

**VOLUNTEER**



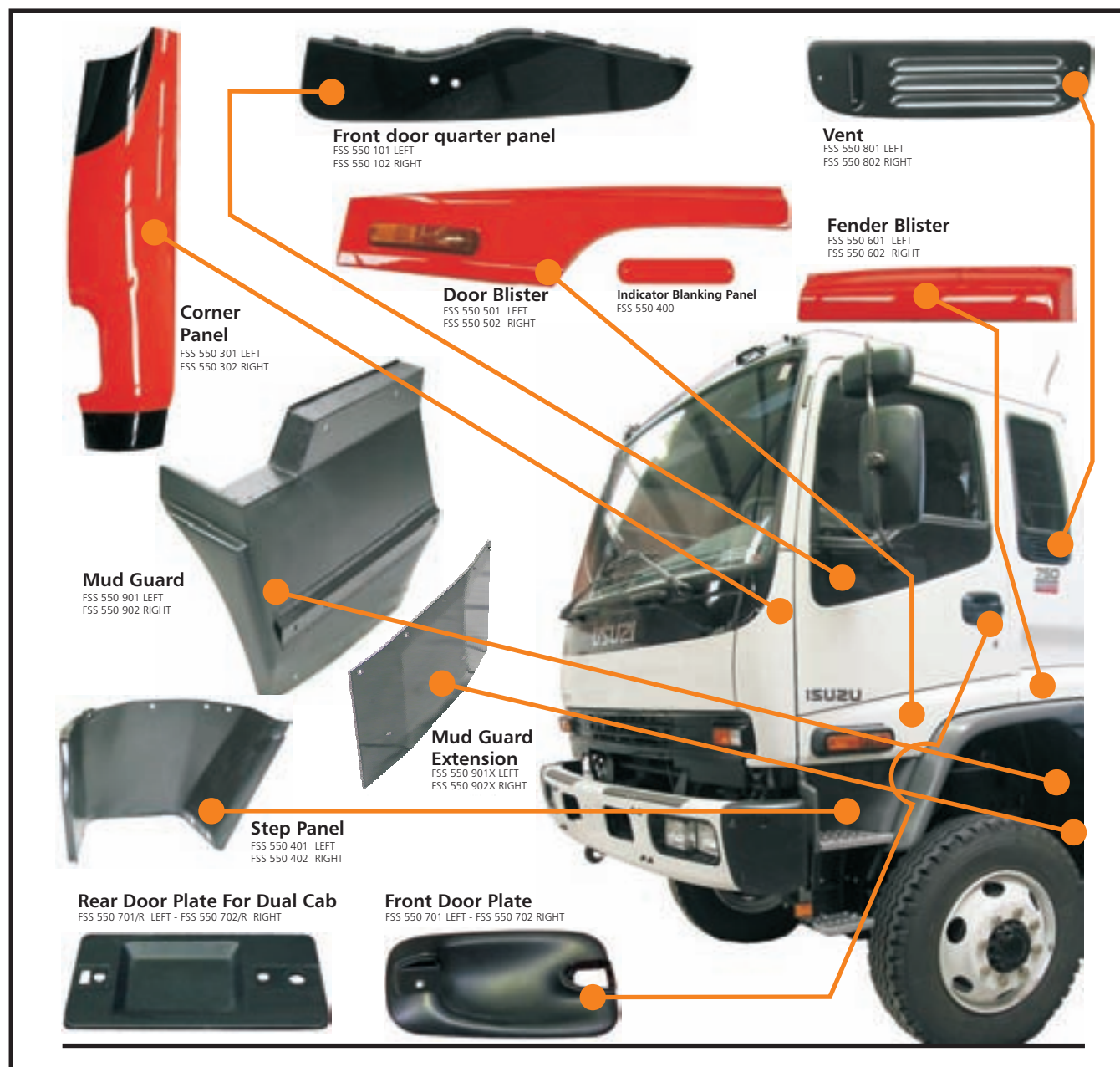
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Front cover image taken by Colin Jenke of Eudunda CFS at the Freeling hayshed fire on 16 January 2007.

CFS Volunteers Thank You, page 47. Images taken by (from top right, down): Ashley Hosking, Basket Range CFS, Bridgewater fire on the 21 March 2007; Murray Dolan, Littlehampton CFS, Harrogate fire in January 2007; Emmanuel Cusack, Littlehampton CFS, Mount Bold on the 10 January 2007; Kay Richardson, Compton CFS, Gum Lagoon on the 27 November 2006

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VOLUNTEER - CONTENTS



## **[ CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson**

**R**ecently there have been concerns expressed over a number of changes occurring in the emergency services sector.

We have seen changes from the Wangary fire and the Coronial Inquest; from recent accident investigations; and from a more integrated service delivery approach within the emergency services sector.

Changes are also occurring because of greater accountability required with the expenditure of community funds.

“Change management” is one of the most important challenges facing CFS and the emergency services sector generally.

Change occurs for a variety of reasons, some external (such as demographic, industry and land use changes) and some internal (often driven by funding, legal or environmental issues).

I recognise that change needs to be very carefully managed in a volunteer organisation.

Change in CFS must reflect the fact that CFS is a community based volunteer organisation.

The cornerstone of CFS are our volunteers, who are drawn from the community to selflessly serve in times of need.

Change management is a shared responsibility between CFS, our volunteers, the CFS VA and others involved in the change process.

Communication about change, and consultation and involvement in decision-making must be core to maintaining the commitment of volunteers to that change.

The key objective is that volunteers are given reasonable opportunity to comment on those matters that directly affect them.

Over the last 12 months, CFS has moved to restructure the processes for volunteer involvement in CFS decision making on those matters that affect volunteers and how service is delivered to the community.

We have established the Chief Officer's Advisory Council (COAC), which is comprised of senior CFS volunteers and staff from each Region and the CFS VA executive.

COAC considers matters of interest to volunteers and makes recommendations, or expresses views.

This then enables me, as the Chief Officer, to make a fully informed decision or, where appropriate, to better inform the SAFECOM Board.

COAC has a number of functional Advisory Committees (for training, vehicles and equipment and telecommunications) that, in turn, advise COAC.

Each region also has a Regional Volunteer Management Committee (RVMC) that can refer matters to COAC, or comment on matters referred to it from COAC.

CFS is also developing processes to communicate more quickly with volunteers on matters that require a rapid decision.

Thus, teleconferences, the use of email and the web site are all tools that CFS will use more in the future.

Obviously, we rely on our volunteer leaders, especially at Group and Brigade level to ensure that reasonable communication occurs on such matters right down to the members at Brigade level.

Managing change better is vitally important to CFS and to me.

There will always be situations where we overly consult, or where we do not consult enough.

I hope that the new arrangements for consultation in CFS work better and strike a practical balance so that volunteers feel informed, but not overburdened with information.

As I move around the state from Port Lincoln to Ardrossan and to Paringa, at Happy Valley and at Clare, at Gladstone, in the Mid Murray Group, at Salisbury and at Naracoorte: I see committed, proud and motivated people who are striving to make the community a safer place to be.

**Thank you so much for your dedication, professionalism and commitment.**







## **[ MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Carmel Zollo**

I can't say enough how much this Government values the commitment and contribution made by the many thousands of South Australians who make up the Emergency Services Volunteer community.

In recognition of that contribution, the support provided to volunteers comes in many forms.

In the past five years the CFS has undertaken ambitious programs of equipment replacement and station upgrades as we are committed to providing the best available equipment and training to volunteers.

This budget has seen an expansion of CFS training to the tune of \$2.5m (over four years) with five new training programs to be introduced for more than 10,000 volunteers.

These training programs will better equip volunteers with accredited rural fire fighting skills covering bushfire suppression, forestry fire fighting, fire fighting in remote areas, navigation and global positioning techniques and urban interface fire fighting techniques.

For those CFS members who, for various reasons, find the training regime too much, the CFS is looking at ways of making it easier for people to be involved.

We will also continue to make changes to ensure the administrative burden on volunteers (of government policies and procedures) is eased.

As a Government we have a role to play not only in supporting volunteers, but also in promoting and recognising the many thousands of employers who allow our volunteers to undertake their duties.

Over the next 12 months SAFECOM will further focus on supporting volunteers to recognize their efforts and promote

their contribution in the community.

On July 1 South Australia moved to a single Emergency Services Call, Receipt and Dispatch system.

This change has been a number of years in the planning and follows a great deal of work by the CFS in preparing for the transition.

By moving to a single dispatch system for 000 calls, we are taking advantage of new technology and best practice in emergency management.

I am grateful to the work of local brigades and individual volunteers in bringing this project to fruition.

Recently I visited the ComCen on Wakefield Street and witnessed the new arrangements at work and it is pleasing to see the level of cooperation between our emergency service organisations.

In 2006-07 CFS undertook an ambitious program to modernize its vehicle fleet, which resulted in the replacement of 42 appliances.

This program is continuing through 2007-08 when it will deliver a further 41 new appliances.

The new appliances not only improve fire fighting capabilities, but also add new features, such as increased crew protection that will help keep our volunteers safer.

The capital program has also supported the modernisation of facilities such as new joint CFS and SES facilities at Clare, Hallet and Andamooka.

Officially opening new stations, such as those mentioned above, along with CFS facilities at Jamestown and Melrose- and commissioning fire appliances, such as the new 34 and pumper at Happy Valley CFS - gives me a welcomed opportunity to meet people

at the "coalface" and personally thank as many volunteers as possible for their continued dedication.

Beyond the investment in infrastructure and equipment the Government provides other support to assist our volunteers.

The Chief Officer has implemented many of the recommendations from the 2006 CFS Volunteer Summit, and a new Chief Officers Advisory Council made up of CFS staff and volunteer representatives provides support and advice to CFS management and allows CFS volunteers to have a voice in the running of the agency.

At this point I'd like to make it clear that my door is always open; volunteers who feel they have an issue to raise can feel free to contact my office at any time.

The Government has demonstrated its commitment to reducing additional work loads on emergency service volunteers so that they can focus on what they joined an emergency service for in the first instance; to deliver emergency services to their local, and the wider South Australian community.

I value the contribution of emergency services volunteers and career staff and we are striving to establish the best, most efficient and most effective management of emergency services.

This will ensure that funding, infrastructure and services are delivered at the grassroots.

Each agency enjoys their own strong identity and is, rightly, held in high regard not only by the State Government, but also by those communities they serve.

## **[ Minister's Christmas Message**

As Christmas approaches my warmest wishes go out to all of South Australia's Emergency Services volunteers and staff.

All of you have had an extremely busy year and, as always, made

a tremendous contribution to community safety.

I sincerely hope you all get the chance to relax and celebrate with family and friends, but we all know that in reality there is every chance

an emergency will arise.

Where ever, and however, you spend the festive period please know that my thoughts will be with you and, as always, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your selfless dedication.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES



## [ CFS VA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

**A**s we move into what looks like another extreme fire season, we need to reflect on the busy 06/07 bushfire season and think about what happened, what were the issues, what we did well, what we did not do so well and how can we do things better next time.

As we look back, perhaps the most disturbing news was that of the Mount Bryan truck rollover and the subsequent injuries to one of our fellow volunteer firefighters.

It always makes me stop and think when you hear of a firefighter injured while providing a service to the CFS (or any other fire service).

I ask myself, "Could that ever have happened to me?" We would like to think not but how many times have we done something and afterwards thought about how risky that was or could have been.

Many volunteers go out every day doing what they have been trained for and giving their time freely for the sake of others, thinking little about the potential consequences of attending such dangerous incidents.

Some will say, "That'll never happen to me" and then, in the blink of an eye, it happens.

We all need to take as much care as possible.

We pray for our fellow volunteer's recovery and also for his family, as they now have to deal with their lives being changed forever.

Also, having finished another fire season, the Wangary Inquiry has finally been brought to a close and the findings will be handed down on the 18th December.

We hope that this will be able to bring some closure to the incident.

While it may well do for a few, I am

certain that it will affect many others for a long time to come.

Some of our volunteers have really had a tough time during the inquiry, and I'm sure that none of us want to go through what they have had to deal with, not only in Court but also within their own community.

The CFS VA, predominantly through our Executive Officer, Wendy Shirley, has supported the volunteers involved as much as possible and we will continue to do so in the future.

Wendy has done a great job following up with volunteers and attending Court whenever one of our members was either on the stand or when any issue may have arisen affecting volunteers.

Amongst everything that the CFS VA has been involved with over the last 12 months we still need to carry out our day-to-day business.

To be able to do this and keep up the support for all our members, which are all CFS volunteers, it would be great to have a bit of extra funding above that which the CFS and the State Government generously provide us with.

We understand that CFS funds are fully allocated and cannot provide us with any extra funds at the moment, although I reject the reasons that were stated in the footnote of my last Presidents Message in the last Volunteer Magazine.

To acquire more funds, the then SAVFBA Management decided to seek sponsorship from outside sources such as big businesses.

In preliminary discussions with a few selected companies, they have generally been very receptive except that they would like to see the Association have more of a link with

CFS regarding our name and logo.

The Association has in general accepted the fact that as the world moves on, so must we and if a name and logo change is what is needed to acquire extra funding then, so be it.

It was therefore moved at a General Meeting earlier in the year that the Associations name be changed to Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFS VA).

A decision on our logo will be made in the New Year but at this point of time we have just changed the lettering at the bottom of the logo.

The Association also felt that our new name; Country Fire Service Volunteers Association, spells out more clearly what and who we are to new CFS Volunteers who automatically become our members.

At the end of the day, no matter what our name or logo is, the Association will be there to do everything we can to look after the interests and welfare of ALL Country Fire Service Volunteers.





## COMMISSIONER OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES David Place

In September, the Emergency Services Minister, Carmel Zollo announced the appointment of the South Australian Emergency Service Commission Chief Executive (SAFECOM), David Place as the State's first Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies. The appointment of a Commissioner represents the merging of the positions of Chief Executive of SAFECOM and the Chair of the SAFECOM Board, Vince Monterola, whose tenure expired on 30 September. 'Those two roles were initially split to help facilitate the transition to SAFECOM, which was established in 2005,' says Minister Zollo. Minister Zollo thanked Vince Monterola for steering the SAFECOM

Board during this interim period and said, 'Now, under David Place, SAFECOM will continue to consolidate and streamline the Governance of the Emergency Services Sector – as well as provide leadership on Emergency Management issues.' 'He will take on the key leadership role in the Emergency Services sector and will be responsible for providing the Government with advice about Emergency Management policy and strategy.' David will also be responsible for spearheading the implementation of Government policy initiatives in the Emergency Services Sector, including the consolidation of training, community education, corporate and strategic services and the implementation of new support

systems for the sector's more than 18,000 SES and CFS volunteers. Speaking informally David said, 'I am delighted to be appointed to this position and be able to continue to build on our collaborative approach and work with our dedicated fire and emergency volunteers and staff to create safer and more resilient communities'. David said that his appointment represents both an honour and an endorsement of the strategic directions that have been endorsed by the SAFECOM Board over the past few years. He acknowledged the contribution made by the Board, the ESO Chiefs and the great number of people across the agencies who have been involved in setting new goals and implementing necessary change.

On a slightly 'left field' note, we want to congratulate former CFS Public Affairs team member Brenton Ragless on his engagement to Hayley, his partner of 2 years, especially given the Volunteer magazine can be held responsible. Brenton, the smooth talking individual that he is, worked his way in to Hayley's affections while having photos for the Volunteer developed at Diamond Photographics, where she was working. We wish them both all the very best.

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS

This edition of the Volunteer shouldn't blow off the table easily, or the back of the appliance for that matter, with over 90 pages of information compiled from everyone around the State.

The mini poster in the centre of the magazine on Weather and Bushfire Behaviour was produced with the assistance of the Bureau of Meteorology and we hope will be useful in both training and as a reference on the effects of weather on fire behaviour.

Reports and articles have been received from volunteers, staff and others from all over on topics ranging from training, individual achievements to fire research and equipment and safety news.

Of course, there is significant reference to the Call Receipt and

Dispatch transfer to the MFS Communications Centre, along with a big 'thank you' to all of the former CFS Operations Centre Officers.

We have also seen an amazing transformation of our own team in Public Affairs.

On the 15 October, a new integrated Emergency Services Public Affairs Unit was formed, bringing together media and communications staff from CFS, MFS and SES.

Now there are even more Public Affairs staff available to provide communications support not just for CFS but to raise the profile of the emergency services sector as a whole.

Kate Husband has started as Acting Manager, Public Affairs joining Heidi and Mel from the CFS, Judith Bleechmore from the SES and John Foody from the MFS. We are also finalising recruitment of a Project Officer and Senior Public Affairs

Officer to start soon.

As you can imagine, it's been a steep learning curve as we discover the different roles, staff, policies and procedures for all three services. In the CFS 'aerial firefighting' means using water bombers on a bushfire, whereas in the MFS it means deploying a 24 tonne Bronto Skylift Hydraulic Platform on a structure fire. We have also quickly realised that it's a mortal sin to confuse a CFS Brigade with a MFS Station or SES Unit. Ouch!

And, we are as keen as ever to keep CFS Volunteers in the public eye via media coverage. We are hoping to visit all the regions over the comings.

So, keep an eye out for us in our new lime green PPE at the fire-ground this Summer.

**Heidi, John, Judith, Kate and Mel**

<< Melanie Hunter, Kate husband, John Foody, Heidi Geytenbeek, Judith Bleechmore



## NEWS & UPDATES

# 2007 CFS RECIPIENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN FIRE SERVICES MEDAL



**F**our SA Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers and staff were honoured with the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in 2007.

Congratulations to Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer and Robin Holmes of Burnside CFS who received an AFSM in the Australia Day Honours

List, announced on 26 January 2007.

Congratulations to Greg Butler of Yorketown CFS and Dean Elliott from Coonalpyn CFS who received an AFSM in the Queens Birthday Honours List, announced on 11 June 2007 and was presented with their awards on 5 September 2007 at Government House.



Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer and fellow AFSM recipient Grant Lupton, MFS Chief Officer, Australia Day Honours List awardees with Vince Monterola, Chair of SAFECOM Board.

### Euan Ferguson

Euan joined the CFS as Deputy Chief Officer in 2001, after serving six years with the Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA) in a wide range of operational and planning roles.

One month later he commenced duties as Chief Officer ultimately responsible for the safe, effective and efficient operations of the CFS, and also responsible for the management and administration of the organisation.

Euan has displayed exemplary leadership through many initiatives.

His drive, initiative and leadership qualities have led to an ongoing commitment to a safety culture across the entire service, and have resulted in a wide range of key improvements in the CFS systems of work and business management processes.

Euan said the award represented a significant milestone in his 30 year

career in fire service management.

"2006 was a really tough year for the CFS so it was especially rewarding to receive this acknowledgement on Australia Day," he said.

"I see this award reflecting where the CFS is at moment and where we sit within fire services nationally."

Euan has taken a proactive approach to leading the CFS, initiating Project Phoenix to implement changes from the lessons learned through recent experiences.

"My philosophy is that you have to learn from what has happened and adopt a 'no blame' approach.

"We've resisted suggestions to find people to blame and have instead looked at how to improve our systems and practices.

"I hope we have come through as a better, stronger and more focused organisation."



Robin Holmes, Burnside CFS, Australia Day Honours List awardee with Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer.

### Robin Holmes

Robin joined the Burnside Brigade of the CFS in 1977.

He has held many positions within the Brigade and has been heavily involved in numerous operational and Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) responses, including Ash Wednesday 1980 and 1983, Langhorne Creek flooding 1992, the Sydney bushfires 1994, and Black Tuesday 2005.

He was closely involved with the development of HAZMAT capabilities across South Australia, taking a lead role in the redesign and building of the current style vehicles.

An integral part of the Brigade Management Committee, Robin has held the positions of President, Logistics Officer, Finance Officer, and Bushfire Prevention Committee Representative on the Burnside Council.

His active involvement with the CFS Foundation assists in ensuring the welfare of CFS volunteers injured in the line of CFS duty and in illness or distress.

Also increasing the awareness of the role of volunteer firefighters, thereby enhancing the firefighting capacity and expertise of CFS volunteers.

Robin's contribution to the CFS at all levels has been phenomenal.

His guiding force in many initiatives within the CFS and the emergency services in general is testament to his commitment to the organisation.

His willingness to participate in a wide range of forums beyond that normally expected of a volunteer is commendable.

Robin openly admits that he was deeply honoured in receiving the award.

"I think the work I have done and the things I have influenced are for the benefit of many, I hope.

"I have met a great many people who I respect and have had some wonderful experiences in the CFS and as a volunteer representing the CFS in many venues," he said.

Robin sees a very bright and challenging future for the service.

"The CFS is so important to the fabric of the community that it should be supported at all costs," states Robin.

Clearly Robin means as he says; his dedication to the service over the past 30 years is testimony to his ongoing loyalty and passion for community service.





Greg Butler, Yorketown CFS, Queens Birthday Honours List awardee.

### Greg Butler

Greg joined the Yorketown Fire Brigade of the CFS as a firefighter in 1978.

In 1989, he was elected Brigade Captain and has continued to hold a position either within the Brigade or within the Group.

He is currently a valued member of the Region 2 AIMS Team and Regional Management Committee, as well as a Fire Prevention Officer with the District Council of Yorke Peninsula.

Instrumental in setting up and managing the Southern Yorke Peninsula Incident Management Centre, Greg formulated many

documents to ensure the smooth running of the Centre, including a 'Logistics Planning' folder, which has been adopted as the standard across Region 2 and is being utilised in other regions.

A founding member of the Southern Yorke CFS Farm Firefighting Unit Working Party, he assisted in getting CFS and farmers together in understanding firefighting in rural areas of Southern Yorke Peninsula.

Greg has been instrumental in assisting South Australia to move towards a more structured and safer approach in the utilisation of farm fire units on the fireground.

Not only has Greg continually demonstrated the true character of a volunteer firefighter but, as a Fire Prevention Officer, he has attempted at all times to improve the service offered to CFS members and the community of South Australia.

A major upside of being a volunteer is the friendship, Greg says, and the people he's met throughout the State while undertaking CFS duties.

His duties have resulted in him previously being awarded CFS Life Membership and a Ministerial Commendation.



Dean Elliott, Coonalpyn CFS, Queens Birthday Honours List awardee.

### Dean Elliot

Dean joined the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1961 as a firefighter with the Coonalpyn Brigade.

He was heavily involved in the formation of the Coonalpyn Downs EFS Association and became a Supervisor of Fire Control Officers in the Coonalpyn Downs area.

He oversaw the building of a joint EFS and ambulance station at Coonalpyn, including the purchase of several appliances for the Association.

When the EFS transformed into the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the Coonalpyn Downs CFS Group was formed, Dean was elected Group Officer and held that position until 2004.

He also held the position of Group Equipment Officer between 1999 and 2004, was instrumental

in developing Fire Prevention Committees and protocols, and was Chair of the Volunteer Fire Brigades Association, Murraylands Branch.

Dean has set an exceptional example to all CFS members, encouraging all ranks to undertake training and maintain professionalism in their roles within the CFS.

His passion and commitment to the CFS and its relationship within the community have been exemplary.

Dean said his years of service brought some unforgettable memories.

"I've been through some fairly big fires in my time, including going to New South Wales twice to help out over there," he said.

Dean was surprised and touched to receive the award and said:

"I was shocked; it's really great to be recognised."

## VALE SAM MITCHELL AFSM

By: Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer

**W**e were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Sam Mitchell in January 2007.

Sam's funeral was held in Clare and many CFS volunteers and staff attended.

In 2005, Sam received the award of the Australia Fire Service Medal at Government House for his long and valued contribution to CFS.

An obituary for Sam Mitchell is on page 78.



Sam Mitchell and Euan Ferguson at Government House after Sam received the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2005.



# SACAD FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS...

## NEWS & UPDATES

Over the past few years SACAD has been an ongoing project. It has cleared some major milestone of late and, as such, Volunteer chased up some answers to help shed light on the project.

The information provided in this article is also reproduced on the CFS website ([www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)) under the 'CRD Call, Receipt, Dispatch & SACAD Information' logo on the homepage.

Additional information available on the CFS website includes Brigade Short Name Codes, Incident Types and Risks and CRD Registration of Issues Form.

The Registration of Issues Form is provided to brigades and groups to record any operational issues associated with CRD and should be emailed or faxed back to the Regional office.

Hard copies of the form can also be requested from Regions.

### What is SACAD?

The project known as the South Australian Computer Aided Dispatch Project or 'SACAD' aims to improve the communication centre services for all emergency services, enabling the best possible response to emergencies and calls for assistance.

Essentially a call, receipt, dispatch (CRD) centre for all of SAFECOM's emergency service agencies will be created and located in the MFS Wakefield Street complex.

CFS will adopt Triple Zero '000' as the primary emergency response number across all of South Australia.

### What happened with the old system?

CFS achieved CRD using a combination of the Telstra ALERTS system and the SAGR Network.

Depending on the location of the incident, the public was able to call for assistance through '000' or the local brigade number.

All 000 calls were answered by a Telstra operator.

Based on location/postcode information stored in the Telstra database, the operator forwarded the call to the designated fire brigade.

### MFS Comcen

Calls to Brigades located adjacent to the near city area (30 brigades), were answered by the MFS Comcen. MFS then dispatched appliances as per the CFS Brigade response plans.

### Local Brigades

For the remaining 366 brigades, 000 calls were forwarded to the appropriate brigade or group alarm number using the ALERTS facility.

### ALERTS System

The ALERTS facility connected the caller to a 'Conference Bridge' consisting of up to eight brigade members including the CFS SOCC and the brigade business phone. Members of the conference spoke with the 000 caller and directed the SOCC operator to respond the appropriate brigade/s or additional resources by GRN paging. This was especially useful when there were no street numbers or street names and therefore common in rural areas.

If a call was not answered within 60 seconds, the ALERTS facility automatically forwarded the call to the MFS Comcen.

### What is the new system?

The project, known as SACAD described above will see the use of Triple Zero '000' as the only means of reporting an emergency across all of South Australia, rather than the 'old system' described above.

For the first time it will ensure all brigade response plans are documented and fully transparent, with a strong focus on capturing 'local knowledge' to assist in the CRD process.

### Who will be using CAD?

All South Australian Emergency Service Organisations (ESO's) will adopt the use of the CAD program.

These organisations include SA Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), State Emergency Services (SES), SA Police (SAPOL) and SA Ambulance (SAAS).

### Why did the SOCC at CFS State HQ have to amalgamate with the SAMFS Comcen in Wakefield Street?

The CFS will be transitioning to a CAD system in 2008/2009 called SACAD.

The SACAD terminals will be located in three purpose built CRD centres in Adelaide i.e. SAPOL, SAAS and SAFECOM agencies (CFS, MFS & SES).

The SAFECOM CRD is located at the MFS Comcen, Wakefield Street, Adelaide.

Should any communications path or equipment fail there are either redundant communications paths or contingency plans that will keep the SAFECOM CRD centre functioning so the community will always have a response to their request for help.

### How will the way the community rings CFS brigades change?

There will be very little noticeable change from the way emergency calls are handled at the moment.

The public will continue to ring 000 or their local brigade number and the call is answered by the ALERTS system, with one member of the ALERTS being the MFS Comcen.

### Have brigade alarm numbers changed immediately?

No - not with the transfer of CRD to MFS Comcen.

However, 000 will be promoted to the community as the only means of alerting brigades prior to the full transition to SACAD in 2008/2009.

### How will brigades contact the MFS Comcen by radio?

As you do now, via your Regional Operations Talk Group with the call sign 'Adelaide Fire'

### What telephone number should brigades ring to contact MFS Comcen? - 08 8412 9007

### Who answers the Alerts calls in Adelaide?

MFS Comcen Operators answers Alerts calls.

Four CFS OCO's transferred to the MFS Comcen so there is significant 'CFS expertise' in the CRD for CFS incidents.

### How many operators take emergency calls?

There are a minimum of four operators, with a further two operators available at a moment's notice.

The CFS Communications Coordinator will also be located at the MFS Comcen.

### Who sends out the brigade response pager message?

MFS Comcen Operators send the pager message in the same way the SOCC did, but the prefix has changed from SHQ: to MFS:

### Who do brigades contact to acknowledge their response pager messages?

MFS Comcen Operators will usually obtain response page acknowledgement during the Alerts conference.

If the brigade has been direct paged (no Alerts conference) the brigade needs to ring the MFS Comcen direct on 08 8412 9007 or radio into MFS Comcen using the Regional Operations Talk Group with the call sign 'Adelaide Fire'.

Comcen Operators may also ring the brigade Alerts number.

### What if an Incident Controller needs to respond additional resources?

The Incident Controller will contact the MFS Comcen by radio ('Adelaide Fire') or telephone 08 8412 9007 and request additional resources including CFS and non-CFS resources.

### RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS CALL "ADELAIDE FIRE"

MFS COMCEN 08 8412 9007

### What about CFS Resource Tracking? (Region 1 only)

Responding brigades need to report to 'Adelaide Fire' on Talk Group 124.

They then need to proceed to their Command and Control Talk Group (Group TG) as per the Region 1 Regional Operations Management Plan and inform 'Adelaide Fire' of the TG.

Additional resources responding to the incident must report to 'Adelaide Fire' on TG 124.

'Adelaide Fire' will inform them of the Command and Control TG the incident is working on.

Currently, there is no operational requirement for 'arrival notifications', 'sit reps' and 'return to station' messages to be transmitted to 'Adelaide Fire'.

After hours sit reps can still be transmitted to 'Adelaide Fire' depending on operational activity.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



# SO LONG OCO'S

By: Malim Watts, Manager Operations Services CFS

>> Last pager message sent by the OCOs.



The State Operations Call Centre (SOCC), also known as Oscar Charlie, has been an iconic institution within CFS as a 24-hour seven-day lifeline for the majority of CFS staff and volunteers since the 1970's.

Originally intended to co-ordinate bushfires and special service co-ordination, the centre was designed to be staffed 24 hours a day, with a total of nine operators to monitor emergency interbase

communications, with the majority of District Council areas within the State and CFS HQ Adelaide.

Over the years, the SOCC has grown in significance and function.

On Sunday 1 July 2007, the work of the SOCC transferred to the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) Communications Centre "Adelaide Fire" and as such the SOCC ceased to exist.

With the transfer to "Adelaide Fire", CFS had to say farewell to four of

the CFS Operations Centre Officers (OCO) staff, Simon Owler, Darren Van Ek, Kathy Burbidge and Lisa Coles who are now based at SAMFS.

Together with these four OCOs, another nine members made up the SOCC team.

These members were Augie Gray, Dawn Hunt, Alex Macleod, Briony

Harris, Matt Bonzer, Tanya Norman, Jim Keatch, Grant Wood and Prue Turner.

All of the SOCC team, led by Gary Bau, have serviced CFS, the emergency services sector and the community exceptionally well and with distinction over the years.

It has been an honour and privilege to work with such a fine bunch of people.

## THANK YOU AND GOOD LUCK FROM SES

As an era comes to a close, I take this opportunity to thank all the OCOs past and present for the service they have provided to

SA State Emergency Service (SASES) over the years.

On behalf of the staff and volunteers of the SASES, I wish you well for the future in your new role and look forward to continuing to work with you in other ways and

means well into the future.

For me, the OCOs have been the frontline of CFS contact with the public and other agencies.

You have always presented as a truly professional and dedicated team that has served the South

Australian community well and diligently; for that I thank you. Enjoy your new experience.

**Stuart Macleod**  
Acting Chief Officer SASES



^ The SOCC team with CFS, MFS and SES Managers.



^ The SOCC team with a thank you gift from Region 4. From left: Alex Macleod, Briony Harris, Dawn Hunt, Lisa Coles, Simon Owler, Kathy Burbidge, Darren van Ek and Tanya Norman.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



# 'BUSHFIRE READY' CAMPAIGN OVERVIEW

## NEWS & UPDATES

>> The Bushfire Ready sticker and logo.



The Premier launched the CFS Fire Danger Season 2007-08 campaign on Sunday 4 November 2007 at Eden Hills.

