



VOLUNTEER



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State Training Officers

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Training Officers can deliver:

- Any BFF1 unit or units
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Queries:

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Region 2
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Region 3
8532 6800

Region 4
8642 2399

Region 5
8762 2311

Region 6
8682 4266



Government
of South Australia



Weekly Day/Night
Training Services
NEW!

WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

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Front cover image taken by CFS Promotions Unit at the Kangaroo Island Fires, December 2007.

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If you would like to contribute to *Volunteer*... **Send your photos and stories to:** The Editor, Volunteer Magazine, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001 or email: publicaffairs@cfs.org.au Don't forget to include your name, address, brigade and a contact phone number. Photographs can be supplied digitally, via email or disc, in the largest file size possible or as original prints. Text can be supplied as hard copy or electronically, via email or disc, as a Microsoft Word document.

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VOLUNTEER - CONTENTS



CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

With the often hectic fire season over, we continue to work to implement the recommendations of the Coronial Inquest into the Wangary Bushfire.

The responses of CFS (and many other agencies) to the complex fires on Kangaroo Island, and significant fires at Warooka (1 and 2), Belair, Gumeracha, Mt Crawford and Willunga were excellent opportunities for CFS to demonstrate that we are "getting on with the job".

And, of course, there have been the many responses to fires across the State that have been kept small and out of the news.

In a very challenging fire season, one of the driest on record, you have once again demonstrated your professionalism and commitment.

Well done and thank you!

We celebrated National Volunteer Week in May.

CFS volunteers are distinctive in our community.

Selfless service, determination in the face of adversity and danger, and working in committed teams who are focussed on protecting the community.

National Volunteer Week is a time to pause to give thanks to each and every one of our volunteers for your hard work, your professionalism and for your passion.

When we reflect on many of our successes and challenges from recent fires, we see a common theme that we need a continuing focus on leadership and incident management.

In May we formed a dedicated Task Group to focus on the development and delivery of our new Command and Leadership framework and to assist in planning Level 2 and Level 3 Incident Management Teams across the State.

The Command and Leadership framework will ensure that there is a mechanism to develop the right skills in our next generation tactical frontline leaders, incident management team leaders and senior strategic incident managers.

The Task Group will work closely with the Incident Management Steering Committee to ensure that volunteers continue to be involved in setting our priorities in this vital area.

You will be aware that retired Assistant Police Commissioner John

Murray APM has recently delivered his report and recommendations on the Review of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

While the Government is now seeking comments on the report recommendations, key outcomes of the process include that each of the emergency services are recommended to retain their own identity and status, and that the CFS Volunteers Association nominee will be retained on the SAFECOM Board.

Significant changes to the bushfire prevention and mitigation sections of the Act have been re-affirmed, but with more discussion to occur with local government on fire management committee structures.

In closing, I am sure you will agree with me that there is never a quiet time in the Emergency Services environment; however I trust that all in the 'CFS family' can make the most of the cooler months.

I would also like to pass on to all CFS members and their families, the thanks of the community of South Australia for keeping the State safe again over what proved to be a busy Fire Danger Season.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES

Thank You



CFS Volunteers

In gratitude for your support and diligent services provided during the 2007/2008 Fire Danger Season; Kangaroo Island (Vivonne Bay, D'Estrees, Western River, Flinders Chase), Gumeracha, Warooka (1&2), Belair, Williamstown, Willunga and the many other incidents attended over the season.

The Country Fire Service sincerely thanks you for assisting the communities in their time of need.

Your efforts preparing for and responding to all fires, throughout the fire season is greatly appreciated and highly valued.

Whether you battled the fires on the frontline or provided backup support across the State, I thank you.

Euan Ferguson AFSM
CFS Chief Officer





MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Carmel Zollo

It's hard to believe that winter is upon us and, instead of bush fires, storms and floods are very much on our minds.

The fire season once again tested the mettle of our Emergency Services volunteers – and once again, you've shown South Australians what an incredible asset you are.

Kangaroo Island of course stands out for a number of reasons - one young life was tragically lost - 90,000 hectares of property were devastated in the worst fires on the Island in living memory – the location added a whole new dimension to fire fighting – and with the island being a tourism jewel, the attention was as intense as the fires.

But for the main part, it provided an incredible example of how our volunteers work together when such crises strike.

The statewide help, the nationwide help and the help from other agencies including the State Emergency Service, Department for Environment and Heritage, the SA Ambulance Service, St Johns and the Salvation Army was impressive to say the least.

Although it was a dreadfully anxious time for all, I was privileged to see first-hand what a “campaign fire” is really all about – the precision with which everyone swung into action to set up, and run, all the necessary facilities.

At the same time, the Yorke Peninsula and West Coast had their own fires to deal with – it was a truly testing time.

Of course that was just the start of the season with more fierce tests to come – such as Belair and Willunga.

Homes were threatened – indeed one was lost at Willunga – and a number of volunteers were injured as they worked to protect the community.

We have had some rain at long last, but sadly the impact of the drought continues to be felt right across South Australia – and our changing weather patterns mean that bushfire seasons will become longer and there will be more frequent days of extreme fire days.

I need to re-iterate that this Government's commitment to our volunteer firefighters remains strong and we will continue to ensure resources are there when needed.

In January, we paused to remember Ash Wednesday, 1983. It was a truly moving event – one that reminded us that we must always remain alert to the danger of bushfires.

And we must always be alert to how our systems and approaches can be improved. You may be aware that the Review of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005* has now been completed.

I'm pleased that the report makes it clear that our emergency services organisations should remain as three distinct operational entities, each with their important cultural histories and traditions.

However, the Government won't support recommendations about removing volunteer representatives from the SAFECOM Board – we want the volunteers and their representative organisations to have a say in decision making.

We'd like to get your feedback on all of the recommendations, with the report available on the SAFECOM website.

I've also received the report from the Wangary Coronial Inquest Working Party – the Government is considering the report and how it will influence our imminent response to the Deputy Coroner's recommendations arising from the Eyre Peninsula Bushfires.

Its report does clarify that many of the Deputy Coroner's recommendations had already been implemented - and interim measures were put into place to ensure that the intended outcomes from this report were operational for the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season.

It is clear that significant progress has been made.

On the subject of progress being made, on 26 March I attended the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management Meeting in Canberra.

The Council acknowledged the valuable contribution of volunteers and requested a report from the Australia Emergency Management Committee on appropriated methods to recognise, recruit and retain volunteers.

Of course, there have already been some important developments in that area in South Australia.

The “Four R's” initiative was launched by SA Fire and Emergency Commissioner, David Place in February.

This recognition program is part of an overall volunteer and employer support framework.

We want to ensure our volunteers and their employers know that their contribution is valued and genuinely appreciated.

I look forward to attending a number of special events and activities designed to raise the profile of volunteers – having kicked things off with a recognition ceremony in Port Lincoln.

Volunteers Week in May also provided an opportunity to say thank you.

At the time of writing this, the State Budget was about to be handed down and I look forward to updating you on that in the next Volunteer.





CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

How relieved I was to wake up hearing the rain recently, signalling the close to an eventful Fire Danger Season.

Apart from last year's fires on Kangaroo Island, what really stood out to me this last season was the two weeks of record-breaking temperatures above 35 degrees.

I would love to have seen all the records volunteers had broken during that period...

- The total number of sleep hours volunteers had missed out on
- The amount of fuel from volunteers' cars used to and from the stations
- The number of phone calls made between members
- The number of pager batteries consumed in one week
- The total number of days of annual leave taken by volunteers to support their brigades ...and then some!

Bushfires impacted on several areas of the State and once again our volunteers placed the rest of their lives on hold to avail themselves to the community for days on end.

An ABC radio interview conducted with Peter Bishop – a volunteer treated for minor injuries after a burn-over at the Willunga fire – said it all.

When asked by announcer Matthew Abraham what he did after he was cleared by the paramedics, Peter said he helped organise a relief crew, went home, cuddled the wife and stared at the ceiling for an hour before being alerted by pager to return to the fireground.

His response sounded like this

was the normal routine for he and other volunteers.

An astonished Matthew Abraham replied with a sigh: "amazing," he said. I am convinced his response was echoed by thousands of listeners.

Peter's actions are the norm for CFS volunteers and are repeated on a daily basis around the State. I too am continually astounded by the selfless efforts of our members.

