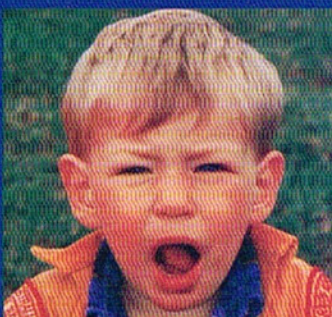
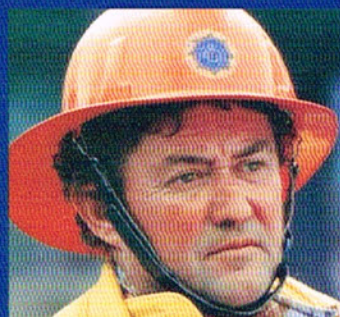
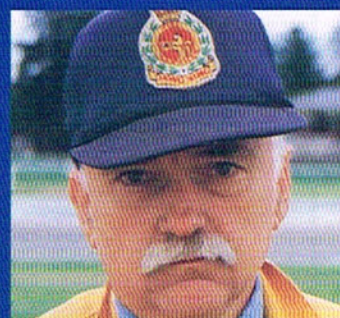
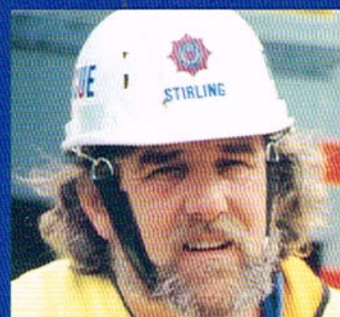
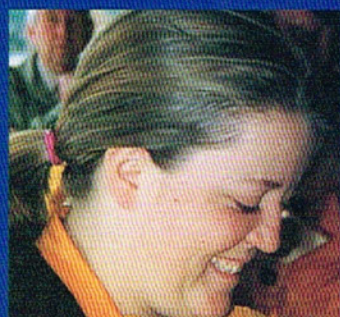


# VOLUNTEER

VOICE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADES

Print Post Approved 535347/00018

Vol. 77 JUNE 1997



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Volunteer is always glad to receive articles, news items and photographs of interest to our CFS readership.

Items intended for publication should be sent to Conrad Powell, Executive Officer, SAVFBA, 27 Hamilton Avenue, Warradale 5046 (Fax: 08 8376 6385) together with the contributor's name, address or brigade, and phone number. Please ensure photographs are clearly captioned, identifying the occasion and the names of those pictured.

Following publication of each Volunteer, our editorial panel will award a CFS watch to a volunteer contributor who will be named in the next issue.

Advertising inquiries, bookings and material should be directed to Lindy O'Connell, the media pool, PO Box 239, Burnside 5066 (Phone: 08 8364 5553; Fax: 08 8332 1908).

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Terry Halford is chairman of the new VFBA promotions subcommittee. Members are Pip McGowan, Gary Bau, Julie Paterson and Len Norcott.

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*That's right! It's your magazine. A new look, a new style and a new editor, all working to ensure that VOLUNTEER lives up to its name as an entertaining and informative magazine for and about CFS volunteers - and the news and issues that affect them.*

*The changes you see today are only a beginning. The new VOLUNTEER is going to be shaped by evolution, not revolution, and we need your ideas, comments and help to develop it as the kind of magazine you want and you will enjoy.*

*There'll be more regular features, more news from the brigades and more stories about the volunteers and families who are the heart and spirit of the CFS. We'll be looking for more advertising from around the State so that we can gradually increase the size of the magazine to accommodate all the coverage we want to give you.*

*But we're making a start right now by introducing some new regular segments. Take a look at Have Your Say on **Page 10**. It's your chance to get your point of view across, a readers' forum for the things you want to discuss. Then there's On Parade, starting on **Page 12**, with a selection of the best stories we get from our 440 brigades across the State.*

*For some really exciting opportunities for brigade fundraising, give some careful thought to the Australian Taxation Office's ruling on tax deductions for volunteers, quoted in full on **Page 5**. After all, the end of the tax year is right upon us!*

*And, on **Page 6**, be sure to read our feature on what it's like to experience a WorkCover OH & S audit! Another 46 brigades are to be evaluated in September.*

*Our new editor is Bernard Boucher, a well known Adelaide journalist and writer who is a former Advertiser Chief of Staff and columnist. Bernard will be travelling around the State in the coming months to meet as many of you as possible and collect articles and ideas for the new VOLUNTEER.*

*Every volunteer is entitled to a free copy. All you have to do is fax or phone your name and address to VFBA and future issues of your own magazine will be posted to you direct. We know you'll enjoy reading it.*

Conrad Powell  
Executive Officer





# JOINT HQ FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

## CFS to move to Eastwood

The Country Fire Service, State Emergency Service and St John Ambulance volunteers are to share a new headquarters on Greenhill Road as part of a major restructuring of South Australia's volunteer emergency services announced by the Minister for Emergency Services, Graham Ingerson.

Both the CFS and SES will relocate from their respective headquarter sites at Keswick and Flinders Street, City, to St John House at 216 Greenhill Road, Eastwood, which already serves as the St John volunteers' State headquarters.

CFS Chief Executive Officer Stuart Ellis welcomed the move which he said would be of great benefit to the services involved through improved coordination of operations.

'We have been in our existing building since the 1960s and have outgrown it,' he said. 'It is an appropriate time for us to move to a new building and work more closely with the other agencies.'

Mr Ellis said CFS would occupy the building's ground and first floors which would become vacant when St John Ambulance moved into the Metropolitan Fire Service headquarters in Wakefield Street. The St John volunteers would remain on the second floor at Greenhill Road.

Mr Ingerson said the co-location would be completed as soon as possible.

'It's a big logistical operation and it's going to require excellent planning and a

high level of cooperation between the three agencies,' he said.

The greatest advantages of co-location would be in the operational area where increased knowledge and trust between the three agencies would increase their effectiveness in operations where they shared roles.