The campaign plays a critical role in raising the profile of the CFS in the community and more importantly delivering strategic messages about fire safety and prevention.

The campaign features television and radio adverts (pre- and post Christmas versions), print ads,

direct mail outs, web site info, new brochures and a segment on "Youtube".

This year, the theme is BUSHFIRE READY.

A number of key messages are relevant for the coming fire danger season and these messages will be used repeatedly in all communications activities.

The community awareness message is 'Bushfires pose a threat to the community'.

The behavioural change messages are; 'you need to identify your personal level of risk', 'develop a Bushfire Action Plan', 'decide whether you will 'stay and defend or go early' and 'be 'Bushfire Ready' on days of high fire danger'.

### Key components and dates of the fire danger season campaign 2007-08

A new component of this year's campaign is direct mail. On 8 November Australia Post began delivered 80,000 'kits' to households in bushfire prone areas (metropolitan and regional), including a letter from Chief Officer, a Bushfire Action Plan (which can also be downloaded from the CFS website) and a 'Bushfire Ready' sticker to place on the front gate/letterbox.

The sticker acts as a reward for residents who have planned for the Fire Danger Season whether they will stay and defend or go early and have done the prevention work around their homes.

Public Affairs is working closely with CFS Community Education and Prevention Services to ensure the 'Bushfire Ready' message is integrated into all public information and released consistently.

A comprehensive public relations campaign, predominantly using local press and radio, will support the advertising campaign.

The PR campaign will reinforce the 'Bushfire Ready' sticker reward and the need for behaviour change in bushfire prone areas.

CFS will be showcasing homes,

streets and towns that have 'done the right thing' by completing their Bushfire Action Plan and then placed their 'Bushfire Ready' sticker in a prominent location as recognition of their preparedness.

The aim is to generate widespread areas of well-prepared households through community peer pressure and social responsibility.

The 30-second television commercial will run for two bursts, each of two weeks duration, in November 2007 and January 2008.

Three different radio commercials will run on metropolitan and regional stations from early November 2007 to late March 2008.

The radio commercials are available on the CFS website to listen to.

The radio commercials will be supplemented by community service announcements, bushfire ready tips, live reads and interviews.

Press advertising commenced on 11 November and will appear in both regional and metropolitan papers promoting the need to plan appropriately and the 'Bushfire Ready' sticker.

In a first for the CFS, electronic media has been used to promote the campaign.

A video clip on the campaign can be viewed on "Youtube" [www.youtube.com.au](http://www.youtube.com.au), then search for Bushfire Ready or Fire Danger Season).

This is where we need your help!

Please encourage EVERYONE you know to participate in the campaign by completing a Bushfire Action Plan and displaying the 'BUSHFIRE READY' sticker.

Your Bushfire Action Plan and sticker has been included in this edition of the Volunteer, so that all CFS members can either update their plan or develop a formal plan to ensure we are all BUSHFIRE READY.

✓ Premier Mike Rann at the Fire Danger Season 2007-08 launch on 4 November at Eden Hills.



## CONGRATULATIONS ON A USEFUL MAILOUT

With all the rubbish cluttering our letterboxes at the moment, it was a refreshing surprise to receive your bushfire action plan.

I've lived in Crafrers for the last 22 years, and my home has a large tank, pump, fire hose and

professionally installed sprinkler system, as well as a pile of bushfire-ready clothes, breathing masks and goggles in a room inside.

My rather daggy hand-written plan goes up on the fridge at the start of each fire season, but your clear and concise plan is even better.

It is terrific that you have supplied residents with such a practical aid to safety - how wonderful to see our tax dollars spent so well!

Thank you again.

Unsolicited email response dated 7 November 2007



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# RECOGNISING EMPLOYERS THAT SUPPORT CFS VOLUNTEERS

By: Volunteer Management Branch

The Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program provides a platform for the framework of the four 'R's, Recognition, Raising the Profile, Recruitment and Retention.

It is an exciting approach to providing ongoing recognition and support for volunteer and employer involvement and engagement in the emergency services sector.

Everyone benefits from volunteering.

The emergency services sector relies very heavily on its volunteers to achieve its vision of 'A Safer Community'.

Volunteer's benefit by being able to contribute to a very valuable and necessary community service, have opportunity to develop skills and develop networks.

Employers of emergency services volunteers benefit from having volunteers who are team players, disciplined, well trained in many different emergency procedures including first aid and willing to step up and take on leadership roles.

The community benefits from having its citizens engaged in community safety and creating a safer community.

We would like to identify and recognise employers of volunteers more formally than has occurred in the past.

To this end, you are invited to provide your employer details for a central database that is being developed.

Please phone **1300 364 587** with the following information:

- Your name:
- Employers Name:
- Nominated Contact Person:
- Employers Address:
- Employers Phone number:
- Employers Email:

Once this information is collected, we will be offering employers' information about volunteers in emergency services, the benefits of employing emergency service volunteers, recognition stickers and other opportunities to further engage with emergency services.

**Calls will be taken until 31 January 2008.**

## 2007 ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

✓ The CFS exhibit at the 2007 Royal Adelaide Show won second prize for the Best Outdoor Exhibit (non-agricultural section).

Almost 70 CFS volunteers from across the State were the driving force of this years award-winning CFS exhibit at the Royal Adelaide Show.

The CFS exhibit was awarded second prize for the Best Outdoor Exhibit (non-agricultural section) at the 2007 Royal Adelaide Show that was held from the 7-15 September.

CFS Media Liaison, Heidi Geytenbeek, said that 'while the site featured great fire prevention information messages and best practice examples, it was the passion of the CFS volunteers that made the site really come alive.'

'The enthusiasm of the CFS volunteers was evident, right from when the expression of interest went out seeking volunteers who are keen to participate in the show; we were inundated by volunteers happy to help', Heidi said.

'The roster filled up very quick and apologies to those volunteers who responded but didn't get a chance to help out.

'Smokey the Koala' was again a highlight of the CFS exhibit with regular appearances each day, while CFS volunteers handed out Smokey tattoos.

'Free CFS show bags were on offer

and the colouring-in competition was a huge hit with the youngsters.

'It was a combined team effort and thank you to all the CFS volunteers and CFS staff, in particular the CFS Community Education team for your support.'

✓ From left: Richard Davis, Aldinga Beach CFS, Lee Mintram, Williamstown CFS, Luke Trewartha, Aldinga Beach CFS, Will Trewartha, Aldinga Beach CFS & Mel Hunter, Media Liaison Officer, SA CFS.



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# 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CFS STATE COMPETITIONS

This year the CFS State Competitions celebrated their 60th anniversary.

The first CFS State Competition was held at the Royal Adelaide Show in 1947 with Mt Gambier taking out the honours winning the inaugural Government Cup.

The 2007 competitions were held on Sunday 7 October at Nuriootpa in the Barossa Valley and were proudly

hosted by the CFS Angaston Group.

Nuriootpa had a very successful day winning the Government Cup in the Senior Championship, the Cadet Junior Championship, as well as claiming the award for the 'Best All Round Brigade'.

Many of the teams traveled hundreds of kilometers from areas, including Ceduna, Port Lincoln, Cowell, Yorketown and Waikerie.

>> CFS volunteers in action at the 2007 CFS State Competitions held at Nuriootpa on 7 October 2007. Photo: Ben Wrightson, CFS State Operations Support Brigade.

✓ The winners of the Government Cup, Nuriootpa. Team members from left to right: Troy Rohrlach, Russell Butler, Darryl Mustard, Simon Butler and Michael Furnell. Photo courtesy of The Leader.



## AIRS REPORTING UPDATE

By: Yvette Dowling, CFS State Operations Planning Officer Analyst

As of 1 July 2007 with the amalgamation of SOCC to MFS Comcen, the following applies in regards to AIRS reporting:

### Faxing reports

There are no changes to the current system of faxing AIRS reports.

Continue to fax completed reports to the current AIRS fax number below and CFS staff at CFS HQ will enter these reports.

AIRS Fax Number: **1300 651 232**

### Phone reports

Phone reports are still available for CFS Groups and Brigades using the current AIRS phone number below.

However, phone calls will only be answered between 0800 hrs and 2000 hrs Monday to Friday.

AIRS Phone Number: **1300 651 231** (0800 hrs – 2000 hrs weekdays)

### Web reports – coming soon

A new web version of AIRS reports for Groups and Brigades to enter reports directly into the AIRS Database to

produce Group and Brigade reports will be available shortly.

The direct entry of AIRS Reports will be completed within the CRIMSON System (CFS Resource and Incident Information Management System Online Network).

Direct entry is planned to be ready for training early next year for Groups and Brigades wishing to use this function.

This function will only be available for Groups and Brigades

with computer and internet access at stations or at the homes of trained personnel.

Those Groups and Brigades wanting to submit web AIRS reports when development is complete, can submit their interest to Yvette Dowling at [dowling.yvette@cfs.org.au](mailto:dowling.yvette@cfs.org.au)

For more information contact Yvette Dowling, CFS State Operations Planning Officer Analyst on 8463 4218 or email [dowling.yvette@cfs.org.au](mailto:dowling.yvette@cfs.org.au)



# NEW CFS OCCURRENCE BOOKS

By: Yvette Dowling, CFS State Operations Planning Officer Analyst

The new look CFS Occurrence Book is now available.

All CFS personnel are required to use a CFS Occurrence Book to record important issues, discussions and decisions during incidents.

Occurrence Books/Incident logs may form the basis for any evidence CFS personnel may be required to give in any subsequent court case or coronial hearing.

For this reason, records must be thorough and consistent.

Guidelines have been developed to facilitate improvements with the

use of CFS Occurrence Books and to ensure CFS personnel use the books in a consistent manner.

These guidelines apply to all CFS staff and volunteers and are printed on the inside front cover of the new books.

The page layout has been changed from previous occurrence book designs; Table 1.1 illustrates an example of the new page layout.

The new layout includes an additional column 'Comm Method In/Out' to record the method of communicating; refer to Table 1.2.

Books are available to purchase via Regional Offices.

Table 1.1 Example of the new CFS occurrence book page layout

Date	Time (24 hr)	Comm Method In/Out	Action Req'd Y/N Date

## OCCURRENCE BOOK METHOD OF COMMUNICATING CODES

Code	Code Meaning
V	Visit Face to Face
PI or CI or TI	Phone In / Call In / Telephone In
PO or CO or TO	Phone Out / Call Out / Telephone Out
EO	Email Out
EI	Email IN
P or PM	Pager Message
FI	Fax In
FO	Fax Out
RI	Radio In
RO	Radio Out
MFI	Message Form In
MFO	Message Form Out
SW	Spoke With
W	Website
LL	Landline (Media)
A	Attended
INT	Interview
TC	Teleconference
B	Briefing
C	CRIIMSON
TMR	Text Message Received
TMS	Text Message Sent
M	Meeting

Table 1.2 List of codes to abbreviate method of communicating



^ Front cover of the new CFS occurrence book

## CFS CREW BAG



### Sick of looking for your CFS overalls?

Carry them with you in an approved CFS bag. Made from durable 11oz canvas with yellow handles and pockets each end and one side.

**Large Crew Bag: \$50**

**Extra Large Crew Bag: \$55**

We also manufacture ute seat covers, swags and camper units for tray top utes.



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# CFS claims top prize at national safe work awards



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The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) has been recognised as a national leader in workplace safety.

The accolade comes after the CFS was presented an award for the Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue at the 2007 Safe Work Australia Awards held at Old Parliament House in Canberra.

The Federal Employment and Workplace Relations Minister, Joe Hockey, and the Chairman of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, Bill Scales announced the CFS as the winner for its innovative approach to crew safety onboard the new 34P appliances.

The judges considered the CFS' commitment to the occupational health and safety of its volunteers impressive, noting that such appliances may well assist the CFS in attracting and retaining skilled volunteer firefighters.

The CFS had earlier won the category at state level in November 2006 (refer to article in the Volunteer, Volume 116, February 2007, page 25), allowing CFS to then go on and enter the 2007 national OH&S event.

SafeWork SA Advisory Committee Chairman, Tom Phillips, congratulated the CFS for its excellent contribution towards creating a safe and healthy work environment.

"The CFS and those individuals responsible for the project can be very proud of this national recognition to their commitment to health and safety in their workplace," Tom said.

Over the past six years CFS has focussed on improving firefighter safety on its vehicles with the introduction of a crew cab being the first step in the process.

CFS was not the first rural fire service in Australia to introduce crew cabs into its fleet but was the first to provide burnover protection for

firefighters working on the rear crew deck.

The inside of the truck cab is also protected by quick action roll down blinds that cover the entire glass area.

These blinds are made from a similar material to that used for the crew haven and are designed to minimise the transmission of radiant heat into the cab.

Once again CFS was the first dedicated fire agency to introduce this level of protection with others now following suit after independent testing demonstrated the merits of such a system.

Modern day trucks utilise significant amounts of plastics inside the cab, which, when faced with radiant heat, begin to melt giving off toxic fumes.

Over the past four years CFS has worked with one of the worlds leading manufacturers of breathing apparatus to develop a system that provides short duration breathable air for crews trapped in such an environment.

CFS has been recognised for its role in assisting in the development of this product, which has applications in other industries such as mining and secure transport services.

Other fire services are now showing interest in the product, which has been released for sale to the wider market.

The final part of the safety package was the introduction of a spray 'halo' system around the perimeter of the cabin.

The 'halo' is designed to spray water directly onto the glass to further minimise heat transfer into the cab and also to reduce the chances of the windows breaking.

This system has been introduced by other fire services and CFS has incorporated it into the overall safety package.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson, said the national award recognises the excellent work undertaken by a wide range of volunteers and staff.



CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, with CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, Arthur Tindall, proudly display the National Award with other category award recipients at the 2007 Safe Work Australia Award Ceremony, Canberra.



Federal Employment and Workplace Relations Minister, Joe Hockey, CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, Arthur Tindall, and Chairman of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council, Bill Scales who announced CFS as the winner of the award.

"I want to recognise the excellent work of the CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Team and everyone who was involved in designing, testing and building these vehicles," Andrew said.

"The award is a well-deserved recognition of the quantum leap that CFS has made in recent years in the provision of class-leading safety systems on our vehicles," whe said.

"CFS continues to focus on the safety of our volunteers and remains committed to ongoing development of safety systems and solutions for their benefit.

"We want to dedicate the award to all CFS Volunteers who give freely their time and willingly put their lives on the line to serve and protect their communities."



# Congratulations - well deserved

Congratulations on the Safe Work Australia Award in the 'Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue' category.

As a rural South Australian resident I highly value the place the CFS has held, and continues to hold, in ensuring the best possible outcomes in the case of fire.

It is a concern that the safety and lives of firefighters is at risk every time a unit is called to attend a fire, and it is wonderful that there are serious efforts being made to address safety issues.

This Award must be given as much publicity as possible to highlight your attempts to keep workers' injuries and deaths to a minimum.

The firefighters, and their families and friends and fellow community members, can be reassured that the hardworking, dedicated and self-sacrificing men and women on fire units are being valued highly for their work.

I wish you all the best in getting vehicles matching the standard of the CFS 34 with its personnel protection system out there and operating in the field in all regions.

Once again, Congratulations to those involved in this project, and thank you for your continuous dedication to your communities.

**From an appreciative rural South Australian resident**

**Email to SA Country Fire Service State Headquarters, 30 April 2007**

I am pleased to offer my congratulations to you, and your staff for the outstanding achievement under the Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) National Safe Work Awards 2007.

I note that the South Australian Country Fire Service won the award of Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue for the purpose-designed system engineered to provide fire cab crews with the maximum prospect of survival during a burn over situation.

To be recognised as a national leader reflects well on every level of your Agency and is a credit to the SA Public Sector.

I commend you and your staff on your commitment to leadership in workplace safety.

**Michael Wright MP**

**Minister for Industrial Relations**

**From a letter to Euan Ferguson, Chief Officer, SA Country Fire Service, 3 May 2007**

My sincere congratulations to the CFS team for an outstanding result in the national OH&S awards.

To be judged best in the nation for an innovation to address a recognised workplace hazard is a marvellous feat and one that demonstrates CFS's true commitment to the safe work environment of its people.

In particular I pay tribute to the dedication of Arthur (Tindall) for the personal commitment he has shown in leading the search towards cost effective solutions to a unique safety problem.

**Vincent Monterola AFSM JP**  
**Chairman, SA Fire & Emergency Service Commission**

**From an email to Euan Ferguson, Chief Officer, SA Country Fire Service, 24 April 2007**



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## CFS UTILITY BAGS

*All bags made to suit your needs*



### ◆ Crew Bag: Extra Large

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- End pocket for name tag
- Heavy Duty Zip
- Separate boot compartment
- Size: 750 x 360 x 360mm

**\$67<sup>00</sup>**



*All bags can have the Brigade name stencilled.*



**\$21<sup>00</sup>**

### ◆ Knapsack Bag:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas

**Proban Dust and Face Mask: ◆**

**\$15<sup>00</sup>**



### ◆ Pager Pouch:

- All leather mobile phone belt clip
- Press stud on bottom to protect pager face

**\$12<sup>00</sup>**

**\$50<sup>00</sup>**



### Vest Holder: ◆

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 3 vests plus large torch



**\$50<sup>00</sup>**

### Note Pad & Radio Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas ◆



**\$50<sup>00</sup>**

### ◆ Drink Bottle Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 8 drink bottles

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*Member of  
the CFS  
since 1983*

# Research Burning Program - Project FuSE

By: Meredith Henderson, Senior Fire Research Officer,  
Department for Environment and Heritage

Photos: Mandy Slipper, Fire Management Officer, DEH

A 'go' in 1958 mallee fuel, April 2007

The Ngarkat Conservation Park (CP) in the State's Upper South East has been the scene of Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) research into fire behaviour and prescribed burning in May 2006 and again in April this year.

The work is being called Project FuSE (Fire Experiments in Scrub with attention to wind [u]) and is an ambitious collaborative project, involving researchers from across the country.

Bushfire CRC researchers from Ensis (the joint venture between CSIRO and Scion in New Zealand) are working closely with land and fire managers from the South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) at every stage of the three-year project.

The Ensis team is lead by Jim Gould, with Juanita Myers (Ensis) and Meredith Henderson (DEH) as the joint project coordinators.

Miguel Cruz from Ensis is the main fire behaviour scientist and Brett Stephens, DEH Regional Fire Management Officer, Murraylands is the principal end user liaison.

Many other people are involved in conducting the research aspect of the project, including DEH staff that carry out the burns and local CFS crews who help with local knowledge and construction of fire breaks.

Researchers are investigating fuel

dynamics and fire behaviour with the aim of developing a fire behaviour guide for mallee and heath fuel types.

These fuel types are common in other areas of SA and are found in the Victorian and NSW Murray Darling Basin and parts of Western Australia.

While the research is focussed on South Australia, it will have broader applicability across a number of states.

The research is being conducted in Ngarkat CP in two main areas, on the western boundary of the property Kirra and east of the Baan Hill Track in an area known as McCallum.

The project has taken advantage of areas that were planned to be burnt as part of DEH's ongoing commitment to fire management and areas that represented a number of different post-fire ages incorporating mallee last burnt in 1958, 1986 and 1999 and heath last burnt in 1986, 1988 and 1999.

## What are we trying to answer?

The overall aim of the research is to develop a fire behaviour guide to help inform prescribed burning and suppression operations.

To achieve this aim and to produce an answer that will be robust and useful, the project is divided into a number of key areas of investigation.

First, because the nature of fuels is important to fire behaviour, we want to know how fuels change over time by utilising different ages of vegetation in the reserve.

Some questions to be answered include:

- How does the fuel structure change over time?
- Do all ages have the same amount of leaf litter, or tall shrubs?
- And is bark hazard the same across different ages?

To answer these types of questions, intensive fuel sampling of all different fuel elements (surface, near-surface and elevated fuels) is conducted and then the fuels are weighed.

An overall fuel hazard is also determined by using a visual assessment of the different fuel elements.

Second, because fuel moisture contents can alter fire behaviour we want to know how fuel moisture content varies between the two main fuel types, the fuel ages and during the course of the day.

Once again this involves intensive sampling of the fuel, drying and weighing the samples and correlating the moisture contents with the weather conditions on that day.

Lastly weather, in particular wind, is investigated as it plays an

important role in how fires move across the landscape and a wind expert was present to determine how wind parameters vary between the fuels.

Some example questions investigated are:

- Do gust sizes vary between different fuel types and ages?
- Are there patterns in the way the wind moves across the vegetation at different heights?

To answer these questions a range of instruments that measure wind speed and direction are utilised and these instruments are also used when conducting experimental burns.

The burning is divided into two main experimental types: go/no-go and fire behaviour.

The go/no-go work is about determining under what conditions of fuel, fuel moisture and weather the forward rate of spread is sustained.

This is called the propagation threshold and many small fires are conducted at different ignition times to determine the threshold.

Once a 'go' is determined, fire behaviour experiments begin.

These experiments determine how fast the fire travels, what the physical characteristics of the flame front looks like, whether any spotting occurs and how continuous the flame front is.



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Lighting up a go/no-go plot in 1958 mallee, April 2007

Photo from the air showing the quadrats for Project FuSE. Photo: Brett Stephens, DEH Regional Fire Management Officer, Murraylands



To answer these questions a number of instruments called rate of spread (RASP) loggers are used.

RASPs are a simple clock device with an electric circuit completed with solder.

The RASPs are buried, the safety switch turned off and the loggers marked for recovery post-fire.

When the fire front moves past the RASPs, the solder melts, thus breaking the circuit and stopping the clock.

Since all clocks are synchronised prior to burial, it can be determined exactly when the fire front passed the loggers.

Using the distances between loggers a rate of spread can be calculated.

Dr Cruz has also developed some more easily deployed RASP loggers that measure the temperature above ground.

The researchers enter the hot zone while the fire experiments are going to make observations of the physical characteristics of the fires and also to deploy some 'low-tech' devices to measure rate of spread.

At all times the researchers are mindful of safety, but this is one of the most exciting parts of the job!

### What has been found so far?

Around 21 go/no-go burns and four fire behaviour burns were conducted in April this year and around 22 burns in May 2006.

The results from this year's work are still being analysed, but so far some of the highest temperatures ever recorded in fire experiments in Australia have been observed.

Last year, results showed that fires in heath moved more quickly than those in the mallee of the same age and under the same weather conditions.

The rate of spread in the heath plot was 30.8 m min<sup>-1</sup> and in mallee was 1.5 m min<sup>-1</sup>, under the conditions of 20°C, RH 37%, and 5m wind at 15km hr<sup>-1</sup> and an FDI of 12.

All of the 2006 'go' fires were in heath that was last burnt in 1986.

### What next?

Ideally more burns will be conducted under a range of fire danger conditions; so far plenty of data for the mild (<10) range has been collected, but more data for higher FDIs is needed.

Planning has commenced for more experimental burns to be conducted around mid-February to late March 2008 to capture higher FDI data.

These experimental burns are being planned in conjunction with the CFS.

### Our partners and the community

Without the help of many people, including CFS volunteers and staff this work could not be completed.



Measuring fuel structure with Leigh Douglas, Miguel Cruz and Jim Gould



The research team after a long day of burning.

Because this research will assist in the implementation of prescribed burning and suppression of bushfires, we believe all CFS members will benefit from this research.

The Bureau of Meteorology has provided support with 12-hour and four-day site forecasts from information recorded by two

Portable Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS) that DEH utilises during bushfire incidents.

The next phase of the project will be intense, hot and demanding and will require the cooperation of many.

Nevertheless, the results will be fascinating and will help better manage fire in these complex fuel types.



# CFS CONTRIBUTES TO A NEW AUTOMATIC WEATHER STATION ON THE EYRE PENINSULA

By: Andrew Lawson, CFS Deputy Chief Officer

In March 2006, several community groups and individuals raised the requirement for an additional Automatic Weather Station (AWS) on the Eyre Peninsula.

Recognising the importance of accurate weather forecasting for the effective management of bushfires, in June 2006 the CFS convened a meeting with all interested stakeholders in Port Lincoln.

The meeting included representatives from the Eyre Regional Development Board (ERDB), the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), local government, community groups, industry representative and CFS.

At the meeting the stakeholders agreed to form a Steering Committee to be chaired by the ERDB.

The purpose of the Steering Committee was to agree on a

location and potential funding options for the establishment of one or more AWS's on Eyre Peninsula.

During 2006, the Steering Committee met several times gathering pledges for funding from a number of local groups.

In October 2006 Mark Cant, ERDB Chief Executive Officer, wrote to the CFS Chief Officer requesting a contribution of \$10,000 from the CFS towards the project, which was approved.

The ERDB had secured other funding sources from the Port Lincoln Rotary Club (\$50,000), the Cummins Community Bank (\$30,000), the ERDB (\$10,000) and in-kind support from the BOM for technical support to supply and install.

The new weather station was established at Cummins, central Eyre Peninsula, and officially commissioned by Andrew Watson,



BOM Regional Director, on Thursday 5 July 2007.

Andrew Watson thanked the community groups and CFS for providing the funds required to provide this essential piece of equipment.

Observations from the new Cummins AWS are now available on the Internet and will significantly contribute to the production of accurate weather forecasts for the Eyre Peninsula and the Yorke Peninsula.

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# DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

By: Adam Hurle, Brigade Captain, Meningie CFS

## NEWS & UPDATES

Two volunteers represented the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) at the 2006 Developing Future Leaders (DFL) program in NSW in November 2006.

Adam Hurle, Brigade Captain of Meningie CFS and Paul Stribley, Brigade Captain of Barmera CFS, along with twenty-three other participants, attended the intensive five-day residential course.

The DFL course is sponsored by Dulux, Bunnings and the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) and is designed to develop key leadership skills.

The 2006 program at the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM) in Manly, Sydney, hosted participants from every State and Territory in Australia and New Zealand.

The backgrounds of the participants were diverse with career and volunteer personnel from fire services, State Emergency Services and land management agencies.

Participants attended presentations and workshops examining: 'influencing skills', emotional intelligence, creativity and innovation, leadership and governance.

They also took part in experiential

learning activities that allowed them to apply the ideas covered in the program and observe the process of team development.

During the program, participants were grouped into syndicates.

The syndicates worked together on a number of challenges during the week, including a research project on an issue that is topical within the public safety industry.

They drew on material from the presentations and workshops conducted during the program, along with their own research, to prepare a presentation for course members, AIPM staff and industry representatives.

At the first of two formal dinners, Director General of Emergency Management Australia, Mr Tony Pearce, highlighted the importance of the work undertaken by emergency services within Australia and New Zealand, and the critical role that current and future leaders will play in the ongoing safety of their communities.

He commended the participants on being recognised by their agencies as potential leaders and encouraged them to apply the skills and ideas that are central to the Developing Future Leaders program.

Participants taking part in one of many team building activities at the Sydney Institute of Sports.



'Our future leaders'. Participants of the 2006 Developing Future Leaders program in Manly, Sydney.



Adam Hurle, Brigade Captain, Meningie CFS, taking part in one of the workshops. >>

## ANNUAL AFAC LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO CFS PERSONNEL

Volunteers and staff who have been recognised by CFS as potential leaders have represented the agency over the years at the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) Leadership Programs in NSW.

AFAC, in partnership with the Australian Institute of Police Management (AIPM), has developed outstanding leadership programs tailored to meet the needs of the Australasian emergency services and

public safety personnel.

These programs have been running annually for a number of years and participants benefit from the opportunity to learn from, and build relationships with, their peers throughout Australasia.

Five-day residential courses, which are of particular interest to volunteers, include the Developing Future Leaders and Volunteer Leaders Programs.

Most courses are sponsored and cover the cost of tuition, course

materials, outings, meals and accommodation at Manly, NSW.

CFS covers the cost of travel and specified additional expenses.

Calls for expression of interest for these courses are disseminated through CFS regional offices and the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFS VA) at varying times of the year.

Application forms and accompanying information must address the selection criteria and

should be forwarded via a Regional Commander or the CFS VA to the office of the CFS Chief Officer at State Headquarters for consideration.

Final nominations are then forwarded to AFAC, who assess the applications and provide advice to successful applicants.

For an overview of upcoming programs visit the Events and Programs / Leadership Programs section of the AFAC website at [www.afac.com.au](http://www.afac.com.au)

# REDUCING THE RISK OF FIRE ESCAPES FROM HARVESTING OPERATIONS

By: Terry Hassam, CFS Project Officer, Prevention

## NEWS & UPDATES

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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



**D**uring previous Fire Danger Seasons, significant fires have started from harvesting operations escaping out of control.

Considerable losses have been incurred by neighbouring properties and civil action for damages has resulted.

As the result of community and farming industry concerns and calls from Government for harvesting bans on days of very high fire danger, a joint review of the Harvesting Code of Practice (COP) by the South Australian County Fire Service (SACFS) and SA Farmers Federation was initiated.

The current legislation does not prevent harvesting on days of Total Fire Ban (TFB), and only specifies very limited fire prevention and control measures.

Historically, local codes of practice have been developed by some communities to further reduce the risk of loss from fires caused by grain harvesting.

However, the standards and conditions vary widely between different local codes.

The aim of providing a State based generic code of practice is to specify measures and practices to:

- Take all reasonable steps to prevent the outbreak of fire; and

- Limit harvesting to conditions such that if a fire starts, there is reasonable chance of the fire being controlled with resources immediately available to the person/people involved in the harvesting operation.

Local procedures can be developed to specify how the Harvesting COP is implemented in different areas.

There has been extensive discussion about the best method to describe the weather conditions that would offer a reasonable chance of suppression of any fire outbreak.

There is clear agreement that the actual local Grassland Fire Danger Index (FDI) (not the Forecast FDI) is the most objective measure of fire behaviour and therefore should be used to trigger the cessation of harvesting activities.

A GFDI of 35 has been recommended as the cut-off point, and this figure is a compromise between the need to “get the job

done” and the ability to control any fire outbreak.

Input has been invited and received from SA Farmers Federation, SACFS at various levels, Local Government Fire Prevention Officers, TAFE SA, Safework SA and others.

The final draft Grain Harvesting Code of Practice has been released and is being trialled across the state. Some areas are electing to make the assessments and apply the code individually, whereas in other areas local harvesting committees are making and communicating the decisions.

Following the harvesting season there will be workshops to evaluate the Draft Code.



# CHILDREN'S SAFETY DAY

NEWS & UPDATES

By: John Gawen, CFS Prevention and Community Awareness Officer

Each year, Safer Communities Australia holds a Children's Safety Day to promote emergency service organisations and safety to primary school students.

This year's event was held at Bellevue Heights Primary School, with nearby schools from Eden Hills, Coromandel Valley, Blackwood and Hawthorndene also participating.

Along with CFS, emergency service agencies such as SAPOL, MFS, SES and SAAS set up displays and presented safety information to students on how to keep safe at

home, at school, in the community, on the street and in cars.

Eden Hills Brigade represented CFS, providing more than 700 students with an insight into the role our organisation plays within the community.

CFS volunteers emphasised the importance of having a working smoke alarm in the home and each household having a family fire plan for house fire and bushfire.

As well as a 15-minute safety talk, the students had the chance to look over the fire truck, which is always a hit.



Paul Dare, Eden Hills CFS, showing students features of the truck.

CFS Prevention and Community Awareness Officer, John Gawen, with volunteers from Eden Hills CFS presenting safety information to school students.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TRAINING FOR SA

By: Fiona Dunstan, Assistant Coordinator Community Education

In June 2007, CFS Community Education Unit representatives Fiona Dunstan, Natasha Huber and Jeff Ayres assisted the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) in the delivery of a Community Engagement Fundamentals training course in Bendigo.

Over 25 participants from Victoria Police, DSE, Country Fire Authority (CFA) and a variety of other Victorian agencies spent two days learning the skills required to develop a community engagement plan and how to put the plan into practice.

Community engagement refers to the mutual communication and deliberation that occurs between government and citizens that allows equal participation in formulating the policies and conditions of government services.