The pride I have in CFS brigades from witnessing the events of the past season is overwhelming.

Of course there is always the usual public response about not being told about the fires sooner, why we don't use the station sirens to warn the community and how they know best that South Australia should have its very own "Elvis". What a circus!

We all know full well the chaos that erupts in the first hour on the fireground.

Heads are a spin as you do your best to establish where the fire is, where it is headed and what needs to be protected.

Station sirens ...first they're sick of them and now they want them back.

And yes, aircraft are brilliant and we'll never be without them, but you might as well be if not for our volunteer firefighting force on the ground.

Having said that, I feel our fixed-wing pilots deserve a special mention.

It seems the media and the public are one-eyed supporters of the "Elvis" heli-tanker.

Of course it never was here in SA, but rather the "Incredible Hulk".

Our fixed wing pilots have been around for as long as I can

remember and have saved the lives of hundreds of volunteers on countless occasions.

I have witnessed their daring manoeuvres and sometimes pause from the action to enjoy a thankful chuckle to myself, "Amazing... just amazing".

To our firefighters in the sky, we salute you.

Outside of operations, the CFSVA is in the final stages of producing several audiovisual projects for the promotion of CFS volunteers.

Courtesy of grant funding from Emergency Management Australia (EMA), the CFSVA will produce two features by the end of June.

One is based on the retention, recruitment and promotion of volunteers and the other shows how the CFSVA operates to represent and offer support to members and brigades.

DVDs of the final feature will be issued to brigades later in the year.

The second is a community service announcement featuring the equity and diversity of CFS volunteers and will be seen on regional television stations, initially in Regions 4 and 6.

And finally, now that the CFSVA has established its new name, branches, groups and brigades need to ensure that their constitution or branch rules reflect the name change.

For more information speak to your local CFSVA branch president or delegate.

Let's hope for a quiet winter and I look forward to meeting up with you at the various CFS events over the coming months.





COMMISSIONER OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES David Place

With the closing of the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season I echo the sentiments of Minister Zollo and would like to personally thank all the CFS volunteers and personnel who battled fire fronts and were tested with major incidents such as Kangaroo Island and Willunga.

You again exemplified what it means to selflessly protect life, property and the environment and the community of South Australia, as I do, thank you.

As the dangers of the fire season abate, we have a bit more time to turn our minds to the work being done to improve sector governance, work practices, and volunteer management.

Significant progress has been made in relation to the recommendations from the Coroner's findings into the 2005 Wangary bushfire and the Review of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

The Wangary Working Party has presented a final report to the Government with the Government's response expected to be tabled in Parliament in June.

Another round of communication with stakeholders on the Government's position and further

work on the implementation of the outstanding recommendations will then follow.

In regards to the legislative review, the Government has reinforced the need for the ESO's to remain as three distinct operational entities and has ruled out removing volunteer representation from the SAFECOM Board.

I encourage you to read the review report and the Ministerial Statement available from SAFECOM's website to better understand how the recommendations might affect the CFS.

A coordinated sector-wide approach to recognising and thanking volunteers during Volunteer Week proved very successful.

About twenty CFS volunteers were featured in local papers and on radio and formal thanks from the Chiefs and myself were aired on ABC radio and papers across the State.

Significant progress has also been made on the Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program with over a hundred volunteers and employers being formally recognised at a number of events over the past few months.

CFS volunteers will also soon benefit from work being done to create a Volunteer Charter, seen as

a commitment by the Government, the CFS and SAFECOM to consult with, and consider the views of, volunteers on all matters that can be reasonably expected to affect them.

The Charter is expected to be signed by the Government and the CFSVA in June.

Work is also well underway in the review of SAFECOM's Volunteer Management Branch to ensure it is recognised as a national leader in emergency services volunteer management.

I am pleased to see the level of goodwill shown towards Volunteering SA as they conduct the review and the contributions that stakeholders have made to date.

To canvass all the issues, a questionnaire tool will be circulated shortly and face-to-face interviews and focus groups will continue.

To compliment this review, another major initiative has commenced investigating options to reduce the administrative burden on volunteers within the emergency services sector.

A workforce survey and focus groups will be held in each region to collate data and I urge you to participate in this important improvement program.

STOP PRESS - BUDGET UPDATE

A number of initiatives for the emergency services sector were funded in the State Budget handed down on 5 June 2008.

The Budget provides \$19.6m over four years to the CFS to address the findings of the Wangary Coronial Inquest including:

- An air crane dedicated to SA during the Fire Danger Season, additional support staff for aerial

operations and improved fire retardant mixing infrastructure.

- Community bushfire education, enhanced training for Incident Management Teams (IMT) and an Operations Planning Officer to coordinate IMT training.
- Continuing bushfire research efforts.

The CFS and SES will benefit from an Emergency Management Officer to liaise between agencies and local councils to provide a more

coordinated approach to prevention and warning activities.

The Budget also allocates funds to replace the O'Sullivan's Beach-based Sea Rescue 2. The replacement craft will not only be deployed to emergencies in the southern metropolitan waters but will also support operations in other areas of the State.

Funding of \$8.6m over four years has also been secured for 22 additional firefighters for the new

Paradise Fire Station. The MFS also received additional funds to cover the rising cost of fuel as did the CFS, SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue.

In responding to the Budget, SAFECOM Commissioner David Place said, "It's positive to see the reinforcement of our sector's importance in supporting community resilience through the provision of new funding for vital new assets and resources."





Two of the new Public Affairs team members, Nicole Ely and Chris Metevelis, in the media 'Greens'.



Part of the Public Affairs team in the Intelligence Cell at CFS State Headquarters (L-R): Chris Metevelis, Tara Rischmueller, Karina Loxton, Dawn Walker, Nicole Ely and Brenton Keen.

[PUBLIC AFFAIRS

As we farewell the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season and welcome the 'respite' of the winter months, we also farewell a number of Public Affairs team members and welcome some new starters.

Judith Bleechmore, SES's Account Manager, has taken up a position with the SA Ambulance Service and Kate Husband, Acting Manager Public Affairs, has departed CFS and SAFECOM to tackle a new job at the Department for Education and Children's Services. Chris Pepper, who has been with the team for a short time, has accepted a too-good-to-refuse position with the Sunday Mail.

Heading the new-look Public Affairs team is Karina Loxton. With more than 12 years' experience in marketing, public relations, consultation and public affairs, including a one year stint with the 2007 World Police and Fire Games as the event's Marketing and PR Executive, Karina is looking forward to her team working collaboratively with the CFS and the other ESO's to enhance the position and profile of each agency in South Australia.

The CFS will be assisted with the

expertise and experience of Chris Metevelis who joins the Public Affairs team as the CFS Account Manager after 19 years as a journalist with the ABC. Chris will handle the more strategic / political media enquiries, will undertake communications and public relations projects on behalf of, or in collaboration with, the CFS including the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season campaign, and will provide a lead role in the implementation of the new CFS website.

Tara Rischmueller fills the same position for the SES and comes to SAFECOM after five years with SafeWork SA. Tara is also completing a Masters of Arts (Professional Communication). Chris and Tara join John Foody, the MFS Account Manager, in the senior public affairs roles.

Another ABC journalist has joined the team with Nicole Ely looking for a new adventure after eight years as a radio and television reporter. Nicole started her career with the ABC in Port Augusta and then moved to ABC TV and Radio News in Adelaide where she held positions such as the Police and Emergency Reporter. Nicole is

the new Media Liaison Officer (MLO) and will be covering the media line for all three ESO's in tandem with the second MLO to be appointed shortly.

Brenton Keen, Heidi Geytenbeek, Mel Hunter and Dawn Walker have all been helping to establish the new team and holding the fort while the new members are being inducted and trained in Basic Firefighting 1 (BFF1), CRIIMSON, etc. Heidi has recently transferred back to the CFS while Mel, Dawn and Brenton will continue to assist the Public Affairs team over the next few months.

One of the first orders of business for the new team has been to accredit the new members in Basic Firefighting 1, with Chris, Tara, Nicole and Karina all completing the course in early June.

The pooling of public affairs resources from across the ESO's into one team will mean that while the members of the team each have their respective areas of responsibility to focus on, during periods of peak activity and major incidents, the CFS in particular will benefit with all hands on deck to keep the community informed and assist operational staff and media.