Mr Ingerson said the new headquarters would be refurbished and feature improved services for volunteers, including specific volunteer car parking, promotions for all three services and a ground floor reception and waiting area providing tea, coffee and toys for children. Access to staff would be improved with a simplified office layout and more meeting rooms.

The many advantages of the move - including lower rental and administration costs and better use of existing support services - would allow savings to be ploughed back into better equipment, training and support for volunteers.

'South Australia's volunteers are one of our most vital assets, and I'd rather see money being spent on them and supporting them in the field rather than doubling or tripling up on administrative charges,' Mr Ingerson said.

Thanking the State's volunteers for their efforts over the summer, he described the work of emergency services volunteers as 'priceless'.

'They deserve our gratitude and, on behalf of the people of South Australia, I thank the members of the CFS, St John and the SES. They have done a magnificent job once again.'



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope our new look bimonthly magazine will be welcomed by volunteers as a refreshing change in our established form of two-way communication.

We are particularly pleased in this issue to announce the official introduction of blue flashing lights to increase safety protection for our volunteers working on the highways. VFBA has been working to achieve this important initiative for the past six years.

There are many issues I am keen to report on in the coming months, including our positive relationship with CFS Chief Executive Officer Stuart Ellis and his staff, and with Mr Graham Ingerson, the Minister for Emergency Services.

At VFBA, we have been doing a great deal of work for the future, as has CFS Headquarters, and we look forward to telling you all about these developments as they come to fruition.

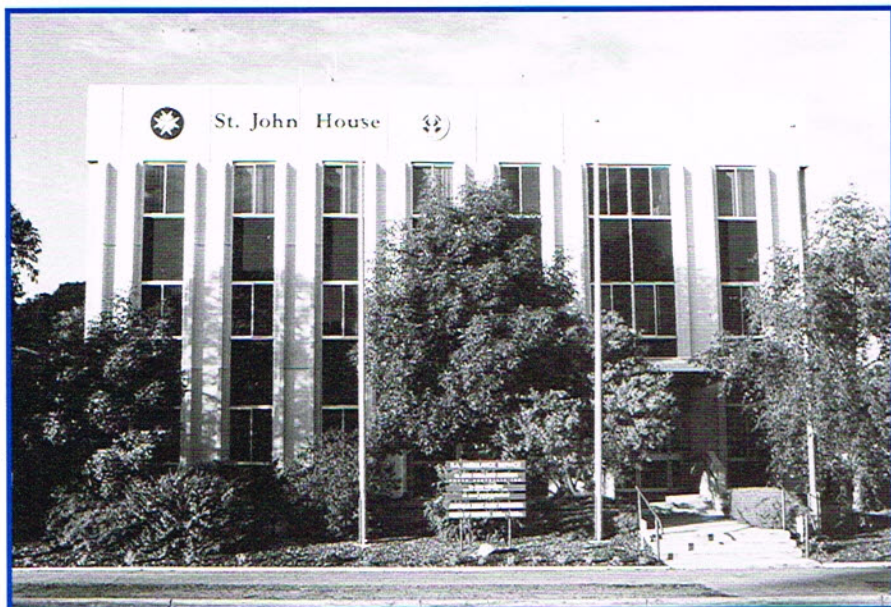
At Mallala's Cadet Field Day recently I was privileged to see the great spirit of the CFS exemplified through our younger members and the help and encouragement they received from their seniors. I'm sure everyone involved will remember this day as something very special.

Our congratulations go too to all the recipients of the National Medal and Clasps.

We can benefit greatly as individuals, as brigades and as a service if we encourage each other, and I thank you for your encouragement I have enjoyed.

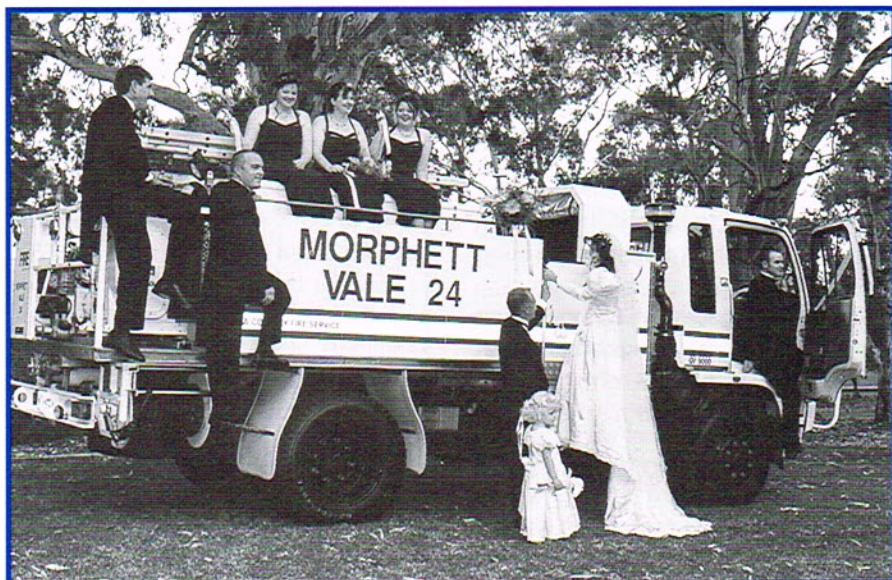
Cam Stafford  
President

St John House, Eastwood





# GET US TO THE CHURCH ON TIME!



And what better way could there be for a beautiful bride to ensure she was going to be no more than traditionally late for her wedding than to hitch a lift on Morphett Vale's sparkling 24?

Firefighter Louanne de Laeter couldn't think of more appropriate transport to get her to the Hallett Cove Baptist Church to marry fellow Morphett Vale volunteer Sean Butler on 5 April when Captain Peter Venning and Lieutenant 1 Trevor Finney were on

stand-by to help the bride make a graceful exit from the truck.

Louanne's bridesmaids - CFS firefighters Rachael Merritt and Kylie Schutt, and auxiliary Emma Reece - arrived in Noarlunga Group Car 1 which was all spick, polished and beribboned like the 24.

Group Car 1 whisked bride and groom away after the ceremony for the reception at Old Noarlunga. CFS members made up some 30 of the 80 guests.

