

# Bute Fire Brigade

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

Bute Fire Brigade, Bute District Council.

(1946 - Current).

On the 10th of January, 1946, the District Clerk, applied to Colonel Shaw, the Director of the Civil Defence Force, for the loan of a Trailer pump, for fire fighting in the Bute district Council area. G.M.H. Trailer Pump No.10A645, was delivered by Mr. T. J. Meaney, the Deputy Director of the Emergency Fire Service on the 29th of November, 1946 and instructed a crew formed under Mr. G. Cornelius, how to operate and care for the pump. Originally housed at the District Council depot, the Trailer Pump was moved in September, 1948 to a small shed that had been erected to house it on land leased from the S.A.R. in Railway Terrace. A quick loading stand with a 400 Gallon tank was placed alongside the shed. In 1953, Bute hosted the Regional Fire Fighting Competitions.

The brigades first appliance was a 1942 Chevrolet C.30 Blitz, fitted with 'p 600 Gallon Tank and the G.M.H. Pump, which had been removed from its trailer. The Chevrolet had been acquired in October, 1953. It was converted by Mr. G. Lockyer assisted by members of the brigade. The Appliance was housed at the Council depot, until the Fire station was built in 1955.

The brigade was Registered with the E.F.S. on the 13th of August, 1958, Reg.No.14/1.

Radios were first used by the brigade in 1961, when the brigade began operating as VL5JF, on 2660 kcs.

In 1968, a new Magirus Pump was purchased and replaced the G.M.H. Pump which was returned to E.F.S. Headquarters on the 5th of December, 1969. A Landrover, light attack unit was acquired to augment the brigades strength on the 15th of September, 1970. It was fitted with a 125 Gallon Tank and a Finsbury Villiers Pump. It served with the brigade until 1984, when it was taken over by the District Council as a Weed Control unit. On the 6th of June, 1972, a second hand Bedford was purchased from the Department of Supply and the old Blitz was sold to a local farmer.

The brigade was Registered with the Country Fire Service on the 9th of May, 1979, Reg.No.14/1.

The original Fire station was too small and in 1983, it was demolished and a new larger Fire station was erected. To replace the Landrover a new Ford F350 was purchased in 1984 and was Commissioned on the 19th of October, 1984 by Mr. L. Johns the Director of the Country Fire Service who also officially opened the Fire Station.

Due to C.F.S. Regulations regarding the age limit on appliance the Bedford was transferred to Alford in 1989, when a new Hino was received.

*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>*