FAMILIAR VOICE OF CFS TAKES ON NEW CHALLENGE

Former CFS Media Officer Brenton Ragless is enjoying settling into his new role as weekday weather presenter on Channel Nine.

"I see presenting the weather as an extension of my passion for sharing stories about Australia's resilience to the elements," said Brenton.

Brenton said that while he was enjoying settling into the new role he's had some "knee-shaking" moments.

"On my first night presenting the weather I forgot to wear my lapel microphone. Only 60 seconds prior to going to air did one of the floor staff

pick up on it. Had I gone to air without wearing it, my first broadcast would have been very short lived!"

While Brenton will be working full-time reporting on weather and climate related stories he will still continue in his capacity as an ambassador for CFS volunteers.

<< The new-look Brenton Ragless as he appears on Channel 9's nightly weather.



SUMMER ON THE ICE

By: Narelle Rawnsley, Operations Planning Officer, Region 2

During the summer of 2007/08 I spent six months working as an expeditioner at Casey Station in Antarctica.

My work was mainly communications, some IT and air traffic control duties and I was employed by the Australian Antarctic Division (AAD), a Commonwealth Government agency.

The AAD employs expeditioners for both summer and winter positions - with all roles supporting the many science programs taking place across the Australian Antarctic Territory.

Sixty expeditioners were based at Casey over summer and 20 remain over winter to experience almost 24 hour darkness and very cold conditions.

A fire team, made up of mostly winter expeditioners, is on call 24 hours a day and like CFS they carry pagers for a rapid response.

Fire team members undergo three weeks training with the Tasmanian Fire Service, including some breathing apparatus and hazardous materials components.

Fire water in the fire station is kept heated at all times and if required,

more water is pumped from the tankhouse via a ring main system throughout the station.

Believe it or not, fire is a huge risk in Antarctica as a fire may render the station inoperable and fires will ignite and burn more readily due to the very dry environment.

All expeditioners undergo extensive training, including field training, safety and survival, quad bike training, weather, communications, ice axe use, and navigation prior to venturing out of station limits.

We were required to spend two nights in the field sleeping in bivvy bags in order to demonstrate our survival and safety skills in the harsh conditions.

Being a cold-climate person, I relished the cooler weather and enjoyed getting out in the sun as much as possible.

The average temperature over summer was around minus five, and this was quite pleasant on a calm day.

An increase in wind adds to the wind chill factor and makes it a lot colder than the ambient air temperature.

A number of blizzard days were recorded and 80 knot winds made it very hard to walk anywhere safely and upright, let alone between buildings and to walk to work.

'Blizz lines' or ropes strung between all buildings ensure no one gets disorientated, which is very easy to do when there is a whiteout situation.

Having daylight for 24 hours a day created many opportunities to get outside and I spent a lot of evenings watching penguins and seals at a penguin colony near the station.

Seventy kilometres inland at Wilkins Runway, temperatures hovered around minus 17 most of the time.

The first ever large passenger jet to land in an Australian Antarctic Territory occurred over summer; an A319 Airbus making a number of subsequent flights to bring in cargo and science personnel during January and February.

Most expeditioners like myself travelled aboard the Aurora Australis, a research and supply ice-breaking vessel, to get to our destination.

On the way down, a nine-day trip took us to the sea-ice edge where we were flown off the ship in a helicopter to the station with minimal supplies.

The return trip was a lengthy five week voyage stopping to re-supply other stations before returning to Hobart on 20 March 2008.

Antarctica is the most amazing place. The isolation, harshness and below zero temperatures make it an incredibly challenging place to live and work.

Despite this, the wonderful scenery, unique animals and environment constantly take your breath away - it's very hard not to love it.

I would like to thank the CFS for allowing me to take leave without pay in order to undertake this fantastic opportunity.

For more information and images of my experiences - you can view my blog site: www.narellesantarcticadventure.blogspot.com

Further information about Antarctica is available at www.aad.gov.au



<< The Antarctic Circle - one of the five major circles (or parallels) of latitude that mark maps of the Earth. It marks the northern limit of the area within which, for one day or more each year, the sun does not set or rise. The length of continuous day or night increases southward from the Antarctic Circle, mounting to six months at the South Pole (from www.worldatlas.com).



2008 CFS AFSM RECIPIENTS

NEWS & UPDATES



Five SA Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers and staff were honoured with the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in 2008.

Congratulations to Chris Martin, Commander Region 1, Raoul Otto de Grancy, retired Chaffey Group Officer and Neville Schultz, Cambrai CFS who received an AFSM in the Australia Day Honours List, announced on the 28 January 2008.

Congratulations to Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics and Andy Thomas, Group Officer, Burra Group who received an AFSM in the Queens Birthday Honours List, announced on the 9 June 2008.

Chris Martin

Chris Martin joined the CFS, then the Emergency Fire Service, in 1966 as a firefighter with the Eden Hills Brigade.

In 1975, he moved to Ardrossan where he joined the local brigade.

In 1985, Chris was successful in becoming a staff member of CFS, firstly in the State Operations Centre and then as a Regional Officer, serving in the Adelaide Hills, Port Lincoln and Murraylands/Riverland.

Between 1993 and 1997 he was a State Training Officer and was instrumental in moving the Training Centre from Brookway Park to Brukunga where it has evolved into a state-of-the-art training centre, providing a centralised location for specialised training with up-to-date methods and equipment.

The facility not only provides a centralised location for the volunteers of CFS but is also used by other South Australian emergency service organisations, industry groups and interstate fire services.

Since being appointed Commander of Region 3 in 2001, Chris has been instrumental in the employment of Business Services Officers who now provide invaluable assistance to

volunteers in helping them manage the non-operational functions of brigades and groups by reducing the level of paperwork, assisting with financial, procurement and asset issues; aspects which have significantly reduced the risk of malfeasance within the CFS and increased compliance with government audit requirements.

Chris has recently been appointed Commander of Region 1.

Chris's guiding force and outstanding leadership in a number of initiatives within the CFS in particular, and the emergency services in general, is testament to his commitment to the organisation.

Raoul Otto de Grancy

Raoul Otto de Grancy joined the CFS in 1975 and devoted a huge portion of his life and energy into improving the lives of his fellow firefighters and those in his Brigade, Group and Region.

He proved to be a good firefighter, a very good officer and an excellent Group leader.

He was instrumental in the merger of the Loxton and the Upper Riverland Groups into what is now the Chaffey Group.

Under his effective leadership, the transition was smooth and unified and all parochial differences were circumvented, giving the Riverland an extremely effective, professional and operational volunteer fire service.

Apart from the normal duties of a Group Officer, Raoul developed a keen understanding of the financial operations of Brigades, Groups and Regions and put this knowledge to good use in training and teaching other volunteers.

His commitment also extended into state matters such as the championing the SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (SAVFBA), now known as the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA), where he held the position of Branch Vice-President and delegate to the

SAVFBA Management Committee.

Raoul unequivocal loyalty and devotion to the CFS is an example for every volunteer to follow and his recent retirement as Chaffey Group Officer will be sorely missed.

Neville Schultz

Neville Schultz joined the Cambrai Emergency Fire Service in 1964.

The Brigade was typically rural with only minimal training and practice nights.

In 1979 records of all members were lost and they were asked to re-enrol with the CFS.

Neville was instrumental in building a more up-to-date fire appliance, putting in many late nights and weekends.

Over the next 10 years, he actively held the positions of Brigade Training officer, Administrative Officer and Brigade Lieutenant, showing exceptional leadership qualities.

These qualities were recognised in 1989 when he was unanimously elected to the position of Group Officer of the newly formed Ridley Group.

He immediately undertook a building process to upgrade appliances and facilities for the volunteers in the Group.

This process saw him undertake many hard fought battles with local government authorities for funding.

As a qualified instructor, he devoted countless hours training volunteers within the Group and from around South Australia and was a regular participant and assistant at the State Training Centre.

Neville has been instrumental in organising and hosting Regional Field Days and instructing at field days throughout the region.

He is an active member of Region 3's Operations Committee and has served as the committee's Chairman.

He was also the Operations Committee's representative on the State Committee for more than 6 years and has been involved with



Chris Martin, Commander, CFS Region 1.
Photo: © News Ltd

Raoul Otto de Grancy, recently retired
Chaffey Group Officer.