The benefits of effective community engagement include: better project

outcomes, better relationships with community, increased understanding of community issues and better partnerships and networks.

The DSE in Victoria have been conducting community engagement training for multiple agencies for the past five years.

The CFS Community Education Unit is planning to conduct a two-day Community Engagement Fundamentals course on the **2nd & 3rd April 2008** for CFS volunteers and staff.

The course will introduce participants to community engagement planning where participants will gain "hands on" experience in developing community engagement plans and be able to discern effective community engagement from "community consultation".

Some learning outcomes of the Community Engagement Fundamentals course include:

- A process to identify stakeholders and analyse their appropriate type of engagement to ensure that the wider community and not just the vocal minority are heard
- Understand the commonly accepted different levels of stakeholder involvement
- Clearly identify the parameters of a project and establish clear community expectations
- Understand the underlying themes of common engagement techniques
- Gain experience in developing a community engagement plan
- Plan to minimise community outrage
- Feel confident that diverse groups have been heard.

If you are interested in participating or would like further information, contact Fiona Dunstan, 8463 4082 or [dunstan.fiona@cfs.org.au](mailto:dunstan.fiona@cfs.org.au).



Natasha Huber, CFS Community Education Officer, presenting at a Community Engagement Fundamentals training course in Bendigo.



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# THE NEW SAMFS WORKSHOP AND LOGISTICS CENTRE AT ANGLE PARK

By: Phil Luxford, CFS Project Officer Equipment

The new SA Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) Workshop and Logistics Centre at Angle Park was officially opened on 8 May 2007.

CFS has a constant presence at the centre, with one CFS personnel based there full time and the ability to store equipment and up to four appliances in the facility.

The facility can hold up to

11 appliances inside at any one time and includes mechanical pits, brake testing equipment and machining capabilities.

Other features include natural lighting, natural air flow and solar power which can deliver power back into the electricity grid.

The workshop is located next to the SAMFS station at Angle Park.



^ Hon. Carmel Zollo, Minister for Emergency Services, officially opening the new SAMFS Workshop and Logistics Centre at Angle Park on 8 May 2007.

✓ Internal features of the new SAMFS Workshop and Logistics Centre, such as mechanical pit and natural lighting.



## SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION OF STRESS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES

By: Dr Michelle Tuckey, Lecturer, University of South Australia and member of Happy Valley CFS

The Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) Team will soon commence a scientific evaluation of the effectiveness of three standard interventions:

- (1) critical incident stress debriefing
- (2) post-incident screening
- (3) stress management education (commonly known as a pre-incident training or PIT).

The aim of the research is to find out which of these interventions are most effective in supporting firefighters after critical incidents.

The SPAM Team is committed to continually improving its processes to provide the best possible service to CFS members.

Although a number of data sources

suggest that the SPAM Team's procedures are effective, a thorough and rigorous scientific evaluation will ensure the Team continues to look after firefighters in the best way possible.

Initiatives, such as this evaluation, position the CFS as a recognised leader in research and continual improvement in the area of stress prevention and management.

Starting on 1 August 2007, all CFS firefighters across the State who attend a critical incident will be asked to participate in the research.

As part of the project, the Team will offer the three standard interventions listed above, but not necessarily in the same order they would normally be provided.

In addition, participants will complete a short questionnaire before the intervention begins and again as part of an extensive follow-up process one month later.

The SPAM Team's primary concern is always the welfare of CFS members, and months of preparation have gone into this research project.

Participation will be entirely voluntary and members are free to withdraw from the research at any time.

SPAM services remain available on a 24-hour basis.

Ms Jill Scott (Consultant Psychologist to the CFS), Dr Michelle Tuckey (Lecturer, University of South Australia and member of Happy Valley CFS) and Professor Helen

Winefield (Academic staff member at the University of Adelaide) will be conducting this project.

This project has the support of the CFS Chief Officer, the CFS Volunteer Association (CFS VA) and Regional Officers from around the State.

For further information, please contact the Program Coordinator, Trudy Whelan on 8463 4141 or 0409 155181.



# CABA RESCUE MAT

By: Garth Hogarth, CABA Project Manager

CFS has recently endorsed the use of a new casualty rescue tool - the CFS CABA Rescue Mat.

The Rescue Mat was designed and developed by the staff at the State Training Centre, volunteer CABA Trainer-Assessors and A G Williams, Upholsterer in Clarendon.

The mat is designed to simplify and standardise rescue techniques for rescue crews needing to remove injured personnel from the fire ground.

The Rescue Mat is made of a PVC lightweight tear resistant laminated tarpaulin fabric, which has ultra violet and fire retardant treatment.

Training on the use of the Rescue Mat will commence in 2007 on all CABA initial and Operator Refresher courses.

In June 2007 all CABA brigades received a copy of the new CABA Fire Ground Practices DVD, which demonstrates the correct procedures for the use of the Rescue Mat.

The Rescue Mat has now been added to the CFS APPROVED stowage item list, which entitles all CABA brigades to be able to purchase this tool direct from the manufacturer.

This tool is an optional item for CABA brigades and all mats used by CFS personnel must display the CFS Logo and the manufactures load rating label.

Below are the Rescue Mats specifications and contact details of the manufacturer.

Please contact the CABA Project Manager at the CFS State Training Centre with any queries.

## CABA Rescue Mat Proposal

**Purpose:** The South Australian Country Fire Service Rescue Mat is designed specifically to simplify and standardise casualty rescue techniques.

## Operation:

The mat is designed to be used by any firefighter who has undertaken

training in its correct use and operation. In a structure fire situation it is to be carried by a qualified CABA operator on the cylinder of the CABA set.

## Construction:

PVC lightweight tear resistant laminated tarpaulin fabric, which has Ultra Violet and fire retardant treatment. The mat is stowed in a bag made from the same material.

## Dimensions:

Length 350mm  
Diameter 150mm  
Weight 2.5Kgs

## Stowage:

The Rescue Mat is required to be stowed on the fire appliance with the CABA main guideline bag.

## FGP's:

The fire ground practices have been written and are included in the new Fireground practices folder located at all stations.

## Load Rating:

All CFS Rescue Mats used by CFS personnel must display the following manufactures labeling.

**Cost:** \$145.00 inc GST

On a recent CABA initial training course two volunteer trainees from Region 6 demonstrated how to conduct a safe rescue using the new CABA Rescue Mat.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

## CABA RESCUE MAT

Maximum Load Rating = 182 KG  
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# Incident Management Update

By: Leanne Adams, CFS Incident Management Project Officer



Participants from Yorke Peninsula who attended the AIIMS course at Maitland.



Participants on the Operations Officer Course came from all over the state. Pictured from left, Rob Giles – Strathalbyn Group, Ivan Smith – Kangaroo Island Group, Gerry Thomson – Para Group and Peter Edgcumbe – Wattle Range Group.



Eddie Lacko and Jeff King discuss some incident objectives with course participants on the Operations Officer Course.

## Level 3 Operations Officer Course

During March 2007 the first Level 3 Operations Officer Course to be held in South Australia was run at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga.

The course went for five days and was delivered by Eddie Lacko and Jeff King from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

Participants included senior volunteers and staff from CFS, DEH and ForestrySA.

The participants were chosen from a

large group of people who have been nominated to be Operations Officers for Level 3 incidents (large and/or complex incidents).

The course is one of the first AIIMS functional courses to have been run and CFS is hoping that many more courses in all the functions of AIIMS (Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics) can be run in the not-too-distant future.

Rob Giles, Strathalbyn Group Officer, said "the course was good, particularly the exercises on the last two days

that demonstrated the level at which we should be operating at major incidents.

"Also the course gave participants an insight into the training packages available to other fire services and it's good to see CFS provide members with much needed additional training in incident management," Rob said.

Gerry Thomson, Para Group Deputy Group Officer, said he "gained a better appreciation of being strategic at incidents instead of reactive."

## AIIMS Courses

Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) courses continue to be in high demand with several courses being delivered in regional SA locations such as Maitland, Sheoak Log and Port Lincoln.

If you are interested in being involved in incident management please speak with your Brigade/Group Training Officer to register for an AIIMS course.

The AIIMS course is a pre-requisite for any functional courses that become available in future such as Operations Officer and Incident Controller.





## Catering

Last year the first Catering Workshops were held and proved to be very successful.

The workshops were introduced in response to the large number of issues raised during debriefs after incidents.

The one-day workshops consist of a half-day Hygiene for Food Handlers course presented by TAFE SA and a half-day CFS specific Catering Information course.

Feedback from these sessions was excellent and another Catering Workshop has been scheduled for Saturday 1st September 2007.

Please put forward your details to your Brigade/Group Training Officer if you would like to attend.

A couple of the workshops have been held in regional locations and if you are interested in having a session run in your area please contact your Regional Training Officer.

## Food Safety DVD for Caterers

During February 2007 all CFS Groups were sent packages containing information, posters and a DVD developed by the Department of Health regarding preparing food hygienically.

The information is very relevant and although much of it is common sense, it will reveal some new interesting information about safe food preparation.

If a package was not received or if additional packages are required please contact Sophia Chumak on 8463 4240 or [chumak.sophia@cfs.org.au](mailto:chumak.sophia@cfs.org.au).

## Catering tip from interstate

When CFS State Logistics Officer, Lee Watson, was in a deployment in Victoria at the end of 2006 he observed an esky system used to assist feeding personnel.

"Meal pack eskies were prepared for each appliance for every shift," Lee said.

"The eskies contained predetermined contents that were prepared by local suppliers and a register was utilised to log which esky had gone with which appliance.

"Upon the eskies returning, they were cleaned and re-stocked for the next shift and no one went hungry or thirsty."

Two eskies were allocated per appliance, which enabled one esky to be on the appliance while the other was being cleaned and re-stocked.

## AIIMS Team Resource Pool (Incident Management People)

The TAS (Training Administration System) database has been upgraded to include AIIMS (Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System) positions.

At this stage, training courses for many AIIMS positions have not been available and Regions have had to nominate individuals for positions based upon their experience, skills and abilities.

Due to the TAS update, TAS printouts will now list AIIMS positions at level 2 and/or 3 incidents next to individuals.

Please contact your Regional Operations Planning Officer to discuss concerns or questions about the roles.



One of the posters in the food hygiene package that was distributed to CFS Groups.



Appliance eskies ready for delivery to staging during the incidents in Victoria.

# VOLUNTEER, REX HALL LAUNCHES BOOK ON PERSONAL REFLECTION OF THE CFS

Valued CFS Volunteer Rex Hall AFSM has launched his book titled "Forty-Five Flaming Years – A reflection on my involvement with the SA Volunteer Fire Service (1960-2006)".

Chairman of the SA Fire & Emergency Services Commission and CFS Volunteer, Vince Monterola AFSM writes in the foreword of the book 'Rex's story embraces tragedy, humour, drama, conspiracy, and above all mateship.'

'Long serving members of the Emergency Fire Service, and then the Country Fire Service, will enjoy rekindled memories of old mates emerging from Rex's anecdotes.'

'Newer members will enjoy reading of the characters who faced an incredible array of trials in the formative days of our Service, and of the ingenuity that enabled them to succeed. They were our pioneers and Rex knew them,' Vince said.

In 2006 Rex was awarded the Emergency Services Medal for his

invaluable contribution to the State Government, CFS, CFS VA and the wider rural community, far beyond what is normally offered by a volunteer.

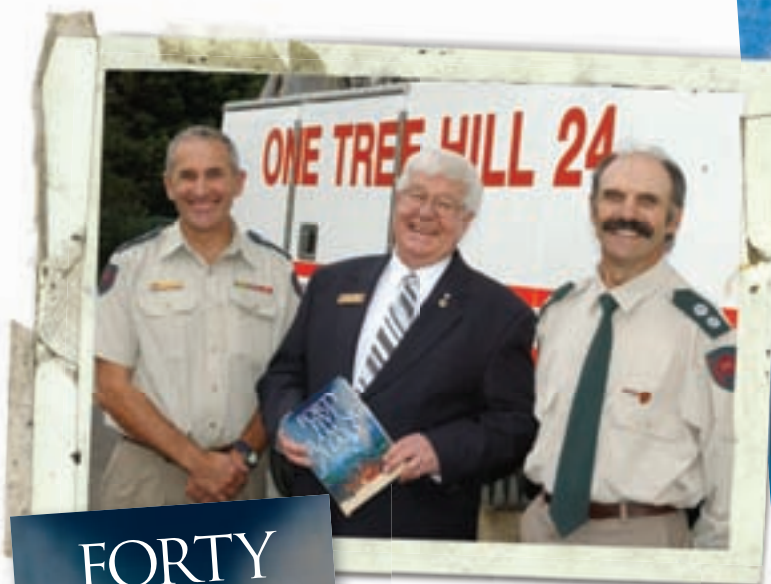
Rex is an Executive Member of the CFS VA and has a long-standing history with the CFS and is currently the Naracoorte Deputy Group Officer and President of the South East Branch of the CFS VA.

He is also the Chairman of the Cross Border Working Party and the CFS/CFS VA Heritage Working Party as well as CFS VA Delegate on the Farm Fire Units Working Party and CFS Awards Committee.

The book was launched at three locations around the state including One Tree Hill, Willalooka, and Naracoorte.

"Forty-Five Flaming Years" can be purchased for \$39.95 plus postage and handling.

Place your order by contacting Rex on 08 8762 1424, 0417 081 560 or [gadang@rbm.com.au](mailto:gadang@rbm.com.au)



## FORTY FIVE FLAMING YEARS

A Reflection on my involvement as a Volunteer with the SA Volunteer Fire Service throughout the past 45 years, 1960 - 2006

REX JOHN HALL AFSM

^ Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer, Rex Hall and Trevor Norris, Brigade Captain, One Tree Hill CFS at Rex's book launch on Sunday 27 May 2007 at the One Tree Hill CFS Station. Photo by: Bruce Hobby, One Tree Hill CFS

<< The front cover of Rex Hall's book titled 'Forty Five Flaming Years'.

## WIN A COPY OF FORTY-FIVE FLAMING YEARS!

Volunteer Magazine is calling for memorable 'CFS stories'. Send in your CFS story so everyone can reminisce, laugh, cry; but most of all to

guarantee your story is not forgotten! The four best CFS stories will receive a copy of Rex Hall's 'Forty-Five Flaming Years'.

Entries should not exceed 300 words, be received by **COB 3 February 2007** and please include the authors name and contact details.

Send entries to The Editor, Volunteer Magazine, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001 Or email: [publicaffairs@cfs.org.au](mailto:publicaffairs@cfs.org.au)

## 'SPRING' CHANGE TO SAVFBA NAME

The SAVFBA held a special General Meeting on Tuesday 26 June in which one of the agenda items was a possible name change for the Association to better reflect the relationship it has to the SA Country Fire Service and the volunteer members in which it serves.

Earlier in the year it was proposed that the SAVFBA change its name to the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFS VA).

The proposed name change falls in line with other emergency service associations including the SA Police Association and the State Emergency Service Volunteers Association.

Since then volunteer feedback was collected and raised at the meeting.

A unanimous vote confirmed the name change from the SAVFBA to the CFS VA.

The change of name came into effect on the first day of spring - 1 September 2007.

Over the coming months the CFS VA

will be contracting a graphic artist to establish some possible logo designs to reflect the new name change.

If you have any suggestions please send in your thoughts to [admin@savfba.org.au](mailto:admin@savfba.org.au), PO Box 2359, Regency Park SA 5942 or by fax on 8244 6400.



# CFS HERITAGE PRESERVATION UPDATE



▲ Euan Ferguson at the Naracoorte Storage Area with one of the first donations to the CFS/SAVFBA Heritage Working Party

In February 2006 the CFS VA formed a small working party under the guidance of the CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson and CFS VA President, Ken Schutz to develop a strategy for the preservation of CFS's rich cultural heritage.

By March 2007 the working party:

- Obtained some seeding funding from the CFS VA and the CFS
  - Became a CFS Committee formed from CFS VA regional members, the CFS VA President and two members of CFS staff
  - Had established terms of reference with the mission of 'The preservation of the history of the volunteer fire services of South Australia'
  - Established a large storage area in Naracoorte in the South East, and are looking at possibilities in the Mid North
  - Acquired 10 appliances which are out of service and now in storage
  - Is in the process of arranging for the safe storage of old competition trophies and volunteer fire service clothing and equipment
- Once the secure area for trophies

and equipment has been established, the CFS Heritage Committee will be seeking gifts of items worthy of preservation which, when ultimately displayed, will be suitably acknowledged.

Due to contractual and insurance difficulties it is not anticipated that the committee will be able to take responsibility for loaned items.

CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, said after he recently attended an official CFS function at the Naracoorte storage area that he was very impressed with the progress that the working party had made.

"It's a testimony to the passion of the volunteers and staff involved in the project who are determined to see the history of CFS preserved for future generations," Euan said.

"I'm hoping there will be momentum in the level of enthusiasm with other members keen to get involved."

CFS members with items of interest, please contact Rex Hall on 08 8762 1424, 0417 081 560 or gadang@rbm.com.au

## CURTAIN LOWERED ON CORONIAL INVESTIGATION INTO EYRE PENINSULA BUSHFIRE



CFS volunteers deal with the aftermath of the Wangary fire

The Coronial Investigation into the Eyre Peninsula bushfire that occurred on 11 January 2005 has finally drawn to a close.

South Australia's Deputy Coroner, Tony Schapel, heard the last of the submissions on Tuesday 8 May.

The Coronial Investigation started on 15 November 2005 and finished after 18 months of opinions and accounts from a long list of witnesses, victims, and fire and weather experts.

About 100 CFS personnel were involved in the investigation, which included almost 80 volunteers.

The Court sat for 233 days resulting in more than 23,000 pages of transcript.

CFS VA President Ken Schutz said he was pleased that the investigation had finished because the process had been a long and exhaustive effort for all involved.

"Many people have been affected by the investigation and it's taken a real toll on CFS volunteers and staff," Ken said.

"It's not just those that have presented on the witness stand that have been affected but the members of their families as well," Ken said.

"Many people had to spend time away from work and family to attend the proceedings.

"We're very aware it's been a strenuous and emotional time for those involved and we want to recognise the sacrifices these people have made to participate in the investigation. I thank them for their time and efforts," he said.

The recommendations will be released on 18 December.

"Naturally we're anxious to know what the recommendations are, even more so what possible implications they may have on our members," Ken said.

"Regardless, CFS people are extremely resilient and we will make our best efforts to ensure they are well represented through whatever challenges lie ahead.

"Unfortunately we live in a day and age where everything we do is under intense scrutiny and I am keen to see a package developed that helps volunteers, in particular those in leadership positions, to better understand and prepare for the potential legal ramifications of our business."





# CHILDREN'S FIRE PREVENTION BOOK AVAILABLE

The heartbreaking tragedy of children being severely burnt by fire has prompted a West Australian author to write a special fire prevention book aimed at children.

A former fire safety educator with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) of Western Australia, Jillian Fitzgerald became disturbed by the unacceptable number of children, some of them babies, suffering in hospital with severe burns to their bodies.

Knowing that carelessness and lack of knowledge about fire prevention were often responsible, Jillian set about writing a book aimed specifically at raising children's awareness of fire safety.

Her 40-page publication tells the story of two young boys who visit a fire station where they learn fire safety skills, fire prevention and the responsible use of fire.

Children reading this book will have a clear understanding of the consequences of playing with fire and what to do if caught in an

actual fire situation.

"I want children to have a book they can keep in their homes and refer to at any time," she says.

Concerned at not finding any books on fire safety for children in Australia, New Zealand or Singapore, she set about writing one to fill the gap.

"Learn Fire Safety with Jamie" has been endorsed by the Director of the Western Australia Burns Service, Dr Fiona Wood, and part of the proceeds will go towards burns research.

Jillian Fitzgerald says that with winter coming up, her book should be of great interest to parents and grandparents wanting to ensure that their offspring develop responsible attitudes to fire as well as learning fire survival skills.

"Learn Fire Safety with Jamie" by Jillian Fitzgerald is published by Kandy Ko Publishing and available for purchase for \$19.95 plus postage and handling via [www.kandyko.com](http://www.kandyko.com) or by post at PO Box 111, Thornlie 6988.



^ Author Jillian Fitzgerald with Bali Bombing Survivor, Peter Hughes



Visit the SAVFBA website [www.savfba.org.au](http://www.savfba.org.au) featuring all the latest news and information affecting CFS volunteers, a "have-your-say" section, and special opportunities offered to members.



<< The front cover of Jillian Fitzgerald's book titled "Learn Fire Safety with Jamie"

## NEW SERVICE MEDALS TO BE AWARDED BY CFS CHIEF OFFICER

A proposal to have CFS volunteers awarded an official medal for their years of service has been made successful.

The CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, will introduce the CFS Service Medal following a recommendation proposed by the CFS Awards Committee, comprising of representatives from the CFS VA, CFS and the Volunteer Management Branch (VMB).

The decision to release the medal was made at a Chief Officer's Advisory Council (COAC) meeting attended by CFS volunteers, staff and members of the CFS VA Executive.

The CFS Service Medal is separate to the National Medal and is presented to volunteers in recognition of their dedicated service to the organisation and the wider community.

Initially CFS volunteers of more

than 30 years service will receive the medal with volunteers who have completed between 10 and 30 years also to receive a medal during the second phase of the medal's release which will occur in later years. Once an ongoing budget for the project has been established medals will be awarded on the basis of 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 years service. The concept for introducing the CFS

Service Medal was initiated by the Country Fire Service Board and was one of several proposals put forward at the 2006 Volunteer Summit to better recognise the efforts of CFS volunteers. The initial release of the CFS Service Medals will be presented at regional ceremonies to be organised in 2008 and, like all other service medals, can be worn as part of the official CFS dress uniform.



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# FIRE DANGER SEASON 2006-07



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

Emerging from the driest winter ever recorded, October 2006 heralded an increase in rural fire activity across South Australia that was beyond our experience base.

The lack of rainfall, predicted higher temperatures and no forecast respite in conditions expected for some time meant that the fire danger season had the potential to be of longer duration than those of previous years.

The Fire Danger Season (FDS) was brought forward to commence on 15 October 2006 for the entire state.

In the past, individual Fire Ban Districts have had the FDS start date brought forwards; however this was the first time it had occurred statewide.

The dry conditions, combined with a series of dry lightning events, resulted in over 25 significant bushfires during a period from October 2006 through to March 2007.

Significant incidents of the 2006/07 FDS included:

## 10 October 2006

Location – Brechin (Mt Taylor), Kangaroo Island, Region 1

Area burnt - 1,500 hectares  
Cause - Rekindle from private burnoff previous week

## 23 October 2006

Location - Head of Bight, Region 6  
Area burnt - 20,000 hectares  
Cause - Undetermined

## 10 November 2006

Location – Nullarbor, Region 6  
Area burnt – 37,000 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 11 November 2006

Location – Gosse, Kangaroo Island, Region 1

Area burnt – 2,800 hectares  
Cause – Undetermined

## 20 November 2006

Location – Ki Ki (Coonalpyn), Region 3

Area burnt – 11,000 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 20 November 2006

Location – Stoneleigh Park, Region 3

Area burnt – 1,300 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 21 November 2006

Location – Padthaway, Region 5  
Area burnt – 478 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 21 November 2006

Location – Marcollat, Region 5  
Area burnt – 265 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 21 November 2006

Location – Naracoorte, Region 5  
Area burnt – 250 hectares  
Cause – Unknown

## 21 November 2006

Location – Jip Jip Conservation Park, Region 5

Area burnt – 200 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 21 November 2006

Location – Humbug Scrub (One Tree Hill), Region 2

Area burnt – 214 hectares  
Cause - Lightning

## 23 November 2006

Location – Bunbury (Tilley Swamp), Region 5

Area burnt – 550 hectares  
Cause – Lightning



More than 200 firefighters responded to a grass and scrub fire at One Tree Hill (Humbug Scrub). The fire burnt 214 hectares and destroyed three sheds.  
Photo: Matt Bonser, Morphett Vale CFS

## 27 November 2006

Location – Bookmark complex of fires (Gluepot), Waikerie, Region 3

Area burnt – 120,000 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 28 November 2006

Location – Bundaleer, Region 4  
Area burnt – 200 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 30 November 2006

Location – Hincks Conservation Park, Region 6

Area burnt – 5,500 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 1 December 2006

Location – The Bluff (Burrungule), Region 5

Area burnt – 166 hectares  
Cause - Machinery

## 2 December 2006

Location – Woorumba (Hawker), Region 4

Area burnt – 250 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 5 December 2006

Location – Onkaparinga Gorge, Region 1

Area burnt – 209 hectares  
Cause – Deliberate

## 31 December 2006

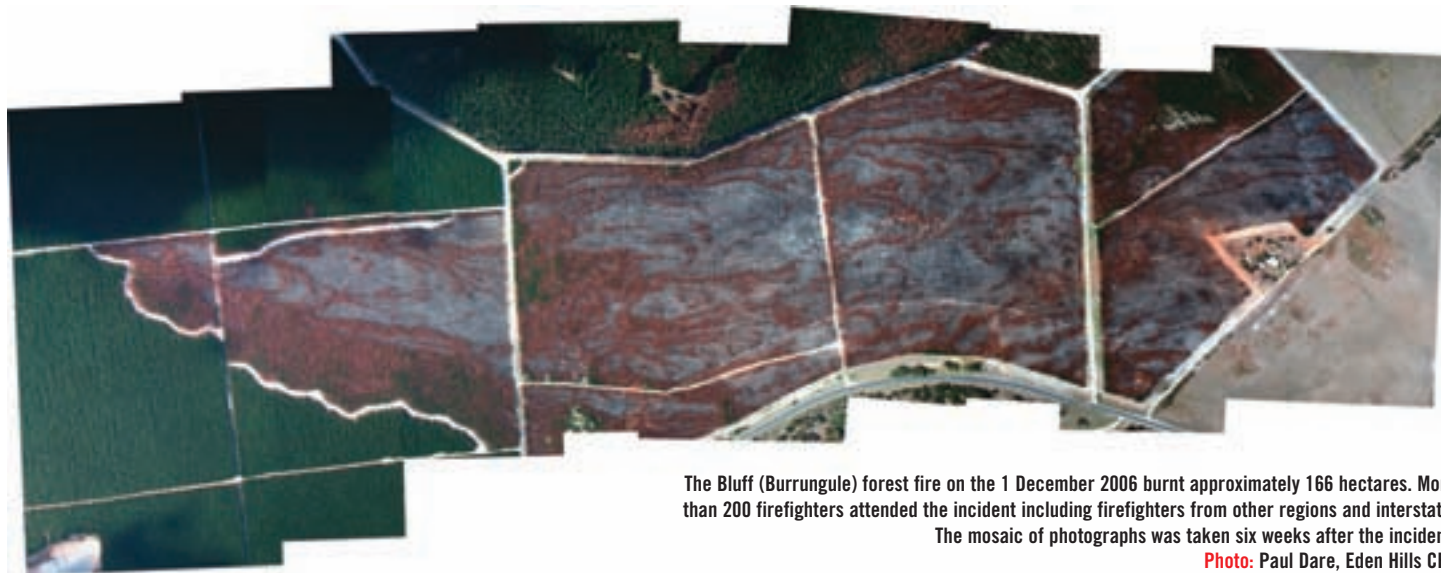
Location – Little Desert, Region 5  
Area burnt – 9,000 hectares  
Cause – Lightning

## 10 January 2007

Location – Mount Bold, Region 1  
Area burnt – 2,000 hectares  
Cause – Deliberate

## 16 February 2007

Location – Ngarkat, Region 5  
Area burnt – 162 hectares  
Cause – Lightning



The Bluff (Burrungule) forest fire on the 1 December 2006 burnt approximately 166 hectares. More than 200 firefighters attended the incident including firefighters from other regions and interstate. The mosaic of photographs was taken six weeks after the incident.

Photo: Paul Dare, Eden Hills CFS





The Mount Bold fire on the 10 January 2007 burnt 2,000 hectares. More than 250 firefighters from CFS, MFS, DEH and Forestry SA worked to contain the blaze.

More than 250 firefighters attended to the Bridgewater fire on 21 March 2007, which burnt 17 hectares and threatened a number of homes in the area.

Around the 27 November 2006, some eighteen fires caused by lightning strikes eventually consolidating into the Bookmark Fire of some 120,000 hectares. The incident involved many fire fighting crews and IMT personnel from across the State working intensively for 14 days.



On the 5 December 2006 more than 400 firefighters from CFS, MFS and DEH attended the Onkaparinga Gorge fire that burnt approximately 209 hectares.

Photo: Allan Pomery, Port Elliot CFS

#### 16 February 2007

Location – Gammon Ranges (Wilpena), Region 4

Area burnt – 1,000 hectares

Cause – Lightning

#### 17 February 2007

Location – Willunga

Area burnt – 15 hectares

Cause of house fire was accidental.

1 fatality

#### 19 February 2007

Location – Pureba Conservation Park (Wirrulla), Region 6

Area burnt – 11,450 hectares

Cause – Lightning

#### 19 February 2007

Location – Gawler Ranges (Wudinna), Region 6

Area burnt – 1,467 hectares

Cause – Lightning

#### 10 March 2007

Location – Rockleigh, Region 3

Area burnt – 54 hectares

Cause – Accidental

#### 21 March 2007

Location – Bridgewater, Region 1

Area burnt – 17 hectares

Cause – Accidental



## AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR ALL CFS VOLUNTEERS

### REVISED START DATES TO THE 2007/08 FIRE DANGER SEASON

The record dry conditions across the state has resulted in early drying of both grasslands and forests.

This has meant that the start of the 2007-08 Fire Danger Season has been brought forward in all but two Fire Ban Districts.

The official Fire Danger Season commenced on the dates specified in table 1.

At this time, the normal termination dates will apply.

This year there will be a significant risk in forested and scrubland areas.

Further information can be found on the CFS website at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or phone the bushfire information hotline on 1300 362 361.

Authorised by Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer

TABLE 1

Fire Ban Districts	Fire Danger Season	
	From	To
Adelaide Metropolitan Area	1 November	30 April
Mount Lofty Ranges	1 November	30 April
Kangaroo Island	1 November	30 April
Mid North	15 October	30 April
Yorke Peninsula	15 October	30 April
Murraylands	15 October	15 April
Riverland	15 October	15 April
Upper South East	1 November	15 April
Lower South East	15 November	30 April
Flinders	15 October	15 April
North East Pastoral	15 October	31 March
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	15 October	15 April
North West Pastoral	15 October	31 March
Lower Eyre Peninsula	15 October	15 April
West Coast	15 October	15 April
* These dates may change due to seasonal conditions.		



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

# WHO'S WHO IN THE TRAINING ZOO



For this edition of *Volunteer*, Public Affairs spoke with the men and women of the State Training Centre.

The CFS training department assists with the training of more than 15 000 volunteers and helps coordinate more than 32 000 course accreditations being undertaken by the staff, volunteers and external agencies.

CFS is a Registered Training Organisation and this only goes to show how professional and dedicated our volunteer and staff trainer assessors are.

So let's meet the staff of the State Training Centre.

## Brenton Eden AFSM

**Position:** CFS Manager Training.

**Years of Service:** 10 years.

**Volunteer Service:** 19 years service with Elliston and Stirling North Brigades.

**Other CFS positions:** Project Officer Coronial Inquest and Deputy State Coordinator.

**What attracted you to the position?** Opportunity to turn a hobby into a career.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** Working with the staff in the department.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Build a purpose built class and auditorium for Brukunga.

**If I could be anything in the world I would be:** This one.

## Wayne Atkins AFSM

**Position:** CFS Senior State Training Officer.

**Years of Service:** 20 years.

**Volunteer Service:** 35 years

total, eight years with Burnside and 27 years with Athelstone.