Newly-wed Louanne Butler joins her CFS bridal party after the ceremony. Pictured (l-r) are: Tony Prowse, Paul Hope, Rachael Merritt, Emma Reece, Kylie Schutt, Natalie Butler (niece), husband Sean and best man Rob McMahon.

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## AUGUST ISSUE DEADLINES

Advertising

Bookings: 13 July

Material: 16 July

Editorial copy: 16 July

Publication date: 4 August

**PROTECTOR'S CARD** The Protector's Privilege Card is extending associate membership to the employees and volunteers of the South Australian CFS

for a nominal fee of \$5 per annum plus \$2 a year to cover handling and postage. Application forms are available from the VFBA.

# TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Australian Assembly of Volunteer Fire Brigades recently obtained the following ruling from the Australian Taxation Office:

Under subsection 51(1) of the Income Tax Assessment Act, a deduction is generally available for work related expenses where the expense is incurred in gaining or producing assessable income, except to the extent that the expense is of a private or capital nature. As volunteers do not earn assessable income from their activities, a deduction is not allowable for direct purchases of equipment and protective clothing.

However, personal deductions such as gifts are not dependant upon the production of assessable income. Therefore, where a volunteer makes a cash donation of \$2 or more to a volunteer fire brigade, a deduction is allowable under section 78 of the Act. A donation of equipment or protective clothing would also be an allowable deduction under section 78 of the Act provided that the items

were less than 12 months old. In order to attract deductibility, a donation must be made voluntarily and no advantage of a material nature can be gained by the donor as a result of having made the donation.

Under the arrangement used by fire brigades, a volunteer makes a cash donation to the fire brigade which in turn uses the funds to purchase equipment and/or protective clothing. The fire brigade then makes the equipment available to the volunteer for use in carrying out his or her volunteer duties. Alternatively, a volunteer can purchase equipment and/or protective clothing and donate the items to the fire brigade. This arrangement would allow volunteers to claim purchases of equipment and protective clothing as tax deductible gifts under section 78 of the Act, subject to certain conditions as indicated below.

The arrangement must exist to provide a genuine benefit to the fire brigade and should not be seen merely as a scheme to take

advantage of the provisions contained in section 78 of the Act. In this respect, for a volunteer to obtain a deduction under section 78 of the Act through such an arrangement, the following conditions must be satisfied:

- The equipment must remain the property of the fire brigade at all times;
- The donor has no rights as to how the equipment is used;
- The donor has no rights as to what equipment is purchased;
- The donor cannot purchase or acquire the equipment at a later date; and
- The equipment is not at any time to be used for private or non-volunteer use.

Where the above applies, it would be considered that no material benefit would have been obtained by the volunteer other than when engaged in the volunteer work. Therefore, volunteers who enter into such an arrangement would, generally, be entitled to claim a deduction for donations of \$2 or more as a gift under section 78 of the Act.



# A NEW MEASURE OF CFS PRIDE

Mount Pleasant was one of 27 SA brigades evaluated by WorkCover for basic compliance with Occupational Health & Safety standards as part of the CFS's successful bid to gain a level one rating in prevention. A further evaluation involving another 46 brigades will take place in September.

Occ Health and Safety? Mount Pleasant Brigade wasn't at all sure about it when the Adelaide Hills outfit was picked out for the OH & S audit.

'We were thinking how in the name of Hades are we going to get a credit under Occ Health and Safety when we are driving into firefronts?' Captain Colin Fawcett explained, with a bit of a wry grin.

'The idea was certainly not accepted well in the beginning. We thought it was a whole load of bloody codswallop! But, to the brigade's credit, they kept an open mind and once it was explained to us by Judy Arthur (OH & S Coordinator) we found that it went a lot further than we had imagined.'

They realised it was about keeping their units on the road and their communications working, about protecting their firefighters and keeping their station user-friendly and efficient.

So apathy turned into awareness and the load of old codswallop turned out to

be a real plus for Mount Pleasant as it helped the CFS to achieve its level one benchmark.

Firefighter Barry Robson was elected as the brigade's OH & S liaison officer and they started to look at their station housekeeping and activities through new eyes.

'Like most brigades, we were hoarders of bygone eras with things around that had no need to be where they were,' Colin said. 'We looked at the simple things - things like signs, documentation, if there's a problem and what are we going to do about it.'

'One thing we realised was that we had inadequate guard railings on the mezzanine floor. We used to just wander up there and grab the gear we wanted and chuck it down.' The risk of injury was reduced by putting in new guard railings, reducing the amount and size of stowage up on the mezzanine and making it a hard hat area.

Then there was the new 24 urban unit which had extra boxes down both sides preventing access from front to rear which meant that whoever was working the pump was unprotected without a hoseline. This was pointed out to Barry Robson who documented it on the hazard register and, in conjunction with equipment officer Ian Collins, organised for a handline to be installed at the back end of the unit for the pump operator's personal protection.

Mount Pleasant was finding that OH

&S documentation gets important jobs done. It identifies and records problems and hazards - usually pointed out by brigade members - and records what needs to be done to fix them, who is going to do it and by when. The job is not considered done until it is signed off.

Now the brigade gives its units a run and checks them over every week - headlights, tyres, oil levels, fuel, sirens, radios. All flammables are properly labelled and Material Safety Data Sheets prominently displayed. The station has torches and location maps in each room and illuminated exit signs running off back-up batteries for safety in the event of a power failure.

'Most of us are now a lot more aware of safety practices on and off the fireground both in training and actual incidents such as wearing reflective vests during traffic control,' Colin said. 'We are a lot more professional in what we do.'

'When the brigade starting seeing some results of what they had done they grasped the idea very well and did a tremendous amount of work. There's been a transformation in our work site practices and documentation. Once you've caught up and get up to speed it's really not that difficult.'

'The whole exercise has given the brigade a lot more pride in itself and what it does.'

And - surprise, surprise - they even feel safer driving into firefronts!