Neville Schultz, Cambrai CFS.

the SA Volunteer Fire Brigades Association (SAVFBA) committees for Regions 3, 7 and 8.

The SAVFBA is now known as the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA).

Neville has been an excellent ambassador for the CFS and his dedicated efforts have ensured he is held in the highest esteem by the community.

Arthur Tindall

Arthur Tindall joined CFS as a volunteer at Tea Tree Gully in 1978.

He remained active there for over twenty years during which time he held the roles of brigade training officer for six years, administrative officer for two years and was also a brigade lieutenant.

In 1998 Arthur was given the opportunity to combine his love of CFS with his engineering background and managerial skills when he won the full time CFS position of Manager Technical Services.

He continues to work for CFS as Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, a title that better identifies his current role within the organisation.

Arthur is passionate about his role in CFS and especially about firefighter safety having been involved in several burnover events himself.

He and his team are focussed on trying to constantly improve appliance design and safety features and this focus along with the associated technology implemented on CFS appliances led to CFS being awarded both State and National Safe Work Australia Awards for "The Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue" in 2006.

At a national level, Arthur has been instrumental in establishing two projects aimed at driving

further efficiency and operational interoperability amongst AFAC member agencies.

The first of these is the Collaborative Purchasing Initiative where multiple agencies are able to procure similar goods collaboratively and so make cost and other savings by aggregating their purchasing power.

The second is working towards consensus on, and implementation of, common hose couplings across Australia.

Through Arthur's technical ability, communication and advocacy consensus has been reached and a number of agencies are now implementing the agreed standard.

Operationally Arthur is responsible for Logistics and along with a small team has been instrumental in developing the logistical capacity of CFS, a capacity that was fully extended and tested during the Kangaroo Island fires late last year.

Arthur has consistently demonstrated outstanding energy, ingenuity and technical innovation and is a highly dedicated professional who serves as an inspiration to others.

Andy Thomas

Andy Thomas joined the Mount Bryan Brigade of the CFS in 1966 and has been an active firefighting member since.

He has trained continuously to keep up with the requirements of the ever-changing CFS role within the community.

In 1982, Andy assumed responsibilities as the Brigade's Chairman and continues to hold that position.

In 1988, he became Brigade Captain and was later elected Group Officer of the Burra Group.

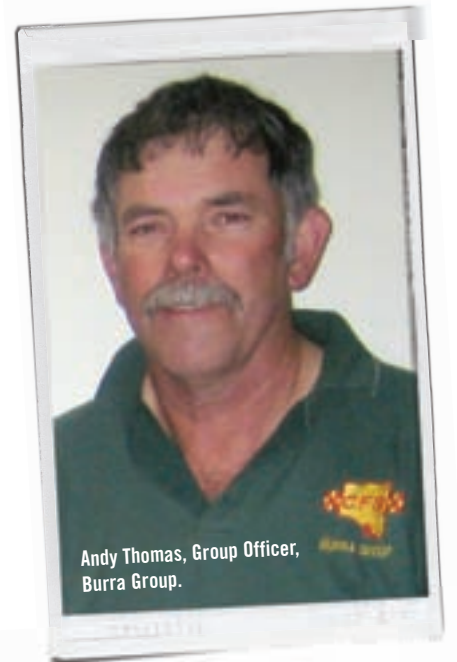
Andy has served with distinction, never failing in his duty to the Mount

Bryan and Burra and District communities.

His experience shows in his exceptional handling of all fire incidents; he always appears to be composed and in control, often under difficult circumstances.

Andy has undertaken many CFS training courses and leads his personnel by a wonderful example, communicating at all levels of staff in a clear and concise manner.

For over 20 years Andy has given exemplary service to the CFS and the community.



Andy Thomas, Group Officer,
Burra Group.



Arthur Tindall,
CFS Manager
Infrastructure
and Logistics.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

NEWS & UPDATES

Female Volunteers: Back L-R: Elena Obert, Jan Inkster, Linda Carter, Melissa Inkster, Athelstone CFS. Middle: Heidi Geytenbeek, Summertown CFS. Front L-R: Genevieve Kenny, Eastern Suburbs SES Unit, Yvette Dowling, Happy Valley CFS, Merise Adamson, Prospect SES Unit.
Photo: The Advertiser



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

The successes, battles and achievements of women were celebrated across the globe on 8 March for International Women's Day. In South Australia the emergency services gathered together some of their female volunteers to mark the occasion and recognise the contributions women make to the sector.

They braved searing heat in the middle of a 15-day long, record-breaking heatwave to don their uniforms for this Advertiser photograph.

Despite those proud smiles we suspect at least one or two were wishing it was 20 degrees cooler!

Jan Inkster (back row, second from the left) is one of thousands of women who have given a lot of their heart and time to the South Australian community.

The Athelstone CFS member joined the organisation in 1982 after making friends with other mums living in her neighbourhood.

"We saw our husbands rush off to fire calls at the sound of the siren. A few of us initially joined as auxiliary to help out with communications and catering," said Jan.

"We soon realised that crewing appliances during the daytime was sometimes a problem and as we were available during the day, we enquired about training to become active firefighters."

Jan says although the CFS was a more male dominated organisation 26 years ago, she and her friends were instantly made to feel very welcome.

"The guys were great and encouraged us to come along to

the next Level 1 course – as it was known then. We then went on to finish the rest of the courses that were available.

"Other brigades around the state had a few female firefighters and the numbers soon grew."

Jan Inkster sees no difference between what men and women bring to firefighting.

"Being in the CFS seems to be addictive and gets into your blood. We all train together and turn out to the various types of calls together.

"We rely on each other at some very trying times, and this forms a very strong bond between us. Apart from the skills I learn and the community spirit, it would have to be the comradeship that keeps me in the CFS."

Jan's daughter-in-law Melissa Inkster (back right in photograph) joined the CFS in 1997.

She says she saw South Australian volunteers being sent over to Sydney to help with fighting bushfires and it motivated her to join.

"Some of my friends think I'm crazy wanting to fight fires, get dirty and the smell of smoke... when I joined the Athelstone Brigade there were six women in the brigade, so that's quite a high ratio."

Melissa feels the CFS encourages women to join, and says during her nine years of membership she has developed more confidence and some valuable life skills.

"Women in the CFS are really no different than women anywhere else, except that we choose to do a



'hobby' that involves getting dirty. Women need to get out there and try something different. They might surprise themselves at what they can do."

We can't forget the contribution

of women in the State Emergency Service, either.

For decades they've also put themselves in harms way to save lives, search, rescue and give back to the community.

VOLUNTEERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW CHARTERS

The Volunteer Charters for the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Service were signed on 17 June 2008, marking a significant milestone in recognising and valuing the contribution made by volunteers to the emergency services sector.

The charters lay out the cooperative and consultative partnership between volunteers, the Government, the agencies and the volunteer associations.

The development of the charters has been a two-year journey which has involved a high level

of consultation and discussion between major stakeholders including the CFS, CFSVA and volunteers.

Premier Mike Rann, Emergency Services Minister Carmel Zollo and Volunteers Minister Jennifer Rankine joined CFS Chief Officer

Euan Ferguson, CFSVA President Ken Schutz and Commissioner David Place as signatories to the Charters.

The Charters will be distributed to brigades shortly and can be viewed at www.safecom.sa.gov.au under Volunteers.

CFS ON DISPLAY IN NATION'S CAPITAL

In August 2007, CFS Public Affairs received a request from a Sydney based business for several images to be used in an iconic large format wall graphic to be displayed inside the new Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) building in Canberra.

Artwork in the DAFF building followed a graphic system to reflect the department's themes, coming under the headings of rural, water, desert, forest and alpine.

The time-lapse image was called 'A Day in the Life of a Firefighter'

and includes an image of a CFS firefighter and a fixed winged water bombing aircraft.

The firefighter photo was taken by the CFS Promotions Unit at the Bridgewater fire during the 2006/07 Fire Danger Season, and the fixed-wing water bombing aircraft image was taken by the Public Affairs team at the Mount Crawford airstrip.

This same artwork will be used as a wall graphic in the CFS State Headquarters in the future, for use as a dramatic backdrop during press conferences.



▲ 'A Day In The Life of A Firefighter' time-lapse wall graphic on display in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) building in Canberra.