**Specialist project area:** HAZMAT, CBR, clandestine labs, special risk hazards, MART (Mutual Aid Response Team) and HAZMAT Oncall

**Other CFS positions:** Air Attack Supervisor, HAZMAT Oncall and Acting Manager Training.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Being part of the State Training Team allows me to combine a passion for training with the enjoyment of working within a fire service. On a regular basis I get to see the people go to incidents, manage and attack the incident and come home safe. Knowing that I am part of the process that gets people trained to such a high standard is very rewarding.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

Excellent team of people that I get to work with on a daily basis who all have a team focus and I get to meet other great people from all over the state.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Continue to work but I have always wanted to travel through South East Asia, especially the war sites. I would love to go to ANZAC Cove on ANZAC Day.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** I'm doing it, it's the best job in the world.

## Corey Dunn

**Position:** Senior Curriculum Development Officer.

**Years of Service:** 16 years.

**Volunteer Service:** Member for 12 years with Tea Tree Gully and Salisbury.

**Specialist project area:** Training course development and all other specialist areas in CFS training.

**Other CFS positions:** Air Attack Supervisor, HAZMAT Oncall, Acting Manager Training.

**What attracted you to the position?** Enjoyment of training and working within a fire service.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

I would call all of the people that I work with my mates and to come to work everyday and spend time with them makes it a great place to work.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Buy a banana plantation and retire.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Boundary rider for the AFL.

## David Pearce

**Position:** State Training Officer – Natural Environments, Project Manager Rural Firefighting.

**Years of Service:** 10 years with CFS and 19 years with MFS.

**Volunteer Service:** 31 years with Blackwood and Brukunga.

**Specialist project area:** Rural Firefighting.

**Other CFS positions:** Acting Manager Training, CFS Senior Curriculum Development Officer, Acting Manager Operations Planning, Air Attack Supervisor, Air Operations and Level 3 Incident Management Team.

**What attracted you to the position?** The challenge of the position.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

Being part of Air Operations in the summer and the personalities that I get to work with on a daily basis makes it a great work environment.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Buy an island.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** What I'm doing.

## Owen Glover

**Position:** Senior Curriculum Development Officer – Incident Management.

**Years of Service:** 20 years.

**Volunteer Service:** 35 years.

**Specialist project area:** Incident Management.

**Other CFS positions:** Regional Commander Regions 4 and 2, Manager Training Facilities, Assistant Regional Officer, State Information Officer.

**What attracted you to the position?**

I have always had a strong interest in firefighting and was an Aviation Firefighter for 10 years. I saw the CFS as a place to go where there would be a good career structure and more challenges. I think it was also natural progression as I also enjoy helping people progress in their training needs.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

The camaraderie between all of the staff. I also enjoy meeting new people and being able to train the sons and daughters of people I trained years ago is also a big reward. I also get to train people who want to be trained.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Buy a small country pub.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Ship's Captain.





^ Front row: Aimee Foster, Sarah Stopford, Alison Walsh, Wayne Atkins  
Middle row: Lee Watson, Greg Stone, Corey Dunn, Matt Davis, Owen Glover, Tim Maitland  
Back row: Darren Chapman, David Pearce, Grant Walker, Garth Hogarth

### Lee Watson

**Position:** State Training Officer – Quality Systems and Professional Development.

**Years of Service:** Eight years.

**Volunteer Service:** 26 years – Started with Basket Range before moving to Norton Summit/Ashton.

**Specialist project area:** Manage organisational requirements to enable the CFS to be a Registered Training Organisation (RTO). Manage volunteer Trainer-Assessor professional development. Coordinate all issues relating to Recognition of Prior Learning and Course Credit Transfer as well as managing the arrangements for external training provider to deliver First Aid, Chainsaw, Driving related training to CFS.

**Other CFS positions:** State Logistics Officer

**What attracted you to the position?** Combining a passion for volunteer firefighting with a desire to provide quality training.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** Everyday brings something new and challenging within the State Training Team.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Continue working for the CFS, buy a new house, set myself up for retirement and go on a long holiday.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** I'm doing it.

### Greg Stone

**Position:** State Training Officer – Safe Off Road Driver Training.

**Years of Service:** 19 years.

**Volunteer Service:** 27 Years in total with Ardrossan and Tea Tree Gully.

**Specialist project area:** Rural Firefighting and Driver Training.

### Other CFS positions:

STO – Specialist Rescue, STO – CABA Training and Compressors, Eastern Zone Training Officer, Acting Regional Commander 3, 5 and 6, Acting Aviation Services Officer, Acting Manager Training Facilities, State Air Resource Coordinator, Air Observer, Air Attack Supervisor, Air Operations Manager.

**What attracted you to the position?** During my time studying at Uni I spent a lot of time at Brookway Park helping to run training courses. I saw the position as an opportunity to extend what I was doing as a volunteer and gain more knowledge and experience.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** I have the best playground to play in, in a wonderful environment and with a great team.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Pay off any debts and then go on an extended diving holiday in the Caribbean. I would also look at setting up a dive shop or dive tour business in the Caribbean or Bahamas.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Dive shop or dive tour operator in the Caribbean or Bahamas.

### Garth Hogarth

**Position:** State Training Officer – OBAOC (Operate Breathing Apparatus Open Circuit) Project Manager

**Years of Service:** Four years.

**Volunteer Service:** 27 years in total at Ardrossan, Tea Tree Gully and Brukunga.

**Specialist project area:** OBAOC

**Other CFS positions:** Air Observer, Air Operations Manager and Rural Fire Investigator.

**What attracted you to the position?** A passion for the organisation and training. I am able to help people who want to expand their knowledge and learn new skills as firefighters. It's very rewarding.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** Working with a great team and training people who want to be trained.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Pay off any debts, invest the rest and keep working.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** V8 Supercar driver or helicopter pilot.

### Bob Kearney

**Position:** Senior Leadership Consultant.

**Years of Service:** Seven years.

**Volunteer Service:** Six years with Brukunga.

**Specialist project area:** Frontline leadership & Navigate in Urban and Rural Environment.

**Other CFS positions:** Base Camp Manager, Staging Area Manager and Leadership within CFS and other agencies.

**What attracted you to the position?** Escaped from Yatala.\*

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** Working with positive people, volunteers and country folk.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Send anonymous cheques to a few close friends and family.

**If I could be anything in the world I would be:** A very interesting grandfather.

(\*Editors note: Although some would query the statement, Bob actually worked for Correctional Services and wasn't a prisoner.)

### Darren Chapman

**Position:** State Training Officer – Built Environs.

**Years of Service:** Seven months.

**Volunteer Service:** 32 years with Salisbury and Tea Tree Gully.

**Specialist project area:** Compartment Fire Behaviour and Hot Pad.

**Other CFS positions:** Air Operations.

**What attracted you to the position?** Personal interest in structural firefighting as my brigade is in an urban area.

Also a chance to specialise and increase knowledge in structure firefighting techniques.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

Working with the volunteers, I get to interact with volunteers from across the state and get to see how diverse our organisation really is. I now have a greater appreciation of CFS as a whole.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Keep working, invest in my children's future and pay off debts.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** This one.

### Corey-Jay Frazer

**Position:** Acting State Training Officer.

**Years of Service:** Two.

**Volunteer Service:** 15.5 between Smithfield, Athelstone, One Tree Hill and Dalkeith.

**Specialist project area:** Road Accident Rescue

**Other CFS positions:** Region 3 Training Officer, Instructor in CFB, OBAOC, LPG Hot Pad and involved with Air Operations.

**What attracted you to the position?** My life career goal was to become a trainer with a Fire/Rescue agency.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

I love the challenge of dynamic changes that occur throughout training in our industry and understanding where the SACFS procedures align with the rest of Australia. It also helps to be working in an environment that encourages fun, enthusiasm and productivity. Having worked in many team based jobs over the years I am confident in saying that the STC people are the best group of people that I have had the pleasure of working with.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Set myself up with a dive shop in Queensland somewhere and also travel the world.

**If I could be anything in the world I would be:** A travelling international chocolate tester!



# TRAINING TALK

>> Brenton Eden and Corey-Jay Frazer



>> Bob Kearney



## Tim Maitland

**Position:** Manager Training Facilities.

**Years of Service:** Seven months

**Volunteer Service:** 3 years with Cherryville.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Was looking for a change from what I was doing and saw CFS as a great opportunity and a great place to work.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

Being interviewed by CFS Public Affairs and the wonderful people I work with and great atmosphere. I get to come to work amongst the birds and the trees everyday.\*

**If I won a million dollars I would:**

Buy an Aussie Racer and compete in the Aussie Racer Circuit or I'd buy an Aston Martin DB9.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Formula One Driver.

(\*Editors note: Sorry Tim, saying nice things about CFS Public Affairs still won't get you a cover shot.)

## Matt Davis

**Position:** Technical Support Officer STC.

**Years of Service:** 4 years.

**Volunteer Service:** 18 years with Woodside.

**Specialist project area:** Everything.

**Other CFS positions:** Air Operations Manager and Air Observer.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Love for CFS and was following in my big brothers footsteps.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

The big family environment at Brukunga.

**If I won a million dollars I would:**

Pay off my debts, go on a long holiday and give the rest to charities.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** This one.

## Sarah Stopford

**Position:** CFS Training Administration Systems Project Officer.

**Years of Service:** Seven years.

**Specialist project area:** Training Administration System.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Living in the Adelaide Hills it was a job that was close to home.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?**

The people that I get to work with.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Take

some time off and backpack around the world.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Interior designer.

## Aimee Foster

**Position:** CFS Administration Officer STC.

**Years of Service:** Five years.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Close to home in a peaceful location.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** The great bunch of people that I get to work with.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Go on a long holiday to Italy.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Chef.

## Alison Walsh

**Position:** CFS Facilities Administration Officer STC.

**Years of Service:** 18 months.

**What attracted you to the position?** Job availability.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** The great group of people that I get to spend my days with.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Pay off my house and buy a holiday shack in Port Douglas, Queensland.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** A retiree.

## Grant Walker

**Position:** Groundsman.

**Years of Service:** Six months.

**What attracted you to the position?**

Gardening and landscaping is my profession and this is close to home.

**Most enjoyable part of being in the CFS Training Department?** The people that I get to work with.

**If I won a million dollars I would:** Pay off my house, buy a new car and a Harley Davidson and go on a nice holiday.

**If I could be doing any job in the world it would be:** Pilot.



The CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga.



# ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE TRAINER ASSESSORS

By: Corey-Jay Frazer

Around 1995, a small group of highly trained and operationally experienced volunteers were brought together to become the Road Accident Rescue Training Officers (RARTOs) for the SACFS.

Back then, the group consisted of volunteers from every CFS region, giving their time to deliver the initial Vehicle Accident Rescue (VAR) courses at the State Training Centre (STC).

Over time, the group progressed to travelling around the state to deliver Road Accident Rescue (RAR) upskill training.

These extremely dedicated members also travelled interstate to national competitions to observe and learn new rescue techniques and how to deal with new vehicle technologies from other Emergency Services.

This group became well known amongst our organisation and established great camaraderie and traditions that continue in the present group of Road Accident Rescue Trainer Assessors (RARTA's).

The group are never shy to test the boundaries of setting each other up for a good laugh. Match that with

their high level of professionalism when instructing on the job, and you have one great group.

It is very pleasing to see the addition of the first female RARTA to the team recently, with the addition of Tanya Norman of Aldinga Beach Brigade.

As a young volunteer my first exposure to the team was at the STC when I completed my VAR course.

Instantly I knew I wanted to expand my knowledge and experience in the field of Road Accident Rescue.

I started out in 1998 as a forklift operator for the RARTOs and have since shared many opportunities and experiences with volunteers at State Level & Australasian Rescue Challenges.

I learnt so much from all the RARTOs about professionalism and realism.

Although many of them have now moved on to other things in life, I would like to acknowledge and thank those volunteers that built the foundations of where the Road Accident Rescue training is in the CFS today.

With that said, I took a few moments to randomly ask some of the current RARTA's a few questions:



Corey-Jay Frazer



Anthony Paul  
of Tea Tree Gully Brigade



Todd Robertson  
of Pt Wakefield Brigade



Tanya Norman  
of Aldinga Beach Brigade



Bill Prideaux  
of One Tree Hill Brigade



Greame Hancock  
of Birdwood Brigade

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VOLUNTEER - TRAINING



## ROAD ACCIDENT RESCUE TRAINER ASSESSORS

Continued from page: 37

### How Long have you been a RARTA?

**Todd:** Five years

**Bill:** Ten years, I started in the first intake of RARTA back in 1996.

**Anthony:** Joined the group in 1999, so eight years now.

**Tanya:** 12 months.

**Graeme:** About 18 months (Been having too much fun to remember).

### Why did you become a RARTA?

**Todd:** Enjoyed instructing at brigade level and wanted to take it further.

**Bill:** To put something back in to CFS, I had some skills and experiences that I could pass on to other members.

**Anthony:** Tragically my mother was killed in a road crash when I was 14 years old, as was a good friend when I was 18 years old. After joining the Tea Tree Gully CFS in 1987, I soon completed my VAR course so I could do something to help unfortunate casualties of road trauma. My decision to undertake the course was met with some hesitation by the brigade leaders who were concerned about how I would cope, but this just made me more determined. Road accident rescue became my passion and after ten years I was looking to do more. With some mentoring from Arthur Tindall (ex TTG LT and RARTO) I applied to become a RARTO in 1998 so I could broaden my own knowledge and skills and impart this on many other volunteers throughout the state.

**Tanya:** I enjoy helping others learn in CFS & find RAR to be the most challenging.

**Graeme:** I worked shift work for 20 years (on a continental roster). Which meant I only got 13 weekends off a year. After I gave up shift work I found I had all these extra weekends off and what was I to do with them? I know become a RARTA. No seriously I felt that my brigade could really benefit from having a RARTA in the brigade and allow us to keep up with the ever changing field of road crash and I love meeting new people.

### What has been your most memorable moment as a RARTA?

**Todd:** Representing the CFS in New Zealand and every course leaves me with good memories

**Bill:** I have a lot of moments that I remember fondly, but the most rewarding was working on the National RCR Competitions in 2006. From the planning, setup, running and cleanup, it was a great time and I learnt a lot.

**Anthony:** I would have to say the

**Graeme:** I remember one course early in my RARTA days, I had this trainee and he had all the right answers whenever I asked a question. I made a comment to him "What are you a rocket scientist" He was, he worked at Woomera!

### What are the challenges of being a Trainer Assessor in a Specialist field?

**Todd:** Dealing with different people and their personalities

technology has created a necessity to keep up to date with changes and advancements to vehicles safety systems as they are effectively making our role as rescuers more difficult and hazardous

**Tanya:** Keeping up to date with changes in techniques and technology

**Graeme:** Yes, keeping abreast of the changes, as each new model of vehicle is released there is always something new to give us a surprise.

### What advice would you give to a volunteer wanting to become a Trainer Assessor in any of the training fields?

**Todd:** Love what you do.

**Bill:** Keep an open mind and learn about your subject. Never stop learning because change is always there and you will be working with a great bunch of people. So go for it! It's very rewarding.

**Anthony:** Being a Trainer Assessor in a chosen field can be very rewarding, however, in this day and age where people are more 'time poor' it can be time consuming. The old saying 'every little bit helps' is very true, but I would certainly encourage anyone aspiring to become a volunteer Trainer Assessor, particularly in RAR, to do it for the right reasons, whatever they may be, and give it 100 percent. As a leader in your chosen field your knowledge and skills need to be current and above average and the best way to maintain this is to be involved as much as possible. In doing so you will become part of a dynamic team of people working towards a common goal and you get to meet people from all over the state who are looking to draw from the knowledge you and your team have to offer.

**Tanya:** Make a commitment to attend as many courses as possible, but most of all have fun and enjoy what you are doing, as this will pass on to the trainees.

**Graeme:** Be passionate about your field of expertise and have a real desire to impart your knowledge to others.



⤴ Demonstrating extrication techniques.



⤴ RARTA's using hydraulic tools.



Back row: Graeme Hancock, Tanya Norman and Anthony Paul. Front row: Todd Robertson and Bill Prideaux.

RARTO trip to the International competitions in Melbourne in 1999. What a learning experience! Aside from this, I would include delivering a very memorable course in Coober Pedy, and in general just being partly responsible for training people from many and varied backgrounds so they too can provide an invaluable service in their communities

**Tanya:** Meeting people from across the state.

**Bill:** There sure are a lot of challenges, trying to keep up with all the new safety equipment being put into vehicles now and being able to pass on new ways to do the job safely and efficiently.

**Anthony:** Road Accident Rescue is continually evolving and certainly provides a challenging field to be a trainer / assessor in. Although the basic rescue evolutions remain much the same, new vehicle



# CABA RECOMMISSIONING FACILITY UPGRADE

By: Garth Hogarth, CFS State Training Officer, Project Manager OBAOC/CABA

Over the past twelve months the CABA BATA Recommissioning Facility has undergone some major changes.

These changes were required to improve manual handling issues, reduce hazards and improve the environment for teaching sessions, which require demonstration of skills to be attained.

Improvements such as a fresh coat of paint and new lighting has brightened the area and made it much more conducive to training.

Changes have been made to the storage of CABA cylinders; all cylinders are now stored below the workbenches in PVC tubing. (Photo 1)

The PVC tubing, unlike previous steel shelving, has reduced the frictional drag between the cylinder and the tubing, reducing the effort required to load and unload cylinders.

Two stainless steel cylinder trolleys, which carry 10 cylinders at a time, have made it easier to transport cylinders between the building and the Gator. (Photo 2)

The old helmet rack from over the wash trough was removed and two wall mounted stainless steel helmet drying racks have been installed. (Photo 3)

The new helmet racks accommodate two sets of helmets for Saturday and Sunday CABA operator refresher courses.

The old PPC drying room has been removed allowing a larger area for the delivery of practical training sessions.

All CABA PPC has been replaced with new PBI Gold clothing.

The clothing is stored in two new timber cupboards that facilitate the storage of 50 new pairs of level three structural gloves to be used by CABA trainees. (Photo 4)

A new stainless steel bench installed at the end of the wash trough will allow trainees to easily observe the delivery of the CABA set recommissioning training session.

The bench also houses the CABA set record cards and wipes used for drying the CABA facemasks. (see Photo 1)

The original CABA compressor has been replaced with a larger capacity compressor with the addition of a Revolve Air filling cabinet. (Photo 2)

The new compressor will fill the storage banks much quicker and have the capacity to direct fill cylinders faster than the existing one.

This will improve cylinder filling turn around times for training courses and operational requirements when needed.

A big 'thank you' to the volunteer Trainer Assessors, Course Assistants, staff and their families for helping with the renovations.

4.



^ Clothing is stored in two new timber cupboards.

3.



^ Two new stainless steel helmet drying racks have been installed.

1.



CABA cylinders are now stored effectively under workbenches in PVC tubing.

2.



The new Revolve Air cylinder filling blast cabinet and one of the new stainless steel cylinder trolleys.



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VOLUNTEER - TRAINING



# CFB NATIONAL SEMINAR

During April 2007, the SACFS hosted the first AFAC-sponsored Compartment Fire Behaviour Training Working Group (CFBTWG) Workshop.

The seminar was originally proposed in 2000 during discussions between CFB Training Officers from Queensland and South Australia.

While it took seven years to achieve, the Working Group was very successful, with representatives from fire services across Australia and New Zealand.

The original intention of the Working Group was to establish a network of Trainer Assessors to support those fire agencies currently delivering CFB, or planning to deliver CFB training, so they could discuss, plan and implement the next progression in structural firefighting.

One of the key outcomes of the seminar was to continue the tradition of interstate Training Officers working with local Trainer

Assessors to ensure that each agency gained the benefit of those who had extensive experience in the field of CFB training.

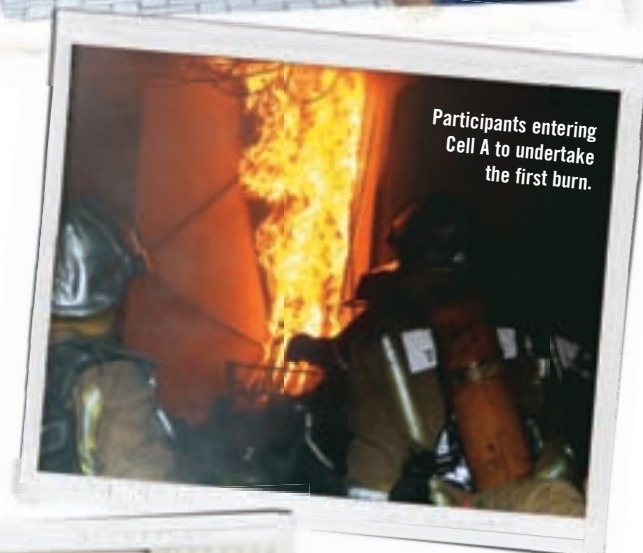
Since the seminar Darren Chapman, CFS State Training Officer, has traveled to the Northern Territory to assist with the delivery of a CFB Instructor Course in collaboration with the NSW Fire Brigades and the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.

More recently Corey Dunn, CFS State Training Officer, has continued an established tradition of assisting with the delivery of training with the New Zealand Fire Service.

Under the leadership of Chairperson John McDonough, Station Officer, from the NSW Fire Brigades and the Deputy Chairperson Corey Dunn, CFS State Training Officer, it is hoped that this Working Group will assist in providing all agencies with a clear direction as they enhance their areas of training in structural fire fighting.



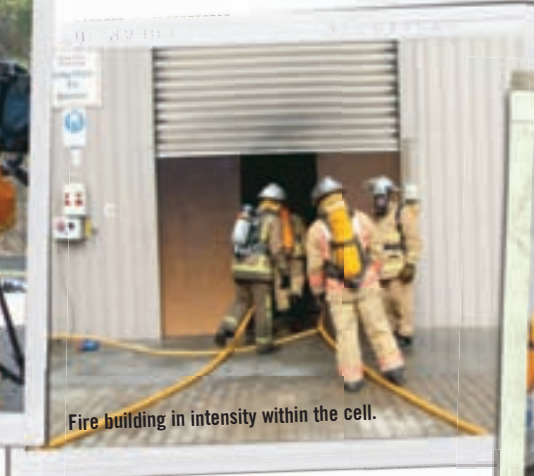
John McDonough, Station Officer, NSW Fire Brigades practicing gas cooling techniques.



Participants entering Cell A to undertake the first burn.



Channel 9 interviewing Peter Mason, District Officer, SA Metropolitan Fire Service.



Fire building in intensity within the cell.



Safety Officers check participants before undertaking a burn.

## MEDICAL FORM NOW ON WEB

By: Garth Hogarth, CFS State Training Officer, Project Manager OBAOC/CABA

The new Medical Form Version 7 for Operate Breathing Apparatus Open Circuit (OBAOC) and CABA Operator refresher (CABA) is now available via the CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

Volunteers wishing to use this form must ensure they comply with the requirements as stated.

CABA medical V7 is the only

medical that will be accepted by the CFS for trainees undertaking initial or refresher training.

CFS will not be responsible for the reimbursement of any CABA medical cost incurred by volunteers who have not received confirmation of a course nomination approval from either their Regional Training Officer or the OBAOC Project Manager.

<< The new Medical Form V7 available on the CFS website.





# Weather and Bushfire Behaviour



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VOLUNTEER - WEATHER & BUSHFIRE BEHAVIOUR INFORMATION & POSTER

SA has a history of droughts and severe fire weather, which has caused some devastating fires, causing extensive loss of life and property. Such tragedies are high on the list of “Natural Disasters.”

It is important for each level of our Service to understand the weather, where they can access the information and the potential for its adverse influence on bushfire behaviour, either immediately or within a few days.

Firefighters - should be aware of the strategies and tactics to be implemented, their surroundings, fuel levels, fire behaviour, current and forecast weather, so that they work as an integrated team supporting each other, not just relying on their crew leader's knowledge and competencies.

Crew Leaders - should obtain weather information from their Incident Control Centre, that can access the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website.

Sector Commanders and Divisional Commanders - are expected to have a superior understanding of weather prediction and the effects on fire behaviour.

Incident Controllers - are responsible for obtaining and analysing all relevant weather information, current and forecast, to establish and implement strategies to ensure the safety of all involved. This will be the role of a Situation Officer during a complex incident

To calculate the Fire Danger Index (FDI) on a total fire ban day or when responding to an incident, you need to know, the drought factor (scale of 1 – 10) for Forest FDI (FFDI), relative humidity, temperature and wind speed for both FFDI and GFDI, and curing for GFDI. The FDI's for

permanent weather stations are displayed on the BOM Registered User website.

It is essential to be aware of a change in wind strength or direction, either by being provided with the forecast or by observing the “tell-tale” signs – a flank can quickly become a front and could seriously affect the safety of your crew.

Apart from a front, sudden wind changes may also be associated with downbursts from thunderstorms or showers from higher based clouds, willy-willy or the arrival of a sea breeze.

Firefighters can determine the likely change of wind direction from a downburst by the location and direction of travel of the storm.

Any such change not already forecast must be communicated immediately to the Incident Control Centre and all crews on the fireground.

It is important to take weather readings on the fireground, which should be relayed to the Incident Control Centre.

This weather information will enable you to utilise the forest or grassland fire danger meter and assist in predicting the fire behaviour.

The BOM require your accurate fireground observations to provide a

special fire weather forecast for the next 12/24 hours or 4 days.

The BOM website can provide current and predicted weather, specifically:

- Weather Forecasts, Warnings and Observations
- Weather Charts
- Radar Images
- Satellite Images
- National Weather Charts including Mean Sea Level (MSL) Analysis and Prognosis
- Rainfall and Temperature Maps
- Seasonal Outlooks

The weather information forms an integral part of the Incident Action Plan (IAP), which details the efficient and effective use of all resources to effectively contain the fire in the shortest possible time, minimising life, property and environmental loss.

The CFS has access to the “Registered User” section of the BOM website, which provides additional information including:

- 12/24 hour and four-day going fire forecasts.
- Latest Weather Chart and Satellite Picture
- Current Observations
- Radar images and radar derived rainfall totals
- Recent Conditions including Rainfall Maps

- Drought Factor and Mount Soil Dryness Index (MSDI) for selected locations.
- Weather Bulletins including weather and rainfall data
- Forecast Charts including MSL Analysis and Prognosis
- Forecasts and Warnings including SA Fire Danger Ratings, Smoke Dispersion Forecasting Model for hazard reduction burns and bushfires

During the Fire Danger Season, the CFS State Coordination Centre (SCC) facilitates a weather briefing for the next week during a phone conference at 10.30am each Thursday for all agencies' regional fire managers around the State.

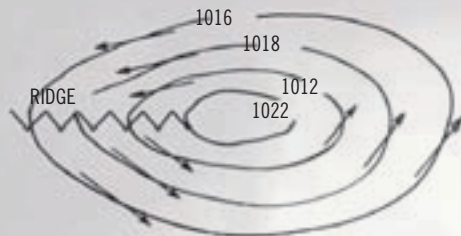
Total fire bans (TFBs) are based on the ratings (derived from forecasts of weather elements – temperature, relative humidity and wind speed – as well as the Drought Factors and Grassland Curing at specified locations in each South Australian Fire Ban District) received daily from the Bureau of Meteorology, during the fire danger season, at approximately 4.30pm.

After reviewing the forecast from the BOM, the Deputy State Coordinator (or other delegated officer) will determine which districts will have a TFB imposed.

# WEATHER AND BUSH

## HIGH PRESSURE SYSTEM

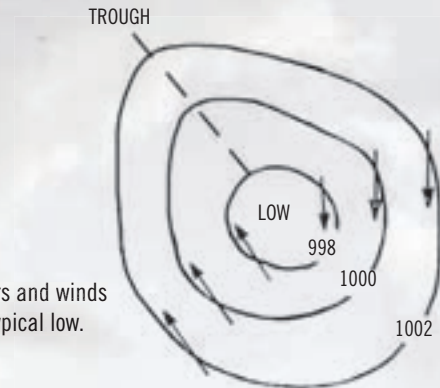
High pressure systems provide dry, warm weather with the possibility of a lead up to critical fire weather. Winds circulate anti-clockwise.



Isobars showing a ridge or wedge of high pressure.

## LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM

Winds circulate clockwise.



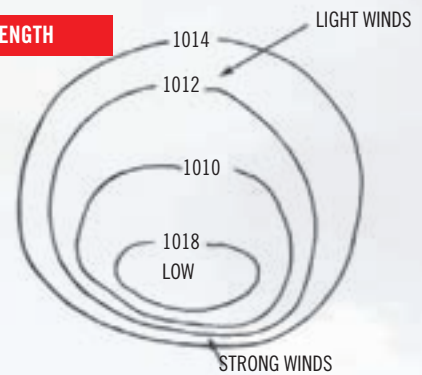
Isobars and winds of a typical low.

## WIND PATTERNS



Streamlines show the direction of wind flows around highs and lows.

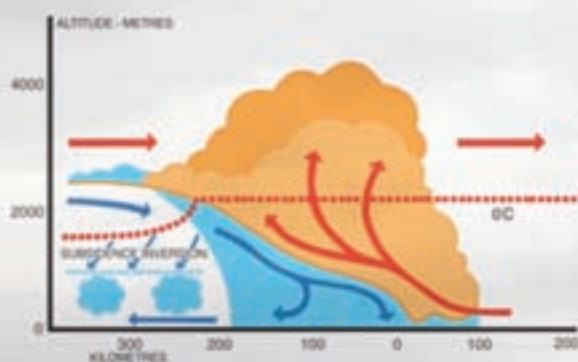
## WIND STRENGTH



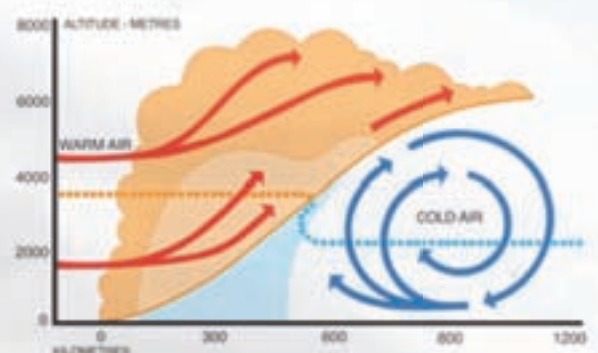
Wind strength according to pressure gradient. The closer the isobars, the stronger the wind.

## FRONTAL SYSTEMS

When one air mass moves into an area occupied by another, the two do not mix substantially unless their temperature and moisture are similar. A boundary zone known as a front forms between the two.



Diagrammatic cross section of a typical cold front.



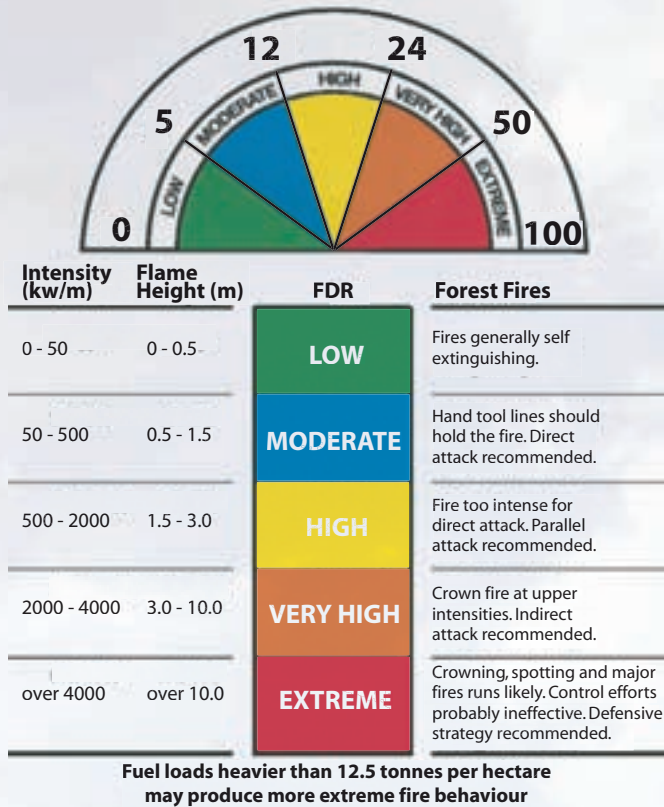
Diagrammatic cross section of a typical warm front.