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## BETTER PROTECTION AT ROAD EMERGENCIES

New traffic control devices are being issued to CFS brigades to alert motorists to slow down where CFS volunteers are attending road incidents and hazards. Red and blue 'police' lights will also be phased in from 1 July for fitting to all fire trucks and ambulances.

The reflective day and night equipment, which will become part of the stowage kit for most CFS appliances, includes road cones, traffic hazard ahead warning signs, CFS safety vests and stop/slow advisory bats.

CFS Chief Executive Officer Stuart Ellis said the new road safety devices were intended to put an end to the failure of some motorists to slow down at roadside emergencies or to give way to CFS appliances.

Selected personnel would be trained in the correct installation of signs and work zones to provide a safe working environment together with a smooth traffic flow.

'This road safety program coincides with the end of the fire danger season, acknowledgment of CFS volunteers' commitment to the community and a focus on volunteer roles involving house and industrial fires, rescues, flood and storm damage incidents, road accidents and dangerous substance spillages,' Mr Ellis said.

Further information on traffic control devices is available from Mandy Andrews at CFS Headquarters on (08) 8204 3370.

## OUR THANKS TO YOU ALL

I trust many of you have seen or heard advertisements in the media saying thank you to CFS volunteers, their families and to the businesses that support them. It was not a light-hearted gesture. I see it as essential recognition for all involved in CFS activity and during the 1996/97 fire danger season. The board was keen to publicly acknowledge your efforts.

It is not something I believe Australians do well, nor is it something I suspect CFS volunteers expect. However, it is something required and I see it as an annual acknowledgment of the services volunteered by so many of you to make our communities a safer environment in which to live.

I am aware that there are many others, beside our volunteers, their families and businesses, that support CFS. Local councils make a huge contribution and, indeed, are included in many brigades as employers of CFS volunteers. This is also acknowledged and commended.

However, the spirit of the thank you message was to recognise all those who were not obligated to give anything to CFS or their communities, but did this so willingly.

I trust the winter months will give you respite from fighting fires, although I



am well aware brigades will remain active, conducting training and responding to many other emergencies. The introduction of blue and red lights, together with reflective vests and other measures, should provide a safer environment for those of you responding to emergencies adjacent to the road.

I hope you will be able to enjoy the winter months without the same pressures which have existed over the past fire season.

My personal gratitude to you all and thank you again for your efforts this summer.

Stuart Ellis

Chief Executive Officer

### Thanks, Chris!

We have to thank Captain Chris Pazera, of Aldgate CFS, for the photo on back cover of the March issue of Volunteer.

We are always on the look out for top quality action shots - both colour and black and white - for use in the magazine, so keep them coming!

## IN MEMORY OF

FIREFIGHTER

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# FIREFIGHTERS

South Australia's first CFS Cadets' Field Day, staged by the Light Group on Sunday 4 May, was such an outstanding success that it will become an annual event and opened up to all Region 2 brigades.

'Brigades from all over the State wanted to send their cadets,' said the event's coordinator, Rebecca Chapman, a firefighter with Dublin CFS. 'The whole thing just grew and grew. In the end we were turning people away'.

As it was, 41 cadets from seven brigades, splitting up into 11 groups and switching between 12 exercise sites around Mallala, proved quite enough of a handful for the organisers' first shot at a cadet day.

'People kept telling us we were taking on too much,' said firefighter Lisa Coles (Dublin) who coordinated the sponsorships the event attracted from 18 local businesses.

And it certainly seemed they had at first.





# OF TOMORROW

'So we're really pleased it all worked out so well,' said Rebecca. 'The main problem was finding enough small-size helmets and safety gear to fit the young ones.'

Sonia Post (Two Wells) came up with the idea originally and discussed it with fellow firefighter Rebecca and her dad Frank Chapman, Light's Group Training Officer. The girls set up a working party which won the backing of Malalla Captain Tim Jenkins and Graham Pontt, Deputy Group Officer for Light.

Graham ended up as operations officer for the day, handling the tricky logistics of moving groups of enthusiastic 11-15 year olds from dousing oil fires to dressing drills and search and rescue operations to first aid instruction by Nita Noble of Mallala St John Ambulance.

Back at the Mallala base, Tim Jenkins was doing a great job organising the catering for hordes of hungry cadets, instructors and VIP visitors.





## 'I'M ONLY A VOLUNTEER' - NO EXCUSE FOR CFS COWBOYS

Tony Wege's article on tactical problems for middle management (Volunteer, March 1997) discussed some concerns relating to the Incident Control System. Tony very tactfully talks of initiating training to overcome some of these problems. There is a very strong need for additional training, but the problems go far beyond training.

It is very difficult to submit constructive criticism on some of the issues involving ICS without using the term 'cowboys' but, unfortunately, there is no other term which adequately describes the actions of some members of the CFS at times, and these become very obvious during a major incident run under ICS. Some examples are:

- units refusing to leave the fireground because, in their eyes, they are performing a task which cannot possibly be carried out by another unit. (Such personnel totally ignore the fact that, because of this, their colleagues who are being held in a staging area are grumbling loudly about sitting on their backsides and not being deployed)
- strike teams refusing to operate on designated radio channels, preferring to maintain their own private channel
- Group Officers failing to recognise that their place is not right in the middle of the smoke and flames but performing the role of an incident manager in a Group Base. (They generally run the incident as they see fit, ignoring the ICS, often under the pretext that 'communications were useless')
- senior personnel failing to recognise that once the ICS is implemented the CFS rank structure is overridden by the ICS structure (eg. Sector Commanders having their directions overturned by a Group Officer who is holding no position within the ICS at that time).

There is a very strong need for many personnel to realise that the CFS is a paramilitary organisation which should be displaying a high degree of discipline, preferably self-discipline.

The phrase 'I'm only a volunteer' is totally unacceptable and is often used as an excuse for personnel doing as they please instead of following orders. Agreed, we are all volunteers in that we volunteer to join the CFS or we volunteer

to leave it! We don't have a choice about anything in between.

Many volunteers achieve a real feeling of pride in the way that the job is carried out. They work as a disciplined team on the fireground with each member of the team looking out for the other.

