of the major highlights of the camp and the crew are amazing every time.

At the most recent camp former CFS volunteer, Andrew Harrison's youngest son attended the camp and he met with the Piccadilly volunteers. Andrew's older son will attend the next Star Bound Camp.

For information about Star Bear Camps visit [www.anglicaresa.com.au/support-disability/loss-grief/loss-grief-camps/](http://www.anglicaresa.com.au/support-disability/loss-grief/loss-grief-camps/)

If other CFS brigades are interested in volunteering for the camps visit (08) 8305 9200.



*Piccadilly CFS members with Andrew Harrison's son.*

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## *obituary -* • *Simon Coltman*

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Dedicated volunteer Simon Coltman was farewelled by the Meningie Brigade and Community on 25th March which included a tribute to Simon's work with the CFS. His CFS yellows and helmet were at the funeral for Simon's 'last ride'.

Simon was the immediate past Captain of the Meningie Brigade. His dedication to the Community and CFS showed through his almost 18 years of service. During that distinguished tenure Simon held positions of Lieutenant, Brigade equipment coordinator, Brigade Training Coordinator, Group Equipment Coordinator, Brigade Logistics support, Brigade Work Health and Safety Coordinator and Brigade Cadet Coordinator. Simon attended many campaign fires with his experience including the 2015 Sampson Flat fire. After that fire Simon represented Meningie and the CFS attending a reception at Government House with the Governor General and His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent.

Simon's level head and his ability to connect with people truly shone in his leadership capabilities, leading the Meningie Brigade as Captain for 3 years before standing down due to illness.

The Meningie Brigade and Regional staff conducted a guard of honour and marching escort and the town siren sounded for one minute for Simon's farewell.

Always missed by the Meningie Brigade.

*obituary -*

***Glen Roberts***



Glen Roberts began his volunteer career with CFS as part of the Lobethal brigade in 1991.

He completed his Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) training at the State Training Centre in June 1993. His interest in Breathing Apparatus training grew to the point where he was asked to assist with the management of the course in the then know role of 'course gopher' which entailed all the setup and pack up for a course including filling all the BA cylinders that the trainees had just emptied.

Glen did this roll for many years until he was selected to attend the seven day Breathing Apparatus Instructor course in August 2000. Glen's knowledge and commitment to this training grew and with his management and communication skills I offered to mentor him in the role as Lead Assessor.

Glen relished this challenge and went on to be a very successful Lead Assessor performing the role at the State Training Centre and many Regional courses.

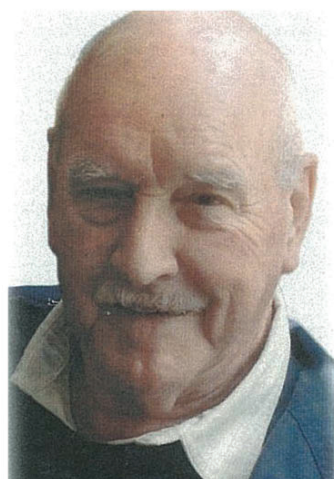
Glen was an integral part of the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) training team during my time as the project Manager (2005 - 2016) and was always offering suggestions on how the team could improve the course for the benefit of all the CFS trainees.

He went on to coach and mentor many new Trainer-Assessors and Facility Assistants and left a positive influence on all those he worked with. Glen also worked at the Training Centre from 2011 - 2015 as the Technical Support Officer to all the project managers and enjoyed his time working with the SCBA equipment on a daily basis.

When his health diminished he went on to do the roll as Afterhours Coordinator until 2015.

*obituary -*

***John Fitzgerald***



Longstanding CFS staff member and volunteer John Fitzgerald passed away recently. His funeral on October 21 included a tribute to his work with the CFS, particularly in establishing the rescue helicopter service. His CFS dress uniform peak hat and helmet were placed on top of his coffin.

John had a distinguished career with the CFS and its forerunner the Emergency Fire Service (EFS). He joined the Blackwood EFS in 1955 prior to entering the police force. After serving in Whyalla he was transferred to the radio room at headquarters in Adelaide, where he also served as the EFS communications centre. In 1963, John was seconded to the Thebarton police barracks where he served as a fire instructor.

In 1967 John moved to Tasmania to work for the Tasmanian Rural Fires Board where he was promoted to State Fire Control Officer. In 1974 he and his wife Judy and their two daughters returned home to Adelaide, where he was the first Fire Protection Officer for the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

In 1980 John returned home to what was then known as the EFS, working in the Riverland and Murraylands. He rose through the ranks to become Assistant Chief Officer. As well as establishing what is now known as the Westpac Rescue One helicopter service, he played an integral role in developing the Country Fires Act 1989.

After retirement John continued involvement as a volunteer with the Tea Tree Gully CFS brigade.



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*obituary -*

***Hugh David Magarey***

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When he was young, Hugh Magarey would ride his bike to observe the then Emergency Fire Service at work.

Then in 1966 at 16 he joined the Coromandel Valley brigade, where he would give half a century's service to EFS and then CFS.

Hugh's family history is entrenched in the fire service, with his father Dave a founding member of the brigade, while his grandfather Alec was Coromandel Valley Fire Fighting Organisation (CVFFO) Fire Control Officer. Many would remember 'Grandma' Magarey (Hugh's grandma) on the radio handling the communications from the old farm house on Magarey Orchard.