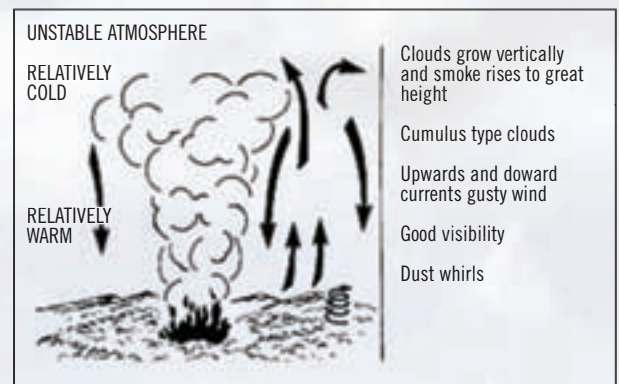
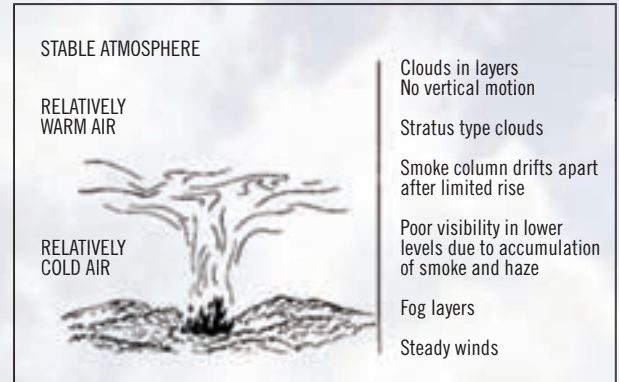
# FIRE BEHAVIOUR



## FIRE DANGER INDEX AND RATING

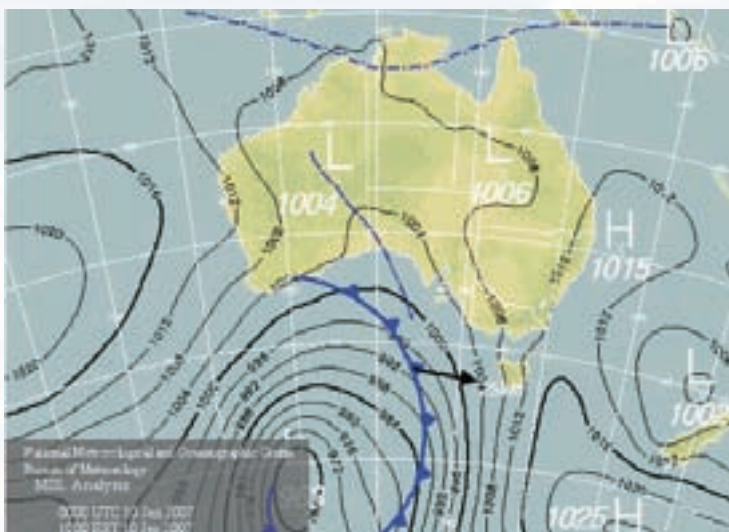


## STABLE & UNSTABLE ATMOSPHERE



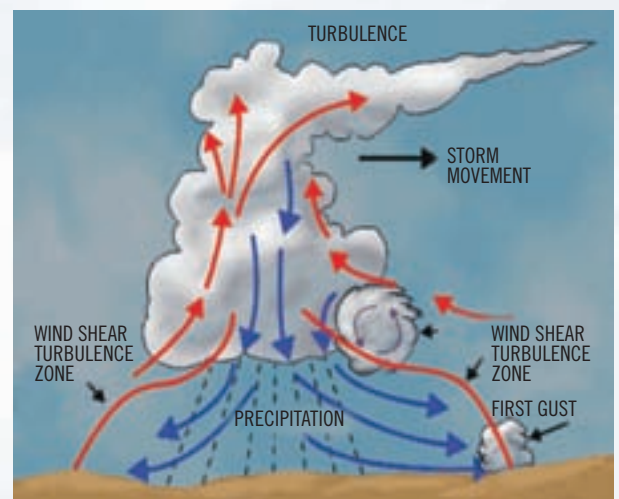
## SUMMER HEATWAVE: Typical Bad Fire Weather Situation

Strong cold front moving through the Bight. Strong, dry N to NW winds ahead of the front.



## DOWNBURST (Microburst or Macroburst)

Cool dense air sinks and spreads out rapidly in all directions, typically at 80kph but can be up to 270kph causing a dangerous situation for firefighters.





## Beaufort Scale

Is a scale that uses observations of the effects of wind to estimate its speed.

## Cold Front

Where relatively cold, dense air moves towards the equator, causing warmer, less dense air to be forced upwards over its sloping surface with the consequent reduction in temperature.

When sufficient moisture is present in the air, the uplift associated with the front can result in the formation of large cumulus clouds. Cumulus clouds produce shower type weather, and sometimes develop further into thunderstorms.

If the air is very dry, a cold front can also bring a “dry change” with a change in wind direction and drop in temperature but with little or no cloud.

Cold fronts are much shallower (less vertical height) in summer and move quickly up the gulfs, but take much longer to pass over the hot land.

Often at night, the front can suddenly accelerate over the land because the air over the land cools down.

## Convection

Is the process generally associated with warm, rising air and the formation of cumulus cloud.

Showers and thunderstorms are a result of convection in the atmosphere.

## Downburst

Is a strong downdraught generated by a falling shaft of rain, associated with an isolated storm or shower, which rarely lasts more than 10 – 15 minutes.

Dry downbursts can occur when the rain evaporates before it reaches the ground, where the intense cooling caused by the evaporation causes the descending air to become denser and sink even faster.

When the downdraught hits the ground the wind spreads out rapidly in all directions, 80kph is typical but can be up to 270kph.

## Drought Factor

Is a scale of 1 - 10, used when calculating the forest fire danger with the McArthur fire danger meter. It is based on the Mount Soil Dryness Index, the number of days since rain and the rainfall amount at the time of last rain.

## El Niño

Nowadays, the term El Niño refers to the extensive warming of the Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean that leads to a major shift in weather patterns across the Pacific.

In Australia (particularly Eastern Australia), El Niño events are associated with an increased probability of drier conditions.

## Front

Is the boundary between air masses having different characteristics.

## Gust

Is any sudden increase of wind of short duration, usually a few seconds.

## Highs

In the Southern Hemisphere are atmospheric circulations that rotate anticlockwise with sinking air spreading out in a spiral away from centre.

Highs are generally associated with lighter winds and fine and settled conditions.

## Isobars

Are lines on weather maps joining places with the same mean sea level air pressure.

Mean sea level pressure is an “equivalent pressure at sea level” that allows stations at different heights to be compared by taking their altitude into account.

## Mount Soil Dryness Index (MSDI)

The Mount Soil Dryness Index (SDI) is calculated using the 24-hour rainfall and maximum temperature to 9 am each day and is an indicator of the amount of rainfall (in mm) required to saturate the top layer of soil within a forested area.

The Mount SDI value varies, depending on what type of forest canopy is assumed. For locations in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South East districts, the Mount SDI is representative of a pine plantation (indicated by the darker green shading in the table above). For the remaining locations (olive green shading), the calculated Mount SDI is representative of an open eucalypt forest.

For full details, see the paper by A. B. Mount, “The derivation and testing of a soil dryness index using run-off data”, published as Bulletin Number 4 by the Forestry and Timber Bureau, Canberra, August 1967.

The Drought Factor (DF) calculation is based on the rainfall record over the past 20 days and the current Mount SDI.

## La Niña

The extensive cooling of the Central and Eastern Pacific Ocean.

In Australia (particularly Eastern Australia), La Niña events are associated with increased probability of wetter conditions.

## Lows

In the southern hemisphere are atmospheric circulations that rotate clockwise with converging air rising in the centre.

Lows are generally associated with stronger winds, unsettled conditions, cloudiness and rainfall.

## Portable Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS)

Portable Automatic Weather Stations (PAWS) are a valuable tool in obtaining critical real-time weather information at or very near an incident.

PAWS units provide information about air temperature, relative humidity, mean wind speed, gustiness, wind direction, barometric pressure and rain.

Weather information from PAWS units is made available via the BOM website during major incidents.

Relative Humidity - Is a traditional indicator of the air's moisture content.

It is the ratio of the amount of moisture actually in the air to the maximum amount of moisture, which the air could hold at the same temperature.

Relative humidity is normally expressed as a percentage and at saturation the relative humidity will be very close to 100%.

The air can hold more moisture at higher temperatures; hence the relative humidity alone does not give an absolute measure of moisture content.

## Ridge

A ridge is an elongated area of relatively high pressure.

It is indicated by rounded isobars extending outwards from an anti-cyclone (high) and has a ridgeline associated with it.

The ridge axis is occasionally shown as a wavy line on the weather chart, but is often not indicated at all.

## Southern Oscillation Index (SOI)

Is calculated from the monthly or

seasonal fluctuations in the air pressure difference between Tahiti and Darwin.

## Squall

Comprises a rather sudden increase of the mean wind speed, which lasts for at least several minutes before the mean wind returns to near its previous value.

A squall may include many gusts.

## Thunderstorms

Deep convective clouds or clusters of clouds from which lightning and the resulting thunder occur.

Thunderstorms are usually associated with precipitation (rain or sometimes hail). However, a thunderstorm may have lightning to peripheral areas where no rain falls or it may be a completely dry storm creating lightning strikes to ground, which have the potential to start fires.

## Troughs

A trough is an elongated area of relatively low pressure.

It is indicated by rounded isobars extending outwards from an area of low pressure and has a trough line associated with it.

The trough axis is usually shown as a dotted line on the weather chart.

## Wind

Is movement of air and is experienced as a continuous succession of gusts and lulls (quiet intervals) associated with equally rapid changes of direction over a range, which may exceed 30°.

The mean wind speed over a period of time is therefore the mean of many gusts and lulls.

Usually only the mean wind is forecast, unless the gusts are expected to be a significant feature.

For instance, Fresh, gusty south-west winds indicates that the mean wind speed will be between 30 and 40 km/h and the mean wind direction will be from the southwest, but that there will also be gusts with speeds significantly higher than the mean.

**Thanks to the following individuals for their assistance:**

**Alan Brinkworth and Ben Shepherd, NSW Rural Fire Service**  
**John Prideaux, Bureau of Meteorology**  
**Rob Sandford, CFS Manager Operations Planning**



# CFS Promotions Unit

[www.fire-brigade.asn.au](http://www.fire-brigade.asn.au)

Founded in 1994, the unit now has an extensive information website aimed at promoting CFS volunteers by describing what the CFS does and how to join for new recruits.

A photo gallery is a highlight of the site with up to date pictures from all over the State, depicting members in action during incidents and activities.



We require your assistance to keep this resource fresh and informative, by letting us know if details on the site are correct or need updating.

By sending us your photographs, we are able to show the public the type of incidents and activities CFS members around the State are involved in.

Feel free to contact us if you have any information or pictures for the site at [admin@fire-brigade.asn.au](mailto:admin@fire-brigade.asn.au)

Our new Promotions Pumper came on line this year and will be seen visiting events and activities around the State. To find out more on these happenings, check out our news section on the front page.

For more information about the unit, ring **Pip or Ashes on 83903442**



## Charter of the Promotions Unit

- Promote the volunteer nature, role and size of the CFS
- Support the members of the CFS
- Educate the public on
  - The operational activities of CFS members, and
  - The support roles of CFS HQ and volunteers.
- Encourage new recruits to join the service
- Demonstrate the commitment of CFS volunteers to serving their community
- Gain public support for the CFS volunteers and organisation





## MOUNT LOFTY RANGES & KANGAROO ISLAND

# CAPE JERVIS CFS DINNER

By: Ian Henry, Cape Jervis CFS

**O**n December 15 2006 the Cape Jervis CFS held it's annual Christmas party at the Cape Jervis Tavern.

This may not sound exciting to most, however this was also a special occasion to present two of our highly regarded fire fighters with very prestigious awards.

Phil Irvine (presently our Group Officer for the Southern Fleurieu) and Trevor Bennett (Lieutenant 2 for the Cape Jervis Brigade) were awarded life membership for their dedicated service over many decades as members of the Cape Jervis CFS.

Phil Irvine joined the Cape Jervis CFS in 1982 and had within 10 years moved up the ranks to become Brigade Captain in 1994.

As a born leader his talents were soon recognised as he was nominated and became Group officer in 2000.

Phil is always calm and in control and has had to deal with quiet a few interesting situations.

He has spoken about stepping down recently to allow other fire fighters to take command however his popularity and reputation have not allowed this to eventuate.

He has set a standard that will be hard to beat.

Phil Irvine is truly deserving of life membership and a valuable member of both the Cape Jervis CFS and the Southern Fleurieu Group.

The group wishes to thank Phil for all his time and commitment to the CFS (most of that unseen by your average fire fighter) and appreciates his dedication and perseverance to the group.

Trevor Bennett is one of the rare locals of Delamere / Cape Jervis, with his ancestry going back a very long way in the local area.

Trevor joined the Cape Jervis CFS as a young lad of 20 years and often tells us of the changes that have occurred over this time.

Trevor has been a Training Officer, Lieutenant, Cadet Coordinator, Equipment Officer, Captain and Senior Fire fighter.

Having been in CFS for 43 years, we figure he must have just about covered all the positions over this time.

Trevor has a great sense of humour and a fabulous disposition.

He is never frazzled and adapts to difficult situations well.

## ALDINGA PLANE CRASH

**C**FS volunteers responded to an aircraft incident on 14 June 2007.

Reported to CFS just before 9:30 am, firefighters arrived to find an aircraft suspended in a vineyard off Adey Road.

Aldinga Beach, Willunga and Sellicks brigades attended the incident to monitor the fuel leak and assist other agencies.

Aircraft crash in vineyard at Aldinga.



He is a highly regarded truck driver and considered one of the best in the group.

He's never pretentious, just the quiet achiever (maybe sometimes not so quiet).

Trevor, well and truly deserves this Life Membership, he's a great fire fighter, an excellent leader, and a true friend.

It is difficult to express our true admiration for both Phil and Trevor.

Phil Bowey (our existing Cape Jervis Captain) presented these awards unbeknown to either recipient.

As part of the proceedings poems were read out to express some of our inner most feelings.

Marie Buller constructed a poem on the more serious side of both parties while Ian Henry responded on a not so serious side.

They were well received, however I suspect they will not end up on the lounge room wall alongside the Life Membership certificate.

Thanks to all for a great night and congratulations to both Phil and Trevor.



Phil Irvine and Trevor Bennett



## \$80 000 HOUSE FIRE AT CHARLESTON

**C**FS volunteer responded to a house fire at Charleston just after 11:30pm on 16 May 2007.

When firefighters arrived, the rear of the house on Onkaparinga Valley Road was well alight.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus entered the house, and were greeted by a large dog, barking furiously.

As firefighters started their search of the house, the dog proceeded to run back and forth between the entrance door and another internal door.

Firefighters followed the dog through the internal door and conducted a search of the room, locating an occupant.

Both the occupant and the dog were then safely removed from the home by firefighters.

Firefighters contained the fire in just over 30 minutes.

Damage to the two bedroom timber frame home was estimated at \$80 000.

Fire cause investigators determined that the fire started as a result of a fault with an electrical fan.



# STRATHALBYN GROUP CFS WATER RECYCLING GRANT

By: Lorraine McVitty

The Strathalbyn Group CFS was successful in its application to the Australian Government's Community Water Grants for funding to assist in creating a water recycling training pad.

Strathalbyn CFS received \$50,000 in Round 2 of the Community Water Grants.

Over 4,500 applications were submitted Australia wide in the Round and \$61.65 million was approved to fund 1,444 projects throughout the country.

The Strathalbyn Group project was supported because it is community orientated, it demonstrates public

benefit and involves practical on-the-ground works that will save and protect our water resources.

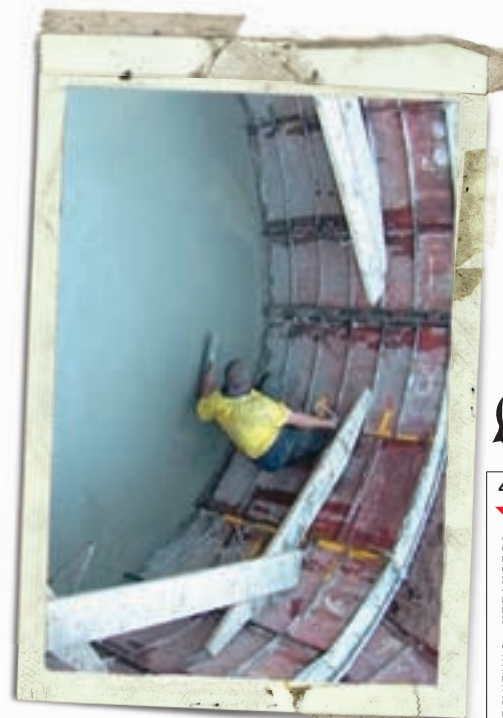
The Strathalbyn project is to construct a specially designed, paved training pad where all of the water used for fire fighting training purposes can be collected and channelled into an underground concrete tank, from where it can be repeatedly reused.

Currently, the water utilized for training purposes is used once then flows away into the storm water system.

With this innovative approach to Fire Fighter training, we expect to save more than 2 million litres of water per annum.

Strathalbyn Group Officer, Rob Giles said, "we are proud to work together with the Australian Government to help improve water efficiency within our community".

"Community Water Grants encourage better water use and improvements in water quality through practical on-the-ground projects, such as reducing pollutants reaching our waterways, water recycling and efficiency initiatives," said Mr Giles.



^ Concreting the inside of the tank.

## CAR TRANSPORTER ROLLS ON FREEWAY

In the early hours on 22 May 2007, Mount Barker and Hahndorf CFS crews were called to assist with a MVA on the Freeway near Hahndorf. Reported to CFS just after 2:30am,

crews arrived on scene to find a car transport semi trailer had rolled onto its side and was facing the wrong way.

The driver was trapped inside and

some of the cars, being transported, were scattered across the freeway.

Crews worked for some time to free the driver, which was made difficult due to the extrication

needing to be done through the passenger side door.

After some time the driver was freed and sent to hospital with relatively minor injuries.



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE



## HAPPY VALLEY CFS OPEN DAY AND APPLIANCE COMMISSIONING

The Happy Valley CFS brigade held an Open Day and Appliance Commissioning at Happy Valley CFS Station on 27 May 2007.

Starting at 10:00 am, the Minister for Emergency Services, the Honourable Carmel Zollo MLC, officially handed over the keys to two new appliances, Happy Valley 34 and Happy Valley Pumper.

These two new appliances have assisted in strengthening the brigades firefighting capabilities, not

only to bushfires, but also to urban structure fires within the district and surrounding areas.

The brigade boasts a strong membership of 44 dedicated and professional volunteers, made up of 32 firefighters and 11 operational support members.

Established in 1939 as the Happy Valley Firefighting and Prevention Association, the brigade now attends 200 – 300 emergency incidents per year.



Happy Valley CFS Members  
Photo: Pip McGowen, Basket Range CFS

Happy Valley CFS Brigade Captain, Lee Filz, said the day was a special occasion for the brigade.

"After such a busy fire season it was great opportunity for us to get together, celebrate the hard work that has been put in by everyone and

recognise how valuable these two firefighting appliances are to the community," Lee said.

The community was also encouraged to come to the station and have a look at what the brigade has to offer and to speak to the volunteers.

## FIRE DESTROYS CARAVAN AT DARLINGTON

CFS firefighters from Happy Valley and Eden Hills brigades and MFS firefighters responded to a fire at Darlington Caravan Park just before 6:00 pm on 2 June 2007.

When firefighters arrived at the Sturt River Caravan Park on Brookside Road they found a caravan with attached annexe fully ablaze.

CFS and MFS firefighters worked to contain the blaze, however the property was fully destroyed.

One occupant was home at the time

of the fire and suffered minor injuries trying to extinguish the blaze.

Firefighters set up hose lines to protect two adjacent caravans, which sustained minor damage to the annexes.

Quick thinking by other caravan park residents in protecting the adjacent caravans and removing gas cylinders prior to the arrival of firefighters, ensured that the blaze did not spread significantly.

Damage was estimated at \$15 000.

The cause of the fire was undetermined but not suspicious.



Scene on arrival Photo: Jeff Anderson, Happy Valley CFS

## RANGE HOPE FOREST ASSISTS WITH HORSE RESCUE

On the evening of 10 May 2007, Range/Hope Forest CFS brigade responded to an incident with a difference.

Just after 8:30pm the brigade was called to assist with rescuing a horse that had fallen into a rainwater tank.

Needing to pump out the tank to assist the rescue the brigade responded its 24 and 34 appliances.

Once enough water had been removed from the tank the horse was placed in a harness attached to a crane and lifted out of the tank.

It took just over three hours for the very lucky uninjured horse to be lifted to safety.

State Emergency Service and the RSPCA were also in attendance.



Rescuers prepare to rescue the horse.  
Photo: Ian Hockley, Range/Hope Forest CFS



## \$300 000 DAMAGE TO STRATHALBYN STORE

**V**olunteers were responded to a fire at an antiques store at Strathalbyn on the evening of Sunday 18 February 2007.

On arriving at the High Street store firefighters found that the fire was confined to the roof space and back office area.

More than 45 firefighters some wearing breathing apparatus contained the fire and were able

to stop the fire from spreading to the rest of the building, saving many of the antiques and collectables inside.

An adjoining building was also threatened but spared from damage due to the firefighting efforts.

Damage to the property was estimated at \$300 000.

Fire cause investigators were unable to determine the cause of the fire, however, it was not suspicious.



Crews working at Strathalbyn store fire.  
Photo: Simon Patterson, Strathalbyn CFS



Happy Valley house fire



## \$200 000 DAMAGE TO HAPPY VALLEY HOME

**J**ust after 12:30 am on 24 June 2007, CFS and SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) responded to a house fire at Happy Valley.

When the more than 30 firefighters arrived at the Southern Cross Drive home they found the front rooms ablaze.

Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus work quickly to contain the fire within 30 minutes.

Sound firefighting efforts prevented

Internal view of damage to the home

the home from being fully destroyed with only the front rooms and above roof space being destroyed, the remaining parts of the home suffered some smoke damage.

Fire cause investigators determined that the fire started when soft furnishing were placed too close to a heater.

The occupants were not home at the time of the fire.

Damage was estimated at \$200 000.

## FIRE DESTROYS SHED AT WOODSIDE

**C**FS volunteers from Woodside, Lenswood/Forest Range and Oakbank/Balhannah brigades responded to a shed fire at Woodside on 15 June 2007.

Reported to CFS just before 4:30 pm, firefighters arrived at the Gallas

Road property to find a 9 x 12 metre shed well alight.

Around 15 firefighters contained the fire to the shed and protected surrounding assets.

The shed and contents were completely destroyed and the

final damage estimate was approximately \$150 000.

Local Police investigators confirmed the fire was caused by an adjacent rubbish burn that spread to the shed.

Ashley Hosking, Basket Range CFS



## HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL AT GOOLWA

**V**olunteers from Goolwa and Currency Creek CFS brigades responded to a hazardous material (HAZMAT) spill at the Investigator College, Glendale Road Goolwa, on 22 May 2007.

Reported to CFS just after 2:30pm fifteen firefighters arrived to find a Mercury thermometer broken in one of the classrooms.

Crews contained the spill within a short period of time.

A number of children were transported by SA Ambulance to the local medical centre for observation and were discharged shortly after.

Crews clean up mercury spill  
Photo: Alan Bence, Goolwa CFS





# SALISBURY RAR TRAINING EXERCISE

On 30 April, volunteers from Salisbury CFS joined with St John and SA Police to conduct a Road Accident Rescue (RAR) training exercise.

The training was to simulate a major road accident, involving multiple vehicles, multiple casualties and the coordination of multiple agencies.

On arrival, volunteers were faced with a three car accident; two of the vehicles had entrapments and one included a fatality.

One of the aims of the training was to give those that didn't have a great deal of experience in RAR the chance to become more familiar with what processes are used and to give other members more experience in senior roles.

To add some realism to the scenario, St John prepared the casualties with fake wounds and blood on their faces.

The scene was made more difficult with on lookers and relatives of the casualties getting in the way of CFS and St John operations.

Police were used to assist with traffic and crowd control and to speak with the drivers of the vehicles.

The training proved to be a good exercise in the coordination of equipment that needed to be shared between the two teams undertaking rescue operations on the two vehicles with entrapments.

Crews also needed to consider the operational needs of St John who

were undertaking first aid on the casualties.

Once the training session was complete, a debrief was held back at the station where everyone agreed that the training was extremely useful and very well put together.

A big thank you to all that participated in the evening.



▲ St John and CFS prepare to remove casualty from the vehicle.



The blaze when first crews arrived.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS

## \$1M HAYSHED FIRE AT FREELING

On 1 May, CFS firefighters responded to a large hayshed fire at Freeling, approximately 60 kilometres north of Adelaide.

Reported just before 10.45 pm, CFS crews arrived on the Shanahan property, Gawler Road at Freeling, to find the shed well ablaze.

Around 30 firefighters in four appliances undertook a defensive

attack due to the extreme heat generated by the fire, by protecting nearby assets and ensuring the fire did not spread.

More than 3 000 tonnes of hay in a shed approximately 130 x 30 metres in size burnt for several days.

Damage to the shed and hay was estimated at \$1 000 000.



Michael Alderslade, Brigade Captain, Sheaoak Log CFS, as Operations Officer at the incident.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS



Gungellan 24 at the Hayshed fire.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS



Hay still burning three days later.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS



# \$150 000 DAMAGE TO VIRGINIA HOME

**C**FS responded to a house fire at Virginia, north of Adelaide, on 28 February.

Reported to CFS just after midnight, when firefighters arrived at the home on the corner of Supple and McEvoy Roads, they found the front rooms of the home engulfed in flames.

More than 25 firefighters some wearing breathing apparatus took around 30 minutes to contain the fire.

The home suffered extensive smoke and heat damage, with damage estimated at \$150 000.

Fire Cause Investigators determined the fire started after a hot water system overheated, due to a lack of water.



<< Damage to the home was estimated at \$150 000.

The front rooms of the Virginia >> home were engulfed in flames when CFS firefighters arrived.



# SIXTY YEARS OF ARDROSSAN CFS

By: Nic Marsh, Ardrossan CFS

**O**n a cool Sunday, on 12 August, a day when firefighting was probably the furthest thing from people's minds, the Ardrossan CFS celebrated 60 years of service to the local community.

Kicking-off proceedings Greg Vandepeer, Brigade Captain, welcomed the people who attended the ceremony and gave a brief rundown of the history of the Ardrossan Brigade.

Of particular interest was the degree of fundraising involved in the early years of the organisation, something the Emergency Services Levy has effectively made redundant.

Greg then handed over to Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer, who spoke briefly about the volunteer ethic in local communities and the sacrifice families, individuals and employers made to keep an organisation like the CFS viable.

Euan unveiled a plaque commemorating 60 years of service, before presenting long service awards to 11 local members, for 10 to 45 years of service; in all, the awards

recognised a commitment of 225 years of service.

He also officially handed over the keys to the two newest trucks recently supplied to the Ardrossan CFS.

These trucks feature a number of safety features designed to provide the maximum possible protection for firefighters in the event of a burnover.

Euan informed the crowd one of his less savoury duties involved visiting injured firefighters in hospital, a job he expected to be doing less often, now these safety features are a part of all fire trucks.

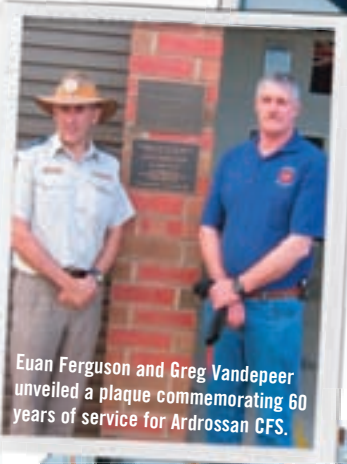
The afternoon concluded with Life Member, Robert Hogarth, unveiling an honour board to recognise the work of the past captains of Ardrossan station; a list of 12 names stretching back to 1947.

Afternoon tea and the chance to catch up with past acquaintances ended the official presentations.

Anyone interested in joining the Ardrossan CFS is invited to attend any Monday night training session for more information.

New members welcome!

Robert Hogarth unveils the >> Ardrossan CFS Captains honour board.



Euan Ferguson and Greg Vandepeer unveiled a plaque commemorating 60 years of service for Ardrossan CFS.

✓ Peter Freer (25yr), Ian Hicks (10yr), Sue Beck (10yr), Brian Tugwell (45yr), Greg Vandepeer (10yr), Euan Ferguson, Brenton Phillips (20yr), Graham Cooke (25yr), Neil Brown (30yr), Alia Beaumont (for Tim Beaumont – 10yrs)

Absent: David Porter (10yrs), Bruno Rovelli (15yrs)





## HOUSE DESTROYED AT BOWMANS

**C**FS volunteers responded to a house fire at Bowmans, near Port Wakefield on 27 May.

Reported to CFS at 3.30pm, on arrival firefighters found the Branch Hill Road home engulfed in flames.

More than 25 firefighters, some wearing breathing apparatus, contained the fire within 30 minutes, however the home was completely destroyed.

A single occupant was at home at the time of the fire and was alerted to the fire by a working smoke detector.

Damage was estimated at \$160 000.



House fire at Branch Hill Road, Bowmans on 27 May 2007.

## ROSEWORTHY CFS 'DOGS BREAKFAST'

**By:** Peter Ashcroft, Brigade Captain, Roseworthy CFS

**T**he Roseworthy CFS 'Dogs Breakfast' has been held on Good Friday morning every year for over 20 years.

The brigade provides a breakfast of pancakes and orange juice for the community.

The breakfast originated in the early years of the Brigade to help raise funds and originally was held at Bob 'The Dog' Atkinson's farm at Roseworthy.

Bob was one of the original founding members of the Brigade, and a long standing President of the Management Committee.

The breakfast eventually moved to the Roseworthy Hall after a few years.

Originally called the President's Breakfast, when Bob left the district, the Brigade continued the breakfast but changed its name to the 'Dogs Breakfast'.



The annual 'Dogs Breakfast' involves Roseworthy CFS members, other Brigades in the Group and members of the community.

## \$32,000 UPGRADE FOR HAMLEY BRIDGE CFS

**H**amley Bridge CFS has landed a \$32,000 windfall of high-tech rescue equipment.

Rescue officer, Mark Nappa, said the long awaited upgrade meant the brigade could now more effectively and efficiently rescue car crash victims from wrecks.

"We're lucky to be about the third brigade in the state to receive the equipment," said Mr Nappa.

The state-of-the-art equipment includes a jaws of life, specialised

cutter and spreader, rams and hydraulic pump.

"The old gear didn't cope well with heavier metals used in newer cars," said Mr Nappa.

Brigade volunteers haven't wasted any time in trying out their new road crash rescue gear with practise run on an old car where they removed the entire side and roof dining a mock rollover.

(Plains Producer, 20 June 2007)



# NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTRE IN CLARE

Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo, SA SES Acting Chief Officer Stuart Macleod, and SA CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, with local volunteers following the official opening ceremony on 29 July 2007 at Clare.

Photo: Photo courtesy of the Northern Argus



<< CFS and SES volunteers and their appliances, along with Clare's first Ford Blitz fire truck.

Photo: Photo courtesy of the Northern Argus

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo, officially opened the Clare co-located CFS and SES Emergency Services Centre on Sunday 29 July.

The new \$845 000 facility is also a Level Three Incident Coordination Centre.

The centre has exceeded members' expectations, providing separate

storage buildings for CFS and SES, enabling housing of appliances and equipment in the one location.

The centre also has joint kitchen and bathroom facilities, large meeting/operations rooms, a communications room as well as separate offices and car parking facilities for each service.