The artwork to be used as a wall graphic in the CFS State Headquarters.



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SAPES GAMES WRAP UP

NEWS & UPDATES

>> Female Tens Silver Medallists.



Fun, Fitness and Friendship' was the theme for the 2008 SA Police and Emergency Service (SAPES) Games, held from the 2-11 May.

With everything from angling to volleyball, many CFS volunteers and staff took the opportunity to take part, have fun and win some medals. CFS picked up medals in 11 of the 34 sports on offer, including darts, cycling, golf, shooting, swimming and dragon boat racing.

SAPES Games organisers have said this year was the biggest games ever with a 40 percent increase in competitors, and are hoping to have an even bigger and better event next year, with the announcement that the games will now be run annually.

The Games Executive Officer, Allan Vilcins said: "The great thing about the games is that on the sporting field, everyone is equal, everyone has

great competition, great times and great fun.

"The pressure that comes from being a member of an emergency service agency is left behind for a short while when competing; we hope that everyone enjoyed their experiences and are looking forward to next year's event."

Not only did CFS have competitors compete in a range of sports we also had people coordinating sports, which is a big job and the CFS is very thankful to those who put up their hands to help.

Euan Ferguson would like to encourage everyone in CFS to consider competing in the games next year; it's a great chance to get to know fellow CFS members and members of other emergency service and associated agencies.

Who knows, you might be competing against or alongside Euan.

For more information on the SAPES Games visit the website www.sapes.com.au

CFS games results:

Cross Country

Rebecca Crack, Lameroo CFS, Gold
Tristan Moyle, Belair CFS, Gold

Cycling Road Race

Euan Ferguson, 4th Place

Darts

Scott Broadie and Forbes Thompson, Blackwood CFS, Bronze

Dragon Boat Racing Fire Dragons

Female Tens, Silver

Golf

Julie Lovett, Burnside CFS, Gold

Mountain Bikes

Ryan Pym, Blackwood CFS, Bronze

Shooting Clay Target

Ian Hopton, Ashbourne CFS, 3 x Gold, 1 x Silver, 2 x Bronze
Deb Hopton, Ashbourne CFS, 1 x Gold, 1 x Silver, 3 x Bronze

Swimming

Marilyn Hughes

Cycling Road Race

6 x Gold

Euan Ferguson, 2 x Gold, 1 x Bronze

Ten Pin Bowling

B Grade Teams
Combined CFS/SA Police/MFS, Bronze
Joan Harris, Brian Viant, Nicole Viant, Tony Long



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.

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DISCOUNT ON ACCOUNTING SERVICES FOR CFS VOLUNTEERS

Richard Koral, Director EFC Group, has decided to thank CFS firefighters for their efforts after a bushfire threatened his Echunga property, by offering volunteers the following special rates:

- 7.5% discount on tax & accounting services (the end of the financial year is just around the corner)
- 15% discount on lending (referred to Westpac)

- 15% discount on any implementation and entry fees for financial planning
- 10% discount on personal insurance for each year of the policy (life cover, TPD, trauma and income protection).

CFS members are advised to speak to Richard or Mark Koral at EFC Group on 8272 6833.
Thank you EFC Group.



THE VOLUNTEER & EMPLOYER SUPPORT & RECOGNITION PROGRAM (VERSP)

MEETS NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK, 12 – 18 MAY 2008

By: **Adaïre Palmer, A/Manager, Volunteer Management Branch**

2008 heralded a very different way for the emergency services to celebrate National Volunteers Week in May. The Volunteer and Employer Support and Recognition Program (VERSP) had been in the development phase for nearly six months, and it was time to let it loose and see what happened!

VERSP is designed to raise the profile of emergency service volunteers and their employers. It is facilitated by the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission's (SAFECOM) Volunteer Management Branch (VMB) and comprises a range of activities and events to recognise and support volunteers and those who employ them.

Using the resources of the VMB, the SAFECOM publicity machine swung into action. While on a local level, it might have appeared that one or two volunteers had their photo printed in the local news, but on a statewide level it was quite a different picture.

Considerable media coverage was received with feature stories in newspapers across the State. Thirty-two separate articles and editorials highlighted the work of volunteers. In addition, there was a half-page advertisement thanking emergency services volunteers, their employers and families in *The Advertiser*.

Community radio announcements were aired on regional ABC and metropolitan stations using voiceovers from CFS Chief Euan Ferguson, State Emergency Service (SES) Chief Stuart MacLeod and SAFECOM Commissioner David Place. The messages expressed the sector's thanks and appreciation to volunteers for their contribution to the State's emergency services capacity.

In Adelaide a static display was set up in the foyer of the Department of Education and Children's Services for the full week. Its main aim was to educate the public about emergency services volunteers and to encourage new volunteers to contact the recruitment line.

CFS and SES trucks were parked in Rundle Mall for the national launch of Volunteers Week by Senator Ursula Stephens. Attendees at the launch included representatives from the CFS, SES, VMB and SAFECOM. Two SES rescue dogs also got plenty of attention!

In addition, a television campaign was developed specifically to thank employers of emergency services volunteers and retained firefighters. It was aired as a Community Service Announcement throughout the week on most networks.

Over seventy emergency service volunteers, employers and invited guests attended a special breakfast at the start of National Volunteers Week in St Peters as part of the May Community Cabinet meeting.

It was hosted by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC, the Advisory Board and SAFECOM to recognise and thank people for their dedication and support to the State's emergency services. Certificates of Recognition were presented to employers and self-employed volunteers. In addition medals were handed over from the New South Wales Government, thanking volunteers for helping in the clean-up following a devastating storm last June. The Premier's Certificates of Appreciation were also presented.

As if that wasn't enough, 30 CFS and SES volunteers attended a Community Cabinet BBQ and Forum at San Giorgio La Molara Community Centre. They also received the Premier's Certificates of Appreciation.

And it doesn't end there. As part of the VERSP program, more events and presentations are planned to take place regularly over the coming months, to offer real recognition and appreciation to volunteers, their families and employers.

More information on VERSP can be found at: www.safecom.sa.gov.au

Giving back to the community

Emergency services volunteers are giving back to the community...

<< Port Lincoln Times 13.05.08.



∨ Standard Messenger 14.05.08.

∨ Press advert, thanking volunteers for their efforts. Appeared in the *Adelaide Advertiser*.



∨ This message of thanks appeared in 30 local and regional papers.

Volunteer for change

Volunteers Week... The South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission...



∧ Port Lincoln Times 13.05.08.



SAFER COMMUNITY AWARDS



Mount Pleasant Brigade Captain, Jason Sabeeney, receiving his award from the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC.

A bright idea to promote fire safety while encouraging CFS recruitment scooped last year's Australian Safer Communities Awards.

The scheme was the brainchild of the Mount Pleasant CFS Brigade, which decided to target new residents with bushfire safety advice.

Working in cooperation with five local real estate agencies, new home buyers are presented with a safety information pack, which also includes CFS recruitment information.

The "New Resident Kits" contained a range of items, such as:

- A welcome to the district letter from the Brigade Captain
- Preparing for bushfires brochure
- Living through a bushfire brochure
- Bushfire restrictions brochure
- Bushfire action plan
- Learn fire safety booklet for children
- 20 steps to safeguard your home from bushfire
- A recruitment flyer for the local CFS Brigade
- A guide for prospective volunteers
- Frequently asked questions about the CFS.

The scheme has created considerable interest among other brigades, and went on to become a state winner in the 2007 Safer Communities Awards.

CFS regional commander John Hutchins said: "I thank the men and women of the Mt Pleasant Country Fire Service Brigade for their dedication and concern for their community and the integration of new members into the community. This initiative shows the true spirit of community and volunteerism."

Entries close for the 2008 Australian Safer Communities Awards on Friday 1 August. If you have a project that has improved community safety, then this may be the perfect way to promote and recognise your achievements in your own community and beyond.



Mount Pleasant Country Fire Service

**Railway Tce
P.O.Box 248
Mt Pleasant
S.A. 5235**

Dear Resident,

On behalf of the Mount Pleasant Country Fire Service (CFS), I would like to warmly welcome you to the district.

You have moved to one of the most beautiful parts of Australia, the Adelaide Hills. Unfortunately you have also moved to one of the most bushfire prone areas. Fortunately people who are well prepared rarely suffer serious consequences. For this reason we have put together this welcome kit which contains valuable information about preparing yourself and the family in the event of a bushfire, the fire regulations and information on becoming a member of the CFS.