His Uncle was Meadows Group Captain Roger Magarey, and his brothers Andrew, Peter, John and Rob were involved in the brigade's earlier days but less so now.

These days two of Hugh's sons are still active members at Coromandel Valley - James and Peter.

Hugh was a pillar of the brigade for many years, helping build some of the brigade's first units, including an ex WW2 Blitz Truck, an ex-Korean War Commer Truck, Series 1 and 2 Landrovers, Both International D1610 Trucks 24 and Alpha 24.

Hugh's interest wasn't just in the trucks though, in the 1980s he helped secure old Telecom depot and building on Ackland's



Hill Road where the brigade is currently situated. At the same time there were suggestions Coromandel Valley merge with Happy Valley brigade, but Hugh had a lot to say about losing the brigade and the merger didn't eventuate.

In the 1980s, Hugh joined the VFBA (Volunteer Fire Brigade Association) and went in to fight for the brigade and also the community's best interests.

Working in the orchard close to the station, Hugh was always ready to steer a truck during the day when the siren went off. Although no longer functional, many would remember Hugh in his old 1958 Ford ute at the top of the orchard block testing the fire siren at 8am every Friday morning.

On February 29, 2012 Hugh went to a callout he would never forget. His eldest son Thomas Hugh Magarey, was killed in a car accident at Coromandel East not far from the family home, he was 28.

Hugh died on February 2, 2016 when he lost a three year battle with prostate cancer. He is survived by his wife Ruth, three sons, a daughter in law and three grandchildren.

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*obituary -*

***Fred Steinborner***

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Karoonda and Murray Bridge communities farewell Fred Steinborner in October

Four CFS vehicles then escorted the large funeral procession with flashing lights from the church, all the way back to Karoonda.

Mr Steinborner, 52, was a valued member of his local CFS brigade for many years, serving as the Brigade Administration Officer and Radio Operator with a passion and commitment to community and volunteer work in the area.

While hundreds of mourners filled the Church and adjacent hall for his funeral, an honour guard of CFS firefighters paid their highest respect for their friend and colleague as they escorted Mr Steinborner's coffin into a waiting hearse.



He was involved with many local organisations including Apex, the Lutheran Church, the Karoonda East Murray Council, Murray Mallee Community Centre and the Talking Newspaper service.

Mr Steinborner was Karoonda's junior citizen of the year in 1986, in recognition of his service and respect for the local community. A service and tradition he maintained and promoted throughout his life.

*obituary -*

***Ian (Macca) MacIntyre***

*Dale Thompson, Sturt Group Officer*



***Passed away at Daw House Hospice on Saturday, May 28, 2016.***

***Loving father of Stuart and Chris.***

***Father-in-law of Lyn and Lisa. Much loved Pop of Angus.***

Ian MacIntyre (Macca) joined Belair CFS Brigade on October 1, 1971; he remained an active member for 21 years. He attended numerous fire calls locally and supporting other nearby groups and attained the rank of Senior Firefighter. Ian was also a member of the Belair CFS award winning Alarm Race Team that dominated the competitions for many years in the 1970s and 1980s.

In February 1993 Ian transferred to Blackwood CFS Brigade, and became heavily involved in the social committee of the Brigade.

During his time a Blackwood Brigade focussed heavily on the social side of the Brigade ensuring the moral remained high through numerous social activities and fundraisers.

In 2004 Ian was awarded the Captains Jacket for providing exceptional support to the Captain during 2003. Ian wore the jacket proudly at all formal Brigade functions.

Ian was awarded his National Medal in 1987 and 30 year Service Award in 2003. He was honoured with CFS Life Membership in 2007 and Blackwood Brigade Life Membership in 2010.

Ian will sadly be missed by all.

*obituary -*

***Peter Edgcumbe***

*John Probert, Region 5 Commander*



I remember first meeting Peter 'Ned' Edgcumbe in 1998 not long after I took on the role of Volunteer Support Officer with the Emergency Service Administration Unit (ESAU).

Ned started with CFS in 1980 with Tantanoola Brigade then taking on the role of Millicent Group Deputy one and following the Group amalgamations firstly with Beachport Group and later with Penola Group continuing as a Deputy in the newly formed Wattle Range Group a position he maintained until ill health forced him to take a step back.

Ned was always willing to put his hand up to help others and was a sought after Strike Team Leader and Divisional Commander on deployments.

He took part in the first deployment to NSW in 1994 and then followed this up with;

Kangaroo Island (2001), Sydney Fires (2002), Victorian High Country Fires (2003), Horrocks Pass (2005), Bookmark (2006), Little Desert (2006), Kangaroo Island (2007)

Ned was to me often the voice of reason in difficult circumstance with the ability to not only manage incidents but lead men and women.

His passion for Work Health and Safety sometimes saw him come into conflict with others but it always seemed to turn out that in retrospect he had it right. He had passion for training and getting people involved in anything CFS had to offer, he was well respected by captains and firefighters and would have been known to most of them.

I remember that at the time Ned was a Deputy Group Officer he looked after around five Brigades almost as a father figure and he was willing to go to bat for them against anyone be they staff or volunteer.

In his own calm considered way he did everything he could to promote the ideals of the Country Fire Service and support his community.



## Contacts

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Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide 5000  
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**Recruitment:** 1300 364 587  
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**Email:** volunteernow@safecom.sa.gov.au

### ***Bushfire Information Hotline:*** 1300 362 361

### ***Cfs Foundation***

**Telephone:** 1300 270 278  
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