## FIRE DESTROYS SHED AT WILLIAMSTOWN

CFS volunteers responded to a shed fire at Williamstown, near Gawler, on 7 May.

Reported to CFS just before 8pm, when firefighters arrived at the South Terrace property they found the 10m x 35m shed well alight.

Around 50 firefighters, some wearing breathing apparatus, took

over an hour to contain the fire.

The fire destroyed the shed containing maintenance machinery and tools for the properties beehive production company, two vintage cars and two tonnes of bee's wax.

Estimated dollar damage was minimum \$100 000.

## COTTAGE AT RIVERTON DESTROYED BY ARSON

CFS responded to a fire at a stone cottage at Riverton in the Gilbert Valley at 3am on 7 June 2007.

Neighbours alerted emergency services of the fire by calling 000 upon hearing noise coming from the cottage.

When firefighters arrived at the cottage on Charles Street they found it fully

ablaze and the smoke alarms fitted to the building were still operating.

25 CFS firefighters worked to contain the blaze rapidly; however the property was fully destroyed.

The cottage had been recently vacated by tenants and was unoccupied at the time of the fire.

Damage was estimated at \$100 000.



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# \$500 000 HAYSHED FIRE

**C**FS responded to a hayshed fire at Freeling, north of Gawler, on 16 January at around 4.45pm. When firefighters arrived at the Kapunda Road property they found the shed containing 900 large hay bales well ablaze.

Around 45 firefighters in eight appliances worked to control the fire, however the 25 x 35 metre shed suffered significant damage.

The shed, farming machinery housed in the shed and the rear of a semi trailer and a prime mover parked next to the shed all suffered damage.

Firefighters ploughed a 50 metre wide firebreak around the burnt shed and undertook asset protection on another shed located close by.

Damage was estimated at \$500 000.

Jarrad Symons, Sheaoak Log CFS, doing asset protection.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS

Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS



^ This image was taken when the road side of the Shed gave way.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS



Image of the hayshed fire on the first night.  
Photo: Lindy Alderslade, Sheaoak Log CFS

## AWARD NIGHT AT DUBLIN

**O**n 30 April, Dublin CFS held an Award Presentation night for its members.

The evening also included the commissioning of the brigade's new RCR cutting equipment, followed by a brigade raffle.

A number of awards were presented on the night, recognising the valuable service given to the local community.

Recipients of the awards were:

**Terrance Halford** - 30-year Service Certificate

**Anthony Pietersen**

- 25-year Service Certificate and Life Member of CFS Certificate

**Brian Grocke** - 25-year

Service Certificate

**Ronald Ferme** - 25-year

Service Certificate

**Annette Halford** - 20-

year Service Certificate

**Vera Pietersen** - 20-year

Service Certificate

The night was enjoyed by all that attended.



Vera Pietersen

Anthony Pietersen



Brian Grocke

Terrance Halford

Annette Halford



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE



# MT PLEASANT CFS WINS SAFETY AWARD

An initiative to educate landholders about bushfire risk, and possibly recruit new members, has won the Mt Pleasant CFS brigade a 2007 Australian Safer Community Award.

CFS members have been applauded for their New Residents Kit - a collection of educational and recruiting material about bushfires and the CFS that is given to newcomers to the district via local real estate agents.

The initiative has proven so popular it is being adopted by other brigades.

Brigade Captain Jason Sabeeney said the kit was born out of discussions between members and CFS staff about how they could recruit new firefighters and how they could get information to the community about managing bushfire risk.

"I would say there's a large percentage of property owners who have probably never experienced fire first-hand," Mr Sabeeney said.

"They haven't been through an Ash Wednesday or even a Mt Bold (the major

fire near Echunga earlier this year).

"While they may be aware of the risks, they may not be taking all the necessary steps.

"This really is about encouraging people to improve their understanding so they're better prepared if it were to occur."

The brigade distributed several hundred kits to real estate agents at Mt Pleasant and Birdwood three months ago.

Mr Sabeeney said he had received a few inquiries about membership but couldn't be sure if the kits had inspired the calls.

"It's early days, although things like this are more of a long-term initiative," he said.

The captain said past fire seasons had raised concerns among volunteers about complacent landholders, particularly with issues such as clearing vegetation and having basic firefighting equipment on site.

"I think most people believe that if there's a fire, the CFS will bring a truck to their house," he said.

"That may be the case in a small



Mark Reed, left, a new resident in the Mt Pleasant district, receives a CFS information kit from Elders Real Estate agent Linda Werner and Mt Pleasant CFS Brigade Captain Jason Sabeeney.

Photo: courtesy of The Mount Barker Courier

fire but it's not possible in a large fire because we physically don't have enough trucks to cover every home so people need to be fairly self-sufficient, certainly in the initial stages."

The Australian Safer Community

Awards are sponsored by Emergency Management Australia to recognise projects that help make communities safer and offer innovative ways of dealing with emergencies.

(Mount Barker Courier, 19 September 2007)

## HAZMAT AT ST KILDA

CFS responded to a hazardous material (HAZMAT) spill at the St Kilda playground on Fooks Terrace, just off St Kilda road, on 10 May.

Reported to CFS just before 3pm, investigations revealed a spiral slide was contaminated with a herbicide.

A small chemical drum was located at the base of the slippery dip and possibly connected to the incident.

A number of children faced full decontamination procedures after being potentially exposed to the herbicide.

Preliminary investigations indicate a person rang the poison centre on finding the drum of herbicide.

As a result council workers were called to clean up the substance and the CFS and MFS were contacted.

Samples were collected from the slide and tests were conducted to confirm the substance.

The following day, SA Police revealed tests on the substance identified petrol as the cause.



CFS firefighters decontaminate children at the St Kilda playground on 10 May 2007.



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE



# MANNUM SHED FIRE

**F**ire caused an estimated \$100 000 damage to a shed at Mannum on 3 May 2007.

Around eight CFS firefighters arrived at the East Front Road premises shortly after 5:30 am to find a four-bay shed extensively involved in flames.

Volunteers wearing breathing apparatus contained the blaze within half an hour.

The fire destroyed the shed and its contents, including a boat, boat trailer, horse float, utility, backhoe and general items such as refrigerator, equipment, tools etc.

Firefighting efforts prevented the flames from spreading to a nearby riverfront house only four to five metres away.



<< Shed fire at Mannum on 3 May 2007.  
**Photo:** Terry Schutz, Mannum CFS

## SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT DRIVE FOR BARMERA CFS

**B**armera CFS Brigade undertook a successful recruitment drive in May 2007 in an effort to increase the number of members within the brigade.

Brigade Captain, Paul Stribley, said that 'the brigade needed at least another six members to be near the numbers needed.'

"We had about 33 on the books, but only about 12 of these were active members," Paul said.

The brigade held an 'expo display' in Barmera on 18 May 2007, as part of National Volunteers Week, in the search for more volunteers.

During the recruitment drive Paul kept highlighting the fact that individuals have plenty to gain from becoming CFS members.

"Not only are there opportunities to enhance personal skills and knowledge, but you meet new people and put something back into the community," he said.

Since the beginning of the recruitment drive, Barmera CFS has put nine new members through the BFF1 course, and have another two currently waiting for police clearances.

"Ideally, we would like another six members to sign up and be trained before the upcoming fire danger season.

"All in all, the recruitment drive was successful and I am happy with result," Paul said.

Anyone interested in joining the Barmera CFS should call Paul Stribley on 0428 882 905 or attend training at the Barmera Fire Station (behind the Shell Service Station), held each Monday from 7.30pm.

✓ Barmera CFS Brigade Captain Paul Stribley (front), with fellow members Glen Hansford and Joanna Schenke. This photo and accompanying recruitment drive article featured on the front page of The Murray Pioneer on 22 May 2007.

**Photo:** The Murray Pioneer.





# \$65 000 DAMAGE TO MENINGIE SHED



CFS volunteers responded to a shed fire at Meningie in the State's Upper South East just before 11am on 31 May 2007.

Firefighters arrived at the Princes Highway property to find a double-bay shed well alight with flames extending underneath the adjoining carport.

More than 10 firefighters worked to contain the fire, which destroyed the carport and shed that contained vintage bikes and household items.

Efforts by firefighters ensured the adjacent house only sustained minor smoke and heat damage.

Damage was estimated at \$65 000.

Fire cause investigators determined the cause as an electrical wiring fault.

^ Shed fire at Meningie on 31 May 2007. Photo: Adam Hurle, Meningie CFS

## GERARD HOUSE FIRE

CFS firefighters responded to a house fire at Gerard, south of Barmera, just before 7:30 am on 27 May 2007.

On arriving at the Katarapko Crescent property, more than 15 firefighters found the home and a car parked next to the home fully ablaze.

Volunteers wearing breathing apparatus worked hard to contain the fire in just over half an hour, however the home and car were fully destroyed.

A live power cable that was arcing next to the home hampered firefighting efforts and ETSA



responded to disconnect the cable to assist in making the area safe.

Two occupants were at home at the time of the fire.

Damage was estimated to be between \$80 000 - \$100 000.

# FIRE DAMAGES STORE AT SWAN REACH

CFS firefighters responded to a fire at a bakery and adjoining house at Swan Reach just before 10:30 pm on 20 February 2007.

On arriving at the Main Street property, firefighters found that the fire was confined mainly to the roof space and bakery area.

More than 20 firefighters, some

wearing breathing apparatus, contained the fire in less than an hour and were able to stop the fire from spreading to the residence at the rear of the building

Damage to the property was estimated at \$90 000.

Fire cause investigators determined the cause to be an electrical fault.



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## VEHICLE ACCIDENT RESCUE AT PALMER

CFS volunteers responded to a vehicle accident rescue at Palmer, approximately 10km from Mannum, just before 11:45 am on 28 June 2007.

Members from Mannum, Murray Bridge and Palmer CFS brigades, as well as members from Murray Bridge SES, attended the single ute rollover.

Mannum CFS Brigade Captain, Terry Schutz, said 'this job was extremely challenging due to the specific impact which resulted in a very complex extraction.

"We would not have been able to complete the job if not for the assistance of the Murray Bridge SES which provided extra equipment (using two rams at the same time) and another point of view," he said.

"Thankfully the driver did not sustain life threatening injuries.

"It took us nearly two hours to get the driver free from the car and into the waiting helicopter," Terry said.



^ CFS and SES volunteers working on a difficult extraction at a single ute rollover at Palmer on 28 June 2007. Photo: Terry Schutz, Mannum CFS.

^ The truck being put back on to its wheels by a Crain. Photos: Debbie Polst, Glossop CFS

## TRUCK ROLLOVER AT BERRI

CFS volunteers responded to a truck rollover at Berri just before 3:30 pm on 2 July 2007.

Around 15 firefighters from Glossop and Monash CFS brigades, attended the rollover at the intersection of the Old Sturt Highway and Sturt Highway.

The truck rollover at Berri on 2 July 2007. >>

The truck was transporting potting mix. Crews had to wait for a crane to come from Adelaide to assist in positioning the truck upright.



# FLINDERS TRIP WITH MINISTER

By: Mick Obst, CFS Regional Commander Region 4

On Monday 16 April through to Thursday 19 April 2007 the Minister for Emergency Services along with CFS, SES and SAFECOM representative, toured the Flinders region.

Participants of the touring party included Carmel Zollo, Minister for Emergency Services; Justin Jarvis, Ministerial Advisor; David Place, CEO SAFECOM; Mick Ayre, CFS Manager Strategic Services; Mick Obst, CFS Regional Commander Region 4; Matt Maywald, SES Regional Commander North and Sindy McCourt, SES Senior Regional Officer North.

On Monday 16 April the touring party met at Arid Lands Botanic Gardens (Port Augusta) for lunch and then travelled to Quorn to meet both CFS and SES volunteers for afternoon tea.

The CEO and Mayor of the Flinders Ranges Council together with approximately 25 people welcomed the touring party and spent an hour or so at the Quorn joint CFS/SES complex.

From here the tour travelled to Hawker to meet CFS and SES volunteers for dinner, which was catered by the Craddock Hotel.

The meal was superb and highly recommended to anyone travelling through the Flinders; the local SAPOL Officer was also in attendance at dinner.

The touring party stayed at the Outback Motel in Hawker overnight. After breakfast on Tuesday 17 April the tour group headed off to Parachilna via the Moralana Scenic Drive that is a very picturesque, but very slow drive due to the dirt road.

Upon arrival at Parachilna, morning tea was had at the Prairie Hotel

with Dave & Caroline Sciculna who are members of the newly formed Angorichna/Parachilna CRT (SES Community Response Team).

From Parachilna the tour travelled to Leigh Creek stopping off at Aroona dam, which was a superb view; a huge dam in the middle of nowhere and a must see place to see if visiting the area located about five kilometres South of Leigh Creek.

Lunch was at the Leigh Creek Tavern with SES volunteers, Leigh Creek Fire Service personnel, SAPOL, NRG Mine General Manager, Leigh Creek Town Manager, Beverley Mine General Manager and the Tavern Manager, Nadine.

From Leigh Creek the vehicles left the bitumen and started chewing dust (and there was plenty of it) whilst heading towards Iga Warta.

On the way we came across three ladies in distress with a flat tyre, who were quite impressed with the CFS and SES response times seeing that they hadn't rang anyone at that stage.

The ladies did query who the people were in the other car and when told it was the Minister for Emergency Services they were 'gob smacked'!

After changing the flat tyre the tour continued on to Iga Warta.

At Iga Warta, Terrence Coultard gave the group a tour of the facility, which comprises permanent tent accommodation and camping areas and has a very strong Aboriginal heritage theme.

The facility has plenty of overseas tourists staying there.

The tour ventured five kilometres down the road for afternoon tea with members of the Nepabunna CFS

Brigade, which is the most recently formed CFS brigade in the state.

Thanks to Kelvin, Ian, Judy, Dulcie and the other members for their hospitality and afternoon tea.

Nepabunna CFS is looking forwards to delivery of their fire appliance in the near future.

Arkaroola was the next stop for dinner with Doug Spriggs (Manager Arkaroola resort) and members of the Arkaroola CRT.

During the evening we were taken to the local observatory and spent around an hour looking at different stars and planets in the solar system, which was very interesting and informative.

The tour group rested at the Arkaroola Resort overnight.

On Wednesday the tour travelled towards Balcanoona and stopped off at Arkaroola airstrip where Doug Spriggs took four of the touring party up in his plane for an aerial view of the Arkaroola area.

The next stop was the Balcanoona DEH office for morning tea with the four Rangers (Darcy, Shera, Arthur and Danny).

Following on the tour travelled to Wirrealpa to be hosted to a second morning tea by Warren, Barbara & John Fargher.

The next leg of the tour travelled through Bunyeroo and Brachina gorges as well as Blinman.

At Wilpena the tour group were hosted by Keith Rasheed, Wilpena Resort Manager and CFS, DEH, SES and SAPOL members were present during the evening meal.

Overnight we lodged at the Wilpena Pound Resort.

Following breakfast on Thursday 19 April 2007, the Minister and Ministerial Advisor departed Wilpena for Adelaide via Wilpena Air whilst the remainder of the touring party headed back to their respective areas.



One of the Flinders trip with the Minister files... The route taken on the Flinders trip, beginning at Port Augusta.

## NEW CABA EQUIPMENT FOR BLYTH CFS

By: Bluey Devine, Regional Operations Planning Officer, Region 4

On Tuesday 15 May 2007 Blyth CFS Brigade gained ownership of two CABA sets to assist in improving their emergency response.

The new equipment allows Blyth CFS to provide valuable assistance to neighbouring brigades and the Blyth/Snowtown Group.

Blyth CFS CABA Operators participated in an exercise at the Snowtown silos along with CABA Operators from Brinkworth and Snowtown Brigades, which was organised by Graham Sheehy, Blyth/Snowtown Group Officer.

Blyth CFS members checking out their newly acquired CABA equipment.





# REGION FOUR PASTORAL BRIGADES TOUR 2007

By: Nik Ludborz, Regional Prevention Officer, CFS Region 4

**D**id you know that CFS Region Four covers 67 percent of the State?

Yes, you read it right – 67 percent of the State.

With an area as large as this, it's not often that the volunteers in the Far North of the State have regular face-to-face contact with the 'schnoozers' from the Regional office.

Each year, staff from the Regional office embark on a week-long tour of what are known as the Pastoral Brigades.

Brigades visited include Marree, Oodnadatta, Marla, Mintabie, Coober Pedy, Glendambo, Woomera, Roxby Downs and Andamooka.

Approximately 2 400 kilometres of road are covered in the week, with the majority of travel being on dirt.

Some may think 'What a way to spend a week'; however along with

getting to see parts of the State that not many people get the chance to, a lot of work is completed along the way.

In early May 2007 Bluey Devine (ROPO), Nik Ludborz (RPO), Pete Shalley (VSO) and Lindsay Hinks (OHS&W) spent the week delivering various training units, Prevention updates and training, Operational audits and OHS&W training.

The staff took the opportunity to visit the new Prominent Hill copper mine, south of Coober Pedy, to develop links and some operational pre-planning with the Oxiana personnel.

Along with the work, it was great to meet up with familiar faces and meet new members of the brigades.

A special thanks is given to the great country hospitality that was shown to us along the way by all the brigades.

And I must add; Mintabie CFS/SES cook a mean barbeque!



Nik Ludborz at Roxby Downs delivering GRN and 'Responding From Station' training to volunteers from Roxby Downs and Andamooka Brigades.



Andamooka's new CFS station progressing to completion



The Region 4 'Pit Crew' doing the one and only tyre change for the trip in record time.



The Breakaways, Coober Pedy



Lindsay's risk assessment of the drive



Aroona Dam, Leigh Creek

## 'FIRE TRAILER' PROTOTYPE AT BELTANA FIELD DAY

**O**n Friday 27 April 2007 two CFS representatives from Region 4 travelled to the Beltana Field Day, located 25 kilometres South of Leigh Creek, to make an assessment on a prototype 'Fire Trailer'.

The sturdy trailer was developed by the Northern Territory Fire and Rescue Service, the Centre for

Appropriate Technology and funded by the Desert Knowledge Cooperative Research Centre to help make remote communities safer.

The fire fighting unit has been specifically designed for use in remote locations to withstand harsh treatment and can be towed by any 4WD.

Mick Obst, Regional Commander, Region 4 said he can see the unit has a lot of merit and could be utilised by communities on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara & Yankunytjatjara (APY) lands as well as remote communities in the North/North Eastern parts of the State.

'The trailer is a prototype that would only require a few minor alterations' Mick said.

Many of those attending the Beltana Field Day travelled hundreds of kilometres from all parts of the Outback and the theme was Outback resourcing and needs.



Photo: Desert Knowledge CRC, Remote Area Fire Trailer brochure

Photo: Desert Knowledge CRC, Remote Area Fire Trailer brochure

Double hose reels allow for more efficient fire fighting.

The fire trailer prototype on display at the Beltana Field Day on 27 April 2007.

The fire fighting unit can be towed by any 4WD and can withstand the harsh treatment and steep terrain of remote locations.



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## JAMESTOWN CFS STATION/BUNDALEER GROUP CONTROL CENTRE OPENING

By: Mick Obst, CFS Regional Commander Region 4

>> The Hon. Carmel Zollo, Minister for Emergency Services, at the official opening of the new Jamestown CFS station.

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo, officially opened the Jamestown CFS Station / Bundaleer Group Control Centre at 1430hrs on Sunday 29 April 2007.

Approximately 100 guests attended the opening.

Tim Cooper, Bundaleer Deputy Group Officer 1, was the Master of Ceremonies for the opening.

In addition to officially opening the complex, the Minister handed over the keys to the recently delivered new 34P to Graham Sims, Brigade Captain, Jamestown CFS.

Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer, presented three awards to Jamestown members.

Brian Carpenter was awarded for 35 years service and Trevor Young and Paul Duke with Life Membership.

Peter Smallacombe, Bundaleer Group Officer, and Graham Sims both addressed the guests at the opening.

Graham Goodwin, SAPOL North East LSA Inspector, was also a guest at the opening.

There were many family members at the opening and it was good to see numerous past brigade members in attendance.



The new Jamestown CFS Station/Bundaleer Group Control Centre.

## MELROSE CFS STATION/MOUNT REMARKABLE GROUP CONTROL CENTRE OPENING

By: Mick Obst, CFS Regional Commander Region 4

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo, officially opened the Melrose CFS Station / Mount Remarkable Group Control Centre at 1100hrs on Sunday 29 April 2007.

Approximately 65 guests attended the opening.

The Master of Ceremonies for the opening was Trevor Rooke, Chairman Mount Remarkable District Council, and he impressed everyone with his very thorough introduction of the Minister.

Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer,

was present and addressed the guests at the opening as well as Geoff Slee, Mount Remarkable Group Officer, and Phil Nottle, Brigade Captain, Melrose CFS.

Other invited guests included Graham Gunn, Member for Stuart, and Graham Goodwin, SAPOL North-East LSA Inspector.

After the official opening, guests were treated to an excellent lunch put on by the Brigade/Group.

It was great to see so many family members attend the opening.

> The Hon. Carmel Zollo, Minister for Emergency Services, unveiling the plaque that commemorates the official opening of the new Melrose CFS station.



> Melrose Brigade members, family members, guests and community members who attended the Melrose CFS station opening.



The new Melrose CFS Station / Mount Remarkable Group Control Centre.

## FIRE DESTROYS CLUBROOMS AT GLADSTONE

Volunteer firefighters responded to a fire in the combined netball and tennis clubrooms at Gladstone in the States Mid North on 10 April 2007.

Reported just before 2100hrs, firefighters arrived to find the clubrooms engulfed in flames.

The fire remained unnoticed for some time as the building was hidden behind the football clubrooms and grandstand.

More than 10 firefighters responded to the blaze, but were unable to save the clubrooms with the building being completely destroyed.

Damage was estimated at \$60 000.

Fire investigators believe the cause of the fire was suspicious.



CFS volunteers from Gladstone brigade attending the fire, which destroyed the local netball and tennis clubrooms. Photo: Syd Smith, Gladstone CFS



# MILLICENT CABA CONTAINER TRAINING

By: Matt Hann, Brigade Captain, Millicent CFS

**M**illicent CFS is the proud beneficiary of a donated container used for CABA training.

Kimberly Clark Australia (KCA), Millicent Mill proudly produces leading branded products including Kleenex Cottonelle toilet tissue, Kleenex facial tissue, Wondersoft, Viva paper towel and the Scott range of hand towel.

KCA trained their emergency response teams in CABA and after teams were trained up, KCA found that they had no way of keeping the skills of BA Operators up-to-date, so they approached CFS for permission to make a duplicate of the CABA training pantechnicon that travelled the state for CFS CABA training.

KCA purchased a large container and built an exact replica of the CFS CABA training pantechnicon.

The container was large enough to include a confined space training section in the front.

With access from the top and the use of a davit arm, it can be used to train people onsite in confined space.

The container also has a confined space entry from the side (Photo 1) and flanges that can be used to simulate a leak.

KCA used the container for a number of years and carried out some significant training with it.

When KCA decided they no longer needed the container, they approached Millicent brigade who jumped at the opportunity to have such a great training aid for their immediate use.

Not only did KCA very kindly donate the container; they paid for the containers repositioning from the Millicent Mill to the Millicent CFS station, following appropriate council approvals.

A Region 5 risk assessment was done on the container that highlighted a number of things that could not be done, specifically smoke or heat can not be used in the container as no power is connected for ventilation purposes.

The container is available for use by other CFS brigades that want to undertake BA training and maintain their three-monthly wearers requirement.

Kalangadoo and Glencoe brigades have come in and trained with us in the past.

Millicent CFS will source funding to give the container a fresh coat of paint and some maintenance that is required.

If you are interested in booking the container, contact Millicent CFS or Region 5 Headquarters can pass on the request.



>> Photo 1 - The BA training container showing entry locations.



^ Crews training inside the container

## CHIMNEY FIRE AT NARACOORTE HOTEL

**C**FS firefighters responded to a fire at the Naracoorte Hotel just before 3:45pm on 1 June.

Upon arrival at the Ormerod Street address, firefighters found a fire in a chimney of the two storey heritage building.

Regional Prevention Officer Phil McDonough said "more than 10 firefighters worked to contain the fire. They put a tarp down on the

floor at the bottom of the chimney and firefighters hosed the fire from the top of the chimney.

"The fire generated plenty of smoke and firefighters had to crawl around upstairs to make sure the fire hadn't spread into the roof and through the top floor," Phil said.

The fire was contained to the chimney and damage was estimated at \$20 000.



^ CFS firefighters attended a chimney fire at the Naracoorte Hotel on 1 June 2007. Photo courtesy of the Naracoorte Herald.



# FISH FARM FIRE

**C**FS Volunteers responded to a shed fire at a Millicent fish farm just after 7:00pm on 10 July.

On arrival at the Lossie Road property, they found the blaze going well.

More than 30 firefighters contained the blaze within 40 minutes and managed to confine the fire to the workshop, office and fish smoking room of the shed.

Sound firefighting efforts by the crews stopped the fire from spreading, saving a large portion of the shed and around \$100 000 worth of fish stocks.

Damage was estimated at \$100 000.

Fire cause investigators determined that there were no suspicious circumstances surrounding the cause of the fire.



The timber framed soldier settlers cottage suffered substantial damage >>

## HOUSE FIRE AT MINGBOOL

**C**FS volunteers responded to a house fire at Mingbool, north east of Mount Gambier, on 27 March.

Reported around 2:15am, firefighters arrived at the Peween Road property to find the house well alight, with flames coming out of the lounge room windows and roof.

CFS crews conducted a defensive attack from outside the building, which contained the fire.

On arrival, a CABA team were tasked to mop up the structure and to search the house.

Although the blaze was contained quickly, it caused substantial damage to the timber framed soldier settlers cottage.

Damage to the home was estimated at around \$120 000.

Fire Investigators declared a slow combustion wood heater with a broken latch was the cause of the fire.



## MILLICENT HOUSE FIRE

**C**FS volunteers responded to a house fire at Millicent in the Lower South East on 12 April.

A neighbour of the Ridge Terrace property reported the smell of smoke and sound of smoke alarms after 10:30am.

The fire began at the rear of the premises and 25 firefighters took less

than 30 minutes to contain the blaze using an external attack.

Sound efforts by firefighters prevented the house from being destroyed, although the remainder of the house suffered extensive smoke damage.

The damage bill was estimated at \$100 000.

Owners of the property were not home at the time of the incident.

SA Ambulance evacuated occupants of a block of units at the rear of the property due to smoke from the incident, however no occupants required treatment.



# ROAD SAFETY EXERCISE IN NARACOORTE

By: Dean Ludwig, Regional Operations Planning Officer R5

As part of Youth Week in April this year, the CFS conducted a road safety exercise at Naracoorte to educate young people about road safety.

Local emergency services and the local road safety committee developed the event, which involved senior high

school students from Lucindale, Naracoorte and Bordertown.

The mock accident involved two vehicles in the town centre and emergency services staged some distance away from the mock up to provide a realistically timed arrival.

Naracoorte CFS brigade was the road accident rescue response and also provided fire cover.

CFS Regional Training Officer, Scott Murray, participated in providing a commentary of the rescue and fire protection.

The performances by all services and the students who acted as casualties and deceased persons were very realistic and well done.

The exercise hopefully educated the students and enlightened them to the horror of being involved in a road crash.



Naracoorte CFS Rescue crew remove the roof of one of the vehicles involved in the mock crash.

Photo: Kylee Merritt, Volunteer Support Officer R5

CFS and SAAS crews remove the "injured" driver in the mock crash.

Photo: Kylee Merritt, Volunteer Support Officer R5

## STRIKE TEAM TO DERGHOLM, VICTORIA

By: Cameron Yelland, Compton CFS

CFS firefighters from the Mount Gambier and Port MacDonnell CFS brigades travelled to Dergholm Forest, Victoria on 24 November 2006.

The 24 CFS members were required to assist the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Parks Victoria and Natural Resources

& Environment (NRE) to complete the night shift so local crews could rest.

CFS crews were given the job of patrolling several kilometres of fire edge to ensure there were no flare-ups or breakouts.

Due to the terrain at the fire ground, CFS crews were given Parks

Victoria utes as fire vehicles to use instead of CFS trucks.

It was an interesting experience using utes instead of trucks, as they were based on a 4x4 Landcruiser with a 400 litre tank attached to a small fire pump with 30 metres of hose.

Firefighters had to use minimal

water as it was a reasonable drive, through soft sand, to get back to the CFS trucks, which were being used as tankers.

Additional CFS crews arrived the next morning to take on the day shift while the night shift returned to South Australia.

## ROBE SHED FIRE

CFS firefighters responded to a shed fire at Robe on 2 February.

It was reported to CFS just after 1:15 am. When firefighters arrived at the Beacon Hill Road property they took up a defensive attack and extinguished the fire without entering the shed.

The damage bill was estimated at \$45 000.

The cause of the fire was accidental and resulted from a cooking activity.

The owner had set up the shed as a home and was temporarily living in the shed before constructing a house on the site.



^ An external and internal view of the shed destroyed by fire at Robe.



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# NARACOORTE CFS - 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

By: Darren Murray, Brigade Captain, Naracoorte CFS

The Naracoorte CFS brigade celebrated 60 years of organised fire fighting, in Naracoorte and the district, with their annual awards dinner on 20 October 2007.

The black tie event held at the Naracoorte Town Hall was a celebration with past members, present members and honourable guests.

Some guests included the Hon. Carmel Zollo, Minister for Emergency Services; Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer; Andrew Lawson, CFS Deputy Chief Officer; Rob Sandford, CFS Assistant Chief Officer, and past and present Regional staff.

Congratulations to the award

winners on the night with Jim Reekie winning the Fireman of the year, James Ghezzi the Cadet of the year and Chris Low winning the coveted Wood Duck for the biggest 'whoops' during the year.

A highlight of the evening was the presentation of a special 60th plaque to the brigade by Euan Ferguson, and the book "Smoke in your Eyes", compiled and written by Rex Hall AFSM with the help of many members.

Thank you to all the members who attended, to everyone who travelled long distances to help make this a memorable evening, and to all the people who worked together to organise the event.



^ National medal and bars to national medals awarded to, from left to right, Phil McDonough, Kylee Merritt, Roger Bennett and Darren Murray.

>> 60th Plaque presentation by Euan Ferguson to Darren Murray, Brigade Captain, Naracoorte CFS.



^ Naracoorte CFS 60 year celebration and annual awards dinner on 20 October 2007.

## \$100 000 MILLICENT HOUSE FIRE

Volunteer firefighters responded to a house fire at Millicent in the State's Lower South East, around 1pm on 25 May.

CFS arrived at the Clifford Road property to find a three-bedroom stone home completely engulfed in flames.

More than 30 CFS firefighters attended the incident and were

forced to fight the fire from the outside, as the roof had begun to collapse.

Firefighters contained the fire in just over 40 minutes.

No occupants were home at the time of the incident and damage was estimated at \$100 000.

SA Police, SA Ambulance and ETSA also attended.

## HOUSE DESTROYED AT TARPEENA

CFS volunteer firefighters responded to a house fire at Tarpeena, near Mount Gambier on 6 May.

Reported to the CFS just before 3:30 am, firefighters arrived at the Penola Road home to find it well alight.

More than 15 firefighters, some wearing breathing apparatus, took

less than an hour to contain the fire, which started in a front room of the timber clad home.

The damage bill was estimated at \$80 000.

The owner was home at the time of the fire and was able to escape uninjured.

## \$20 000 DAMAGE TO AVENUE RANGE SHED

Volunteer firefighters responded to a shed fire at Avenue Range near Lucindale in the Lower South East just after 8am on 22 March.

When firefighters arrived at the

Olivers Road property, they quickly donned breathing apparatus and found the fire was confined to one section of the shed.

More than 10 firefighters worked to contain the fire, which caused

damage to part of the structure and machinery inside.

SA Police investigated and determined a faulty refrigerator started the fire.

Damage was estimated at \$20 000.