If you are interested in joining the CFS we are always looking for new members or helpers to assist the community in times of need. Most towns have their own CFS brigade and attend up to 120 incidents per year. Our job doesn't stop during winter, as many incidents attended are vehicle related, structure fires, medical retrievals or even storm damage to name a few. If you live closer to other towns we can also put you in contact with that local CFS. Many Brigades need more people to assist especially during the day when most people are at work. It is for this reason that if you are a shift worker, work from home or are a house mum your assistance may be invaluable.

I can think of no better way to get to know people in the district and become involved in your local community than joining the local CFS. Even if you are looking for work, or the next career change, the skills learned and nationally recognised training provided by the CFS will more than likely assist you in gaining employment now or in the future. Comprehensive training, a pager and protective clothing is provided to you at no cost. Can you spare 2-4 hours / month? To find out more just give me a call.

If there is anything else you need to make your move to the hills more pleasant, please don't hesitate to call, after all the CFS is made up of members representing a fantastic cross section of the community with almost every occupation represented and a useful contact name or number is only a phone call away.

Yours Faithfully,

Jason Sabeeney
Captain - Mount Pleasant Country Fire Service
Phone W&H 08 8568 2600 M 0408 082 894

Bright idea: New residents receive a personal CFS welcome.

The Australian Safer Communities Awards are sponsored by Emergency Management Australia (EMA), a division of the Australian Government Attorney-General's Department, in conjunction with States and Territories. They

recognise best practice and innovation by organisations and individuals that help to build safer communities across Australia. Any organisation or individual can enter. State and Territory winners will receive an award and a certificate at

a special ceremony. National award recipients will be sponsored to travel to Canberra to receive their award and certificate.

For details, and to see the sort of projects entered in 2007, check out the EMA website at www.ema.gov.au.



WORKING IN HARMONY

HARASSMENT CONTACT OFFICER TRAINING

By: Adaire Palmer, A/Manager, Volunteer Management Branch



Participants in the Harassment Contact Officer refresher training:
 Back (L to R) Julie Paterson (VMB); Natasha Thomas (CFS); Daniel Tinker (CFS); Wayne Palmer (SES); Deane Pentland (CFS); Peter Pentland (CFS); Lyssa Liebelt (CFS); Gill Hall (SES); Ron Muller (Sea Rescue – VMR); Neil Turner (CFS); Kim Smith (VMB); John Gilbert (CFS); Linda Wollaston (SES). Middle (L to R) Felicity Hopkinson (VMB); Monica Verran (CFS); Julie Macmichael (SES); Jan Dolphin (CFS); Merise Adamson (SES); Robyn Coates (SES); Colin Coates (SES); Carolyn Muller (Sea Rescue – VMR); Matt Pearson (CFS); Michelle Egel (CFS); Pete Shalley (VMB). Front (L to R) Andi Sebastian (DQ Facilitation); Margaret Ludwig (VMB); Darryl Wollaston (SES); David Baker (VMB).
Photo: Adaire Palmer (VMB).

In a first for the sector, the SAFECOM Volunteer Management Branch has facilitated combined training across three organisations, and included volunteers and staff. In all, 26 people from CFS, SES, VMR and SAFECOM undertook Volunteer Harassment Contact Officers (HCO) training on 24 - 25 May.

There are now 50 Volunteer Harassment Contact Officers in the emergency services sector who are actively acting as ambassadors for the Working in Harmony Program (including the Volunteer Management Branch, who provide a high level of support for Harassment Contact Officers).

DQ Facilitation provided the expertise and a structured and fun workshop that enabled the trainees to learn and network in a positive, upbeat environment.

Key learning outcomes related directly to the HCO role, and included:

- Redefining and refreshing the role of the Harassment Contact Officer
- A refresher of relevant legislation, and some plain English definitions for discrimination, sexual harassment and bullying
- Grievance handling principles as they relate to the Harassment Contact Officer
- A refresher on the key components of SAFECOM's

complaint handling procedures as they relate to the Harassment Contact Officer role

- Lots of role plays based on actual examples
- A chance to observe and critique an Harassment Contact Officer 'interview'.

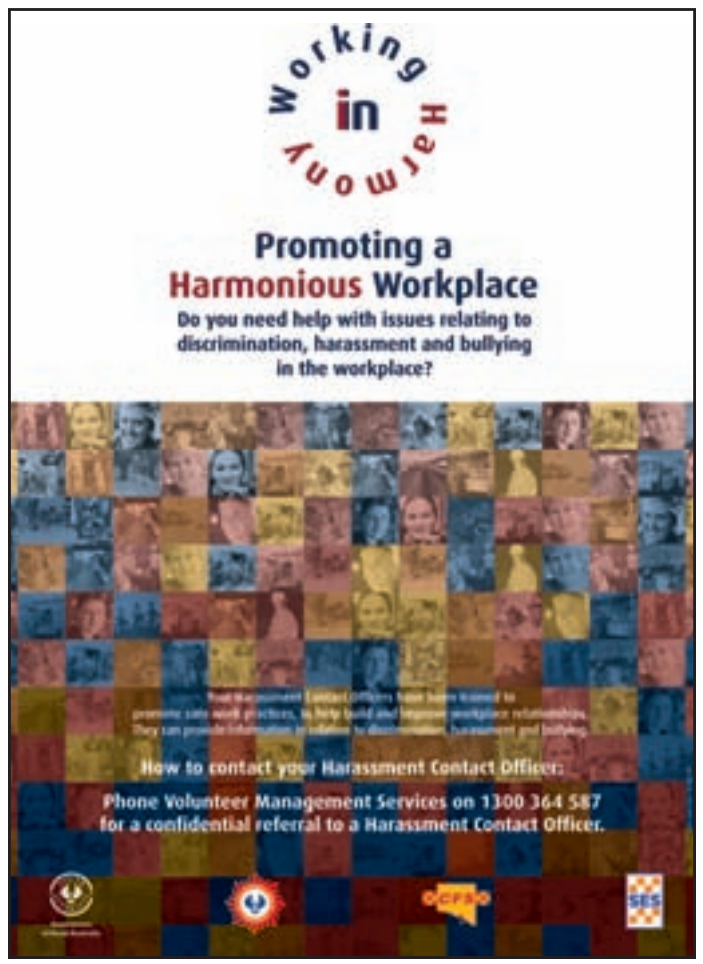
The role of the Harassment Contact Officer is twofold:

- To take referrals and deliver a one-on-one service (usually via telephone), which means supporting individuals in emergency services by assisting through exploring options for action
- To act as educator, ambassador and champion for the Working In Harmony Program at the local level.

Harassment Contact Officers are not the 'fun police', nor do they investigate complaints. They are primarily a source of information and support for emergency services personnel who may be experiencing difficulties in their working environments.

Confidential referrals to a Harassment Contact Officer are available seven days a week. Phone 1300 364 587.

Front cover of the folder promoting the work of Harassment Contact Officers.



BUILDING TRUST WITH NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES

NEWS & UPDATES

The Country Fire Service (CFS) joined forces with the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), State Emergency Service (SES) and SA Police in an effort to build a trusting relationship with newly arrived refugees, particularly those from war torn countries.

About 100 parents and children attended the community event at the Oasis Community Childcare Centre at Salisbury on 28 May.

A majority of the families in the crowd were newly arrived refugees from African countries, Afghanistan and Burma and they'd had little or no experience with Australian emergency service organisations.

The Salisbury CFS Brigade crew attended with an appliance and spent two hours showing curious adults and children the equipment they use and explaining their roles.

Likewise, a local MFS Brigade brought along a truck to demonstrate the differences between

the two fire services.

SES Central Region Commander, Derren Halleday, was also at the event and found a potential recruit in one man from Congo who was interested in volunteer work.

The Oasis Childcare Centre's Director Nikki Baker says while dialling 000 is easy, some newly arrived refugees find it hard to communicate or describe their locations.

"In Australia we are educated from a young age to know that emergency service organisations are there to help us," she says.

"However, some newly arrived refugees have had poor experiences with people in uniforms in their home countries, and this can inhibit the development of trust when they arrive in Australia."

