

## Avon Fire Brigade

***Information sourced from Bough's Blitz's & Buckets, The History of South Australia's Country Fire Service (circa 1994) Betteridge and Jarman.***

Avon Fire Brigade, in the Wakefield Plains District Council area.

A public meeting was held in the supper room of the Avon District Hall, on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1972, where it was decided to form an E.F.S. Brigade at Avon. A committee was formed and donations for the purchase of a light four wheel drive vehicle were solicited from the area. The Port Wakefield District Council donated an unserviceable International K.B.5, which was sold for scrap, it raised \$100 for the brigade. The Brigade was registered as an Emergency Fire Service Brigade on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January, 1973, Registration Number 3/3.

Due to the drought conditions prevalent in 1972, money was short, so to assist the brigade, its Chairman, Mr. J. Pym, allowed the brigade to seed an 80 acre paddock with wheat. Other farmers donated seed and fertiliser. Following good late rains and the resultant bumper crop, the brigade was able to purchase three, four wheel drive vehicles.

Two Dodge weapons carriers were acquired from the Lobethal C.F.S., and an International C.1300, from the Department of Supply. One of the Dodges was fitted out as a Fire Appliance, while the other was used for spare parts. The International was fitted with a body built by the members. The original 1½" Alpha Centrifugal Pump was replaced by a GAAM in 1982. Stripped of their equipment, the Dodges were resold in 1982, to the Military Collectors Society of South Australia.

The Brigade was registered as a Country Fire Service Brigade on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 1979, Registration Number 3/3. Following the formation of the Wakefield Plains District Council, was again reregistered on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October, 1983, Registration Number 78/10.

Due to its age, the International was scrapped in 1992, when it was replaced by a new Isuzu, type 1.4. appliance.

*More information can be found on this brigade at the CFS Promotions Unit History section of our website, for appliance and station details.*

*<https://www.fire-brigade.asn.au/about-sacfs-history/default.asp>*