# FAREWELL TO CLEVE VOLVO

In July 2007, Cleve CFS farewelled its longest running vehicle.

Volvo Cleve 32 had been in service with the Cleve brigade for 25 years.

Cleve District Council purchased the unit for \$96 000, of which Cleve CFS brigade raised \$10 000.

Monies were raised by Cleve brigade in various ways but mostly by selling bingo tickets at the Cleve Hotel.

Bryan Trigg, Group Officer Eastern Eyre CFS Group, explains "we were going to have a 180hp Inter Acco automatic unit until Mills Tui suggested that for \$4 500 more we could have a 230hp Volvo unit."

"This meant going back to Council to argue the case for a better truck plus more money.

"We expected Council would reject the request because they thought \$90 000 was too much for a fire truck anyhow," he said.

"But as luck had it, we were in and out in 10 minutes with the approval.

"The Deputy Chairman of the District Council of Cleve thought it was too good of a deal to pass

up and moved the motion for the new truck at an increased price immediately, which was passed."

Bryan is the only person in Photo 1 that was a member of

the Cleve brigade when the Volvo was purchased.

The current Brigade Captain of Cleve CFS is Shaun Irrgang, who is the son in-law of a past Brigade

Captain, Ross Bates, who was Captain at the time the Volvo came into service.

The Eastern Eyre Group will refit the unit as a bulk water tanker.



Cleve CFS volunteers with Volvo Cleve 32, from left, Keith Edwards, Brian Carlaw, Ben Hackshaw, Glen Selby, Geoff Bammann, Bryan Trigg, Shaun Stringer, Brian Harkness, Kym Pearce and Trevor Rodda.  
Photo: Brian Harkness, Cleve CFS

## CEDUNA & DISTRICTS CFS GROUP NAME CHANGE

By: Mark Hewitson, Group Officer, Western Eyre CFS Group

Through rural decline and dwindling membership it is harder for Groups to attract personnel into management positions.

Technology changes and world wide corporate rationalisation in general mean even volunteer organisations will not escape change.

Being proactive and visionary, we can see the day that groups, as we know them, will merge into larger ones, reducing the number of groups but increasing the number of potential members to actively manage groups.

One of the main obstacles faced in this type of rationalisation is the

naming; country people are protective of their name, especially when it relates to their town or district.

At a Group meeting on 19 February 2007, a proposal was tabled to change the Ceduna Group name to a name that is not aligned to a specific town but to something more geographical.

The Ceduna Group representatives are aware of the challenges faced in the future and the possible rationalisation of groups.

This vision was seeded with them in early 2006.

Although it is not anticipated a merger would occur in the short term, a name change would be the

first step in the process that poses no structural changes to the group.

It was agreed, to minimise any perception of a "take over" should a merger occur (eg Ceduna Group has taken over the Streaky Bay Group or visa versa), that the renaming of the Ceduna Group to a geographical name would remove the politics before it became political or emotional.

The name change will also reflect that the Group does not belong to a brigade or a town.

A motion was passed at the Group meeting to change the name of the Ceduna CFS Group to Western Eyre CFS Group.

### WESTERN EYRE GROUP

As of 1 July 2007, the Ceduna CFS Group changed its name and is now known as the Western Eyre CFS Group.

The Western Eyre Group extends 600 kilometres to the Western Australian border and is approximately 90 000 square kilometres in size.



# OPERATION INCITEC

By: Tristan Baldock, Lincoln CFS



Lincoln CFS members, Dean Gillet and Katrina Pobke, inspect the ceiling in one of the rooms within the complex at Incitec.

While many people are spending the nights at home by the fire at this time of year, our local CFS volunteers are out honing their skills in structure firefighting.

In May 2007, 15 CFS firefighters from the Lincoln brigade converged on the Incitec Pivot Fertiliser complex in Port Lincoln to take part in a structure fire exercise.

The mock incident involved a small domestic dwelling fire, in which the family inside were overcome by smoke.

Thanks to the generosity of Incitec Pivot, crews were able to run through

all facets of structure firefighting, from entering the structure, to search and rescue, all within a realistic smoke-filled environment.

Exercise organiser, Derek Carkle, was grateful for the generosity of Incitec Pivot in providing CFS access to the facility for training.

"Simulating structure firefighting training at brigade level can be very difficult, but Incitec has provided CFS with the opportunity to do this with local crews," he said.

New Lincoln CFS recruit, Geoff Earle, said the training was a great experience with many benefits.

"To be able watch and assist more

experienced crews carry out their tasks in a realistic environment gave me a greater understanding and awareness of structure fire fighting.

"Training exercises like these, better prepare members for situations they will face in real emergencies," Geoff said.

## HAPPY VALLEY FIRE

CFS firefighters responded to a grass fire on Happy Valley Road near Port Lincoln on 19 February 2007.

Reported to CFS at approximately 2:15pm, the fire began at the base of Winter Hill by a 'bobcat' clearing land.

Over 20 firefighters from various CFS brigades and two fixed winged bombers assisted at the fire.

The fire was declared contained at approximately 3:45pm, having burnt seven hectares.

A fixed winged bomber doing a drop at the Happy Valley fire near Port Lincoln on 19 February 2007.  
**Photo:** Alan Penna (son of Ian Penna, Deputy Group Officer, Elliston Group, Mount Wedge CFS)





# LINCOLN CFS BENEFITS FROM WIND FARM

By: Tristan Baldock, Lincoln CFS

Lincoln CFS was the beneficiary of a substantial donation from the Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm earlier this Year.

Greg Napier, Brigade Captain, Lincoln CFS, gratefully accepted the cheque on behalf of the brigade from John Fannin, Wind Farm Manager, who said it was a pleasure to hand over a cheque to such a worthy organisation.

"The CFS, in particular the Lincoln Brigade, has worked closely with us in developing a fire plan for the wind farm.

"Their input has been highly valued, and consequently we see this donation as a great opportunity to help the brigade help us and the community," John said

On receiving the cheque, Greg

thanked John for his efforts and willingness to prepare the wind farm for fire protection.

"Nothing was ever too hard for John and his team," he said.

"John was open to all suggestions, and has invested in significant infrastructure and planning at CFS request to ensure that every possible measure is taken to help reduce the risk of fire, should one occur near the wind farm."

As part of the wind farm's fire preparedness plan, John takes all contractors and visitors through an induction process.

The induction briefs individuals on safe work practices to prevent fires, and what to do in the event of a fire, including the decision to Stay or Go.



Greg Napier, Brigade Captain, Lincoln CFS, accepts a cheque from John Fannin, Manager, Cathedral Rocks Wind Farm.

"Fire prevention is a necessary part of our business, both to protect the company's investment, and to provide a duty of care to the community," John said.

"It is far easier to invest in methods to prevent fires, but we have also made significant investments in resources to control a fire should it eventuate."

## CHIMNEY FIRE AT COWELL

CFS firefighters responded to a chimney fire at Cowell on the Eastern Eyre Peninsula just before 2pm on 4 July 2007.

Firefighters arrived at the Lincoln Highway address to find

smoke inside the double brick home coming from the fireplace.

The fire was extinguished by spraying water down the chimney from the rooftop and, although brickwork collapsed in the chimney,

firefighting efforts prevented the fire from reaching the roof cavity.

Firefighters closed off the chimney with wet bags, used thermal imaging equipment to detect hot spots in wall cavities and remained

at the residence until confident there was no possibility of reignition.

Damage was estimated at \$50 000 and the cause of the fire was determined as a build up of soot in the chimney.

## ELDERS GETS BEHIND LOCAL CFS

By: Tristan Baldock, Lincoln CFS

Elders Port Lincoln pledged its support to the SA Country Fire Service last bushfire season through the Elders Bushfire Fighter Promotion.

In April 2007, Elders presented the Koppio, North Shields and Tumby Bay CFS brigades with donations from the promotion that ran during the 2006-2007 fire danger season.

Tristan Baldock, Promotion Organiser and Elders Agronomist, said the promotion was well supported and he looks forward to running similar promotions in the future.

"There were a number of fires early in the season, and it is important that people are prepared to defend their homes," he said.

Kevin May, CFS Regional Commander, accepted the donations on behalf of the brigades and was grateful for the support.

"It is great to see a company like Elders supporting the volunteers and investing their profits back into the community in such a worthy manner," he said.

"The promotion proved to be a great way to ensure landowners could access the right equipment to protect their properties, and support their local CFS brigades while they're at it."



Kevin May, CFS Region 6 Commander, accepts a cheque from Darryn Johnston, Elders Port Lincoln Merchandise Manager.



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# ANZ BLUE WEEK SUPPORTS CFS

## STUDENTS RAISE OVER \$450

The Waikerie High School SRC students and the ANZ bank have combined to raise \$465 for the local CFS brigade.

The money was raised after the two groups combined as a part of the ANZ Blue Week celebrations, to hold a sausage sizzle and casual day.

SRC students cooked the sausage sizzle for lunch, with the bank donating the sausages.

The Waikerie CFS was presented with a cheque for the money, after an outstanding fundraising effort by the staff and students of both the ANZ and the high school.



<< Waikerie High School Principal Peter Crawford, SRC President Craig Gartley, ANZ Bank representative Libby Law, CFS Mid Murray Group Officer Mike Arnold and ANZ Bank Manager Darren Dean. Photo courtesy of the River News.

## SEAFORD CFS DEMONSTRATE THEIR ROAD CRASH RESCUE SKILLS

Shoppers at the Seaford Shopping Centre were witness to the road crash rescue expertise of local volunteers from Seaford CFS on 22 March 2007.

As part of ANZ Blue Week, the CFS showed their thanks to ANZ staff for raising money for the brigade by putting on a demonstration.

The demonstration showed the specialist techniques used by CFS volunteers at road crash rescue incidents where sections of the vehicle need to be removed in order to assist the occupants.

ANZ Blue Week, run by ANZ bank, is aimed at raising funds for community groups, charities and organisations within the local community.

Seaford CFS was chosen by their local ANZ branch to be the focus of Blue Week in 2007.

Branch Manager, Joanne Weller, wanted to support and recognise the significant efforts and contribution the brigade makes to the community by focusing their 2007 Blue Week activities on the Seaford CFS brigade.

"This year has been a really tough and busy fire season for all CFS

volunteers and as a thankyou we decided to raise funds for our local brigade," Joanne said.

"These volunteers do such a wonderful job in the community and it's great for us to say thankyou, and this is just a small way in which we can help," she said.

To raise funds, bank staff held a raffle, packed bags at the local supermarket for customers for a donation and had a lucky dip in the bank for the cost of a gold coin.

Around \$500 was raised for the brigade. Seaford CFS Captain, Mark Grocke,

thanked the ANZ saying that the money raised will certainly be put to good use buying some equipment for the station.

"The brigade is grateful that ANZ Seaford chose us as their nominated organisation this year, they have done such a wonderful job supporting us and we thank them for it," Mark said.

"The demonstration was a chance for the Seaford CFS brigade to get out into the community and demonstrate some of our capabilities, display our new fire appliance and to publicly thank the ANZ for their support."



<< Seaford CFS members on display to thank ANZ on 22 March 2007. The photo was taken at the end of the ANZ Blue Week demonstration at the Seaford Shopping Centre. Photo: Phillip Grocke, Seaford CFS

## A THOUSAND REASONS FOR THANKS

Balaklava ANZ Branch Manager, Paul McBride, and Fiona Anderson presented Balaklava CFS, represented by Jenny Stewart, with a cheque for more than \$1000 after a

successful week of fundraising.

From 19 to 23 March 2007, ANZ held Blue Week, a nation-wide effort by the bank to raise funds to be directed back into the local community.

ANZ Balaklava held a sausage sizzle, trading table, children's colouring competition, and sold blue-coloured Lions donuts to raise money. (Plains Producer, 28 March 2007)

✓ ANZ presents cheque to Balaklava CFS





# CFS Volunteers



For your time



For your effort



For your dedication

"I thank you"

A handwritten signature in black ink.

**Euan Ferguson**  
CFS Chief Officer

"South Australia thanks you"

A handwritten signature in black ink.

**Hon. Carmel Zollo**  
Minister for  
Emergency Services



Government  
of South Australia





# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

By: Mike Guilfoyle, CFS OHS&W Officer



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VOLUNTEER - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH & SAFETY

On 29 November 2006, an appliance from Mount Bryan CFS Brigade was involved in a rollover that unfortunately resulted in a very serious injury to the driver.

CFS and SafeWork SA conducted an investigation into the accident and the subsequent report outlines three key recommendations that have been put forward for action.

These recommendations are:

1. An off-road driver training program is implemented for CFS drivers.
2. A review of all policies and procedures relevant to this accident is undertaken and volunteers be notified of any changes resulting from that review.
3. Training is provided in dynamic risk assessments to all CFS personnel to improve the identification and management of risk.

In February 2007, three improvement notices were served on the CFS Chief Officer and copies of these improvement notices have been distributed to all Brigades.

To date, the off-road driver training program has been implemented and enthusiastically endorsed by all who have attended.

The review of policies is currently underway and a training program for dynamic risk assessments is currently being developed.

A CFS hazard alert has been issued revoking part of the pre-existing Chief Officers Standing Order (COSO) 7 that provided an exemption for wearing of seatbelts in CFS appliances (refer to Hazard Alert).

Now, all drivers and passengers travelling in/on a CFS vehicle are required to wear a seatbelt at all times, except crew on the firefighting crew deck in actual firefighting operations.

One of the most important lessons that all firefighters can learn from this accident is the need for a dynamic risk assessment to be conducted whenever a hazardous operation is undertaken.

This assessment will reduce the risk involved and enable volunteers to return to their families and homes free from injury.



CFS Hazard Alert number 16 relating to the wearing of seatbelts in/on CFS vehicles.



The Mount Bryan 24 appliance after the rollover at the Bundaleer fire on 29 November 2006.



# THE IMPORTANCE OF A SAFETY CULTURE

By: Judy Arthur, SAFECOM Manager Health, Safety & Welfare

When a member of the CFS "family" is severely injured, the CFS is deeply concerned and caring for the injured person and their family is always first priority.

In partnership with CFS, the SAFECOM Health, Safety & Welfare Branch manages the injury claim, provides rehabilitation and welfare for the injured person, forms a team to investigate the accident and looks at ways to prevent a recurrence.

In November 2006, a very serious injury occurred during mop-up operations at the Bundaleer fire when an appliance rolled down a steep hill and came to rest against a large gum tree.

The driver was thrown out of the appliance and sustained a very serious neck injury that has left him a paraplegic.

The injured driver is currently undergoing treatment at the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre.

Bravery, courage and a positive outlook are words that describe the volunteer during his rehabilitation.

He recognised the need to talk about the accident to prevent it happening again.

The story of the Mount Bryan truck rollover accident is fairly well known and has been a priority topic of

discussion throughout the CFS.

The major principle of accident investigations is not to focus blame on individuals, but to review organisational systems.

The focus needs to be on analysing the situation to ensure strategies to prevent a recurrence are identified and implemented.

## Establishing a Safety Culture

In safety literature, there is much discussion on 'safety culture' and what it means for an organisation to demonstrate such a culture.

As an example, the Hudson model used to describe a safety culture uses the concept of a ladder with each level being represented by a rung.

1. The bottom rung is described as a vulnerable level where the message is 'who cares as long as we are not caught.'
2. The second rung represents the reactive level, where people say 'safety is important, because we do a lot of it every time we have an accident.'
3. The third rung is the compliance driven level, where organisations have systems in place to manage hazards. Compliance Driven organisations collect data and keep records, but focus on accidents that

have already happened and compliance with legislation.

4. The fourth rung involves an approach to safety where leadership and values drive safety through continuous improvement, and learning happens from events.
5. The top rung is the resilient level, where informedness, trust and accountability are part of the health and safety culture and 'is the way business is done around here.'

So how does the Hudson model of Safety Culture apply to the CFS?

In regards to the Mount Bryan truck rollover accident, it was apparent that several things happened to cause the chain of events.

It is critical to look at each event and ask 'why?'; sometimes to get to the true cause we may need to ask why more than once.

When we drive our cars we buckle up.

When this law was introduced drivers obeyed to prevent being caught and fined, but now it has become second nature in most situations.

However, why do some drivers not wear seatbelts and when do these drivers think they are safe not wearing them?

The next step is to look at the CFS and ask 'how are things done around here?'

Nearly every volunteer that has been approached since the accident said they have not worn seatbelts at some time or another in a CFS appliance, either driving or as a passenger (1. Vulnerable level).

Other volunteers have said they have experienced a similar event to that which happened in November, but were lucky because they were able to regain control of the appliance and prevent a rollover (2. Reactive level).

The Hazard Alert issued regarding the mandatory wearing of seat belts caused a lot of discussion and divided opinion (3. Compliance Driven level).

Appliances are designed to keep our volunteers safe and the CFS Infrastructure and Logistics team are continually improving safety features (4. Continually Improving level).

There have been several accidents in other emergency organisations during the past few years where the wearing of seat belts would have saved lives and/or the quality of survivors' lives.

Seatbelts can cause discomfort to drivers but either tightening the belt or adjusting the height of the seat may rectify the problem.

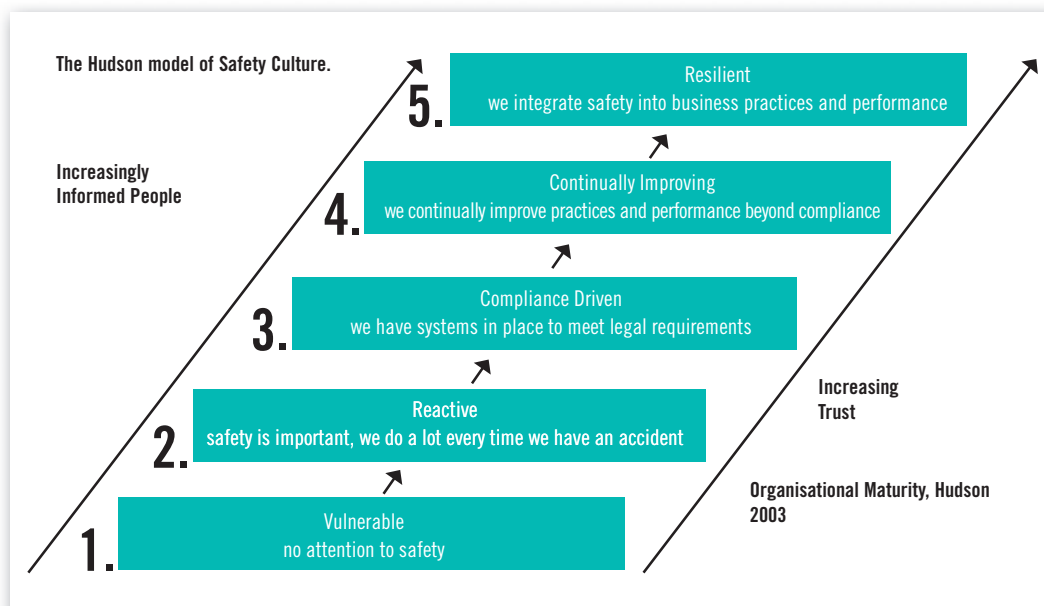
The CFS Infrastructure & Logistics team have taken note of the seatbelt concerns and are working to develop alternatives.

Let's be sure that the CFS culture is a positive one that truly looks at the safety of our volunteers.

Our decision making must be based on strong principles and values that are inherent in a safety culture, where safety is simply "the way we do things around here".

## References:

- (1) Safety in Action Conference Papers, 2007, Safety Institute of Australia, Victoria
- (2) Safety, Culture & Risk, 2005, Anthony Hopkins



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VOLUNTEER - CADETS

# CADET LEADER TRAINING ACROSS THE STATE

By: Jo-Anna Kenney, Youth Programs Officer

Cadet leader training has been carried out around the state to provide CFS Cadet Coordinators and Leaders with information, resources and support to assist them in their role.

The training also provides an opportunity for those leading cadet programs to get together and share ideas to ensure they have the tools to deliver a fun, informative and interesting cadet program.

In a first for CFS cadets, Region 3 combined their camp activities with cadet leader training in March 2007.

Feedback from the Leaders and Trainers suggests this was a positive initiative and they appreciated the understanding and flexibility required to make it happen.

In April 2007, with the help of David Bryant, Cadet Representative Region 6, 17 Cadet Coordinators and Leaders completed training at Streaky Bay.

The weekend was especially busy for the Region 6 Leaders as they took the opportunity to hold a Cadet Committee Meeting.

In May 2007 Cadet Coordinators and Leaders from Region 4 participated in the Cadet Leader training at Crystal Brook CFS.

For this Region, often isolated by distance, it was a great opportunity to share ideas and discuss future

regional activities and camps.

In June 2007, 29 Cadet Coordinators and Leaders from Region 1 participated in the cadet leader training at Region 1 Headquarters.

Despite the early morning start and cold weather participants enjoyed the opportunity to get outside and put their problem solving skills to the test.

The leadership exercise, conducted at all courses, was detangling a number of ropes, but there was a catch, once you had hold of the rope you could not let it go.

Inevitably this task required a lot of weaving, ducking, stepping over teammates and plenty of laughter.

Experienced Scouts Leaders delivered the training to all our dedicated Leaders in the various Regions.

Some of the topics covered include; Coordinator role and responsibilities (including a raising awareness on Child Protection session), helping others learn, programming, communication and behaviour management, community youth needs and the cadet program.

For information on cadet leader training coming up in your Region, please contact your regional representative on the State Cadet Committee, your Volunteer Support Officer or the Youth Programs Officer on 8463 4106.



^ Participants of the R4 cadet leader training held at Crystal Brook CFS in May 2007; taking part in the leadership exercise that required a great deal of teamwork and communication.



A Scout Leader presenting the communication module to R4 Cadet Coordinators and Leaders. ^

## KI CADETS VISIT ALDINGA BEACH

By: Tanya Norman, Cadet Coordinator, Aldinga Beach CFS

On Sunday 27 May 2007 Cadets and Supervisors from Kangaroo Island visited Aldinga Beach CFS as part of their Camp to the mainland.

The KI visitors joined cadets from Aldinga Beach in team building and problem solving games, practising their fire fighting skills with a Hose Drill

exercise and were treated to a BBQ lunch.

Everyone involved had a great time with plenty of laughs throughout the day. At the end of the visit, the KI Cadets surprised Aldinga Beach CFS with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Aldinga Beach Cadets are looking forwards to a possible visit to KI in the future.

✓ The two brigades together in their uniforms – KI cadets in red and Aldinga Beach cadets in green.





# CFS CADETS FORM FOCUS GROUP FOR AFAC RESEARCH

By: Jo-Anna Kenney, Youth Programs Officer



A Country Fire Service (CFS) cadets have formed a focus group to assist in research on how to incorporate community safety messages with technology. The focus group was made up of five cadets; all aged 15 or 16 years from Freeling and Roseworthy CFS brigades, who met on 14 April 2007. The group met with four fire engineering students from the Worcester Polytechnic College in the United States who were in Australia working on a project under the supervision of Rob Llewellyn from the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC). The purpose of the project was to investigate how technology devices such as mobile phones, ipods, Internet, television, etc. may be utilised for community safety messages.

The target age group for the research is 15 to 29 year olds. Some notes from the CFS cadet focus group are:

## Methods of communication

SMS messaging, mobile phones, MSN messenger and email are the most popular ways to communicate with friends and peers.

## Mobile phones

In the future all mobile phones will more than likely have cameras, video and other features such as GPS.

## Internet

For the focus group the Internet was mostly used for general web surfing and school research.

## Ipods

Ipods were discussed and it was concluded that they are not

a desirable way of receiving community safety messages.

## Television

It was established that television is now used less than before, however, it is still used every day.

Most of the focus group watch television only at night and do not use [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) to watch television content.

## Community safety messages

The focus group has seen fire safety, speeding, and smoking safety messages.

Dramatic and vivid images that make an impact are more likely to make them aware of the content of the message.

It was noted that personal experiences might also change the behaviour of the public.

## Video games

Video games may be successful if they can make a fire hazard appeal to a younger demographic.

## Advertising

McDonalds, Hungry Jacks and KFC are popular places where advertising can be placed and perhaps billboards with catchy phrases to grab people's attention.

## Brand names

Conveying safety messages by means of famous brand names could be successful and some favourite brands were Nike, Adidas, and Fila.

# REGION FIVE CADET TRAINING DAY

By: Kylee Merritt, Volunteer Support Officer R5

On 17 June 2007, Region Five cadets attended a Training Day held at the Regional Training Centre.

Cadets participated in four exercises, those being the hose drill, rural drill, search and rescue and LPG bullet.

Cadets were put into teams that were specifically selected so cadets worked with other cadets that they don't normally work with and these teams had to compete against each other.

Teams were scored out of 10 for their communication, teamwork, listening to instructions and performance and teams were timed on the hose drill.

At the end of the day final

scores were; Yellow team won first place, Green team second, Red team third and Blue team fourth.

All teams received a prize for their efforts on the day.

During the day the Instructors and Leaders were looking for a 'Cadet of the Day' who stood out from the rest and showed outstanding leadership, teamwork and communication skills.

Alex Van Rijn from Naracoorte CFS brigade won this title and received a copy of Rex Hall's book "Forty Five Flaming Years".

I would like to thank everyone who helped put the day together and assist on the day and Rex Hall for donating a copy of his book as a prize.

With out all of you the day would not have been the success it was - Thank you.



^ All hands on deck for the LPG bullet exercise at the R5 cadet Training Day.

∇ R5 cadets participating in the hose drill exercise.



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VOLUNTEER - CADETS



# STANDARDISED FIRE HOSE COUPLING FOR AUSTRALIAN FIRE AGENCIES

EQUIPMENT NEWS

By: Arthur Tindall, SACFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics



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VOLUNTEER - EQUIPMENT

The concept of common hose couplings for all Australian fire agencies is nothing new, with several attempts having been made to standardise on a single coupling.

During these earlier attempts a number of agencies willingly embraced the concept and implemented change whilst others showed little interest and failed to act.

Overall the concept lapsed due to a lack of unilateral support and the perception that the costs and logistics involved would be prohibitive for little gain.

Consequently a number of agencies, including those in South Australia (SA), continue to use 'historic' couplings that are not only inefficient but inhibit interoperability.

Cross-jurisdictional operations between fire service agencies are becoming increasingly commonplace with agencies from Queensland, New South Wales (NSW), Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Victoria, Tasmania and SA all having been involved in such operations in recent years.

Invariably these agencies have faced problems with achieving interoperability due to the different couplings used by each agency.

After the 'September 11' terrorist attack in 2001 on the twin towers in New York, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in Washington noted:

*"After the disaster, it became painfully clear that while emergency fire equipment from neighbouring geographic areas may have been compatible, there were grave incompatibilities hampering rescue and communications efforts when the equipment came from longer distances, as will happen during large-scale disasters."*

Although many will argue that fire agencies can already interoperate

across State borders; the fact is we cannot interoperate when brigades are required to come from "long distances", as occurred when NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS) responded to SA in 2005.

Global Warming is another concern that has become a reality with scientists stating it will lead to larger fires of longer duration.

Such fires will have the potential to significantly impact the way fire and emergency services need to be delivered and will make the need for national interoperability a logistical necessity rather than a long held vision.

## Selection of a Common Coupling

A common couplings survey conducted amongst Australian fire agencies indicated strong support for the concept of a standardised coupling, but diverse views as to what the selected coupling should be.

In this situation personal or agency preferences must be set aside and couplings need to be selected on fitness for purpose, ease of use and cost effectiveness.

A number of 'fit for purpose' couplings are already used by Australian fire agencies namely Storz, Forestry (often referred to as Wajax) and British Instantaneous (BIC).

These couplings are all 'quick connecting' but Storz and Forestry have the advantage of being hermaphrodite, or sexless, a

feature that allows either end to be connected, whereas BIC couplings have a male and female end.

Also, BIC couplings also have moving parts that add to their maintenance, cost and complexity and therefore it is suggested that BIC would be the least appropriate 'quick connect' couplings to be included in a standard for Australian fire agencies.

A number of fire agencies i.e. NSW Fire Brigades, NSW RFS and Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB), have adopted Storz as their sole coupling.

Whilst such an approach has merit, in principle it should be recognised that these couplings have a number of disadvantages when used in rural applications with smaller diameter hoses because they reduce flow at the coupling as indicated in table 1.

Forestry couplings are fully interchangeable up to 38mm irrespective of hose size and provide full flow rates relative to the designated hose size.

They are also lighter, cheaper, less bulky and easier to drag through the bush.

In small hose sizes, similar flow rates can be achieved with Storz by using couplings with appropriate bore diameters, but each coupling would be a different size therefore adding unnecessary complexity.

Forestry couplings are only available in sizes up to 65mm making their selection as the sole standard coupling impractical in



Storz quarter-turn couplings



Storz quarter-turn couplings



Forestry quarter-turn couplings



Forestry quarter-turn couplings

TABLE 1.

Nominal Coupling Size	Forestry		Storz	
	Bore	O.D. (Across Lugs)	Bore	O.D.
19mm	19mm	76mm		
25mm	25mm	76mm	17mm	55mm
38mm	38mm	76mm	32mm	78mm





urban environments where large volumes of water is sometimes required.

In Urban environments Storz couplings have a significant advantage as they are available in sizes up to 250mm in diameter; hence can cater for not only existing requirements but also accommodate the increasing requirement for high volume hoses.

Given that both Forestry and Storz couplings have their own specific advantages depending on the environment in which they are used, it is logical that both be considered for inclusion in a coupling standard, as to propose only one fails to recognise the differing needs of agencies in rural operations from those operating in a predominantly urban environment.

### Implementation

Previous attempts to implement common fire hose couplings have failed due to the focus being on trying to achieve a single coupling solution, the implied cost and the perception that any changeover would need to occur as a single action and within a relatively short time frame.

Such an approach would be cost

prohibitive, logistically challenging and a significant impediment to the adoption of common couplings as has been evident in past attempts.

It is suggested that the implementation of common couplings could be best achieved at a minimum cost if the transition were to take place over an extended period, say twenty years.

Over this period, transition would be predicated on each new appliance manufactured being fitted with the agreed common couplings and two sets of adaptors also being provided.

Based on the widely accepted lifespan of twenty-years for rural appliances, the fleet would be fitted with common couplings by 2027.

Urban services would achieve a similar outcome in less time due to a shorter appliance lifespan.

When NSW RFS elected to completely change to Storz couplings, it nominated an implementation of period of ten years with the actual changeover occurring in four years due to a rapid up take by brigades who appreciated the simplicity of using hermaphrodite couplings.

The implementation of a common coupling for Australian fire agencies is only possible if there is a com-

bined will and motivation to make it happen.

From a timing perspective, it can be argued that now would be an ideal time to commence the implementation of common couplings.

The reason being that the CFS and the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria have recently entered a period where large numbers of appliances procured post the Ash Wednesday Bushfires of 1983 are either due for replacement or are in the process of being replaced.

Standardisation allows emergency service agencies to share resources during times of peak demand and during periods of maintenance or breakdown.

It also provides opportunities for aggregation of purchases hence potential cost savings.

Indications are that the concept of common fire hose couplings for Australian fire agencies has strong support from within most agencies and industry alike.

The need now is for the Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC), to show the leadership required to make the long held vision of a common coupling for Australian fire agencies a reality!

Note: this article is a shortened version of a paper promoting the



**Example of an adaptor set, in this case Storz to Modified London Round, (SAMFS/SACFS)**

concept of common couplings for all AFAC member agencies.

A copy of the paper can be obtained by contacting Arthur Tindall by e-mail on: [tindall.arthur@cfs.org.au](mailto:tindall.arthur@cfs.org.au)

Since the paper was prepared, all South Australian and Tasmanian fire service agencies have agreed to adopt the recommendations contained in the common couplings proposal.

As a result interoperability between SA, Victorian, Tasmanian and NSW fire services has been largely achieved.

Queensland is currently reviewing its position, Western Australia, a user of BIC, has stated they will not change; and the Northern Territory has yet to state a position.