Salisbury CFS Brigade Captain Ken Potter says: "The CFS is committed to developing strong links with diverse groups in the community. Those links will prove invaluable in

>>
Parents enjoying an Aussie BBQ.

emergency situations."

Volunteers and staff from all three emergency service organisations – CFS, MFS and SES - had a rewarding experience; helping to develop potentially life saving relationships with families.

Minutes before the event ended the SES Central Region Commander and MFS crew were suddenly called away to an emergency situation at nearby Smithfield.

They were forced to drop everything and drive away with lights flashing, giving the crowd of children an exciting end to what was an educational morning.



<<
A newly arrived refugee from Congo tries out a firefighting uniform.



^ Children lining up for their turn on the Salisbury CFS Brigade appliance.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

CFS UTILITY BAGS *All bags made to suit your needs*



◀ Crew Bag: Extra Large

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All bags can have the Brigade name stencilled.



▶ Pager Pouch:

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

\$12⁰⁰

\$50⁰⁰



▶ Vest Holder: ▶

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



\$21⁰⁰

▶ Knapsack Bag:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas

Proban Dust and Face Mask: ▶

\$15⁰⁰



\$50⁰⁰

▶ Drink Bottle Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 8 drink bottles

\$50⁰⁰

▶ Note Pad & Radio Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas ▶



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COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETINGS DURING OPERATIONAL INCIDENTS

NEWS & UPDATES

Providing accurate, up-to-date and appropriate information to the public during an operational incident has always been a challenge for emergency services organisations. Traditionally mass media has been the preferred, and often only, means of meeting the challenge.

More recently, however, conducting community information meetings during operational incidents has been a strategy used by fire services in Australia, including the CFS.

Operational meetings have enabled agencies to provide communities under direct and potential threat of fire an opportunity to get first hand information about the incident direct from the Incident Management Team.

"People attending the meeting are mostly concerned about what the fire is doing and what it is going to do over the next 12 to 24 hours," says Fiona Dunstan, CFS Community Education Officer. Having representatives from the IMT, other agencies such as the Department

for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and good visual information such as maps and relevant information from the Incident Action Plan all assist in providing the community the information they are seeking.

This season 850 people attended 25 community meetings held at Bruno Bay, Kangaroo Island, Birdwood and Willunga.

The meetings were conducted by members of the Incident Management Team, CFS Community Education Unit and representatives from supporting agencies e.g. DEH, South Australia Police, Primary Industries and Resources of South Australia - Rural Solutions, Stress Prevention and Management - Department for Families and Communities.

"At all the meetings I've attended," says Fiona, "the community has been appreciative of the work CFS has done in responding to the fire, and the time and effort taken by the agencies to speak to them and assist them to make safer decisions".



▲ A CFS Community Information Meeting underway during the Williamstown fire on 25 March 2008.



THE DRAGON WITH A COLD

By: Fiona Dunstan, Assistant Coordinator, CFS Community Education

>> Fiona Dunstan with the Dragon.



✓ From left to right: Brett Wise, David Martin, Natasha Huber, Shirley Chomel, Colin Chomel and Fiona Dunstan.



The Community Education Unit and the Seaford CFS worked to deliver a fun and entertaining fire safety session for children visiting Seaford Library during the April school holidays.

Dragon has a cold... and a small problem starting fires accidentally when he coughs.

His friend CuFS the friendly Border Collie dog was there to help the children learn in a fun and interactive way the importance of a working smoke alarm, a family fire plan, "get down low and go, go, go" and "stop, cover, drop and roll".

The puppets provided a different way to explore fire safety with young

children between three and five years of age.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the session and were treated with a tour of a fire truck and the opportunity to "squirt some water", which is always a big hit.

The big finale was when the children waved goodbye to the fire crew as the truck drove away and sounded its siren!

The visit was arranged by the Seaford Library which has been running a program called "Meeting People From Your Neighbourhood".

Other visits have included the SA Ambulance Service, SA Police and Australia Post.



SALVATION ARMY EMERGENCY SERVICES



SAES serving firefighters at the Williamstown fire.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

The Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) provides catering to South Australia's emergency service organisations such as the CFS, SES and SAPOL.

Established in South Australia around 1980, the SAES provides catering for emergencies such as bushfires, floods, storm damage, searches, major road and rail accidents and police operations.

The SAES is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and when activated, SAES is staffed by a team of trained volunteers who have training in safety, operations and food handling.

Team Leaders have National Accreditation and Certification in food handling and preparation.

The SAES has approximately 100 trained volunteers in the Adelaide metropolitan area and 80 volunteers in country areas.

SAES working with the CFS Background

CFS has an agreement with the SAES for the provision of catering services to CFS at emergency incidents and at other times as may be agreed, e.g. field days.

SAES will provide similar services to other emergency service agencies but gives CFS priority at all times.

Resources

SAES currently has available a major event catering vehicle, with a second vehicle due to come on line around the middle of 2008.

SAES also has available strategically placed fast response catering trailers located at Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Peterborough, Millicent, Mount Gambier and Noarlunga.

These are State level resources and must be booked through the State Logistics Coordinator via the Region.

Response Times

When intending to use SAES, consideration must be given to response times to ensure crews are catered for at the appropriate time.

For the SAES major event catering vehicle, a one hour call out plus travel time from Pooraka to the incident plus one hour set up must be allowed before the first meals are available to be served to crews.

Note: Takeaway meals add significantly to the meal preparation time and any requirement for takeaways needs to be flagged as early as possible.

As a rule of thumb, takeaways can only be produced at the rate of one every thirty seconds.

Meals

SAES catering for at least the first twelve hours of any incident will be reliant on long life foods, i.e. those that are canned or frozen.

Note: That the meat provided for salads is Premium Plumrose Ham – it is not spam (this minimises the cost to CFS and allows for rapid response).

After the initial period fresh meats and fruit will be used when possible.

This will be dependant on the ability to source locally to the incident or resource from Adelaide.

Servings are of a standard size but there is no restriction placed on the number of serves a person consumes.

Tea, coffee, cordial and cake is available at all times.

SAES Deployments during the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season

SAES was activated on several occasions over the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season providing an essential service to all emergency service personnel.

Kangaroo Island

The SAES was deployed to Kangaroo Island (KI) at 10pm on Thursday 6 December 2007 to provide catering for the firefighters and associated emergency service personnel.

Around 40 SAES workers were deployed to KI, serving over 14,000 main meals.

At the peak of the catering effort there were 29 SAES catering personnel on site, 16 covering the day shift and 10 covering the night shift.

Three SAES administration logistics people were on KI and one in Adelaide.

Four SAES vehicles, a large catering truck, generator set, mobile freezer cool room and Noarlunga's large catering trailer were deployed on KI.

The CFS provided outstanding logistical support to the SAES by providing additional freezer

cool room facilities, along with a large generator set and additional catering equipment.

Belair

The SAES provided catering for the CFS and other emergency service agencies during the Belair fire on 17 January 2008.

At this incident approximately 600 meals were supplied and the staging area was set up at the Belair National Park.

Gumeracha

The SAES catering truck, mobile cool room and support vehicles were deployed to Gumeracha Oval on Tuesday 4 March 2008 to provide catering for the CFS and associated support organisations.

A total of 15 SAES volunteers were deployed to this incident and 624 meals were provided over a 24-hour period.

Williamstown

The SAES provided catering for the Williamstown fire on Wednesday 12 March 2008.

Over the 48-hour period, the SAES provided 1,625 meals.

Willunga

A SAES team from Noarlunga provided catering for the Willunga fire.

The team was activated at 3.40pm on 13 March 2008 and provided approximately 1,400 meals until they were stood down at 2.30am on 15 March.

SAMPLE MENUS

BREAKFAST

Range of cereals with stewed fruit
Spaghetti
Hash browns
Eggs

Bread/toast with range of toppings
Baked beans
Bacon
Sausages

LUNCH & DINNER

NOTE: Not all items available all meals. We choose from the items below. Generally we serve a cold lunch and hot dinner but this depends on circumstances, weather etc.