When the discipline disappears, the organisation falls down and the ICS ends up in a shambles.

The ICS may not be a perfect system, but it's better than what we've had before. However, it will not work without a disciplined commitment from ALL the personnel who have to implement or work within the system.

Gary Ling  
Lieutenant  
Mylor CFS

## ALL FOR ONE

On behalf of the Melrose Group, the Wilmington Brigade thanks all brigades and personnel who formed the task force that fought the Mount Brown fires in December.

Looking at photographs of the main street of Wilmington, and noting the district names on the fire units, it is quickly realised the vast scope and range of brigades that participated.

Add communications, Region 4 headquarters and Adelaide office, with associated disaster groups, it was certainly a project of large proportions.

Thanks to you all.

Brian Hayley  
Admin Officer  
Melrose Group

## FEMALE CAPTAINS

*The December issue of Volunteer incorrectly described Henny Dowsett as the first female Captain in the CFS. Sorry folks, we got it wrong! Here Bevis Dixon quite rightly puts us straight.*

While Henny Dowsett is to be congratulated on her appointment as Captain of Mount Compass CFS, I wish to inform you that the first female Captain in the CFS was Mrs Myrna French.

Myrna was Captain of Munno Para Central Brigade from May 1984 to June 1985. Myrna was also a Lieutenant in the brigade from December 1983 until her Captancy. Unfortunately, Myrna had to leave the CFS because of illness and passed away in September 1985.

Munno Para Central Brigade was a firefighting brigade in its early years and, as brigades were formed in the Munno Para area (One Tree Hill, Virginia and

Letters and items for inclusion in Have Your Say should be mailed to Conrad Powell, Executive Officer, SAVFBA, 27 Hamilton Avenue, Warradale 5046 or faxed to (08) 8376 6385. Please type if possible and be sure to include your name, address or brigade, and a contact phone number.

Smithfield), the brigade adopted a communications and support role.

The main function of the brigade while Myrna was Captain was the operation of the base radio station for Munno Para CFS which comprised brigades from One Tree Hill, Smithfield, Virginia, Evanston Gardens and Munno Para Central. Senior officers of the group also belonged to Munno Para Central.

Munno Para Central CFS and One Tree Hill CFS were amalgamated in the early 1990s.

When the new One Tree Hill CFS station was opened in 1988, the communications room was dedicated to the memory of Myrna and a plaque above the door states 'Myrna French Radio Room'.

Bevis Dixon  
Deputy Group Officer  
Para CFS Group

## SEXISTS DON'T BOTHER OUR LITTLE AUSSIE FIREFIGHTER

Hi All!

My name is Kristy Cooke. I am a member of Terowie CFS. This year however I am spending a year away in Canada as a Rotary Exchange Student.

I have been here for two months and so far it has been a brilliant experience. I am living in a town in Alberta called Raymond. Its population is 3100 and it has a fire hall I visited once but the men were rude as their brigade is 'NO WOMEN ALLOWED'. Their rudeness didn't bother me so I said 'Nice meeting you all' and left.

There is a small town called Stirling not far up the road which has women firefighters. I hope to get up there soon to meet them.

I turned 16 in November last year and I had the chance of fighting one fire two



weeks before I left to come to Canada. It was a brilliant experience. It was also good being treated the same as the males were getting treated.

Well folks, until next time...

Kristy J Cooke

## CONSIDERABLE RESPONSIBILITIES

In reply to Cam Stafford's article (Volunteer, March 1997), I would like to state the following:

1. Our biggest problem at the moment is the responsibility placed on volunteers, especially the captain. There is the legal responsibility when

we attend incidents. There is the safety of our firefighters to contend with, which includes all the work arising from OH & S issues. Also the public's expectation of the CFS volunteer is very high. The amount of correspondence that is received by brigades is ever increasing and involves a great deal of time to read and respond to. Family life can also be affected by the amount of time volunteers spend on their duties, especially in busy brigades. When all these issues are combined, the responsibilities of the volunteer become considerable.

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2. In five years time we hope the Oakbank/Balhannah CFS continues to provide a high level of community service. With local government, community and CFS support, we hope we can maintain our current high level of equipment, membership and skills on a volunteer basis.

On behalf of our brigade, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to respond and to put forward our point of view.

Greg James  
President

Oakbank/Balhannah CFS

## A MOTTO, MAYBE?

I think it is about time the CFS had a motto to live up to!

The one I have chosen is: SEMPER PARATUS (Latin for 'Always Ready').

Our flag could have a scroll with the words 'Semper Paratus' underneath the CFS emblem.

I hope you will give this some thought.

G Mountford  
Mannum

## BUILD YOUR BUSINESS!

CFS Volunteers are encouraged to advertise their service or business in the Volunteer. A directory will appear in each issue listing services and businesses in alphabetical order and including the locality served, business name and address and phone/fax numbers. The cost for listing is \$20 per annum. Send your payment and listing details to VFBA Executive Officer Conrad Powell.



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## DANGEROUS DAYS, AND THE COURAGE WITHIN

Members from five South East brigades attended a special service at Keith Uniting Church on 16 February recognising the courage and service of CFS volunteers and commemorating the loss of life and property during the 1984 Ash Wednesday fires.

A video of the fires, newspaper cuttings and a display of fire photos from Sydney graphically recaptured the dramas of the day as those who lived through it described how it felt to be in the front line fight, on appliances, taking calls and organising equipment, crews and communications.

Pastor Rob Moores spoke of the ability to give one's all and how, even when someone feels totally given out, strength can be found from within to give even more when faced with a dangerous situation.

The service ended with a Blessing of the crews and three appliances which circled the church with lights flashing and water spraying, much to the enjoyment of the children on a hot day.

The brigades represented were Keith, Laffer, Willilooka, Sherwood and Coombe. Also present were CFS Regional Commander Andrew Lawson, Tatiara Group Officer Brian Weise and Deputy Group Officer Bob Densley.

## FIREFIGHTING FAMILY

Congratulations to husband-and-wife firefighting team Deane and Geraldine 'Tiny' Pentland (One Tree Hill) who were awarded Certificates of Appreciation by the City of Munno Para at its recent Volunteer Appreciation Evening.