# PHAMOUS PHOTOS



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VOLUNTEER - PHAMOUS PHOTOS

## PHOTO COMPETITION UPDATE

The Volunteer photo competition 'Phamous Photos' has recently been reviewed with some of the conditions of entry updated (refer below). The prize remains the same – the winner receives a prize to the value of \$50. In most instances, the winner chooses a \$50 voucher.

Some points to remember when taking photos is to ensure the digital camera is set at a high mega pixel and ensure the date stamp is turned off.

### How to enter

Simply send in your photo with the name of photographer and/or name of submitter, address, telephone number and brigade (if applicable) with a description of the photo and/or details of the incident at which the photo was taken.

### Post photos to:

CFS Public Affairs, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001

Photos can be posted either as hard copies or on a CD in the largest file size available.

Or email photos to: [publicaffairs@cfs.org.au](mailto:publicaffairs@cfs.org.au)

If emailing photos, please do not reduce the size. Sometimes Outlook asks if you want to keep original size or send smaller. If the file size is reduced the quality is affected and therefore the photo may not be able to be published in a large size.

### Conditions of entry

Any photo submitted to Volunteer automatically becomes an entry to the Phamous Photos competition.

Photographs may be of any subject but must include either CFS personnel in turnout gear or uniform, be of any CFS event or incident attended by CFS. The competition is open to CFS personnel only.

Photographs must not be enhanced by any means.

The prize can be utilized at the photographer's discretion.

When photos are received for Volunteer magazine, the photographer does not necessarily submit them. In these instances the name received will be published and the prize money will be split between the person submitting the photo and the actual photographer.

Unless otherwise requested in writing, all photos become the property of the CFS. The CFS may use the entry for any publication or displays with acknowledgment made of the photographer.

Entries must include name of photographer and/or name of submitter, address, telephone number and brigade (if applicable) with a description of the photo and/or details of the incident at which the photo was taken.

WINNER



^ A hard days work, deserves...a rest, at the Coobowie House Fire, February 2007 **Photo:** Gareth Jones, R2 Operations Planning Officer. Donated prize to Yorketown CFS.

Monitoring the scene at >> a Kersbrook road crash, April 2007 **Photo:** Matt Bonser, Morphett Vale CFS



<< Erickson Aircrane Helitak 746 at the Onkaparinga Gorge fire, December 2006. **Photo:** James Crocker, Littlehampton CFS



BA training exercise at the Old Noarlunga Meatworks. **Photo:** Matt Bonser, Morphett Vale CFS

^ Ready to refill, Heysen bulk water carrier at the Mt Bold fire, January 2007 **Photo:** Emmanuel Cusack, Littlehampton CFS



# FACES IN THE CROWD



▲ Bradbury's longest serving CFS Volunteer, Ray Allen, reached the milestone of 50 years in April 2007.

Photo: Mount Barker Courier, 6 June 2007

## RAY ALLEN'S 50 YEAR MILESTONE

At age 72, Ray Allen is the longest serving member of Bradbury CFS, having reached the milestone of 50 years service in April 2007.

Ray officially joined the Longwood, Bradbury, Scott Creek EFS on 28 April, 1957.

In the early years, CFS was a real family affair for Ray.

His father Charlie and brother John, both members of Bradbury, urged him to join.

Ray and his brother John built three fire trucks for the brigade, including one from a former petrol tanker they bought for 200 pounds in 1957.

Not only was Ray one of the station's mechanics, but he was a builder too, helping to erect the fire station at its first location and then adding to it later on.

In 1985, Bradbury was expecting a new appliance which wouldn't quite fit the station, so Ray said 'no worries, we will just lift the roof and take the sides out; a piece of cake!'

This is a well-liked story that is still recalled.

In 1996, eleven years after this addition to the station, a new location and station was needed and again Ray drew up the plans and together

with a wonderful band of helpers, did all the inside work to the shed once it was erected.

Ray married Lois in 1964 and as a new bride, she soon found out how much CFS was a part of Ray's life.

He would come home from work, have his meal and go straight to the fire station, a schedule that would sound all too familiar to partners of CFS members.

It wasn't long before Lois found 'if you can't beat it, join it' and she is still a member of Bradbury CFS and holds the positions of Brigade Logistics Officer and Radio Operator.

In the early years of Ray and Lois' marriage, Ray did water carting with the fire truck; Lois took the calls. Ray delivered water after work and on weekends for many years, often with their eldest daughter Robyn who was trained at the age of eight to start the pump.

Ray has been in the thick of two Ash Wednesdays and many other fires.

After the first Ash Wednesday, some of the wives and mothers of Bradbury CFS members told Lois that they were always glad to hear that Ray was driving the truck, as he was a safe and experienced driver who remains

calm in hazardous situations.

Ray was a delegate at original Council EFS meetings and has served on many other CFS committees and even now still attends general meetings with the Mount Lofty Group.

Up until 1968, Bradbury CFS didn't have a Captain and Lieutenants, as we know them now; there was a Station Officer, Fire Controllers and Fire Party Leaders.

Ray was elected Captain of Bradbury CFS at the 1968 AGM and again in May 1980 for a few months.

At the AGM in August 1971 Ray became the Brigade Administration Officer (BAO), a position he has held for 36 years.

Ray held the position of Fire Controller until he became a Lieutenant in 1980 and has been a Lieutenant for 27 years.

Ray has given 50 years of full service to the CFS and only Lois knows the silent hours he has put in working on trucks and at the station.

Ray has been a builder, mechanic, firefighter and mentor to so many; you could say it's his life.

Ray never expects praise, he is a most modest man, but in his families eyes he deserves life's highest award.



# VOLUNTEER [ OBITUARIES ]

## Sam Mitchell

By: Heather Hean and Colin Mitchell, Sam's children



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VOLUNTEER - OBITUARIES

Sam Mitchell was never one for glitz and glamour, however in September 2005 he stood tall and proud at Government House where Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson presented him with the prestigious Australian Fire Service Medal.

It was a just reward for 47 years dedicated to the CFS.

Sam was born at Clare Hospital to Hurtle and Annie Mitchell and grew up in a small farming town called Yacka in the Mid North of South Australia.

Sam attended Yacka Primary School and Gladstone High School, which he left after one year to work with his parents on the family farm.

His limited education was no barrier to him achieving the things he did during his life.

Sam had a thirst for knowledge, loved a challenge and his perfectionist nature showed in all his accomplishments.

He was very talented when it came to working with his hands.

Sam's 21st birthday present, an arc welder, led him to manufacture many gadgets, machinery and building construction.

Sam also obtained an electrician's licence to help supplement the farm income during tough times.

In 1963 Sam married Kathleen and they enjoyed 44 happy years of married life together.

Sam and Kathleen lived on the family farm until 2001, when they retired into Clare.

Sam had three main loves in his life — his family, his farm and his community involvement.

His family meant the world to him and he worked hard to provide for them and future generations.

In the latter years, Sam had more time to spend with his grandchildren, who he completely adored and the feeling was reciprocated.

As a farmer, he had a tremendous love for the land and considered it a privilege to be able to grow produce to help feed the world.

Sam was once quoted as saying 'he

received his greatest satisfaction from being part of an organisation that helped people in need', that being the SA Country Fire Service.

During the time he lived in Yacka, Sam was involved in such things as Chairman of Yacka Primary School, Yacka Community Development Board, Agricultural Bureau, Institute Benefit Committee, Councillor on Georgetown and Rocky River Councils, Yacka Progress Group and others; but the CFS was his true passion.

In 1959 he joined Yacka CFS and was Station Officer/Captain until 2001.

As well as firefighting, he spent hundreds of hours building and maintaining the vehicles and fire shed.

In 1966 the group then known as Yacka Emergency Fire Service (EFS) did a reassessment of equipment, especially the existing design of the truck following a large fire and Sam was given the job of building a new body for the truck, and his design, planning and welding skills showed through.

Sam was a natural leader and his ability to quickly survey a fire and analyse what method of control was needed played a vital part in his firefighting roles.

In the 1980's he completed Levels 1,2 & 3 Basic Fire Training at their inception, and went on to gain his Instructors certificate.

Sam spent many weekends teaching at Bowman's Park at Crystal Brook, along with George Polonka and Gary Bradke.

In 1988, Sam was honoured with a Life Membership of the CFS at a ceremony that coincided with the opening of the new Yacka CFS shed, a project which Sam had a great deal to do with.

In 1994, Sam received a National Medal for meritorious service.

Sam served as President of the Northern Fire Fighting Association (now the SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association) as well as Regional Representative on the State Vehicle and Equipment Committee.

He had a great deal of input into the

design and installation of the foam proportions that are used on the back of appliances.

Sam spent four years as Vice President of the South Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (SAVFBA) and was CFS Representative on the Regional Bushfire Prevention Committee for Region 4.

He was one of the foundation members of the Rocky River Group

"He was a true gentleman and very well respected."

After 'retiring' in Clare in 2001, Sam continued to work on the farm as much as he could, as well as his community involvements.

He would often answer the phone 'Sam's Volunteer Help Service' as his days were spent wherever he was needed most — with son Colin on the farm, helping daughter Heather with her baby son, or one of the various committees he



and was involved in the formation of the Bundaleer Group.

Sam thoroughly enjoyed being able to have such valuable input towards matters that he felt strongly about.

He made many good friends and he and Kath enjoyed travelling around Australia on several interstate conferences.

Whilst researching this obituary, everyone that was spoken to, kept reiterating the same opinions towards Sam, those being...

"He stood up for what he believed in and had the gift of foresight, both great qualities that helped get a lot of things accomplished.

"Whatever group or committee he was working for, he would always put their thoughts and wishes forward and not his own, something that those within the CFS admired him for.

"His initiative and commitment was invaluable to many sectors of CFS across South Australia.

was on, including Lions, Clare Uniting Church, Rural Counselling, SES and Road Safety Committee.

After a very hard year health wise in 2006, Sam passed away suddenly on 4 January 2007, aged 68.

He is survived and greatly missed by his wife Kathleen, children Colin and Heather and their partners Kathy and Mick, along with his grandchildren and 'little mates' Leah, Brett, Jessie, Lachie and Jake.

After his funeral at Clare Uniting Church, a guard including members of the CFS, SES and Lions Club of Clare, honoured Sam.

Yacka 34 fire truck sat at the gates of Yacka Cemetery waiting to welcome him in.

Sam Mitchell was a quiet achiever who led by example, providing an excellent role model for his family, fellow volunteers and the community at large.

The world could do with a lot more Sam Mitchell's.



## Michelle Maguire

R1, Anthony Maguire and Peter Davis

Michelle first started working on contract with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in 1983 with the Protection Management Unit working for Howard McBeth, writing Fire Management Plans for NPWS Reserves.

During this time she worked alongside Anthony who was working on weed control plans.

Michelle started work with CFS in December 1986 with the Bushfire Prevention Unit at Stirling where she was involved in developing new CFS processes; building in Bushfire Prone Areas, bushfire prevention plans; Fire Prevention Officer training; waste depot inspections and community education.

Michelle became the first female Regional Officer in South Australia for the CFS working at Stirling.

It was during this time that she first came to Kangaroo Island and did inspections of townships with Trevor Davis who was the Kangaroo Island CFS Group Officer.

Michelle resigned from CFS to marry Anthony and she worked for NPWS as a guide at Seal Bay.

However, CFS recognised her talents and asked her to continue with Fire Prevention Planning and Michelle became the first female Bushfire Prevention Officer in South Australia.

In 1990, Michelle was appointed part-time Fire Prevention Officer for Dudley and Kingscote Councils and continued in this position in the Kangaroo Island Council.

Michelle registered as a Volunteer Firefighter of the Kingscote CFS in 1990 and transferred to Penneshaw CFS in 2000.

As a volunteer she was Group Administration Officer from 1996 to 1998.

Michelle was instrumental in developing professional approaches in all that she did and was an excellent role model for women working in a male dominated organisation.

At times this was challenging for both her and the people she worked with.

She was not afraid to voice her

opinion when she saw things weren't right and then work with people to develop good solutions.

Her professional approach to bushfire prevention planning was much sought after with the result that she wrote a number of bushfire prevention plans for other councils and organisations.

Michelle was very active in her role as a council Fire Prevention Officer with Kangaroo Island

Council and also played an active role in state-wide fire prevention activities through membership of the CFS Region 1 Bushfire Prevention Committee and as the Minister's representative on the SA Bushfire Prevention Advisory Committee to which she was appointed in 2000.

Michelle played a high profile role in the wider Fire Prevention Officer network in SA and brought a considered and professional

approach to processes that are now employed throughout the State.

We are privileged to have known and worked with Michelle.

Even when she was unwell she kept doing the job that she was so good at.

Michelle was kind, caring and dedicated to her family, the wider community and the environment.

From CFS love and deepest sympathy to Anthony, Alex and Maddie.



Michelle with her son Alex.

## Vale Michelle Maguire

By: Euan Ferguson, SACFS Chief Officer

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Michelle Maguire from Kingscote.

Michelle was a former employee of CFS, Bushfire Prevention Officer for KI and a longstanding Minister's nominee on the State Bushfire Prevention Advisory Committee. Michelle passed away following a

long battle with a brain cancer. Our sincere condolences are extended to Anthony and the family. Michelle was unique. She was a thoughtful but strong advocate for proper fire management. She was energetic and collaborative. She was inspirational in leading

better fire management. We will miss her deeply as a friend and a colleague. CFS was represented at Michelle's funeral by Regional Commander, Mark Thomason and Manager Prevention Services, Leigh Miller.

(FireWire No.113, 21 August 2007)





## Daniel James Clarke of Tanunda CFS

By: Rick Kessner, Captain Tanunda CFS

Daniel passed away on 14 April 2007 at the age of 26 after a short but brave fight with a very rare form of cancer.

Daniel joined the CFS as a cadet in March 1994 at Edithburgh.

The story behind Daniel joining the CFS began when he and a few of his friends were playing around and accidentally started a fire.

To ensure Daniel learnt the errors of his ways, he was asked to attend a CFS meeting.

Following the meeting Daniel joined the CFS and completed his Level 1 Firefighting course, which was one of 21 courses Daniel completed over the next 13 years.

In March 2001 Daniel moved to Tanunda and joined Tanunda CFS.

He formed strong bonds with fellow members of the Brigade and the CFS became a very important part of his life.

Daniel was a fibreglasser by trade and undertook other employment in the Valley, which included being a security guard, and his final employment with Helbig Memorials learning the skills involved in stonemasonry.

Daniel was a BA operator and undertook a compartment fire behaviour course.

In September 2004, Daniel was elected Lieutenant 3, demonstrating the confidence Tanunda Brigade had

in his capabilities.

Daniel was proud of the skills he acquired and would readily pass on his knowledge.

He had a great knowledge of vehicles and equipment, and an eagerness to learn about new equipment.

He was mechanically minded and if something needed fixing he had a saying "I can do it"; and would proceed to the boot of his trusty Ford to get the appropriate tool required to do the job.

For example, after an altercation between a 34P and a fence post whilst patrolling a previous fire that day there was some repair work to be done on the truck - straightening out of the roller locker door, the guide rail, the bottom and side of the locker and some internal fittings.

At around 2130 hours, and with more extreme weather forecast for the next day, discussions began on how to fix the truck.

"I can do it" was the comment from Daniel; it was just a matter of reversing the Ford back and opening the boot.

Any tool you needed, he would say "in the boot".

With his panel beating skills and support from others, the 34P repair work was completed by 0200 the next morning.

Daniel carried out all his duties with dedication.

He made himself available for strike team deployments and went to the Port Lincoln fires and recently the Riverland fires.

Tanunda CFS moved into its new station in September 2006, which concluded a very busy period of working bees.

These working bees were held nearly every weekend for many months and Daniel hardly missed any of them, which proved his dedication.

Also, Daniel was involved on the brigade's Management Committee and was a member of St John, Barossa Division for three years, up until the time of his passing.

Daniel was incredibly brave - he organised his own funeral with the help of his mate, Quinton Kessner, who is a fellow member of the Brigade and a funeral director.

It was Daniel's wish to have his life celebrated at the new station and his coffin to have the CFS and Ford logos on it, topped with flowers in the CFS colours.

Over 240 people attended his funeral at the new Tanunda CFS station, which was followed by a guard of honour and a procession by CFS and St John in escorting Daniel for the walk along the main street to his final resting place (all vehicles in the order as per his instructions).

Daniel donated his new washing machine to the brigade, but only on the proviso that it was looked after.

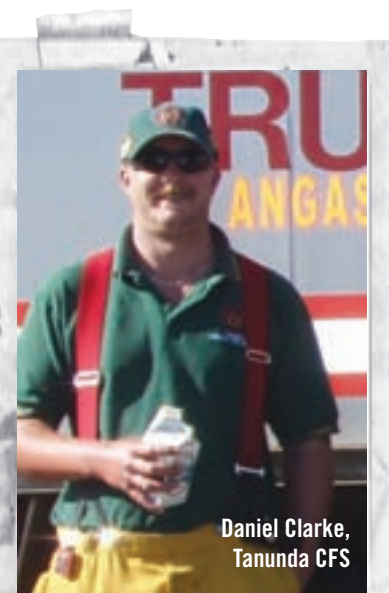
I gave him that assurance and that SOPs for its use would be prepared.

Daniel was a highly valued member of the brigade and community in general, one of those people who would get in and get things done.

He made some very strong, lasting friendships in the CFS and was well respected.

Daniel will be a truly missed member of the CFS, our family and St John.

"Miss me, but let me go."



Daniel Clarke,  
Tanunda CFS

## James Neville Butler (Jim)

By: John and Sonia Beimans, Moorak CFS

Jim was a founding member of the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1947 and Life Member of Moorak CFS.

Fellow firefighter, Col Lamond, remembers Jim's first fire at a local landmark - Mount Percy.

Jim ran up the hill with the tools of the trade; sacks, milk cans full of water and a hand pump to curtail the blaze - always with a cheerful disposition.

Jim assisted building the first fire shed at Moorak.

He observed many changes within

the service and attended many of the larger fires around the district including Ash Wednesday and the Kongorong fire in January 1959.

During the Kongorong fire Jim was remembered for saving the crew of the truck with only the hairs on the back of their hands singed, after he had talked the younger over-enthusiastic members out of going to the head of the fire when a wind change occurred.

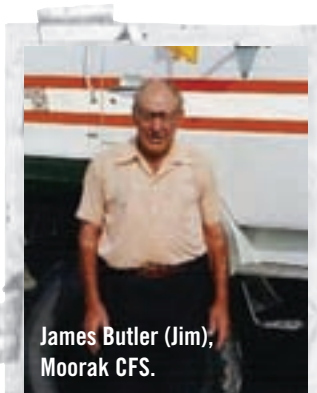
Jim was one of a line of Butlers who gave service to the Moorak

community within the fire brigade.

Jim's father was a founding member of the original Moorak district Fire Brigade in 1939, and his son Iain followed in his footsteps to reach the rank of Captain and his grandsons volunteered for many years.

Jim will be fondly remembered by Moorak and surrounding districts for his service to the community and assistance to anybody needing a hand or a friendly chat.

Jim passed away on 19 April 2007. He will be sadly missed.



James Butler (Jim),  
Moorak CFS.



# 46 years as a firefighter

Thomas Henry Moore passed away on Wednesday, 16 May 2007.

He joined the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) / SA Country Fire Service (CFS) in 1960.

Tom was a popular member at Dublin CFS and was very involved in Dublin's training as an instructor on Monday and Wednesday nights.

Every one looked up to Tom as a role model, mentor and leader.

He not only knew fire fighting, he was one of the pioneers; one of the few who first wrote the training, put the training into practice and went out fire fighting in the early beginnings.

Personally, he was my role model and mentor.

At work, we always spoke about his times as a fire fighter while he was teaching me the craft of stonemasonry and also while I assisted him as a Cadet Leader at the Dublin brigade.

Tom attended every EFS/CFS course available in his 46 years, and was presented hundreds of different certificates of achievement and received numerous awards in his lifetime.

Originally Tom joined Salisbury CFS brigade as a fire fighter and was awarded Life Membership of Salisbury CFS.

He was an active Instructor at the Mount Lofty Training Centre.

He was awarded the National Medal, 1st and 2nd Clasp to the National Medal and received a Ministerial Commendation in 2003.

Tom's 3rd Clasp was posthumously awarded and presented to his wife Ronda by Ray Bryant, Light Group Officer, after Tom's farewell.

In Tom's early days he was quite the sportsman; he represented Broken Hill in competition cycling, represented NSW football (under 14's) and was a very competitive A grade cricketer, as a wicket keeper.

Tom's first job was in the pits at the silver mines of Broken Hill and later he learnt the craft as a stonemason in Broken Hill.

Tom then moved to South Australia and soon after married Ronda.

Tom was a Sergeant in the army and was also involved with EFS Headquarters Reserve, the Volunteer Industrial Fire Squads and participated as a Marshall at the EFS/CFS competitions for many years.

Tom later worked in the correctional services as a Prison Officer for Enfield and Cadell.

He trained prisoners the skills involved in fire fighting and then later led prison crews to fight fires such as Ash Wednesday and other large campaign fires.

Following this, Tom applied for a position at General Motors Holden as a Security Guard, then later became



Safety/Fire Officer, before retiring as a stonemason in his local community repairing old buildings.

Tom worked on many historical buildings and homes in the area such as the Mallala Museum, Dublin Institute, Lower Light Primary School, Catholic Church and Balaklava Freemasons Lodge.

Many times if the homeowners could not afford to pay him (eg. if they were pensioners), Tom repaired their houses for no money and would often only accept chocolate cake, lunch and plenty of coffee as payment.

Tom was a stonemason by trade and a perfectionist.

He taught me how to be a craftsman and we both worked together on many projects.

**Trevor Schiller**

**Captain Dublin CFS, Friend and Work Colleague**

Tom's love for the Dublin CFS was clear by the amount of work he did and the time he spent helping to build the crew room, radio room and toilet block.

He joined the Freemasons and took great delight in telling other members that not only could he moralise on the excellent work of the ancient builder of King Solomon's temple but was an operative mason and could really work in stone.

Approximately 30 years ago, Tom moved to Dublin and joined the Dublin brigade at the time that Phil Ferme was Captain.

Phil was delighted that Tom had joined Dublin; Phil and Tom had been judges at the Fire Service Competitions

so they had much to talk about.

Tom had many skills; he was the person that knew all the knots and spent many hours trying to teach us.

He loved to show us his petrol gas machine (which demonstrated gas vapour sinking to the lowest point and only ignites when vapour comes in contact with flame at the bottom of the stairs) and took great pleasure when new members jumped with amazement when it blew open the lid on top of the box.

When Tom's illnesses (Parkinson's disease) began to take hold, he was determined not to let it beat him and worked even harder.

Personally, I think work took his mind off his health problems and later when he couldn't work he would come down to the station on his scooter and work the radio for us.

He loved it when his grandchildren

joined the CFS.

Tom was a great friend to us all.

Our thoughts are with Ronda and family. It has been a trying time for them during Tom's illness - we wish them all the best for the future.

Tom is at peace now and may the great architect of the universe look after our brother, friend and fellow firefighter.

**Terry Halford**

**Vice President and former Captain Dublin CFS**

During quiet moments together around the campfire or sitting in the dirt on the side of the road munching on a pastry, Tom and I would reflect on our lives, activities and family.

We would always conclude appreciating the support and understanding of our wives and family who allowed the two of us time to pursue our interests.

These "special occasions" were and remain precious to me.

Tom's ability to communicate and gain peoples' co-operation and respect was unique.

He had a sense of humour particularly in situations that were trying ones patience i.e. competitions in pouring rain, standing in mud and water over your ankles, and being pelted by hailstones.

Tom possessed strong ethical and moral values and was a man of dignity and pride.

It is a "sad time" for all as we grieve the passing of a family member and a friend.

The challenge now is to maintain the standards, practices and ethics Tom has taught us, striving always to serve others and "do things better"; that is what Tom would want.

Cherish these rich and meaningful memories as a lasting tribute to a great guy "Our Tom".

**Brian Menadue**

**Senior Development Assessment Officer, SA Country Fire Service**

These are just some of the thoughts and memories of 'Tom'.

We will miss you Tom.

## A tribute to Ray

By: M George Harris, Pt Broughton CFS

Raymond Ensley Robinson joined Port Broughton brigade when he was around sixty-nine years of age and completed his level one and two training courses.

Ray became our Radio Operator after he began to experience knee problems and was unable to get in or out of the

truck easily to attend call outs.

Ray was also our Communications and Equipment Officer.

When something needed to be done, with a big smile on his face, Ray would make suggestions on how it could be completed and then would get in there and do it.

When the Cadet Officer needed a hand,

Ray would be the first person to put his hand up to help with the cadets.

When the brigade had a BBQ, Ray was our cook and when food was required at an incident, Ray ordered it, picked it up and delivered it.

As the Training Officer, when I needed ideas or had ideas for a

training night I would pass them by Ray to hear his thoughts.

In Ray's younger years he fought in three wars; the Korean War, the Malayan War and completed three tours of Vietnam and was a highly decorated soldier.

Ray passed away on 30 January 2007.

We all sadly miss Ray.



# THANKYOU CFS

## CFS Praise

We all read with horror every week of the damage bushfires wreak on our neighbours and never expect it to happen to us.

Last week it did.

The quick action of one of our neighbours and the CFS, both on the ground and in the air, averted what could have been a very serious fire.

Sometimes we forget the work these people do for us, in their own time, for no money.

I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

**Susi Lamb, Aldgate**

(Mount Barker Courier, 21 February 2007)

## Community thanks its CFS Volunteers

Two "thank you" signs painted by Echunga residents for their local CFS brigade have put a smile on the faces of volunteers, Heysen Group Officer and Echunga firefighter Peter Hammond said this week.

The signs, put up near the Hagen Arms hotel shortly after the Mt Bold fires, were

the first public expression of its kind he could remember in 25 years of service in the district.

People usually wrote letters of appreciation or came into the station personally.

"I think it's really good that people are thinking about the volunteers," he said.

Meanwhile, the Charleston community showed its appreciation to the CFS with a sausage sizzle outside the local hotel.

All proceeds from the barbecue plus \$1 from every counter meal sold at the pub went to the Woodside brigade.

Charleston Hotel publican John Pearce also donated \$250.

(Mount Barker Courier, 24 February 2007)

## Kangarilla CFS Brigade

The purpose of this letter is to say a very big, heartfelt thanks to all CFS personnel, and particularly our own Kangarilla Brigade and support people, for the wonderful work done on 10 January 2007 and subsequent days battling what we now call the Mt Bold Fire.

On Wednesday evening 10 January 2007, fire leapt across Saddlebags Road and raced through grass behind our house and into our native bushland and gullies beyond.

By the time we knew what was happening, Kangarilla CFS and other units were on our property, protecting our house and working so hard to stop the fire taking hold.

Water bombers were operating and things were happening at a hectic pace.

The fire front moved through quite quickly, but trees continued to burn and we experienced a moderate resurgence in the gully near our house later that evening.

The CFS response was again very effective; at that stage the sight of appliances arriving to help was as good as it gets.

Some backburning and other operations protected our house and probably stopped the fire moving into our horse paddocks and down to other properties below and around us.

For the next 2-3 days the CFS were ever-present day and night, extinguishing burning trees and small flare-ups.

Their presence was at all times purposeful and well managed, and for us was very re-assuring.

The destruction of bushland is saddening, but the people, animals and built assets on our property (other than some fencing) were safe.

Without your presence, your skills and courage the outcome may have been much worse for us and for many of our neighbours.

Our thanks and our respect goes to you all.

Best wishes

**Mike and Wendy Golder**

## Thank You CFS

On Tuesday 21 November 2006 at about 11am, lightning started a bushfire near Kelly's Hill Road, One Tree Hill.

We would like to thank the many Country Fire Service (CFS) ground crews and aircraft that attended the fire.

The police and fire crews were on the scene quickly, warning motorists and residents about the fire.

When the smoke was thick and the fire looked like spreading towards Bassnet Road, it was very reassuring to see a CFS truck rolling up the driveway to check that the residents in each house were okay.

Even when we couldn't see what was happening, we knew we weren't on our own because we could hear the aircraft coming and going as they helped to fight the fire.

We know that many of the crews worked into the night and that the crews of some fire trucks, water tanks and earthmoving equipment spent the next few days in the area making sure the fire was out.

We really appreciate all your hard work. With thanks,

**Members of the Bassnet Road and Sambell Road; Community Fire Safe Group**

## Thank You Harrogate

We own one of the properties that sustained major fire damage near Harrogate on January 4, which burnt out about 80ha, plus 30ha of natural bushland.

The bush block, as we call it, was one of the few remaining native vegetation areas left.

Although many of us tried to stop the fire racing across the paddocks, it trapped a mob of 150 sheep, burning a large number.

The fire also brought down about 100 mature gum trees, most over 100 years old.

The bush block was home to numerous native animals and birds, some perished and others lost their habitat, which is going to make life very difficult in this drought year.

The bush block also contained some rare and endangered plants and we can only hope they will recover.

We would like to thank all the neighbors who came to our assistance and, of course, the CFS and air appliances who did a brilliant job.

We did not manage to see many of you at the time, as we were busy trying to save what we could.

Thanks again, your efforts were very much appreciated.

The person who lit this fire and possibly the many others we have experienced,



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU & CONTACT DETAILS



needs to understand that it is not just grass that is destroyed.

The obvious losses of stock feed and fences can be replaced at a financial cost, however we cannot replace the old trees and unnecessary suffering inflicted on the sheep and native animals.

**Peter, Sue and Chris Atkinson Harrogate**

(Mount Barker Courier, 24 February 2007)

## Thank You

We are writing to thank you and your members for the outstanding service and diligence they showed during the fighting and controlling of the Mt Bold Fires from 10 January 2007.

Our property is in the area in Cut Hill Road which was severely affected by the fires and without the support of the CFS in particular, we believe we would have lost far more of our property.

Their professionalism combined with the warmth and kindness in our time of need and sorrow was overwhelming and heart warming.

Whilst we are sure it was a team effort, our personal experience was with the local CFS Brigade at Kangarilla and other brigades from Pinaroo, Balaklava and Orreroo.

If the attitude and commitment of these brigades are indicative of those of your whole Service then we consider ourselves very lucky to have moved to South Australia.

We would appreciate you passing this message on to your brigades and thank them and their families for their time and commitment

Yours faithfully,

**Janeen & David Coleman  
Cut Hill Road, Kangarilla**

## Well done to Myponga crew

I wanted to highlight the brilliant service your volunteers are providing to our state.

Currently I work as a paramedic with SA Ambulance and yesterday (Sunday 13 May 2007) I experienced first hand the expertise and professionalism of CFS crews.



I was part of an ambulance crew that attended an incident at James Track Rd, Myponga for an elderly lady that had fallen while bushwalking and fractured her ankle.

The Myponga CFS crew were brilliant and without them the outcome for the lady would not have been anywhere near as good.

Their ability to navigate a narrow winding old fire track for 2km allowed us to take our medical equipment (and us!) to the patient, which ensured they were treated adequately.

The assistance of Myponga CFS in extricating the patient firstly into the fire appliance and then onto our stretcher was invaluable.

Once again the skill and care with which the driver escorted us out in very trying conditions was unbelievable.

Although I thanked the Myponga CFS crew for their assistance on the day, please pass on my thanks and appreciation as I feel it is important to recognise the awesome work CFS do.

**Adam Swalling, Paramedic SA Ambulance Service**

# CONTACT DETAILS

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F: 08 8463 4234  
E: cfshq@cfs.org.au  
W: www.cfs.sa.gov.au  
CFS Bushfire Information Hotline:  
1300 362 361

## REGIONAL OFFICES

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Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island  
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T: 08 8391 1866  
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**REGION 2**  
Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula  
and Lower North  
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**REGION 3**  
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E: cfsr5@cfs.org.au

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**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOLUNTEER  
FIRE BRIGADES ASSOCIATION**  
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F: 08 8244 6400  
E: admin@savfba.org.au  
W: www.savfba.org.au

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