The Pentlands, who between them have given more than 20 years service to One Tree Hill CFS, have two other level three firefighters in the family - their son Peter (Senior Firefighter, Virginia), with 14 years service, and daughter Tanya (One Tree Hill) with five years.

The couple, who live at Craigmore, were described at the presentation as highlighting the calibre of volunteers within the local community with their children an integral part of a family that has given its time and energy to the CFS. Both Deane and Tiny have served as members of CFS strike forces over the years.

Deane, a Senior Firefighter who works as an administration officer with

Holden, said they could not have achieved what they had without the support of the One Tree Hill Brigade.

'Both of us feel that the award is not only for us,' he said. 'It is also for One Tree Hill CFS.'

## MYLOR DIGS DEEP

Generous Mylor residents contributed \$5220 to a recent CFS doorknock appeal with donations ranging from \$5 to \$200 a household.

CFS publicity officer Jill Kennifick said the organisers were thrilled with the result which would enable the local brigade to buy more firefighting, safety and training equipment.

'We even gained a new more members, which is another bonus,' she said.

## ROBE COPS IT SWEET

It's better to get a pat on the back than a tap on a shoulder when you attract the attention of the police, so our Robe members were delighted to get some fine accolades from their local cops Trevor Fallon and Rob Stowell for the top job they did helping in the search for a missing fisherman at Wrights Bay in January.

In a letter to CFS Regional Commander Andrew Lawson, Trevor Fallon commended the professionalism of Robe CFS which located the wreckage of the fisherman's boat on the beach and stood by until a forensic examination of the debris could be undertaken.

'I've been very impressed with the way this CFS unit is run under the leadership of Peter Burzacott and Andrew Hogg and I cannot praise them highly enough for their effort and dedication,' the letter stated.

'The times I have been involved with this CFS unit I have found them to be energetic, keen and professional in their attitude towards their jobs.

'My respect for the local CFS was confirmed by comments passed by members of Rescue One during a recent flare sighting and search.

'The members of Rescue One Crew commented on the efficiency of the unit during refuelling and briefing.

'They stated that the landing area for the refuelling stop was one of the best organised in the State.'

In passing on the police letter, Regional Commander Lawson added his

own congratulations to the unit for a good job, well done.

## VITAL WORK AT TEA TREE GULLY

A special breakfast to honour local CFS and SES members was the City of Tea Tree Gully's way of thanking the efforts and dedication of its firefighting services.

The Mayor, Mrs Lesley Purdom, presented Certificates of Appreciation to those who attended the event at Modbury's Caffè Buongiorno on Sunday 20 April, recognising that both services had provided the capacity to deal with a number of call-outs in the area.

CFS and CES personnel were repeatedly complimented on their commitment and professionalism as they mixed and mingled with council members during the morning.

Councillor Brian Lees described their work as vital to the Tea Tree Gully community.

'I cannot overstate their role in building and maintaining those community links that keep our area great,' he said.

Councillor Gordon Gallasch agreed, saying that the services were a force which the council was glad to have on its side.

## OLDEST APPLIANCE PENSIONED OFF

Cadell CFS, run by officers and prisoners at the Cadell Training Centre, used to have the oldest fire fighting appliance in service. Now it has the newest.

The 14-year-old unit - which had long ago seen the best of its days - has handed its equipment over to a new unit, bringing Cadell up to scratch with three top class firefighting appliances.

The brigade was called out 32 times in the past year and helped out with some major fires in the area.

## NEW STATION FOR NOARLUNGA

Port Noarlunga's new CFS station, on the corner of Seaford Road and Commercial Road, Seaford Rise, was officially opened on 23 February by the Minister for Emergency Services, Mr Graham Ingerson, and the Mayor of Noarlunga, Mr Ray Gilbert.

The move south from Saltfleet Street, Port Noarlunga, where the brigade has been based for the past 45 years, takes it closer to the rapidly growing Seaford area community.



The occasion, which was attended by the newly appointed CFS Chief Executive Officer Stuart Ellis, Regional Commander Russell Grear and local State MP Lorraine Rosenberg, also saw the handing over of the keys of Port Noarlunga's new Hino appliance.

Representatives from neighbouring brigades joined Captain John Savage and his 40 volunteer members and families for the celebrations.

## GOOLWA LOSES JOHN EVANS TO RETIREMENT

Failing health has forced the retirement of Goolwa's popular communications and administration officer, Lieutenant John Evans, after almost 10 years of devoted service.

John, who suffered from Parkinson's disease and who has also undergone heart surgery, relinquished the two demanding brigade positions in April but will continue his role as Group Administrator.

With his wife Muriel, he emigrated to Australia from the UK in 1968, settling in Middleton in 1980 and moving in 1983 to Goolwa where he worked as an electrician. Witnessing a fire near his home prompted him to join the CFS in 1987.

John was involved in brigade communications from the time he joined, and was Brigade Administration Officer for nine years. He became Group Administration Officer in 1991.

In addition to his CFS duties, he was a tireless worker for the local community, founding the Goolwa CFS Social Club and organising Carols on the Goolwa.

He was awarded Goolwa Rotary Club's citation for service to the community in 1993 and last year received a meritorious service award from Port Elliot and Goolwa District Council.

Captain Rod Turley and all the members of the Goolwa brigade wish both John and Muriel well and thank him for his dedication and service. His talents and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

## GIFT SITE FOR TATIARA STATION

Tatiara CFS wants its Western Flat fire station relocated to a site near the recreation reserve.

The owners of the land, the Kubenk family, are prepared to make it available at no cost but Tatiara District Council would need to accept the costs of survey, transfer and legal assistance.

The council has advised that formal arrangements with the Kubenk family are being pursued.

## NEW APPLIANCE FOR COONALPYN

Coonalpyn Downs Council has ordered a new \$50,000 appliance for Coonalpyn CFS following an approach by Regional Commander Kevin May who advised the council that the CFS Board would offer a 54% subsidy if the order was placed before 30 April.

He pointed out that the subsidy rate might change when the Coorong District Council was formed.

**On Parade will be a regular feature of the new Volunteer. Items of news and activities are welcome from all brigades and groups. Please type your contribution, if possible, and be sure to include your name, address or brigade, and a contact phone number. Mail to Conrad Powell, Executive Officer, SAVFBA, 27 Hamilton Avenue, Warradale 5046 or fax through to (08) 8376 6385.**

## A HAIR ERASING EXPERIENCE!



*Andrew Grocke, Daniel Burns, John Bristow, Jason Carroll and Craig Douglas.*

Here's a bunch of firefighters who can really tell you what a close shave is all about! Port Noarlunga's new crop of baldies put a price on their heads and braved the hairdressers' clippers to raise funds for some badly needed equipment for their brigade. The guys drummed up sponsorships from friends, families and local businesses to collect \$2700 between them for baring their pristine scalps. In other words, they raised \$540 a head - literally!

### 1998 Wall Chart Planners

Quality 1998 Wall Chart Planners will be available in August for fundraising by brigades. Cost price to brigades

\$1.50 (special rates for 100+). Sell on for \$4.50. A free Wall Chart Planner will be issued to each brigade on receipt of your order through VFBA.

The 1998 Wall Chart Planners are produced by VFBA and the CFS Board for the benefit of brigades.



# WOMEN CALL FOR A FAIR GO

Women of the CFS have mobilised themselves to set about improving the organisation's equal opportunity policies and procedures.

A Women of the Country Fire Service Committee was formally established in April as a subcommittee of the State VFBA following a request from the Mount Lofty Ranges VFBA which has been running a series of meetings for CFS members interested in the promotion of women within the organisation.

Mount Lofty is believed to be the only CFS region to have developed a committee to investigate the various issues affecting women within the CFS.

Julie Paterson, the secretary of the Mount Lofty Ranges VFBA and chairperson of the new committee, said the meetings had identified a number of issues requiring attention.

'It soon became apparent to us that these issues affected the service as a whole, not just our area,' she said.

'We felt that other branches of the VFBA should be aware of them and have input into the recommendations put forward by the committee.'

The immediate objectives of the committee, ratified at its meeting at Meadows on 20 May, are to:

- uncover and eliminate barriers preventing women from

participating at all levels of the CFS

- highlight procedures and practices that discriminate
- promote the CFS as an equal opportunity organisation
- ensure that all personnel are given equal access and opportunity to training
- ensure no barriers to advancement are imposed based on gender
- assess facility standards to cater for all personnel
- ensure that equipment design incorporates changes necessary to enable all operational personnel to utilise effectively
- increase representation of females in publicity material
- access recruitment procedures and policies in regards to female participation within the CFS

The committee is seeking information on the equal opportunity policies of the CFA and the New South Wales Fire Service to compare them with the situation in South Australia and to evaluate their effectiveness.

Interested CFS personnel are welcome to attend the committee's next meeting which will be at CFS headquarters at 8pm on 26 August.

About eight per cent of South Australia's 18,000 brigade members are women.

**Any brigade which does not have local access to bank charges exemption or a credit union alternative should contact**

**Executive Officer Conrad Powell to have VFBA make representations on its behalf.**

## FLOOD RELIEF A REMARKABLE EFFORT

*To: Chief Executive Officer  
Country Fire Service*

In my capacity as Minister for Emergency Services, I applaud the contribution to the community by members of the Country Fire Service who played a role in the recent devastating floods in the north and north-east of our State.

As a South Australian, I feel a great sense of pride in the efforts of all emergency service personnel who worked through major obstacles and who endured long hours and tremendous demands to ensure the safety of the communities affected.

I am well aware of the commitment of all agencies and of the comfort and relief brought to those in distress. For those working in remote areas, I am also well aware of the vital, yet often unacknowledged, support and contribution made by partners and families.

I ask that you pass on my very best wishes to all personnel and thank them on my behalf for their remarkable effort.

*Hon Graham Ingerson, MP  
Minister for Emergency Services*

**Julie Paterson and Marie Prideaux will represent VFBA at the National Volunteers Conference in Sydney on 22-24 July 1997.**

## SHOPPER STOPPER

Rundle Mall shoppers were caught up in the drama of emergency services in April when the CFS, St John Ambulance, SA Police and Red Cross Blood Service staged three days of demonstrations and promotional displays.

Volunteer 'casualties', with some help from St John's casualty simulation unit, convincingly acted out injuries on the first day in the mall when Burnside CFS volunteers and the other services demonstrated containment of a dangerous substance spillage.

CFS brigades from Gawler River, Sellicks Beach, Port Vincent, Happy Valley and Coromandel Valley also participated in the promotion which featured a static display of appliances and equipment.



*Cameron Garner and Craig Holt (Burnside CFS) attend to a victim in the simulated dangerous substance spill.*



## IMPROVED PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

Higher standards for protective clothing have been introduced to meet OH & S safety requirements. The new protective clothing range is now the minimum standard approved by CFS, although the implementation period or changeover to the new standards should be effected on a wear and tear basis with completion by the year 2002. Items of minimal cost, however, should be provided as soon as possible.

During the implementation period, reflective material should be fitted to old style proban overalls as a minimum, if they are still in use. If brigades do not wish to retrofit the reflective markings on old style overalls, personnel working on the road must wear reflective vests.

Through a State Government contract, all products approved by CFS are supplied by State Apparel at cost price. Circular 97/05, which has been posted to all brigades, groups and councils, includes the approved product list. In the event that the circular has not been received, a copy may be obtained from regional offices.

Changes to the approved list are authorised by CFS Headquarters.

Appropriate advice on any changes will be forwarded to brigades, groups and councils via an updated product list.

The provision of approved items at cost price will be reviewed at the end of this financial year and, subject to CFS Board approval, is likely to be extended. Brigades, groups and councils are encouraged to order items as required, to take advantage of current arrangements. Orders should be directed to: State Apparel, Unit 5/4 Coglin Street, RIDLEYTON 5008. Phone: (08) 8346 4507. Fax: (08) 8346 4508

## VOLUNTEER IDENTIFICATION

Ident A Plate personalised numberplate surrounds provide instant recognition for volunteer vehicles. The clip-on white plastic surrounds can be used to identify individual brigades and their volunteer members, including private vehicles used in an emergency.

The top of the surround features Volunteer Firefighter in 12mm red lettering while the bottom has up to 28 14mm red letters/spaces available to display the brigade name or the volunteer's position/rank.

For ordering details see the advertisement on Page 6 of this issue or

contact Ident A Plate on (03) 5798 5402 or Fax (03) 5798 5457.

## AIRBAG 'TIME BOMBS'

Car airbags protect drivers in head-on collisions, but not every collision is head-on. Experience has shown that in most road accidents fitted airbags do not inflate, representing a potential danger immediately after an accident to both the driver and those rendering assistance.

An activated airbag releases energy equivalent to at least 1000 kilograms within 30 milliseconds. Should this occur unexpectedly with medical or technical emergency staff between victim and steering wheel it could have disastrous, even lethal, consequences.

The Holmatro Secunet is designed to neutralise the airbag 'time bomb' for the safety of emergency workers attending traffic accidents. The specially woven and strengthened cover can be fitted within seconds to any passenger car steering wheel to absorb the force and deaden the sound of unexpected airbag activation.

See the Firefighting Enterprises advertisement (inside front cover).



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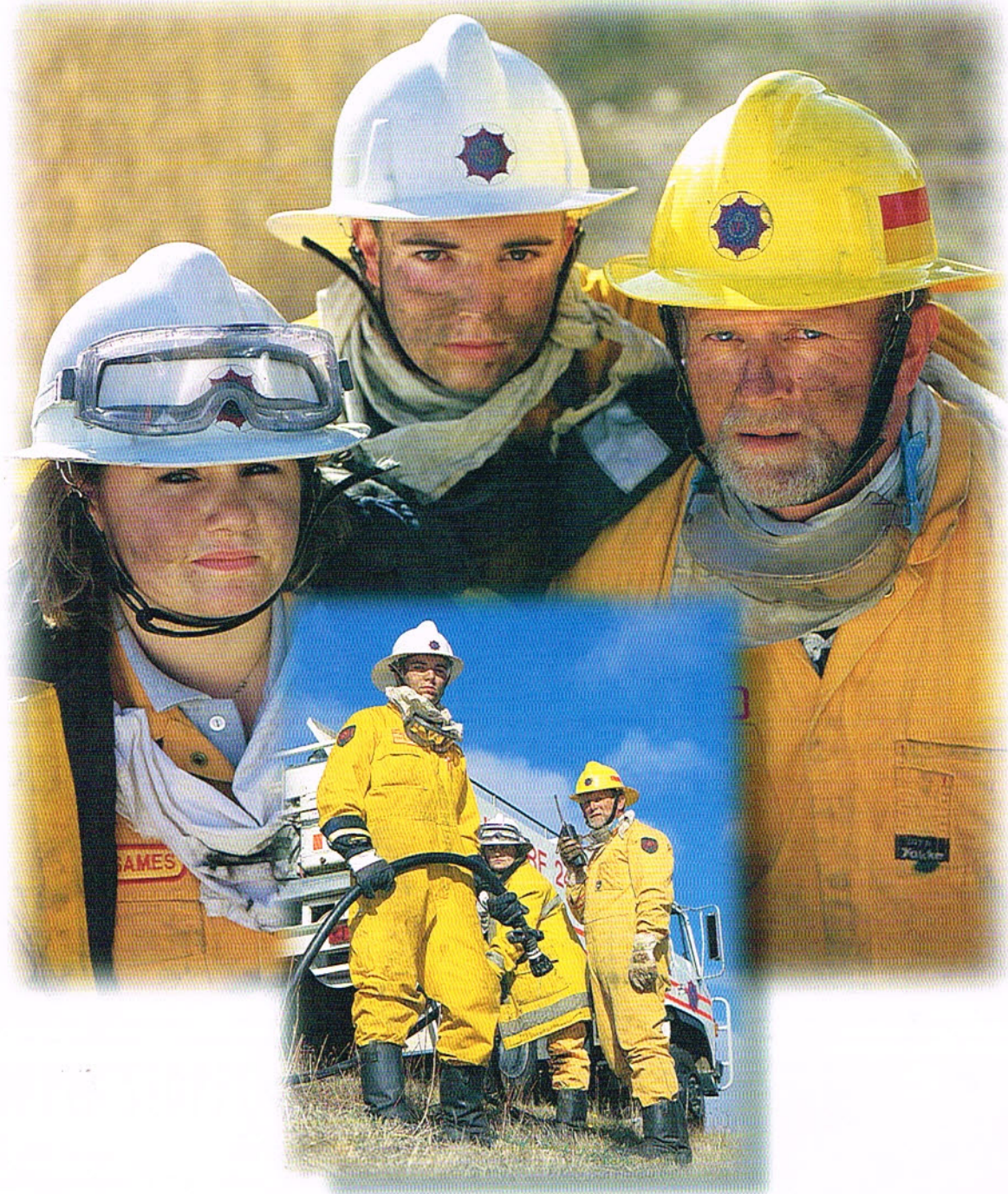
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# Thank You!



**We would like to extend a Special Thanks to all of our CFS Volunteers, to their families and to the businesses that supported them during the State's emergencies throughout the Fire Danger Season.**

With the approach of winter most people think that the CFS Volunteers' commitment to South Australia has now ended. **This is not so!**

Throughout the whole year CFS Volunteers are constantly involved in numerous activities including, quelling of house and vehicle fires, attending road accidents and rescues, containing chemical spills as well as being on call for any general community emergency.



Without Your help, either as a Volunteer or as a business that supports their local CFS Volunteer Brigade, more lives would be lost, many more people injured, and homes, property, wildlife and native vegetation would be destroyed.

Again we thank You sincerely for your support on behalf of all South Australians.

**If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer or wish to support your local CFS please contact your CFS Brigade or CFS State Headquarters.**