Plumrose premium sliced ham	Fried chicken and fish
Chicken & Beef schnitzels	Hamburgers
Pink Salmon	Vegetarian patties
Lasagne	Pizza
Fried chips	Potato salad
Mint peas, Carrots, Corn	Beetroot
Pineapple rings	Hot potatoes
Vegetable & Tomato soup	

DESERT

Fruit salad
Custard
Sarah Lee pastries (various varieties)

Ice cream
Fruit cake

DRINKS

Tea, Coffee, Milo, Cordial, Water

NOTE: Depending on location and availability of local shops/supermarkets we also source and use fresh fruit, lettuce, tomatoes, meat etc.

SAES setting up at the Belair fire.



SAES at the Willunga fire.



Kangaroo Island mess tent.



Gumeracha fire.



The narrow drop characteristics and its high volume capacity makes the Aircrane very effective.

2007/08 FIRE DANGER SEASON: AIRCRAFT

By: David Cant, Manager Aviation Services

NEWS & UPDATES



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



Evaluating the drop effectiveness of foam with the Erickson Aircrane Helitak 736 on pines at Mt Crawford.



A Bell 212 fire bomber refilling during the Belair fire, while the Erickson Aircrane waits its turn.

For air operations, the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season started earlier than normal, with peak activity during December and March.

The CFS received additional funding from the Federal and South Australian Governments for aerial firefighting, meaning there was extra firebombing and surveillance aircraft capacity.

January and February were particularly quiet months, with very few large fire incidents involving aircraft.

Despite this quiet period, planes and helicopters were frequently used for very rapid initial response across the high risk areas of the State.

Thanks to the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC), South Australia was able to access extra aircraft and personnel during peak fire danger periods and significant events.

In all the CFS had two Aircranes, two medium helicopter bombers, fixed wing bombing aircraft and

seven surveillance aircraft available to be deployed across the State during the Kangaroo Island fires.

In turn, South Australia supported Western Australia with the release of an Airtractor to help operations near Bunbury.

This season the CFS also provided bombing and support aircraft for the Department of Environment and Heritage's Bushfire CRC Research Project FuSE at Ngarkat Conservation Park.

Victorian and New South Wales colleagues assisted with observation of aircraft during experiments and retardant mixing.

At Project FuSE the CFS started trialling the use of super absorbent polymer gels for aerial firefighting. It was the first time the product had been trialled in an aerial operation in Australia.

Also during the bushfire season, turnout systems were streamlined through the establishment of the State

Air Desk and common systems of communication for aircraft dispatch.

The experience of CFS air crew was evident on many occasions with Air Attack Supervisors skilfully managing complex aircraft movements in tight airspace. They also developed tactics for bombing, while air observers provided close to real time maps of fire events.

Significant Incidents

The most significant fire event involving air operations for South Australia this season was the multiple Kangaroo Island fires during December 2007.

It was incredibly demanding on volunteers and staff because of the length of the campaign and the numbers of aircraft involved.

Issues that caused concern were flight crew and air crew rotations, ground support demands, maintaining fuel and foam supplies from the mainland to the aircraft,

and the conduct of safe and effective operations.

The CFS sought support from both the NSW Rural Fire Service and the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment for aircraft management, air crew and ground support.


This support provided valuable insight into other states' operations and how improvements could be made both here and interstate.

Other challenging fires for aircraft included the fires on Southern Yorke Peninsula, O'Halloran Hill, the Belair fire and the fires during the heat wave in March at Gumeracha, Willunga and Williamstown.

Having a mix of aircraft for these fires proved invaluable in controlling the fires and minimising damage to life and property.

Aircraft Specifics

During the bushfire season the CFS had access to a number of different



Gel suppressant being dropped by an Airtractor 802 during a field trial in January.



aircraft for both bombing operations and surveillance of fires.

Through Australian Maritime Resources the CFS had seven fixed wing fire bombing aircraft (five Airtractor 802s, and two Airtractor 602s) available with capacity of aircraft increasing in the Lower South East and Lower Eyre Peninsula bombing zones, and an additional aircraft being available for use across the State.

Through Coulson Airplane of Canada the CFS supplied two medium helicopters (Bell 212s) with belly tanks; each capable of transporting 14 crew.

The helicopters were used for fire bucket operations and transporting equipment on Kangaroo Island as well as fire duties in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) enabled CFS to have access to a national Erickson S64E Airplane for periods of four months.

This aircraft was reported to be

decisive in the control of the fire adjacent to Warren Reservoir with its rapid turnarounds dropping in un-thinned pine plantations.

During the Kangaroo Island fires the CFS was also supported from Victoria with a S64F Airplane and their King Air line scanning aircraft, which provided strategic mapping of the fires.

The 2007/08 season was also the first year of surveillance aircraft contracts in the Lower South East and Lower Eyre Peninsula, with high winged Cessna aircraft being used for air observation and fire bombing coordination.

Additional funding enabled the CFS to have a dedicated helicopter and fixed wing surveillance aircraft for use across South Australia. An AS350BA Squirrel Helicopter and a twin engine Cessna 337 were used in these roles.

Procedural Changes

As mentioned, the CFS established a State Air Desk function within the

State Coordination Centre at CFS Headquarters.

This desk managed the dispatch and resource management of aircraft across South Australia via the GRN paging network.

This system proved to be both reliable and effective.

By having this facility the CFS was able to provide flight following for aircraft across the State.

The system also enabled tracking and monitoring of CFS aircraft via the CRIIMSON incident information system.

To enable effective and safe communications during air operations the CFS enacted SOP 10.15 which provides a common system of communication with aircraft state-wide, while minimising communication interference between CFS regions.

This strategic and tactical plan is currently being reviewed to ensure all stakeholder needs have been met.

Future Challenges

The introduction of alternate chemicals for aerial firefighting requires significant investment in research, application techniques, infrastructure development and effectiveness.

The use of gel products was proposed to be trialled operationally last summer but the CFS remains hopeful approvals will be granted for this coming season. Gel is a direct attack media which has a longer residence time than the foam products we currently use.

Succession planning for aircrew remains difficult. Skill requirements for these highly specialised roles require significant field air operations experience and developing these competencies is quite costly.

Developing knowledge on the use and application of aircraft by Incident Management Teams for inclusion in Incident Action Plans requires development.

This will be a key focus of Aviation Services in the future.

SOUTH AUSTRALIANS GATHER TO COMMEMORATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ASH WEDNESDAY

Saturday 16 February marked the 25th anniversary of the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires of 1983.

Several commemorative services were held around the State to honour the 28 people who lost their lives, and were attended by the families of the victims, CFS volunteers, media and members of the public.

SA Premier, Mike Rann, hosted a special service at the Mount Lofty Botanic Gardens, while several CFS brigades, the CFSVA and other local community associations held services in some of the districts worst affected by the 1983 inferno.

The Ash Wednesday II fires saw the largest number of volunteers called to duty across Australia at the



▲ Photo: Courtesy of The Advertiser

same time – an estimated 130,000 firefighters.

In South Australia alone, 1,587 square kilometres of land was burnt, 257,350 farm animals perished, 564 vehicles were incinerated and 312 homes destroyed, leaving behind a total damage bill of over \$400 million.



Rex Hall lays a wreath at a service in commemoration of Ash Wednesday 25 years ago. At least 400 people gathered at the community hall in Tarpeena on Saturday 16 February 2008.

Photo: Courtesy of The Border Watch



ASH WEDNESDAY 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Earlier this year the 25th Anniversary of the Ash Wednesday bushfires was marked at the Tea Tree Gully RSL Hall.

Past and present CFS members were joined by community members and officials, including the Tea Tree Gully Mayor, Miriam Smith.

The CFS Assistant Chief Officer, Rob Sandford, spoke at the event to share his thoughts and reflections at the commemoration event.

Reflections...

When we think of Ash Wednesday, we think of that awful, dark dusty sky, of the wild northerly winds and of the hills lit up well into the night.

Who could ever forget the fire burning over the top of Anstey Hill?

The trucks were chasing flames, clinging to the side of the hill, amid the flames.

That night, the media reports from overseas talked of "Adelaide surrounded by fire", of "South Australia burning". And it was.

My perspective now as an Assistant Chief Officer and State Coordinator of the CFS, is quite different to that of the young volunteer firefighter, from a large family of volunteer firefighters,

who suddenly found himself in the thick of what is generally still considered the worst natural disaster this State has ever endured.

I remember not realising there were other fires occurring until we were at the end of Churchett Road that night. We could see the glow of the other fires in the distance.

There are few people who can't recall precisely where they were and what they were doing on that most terrible of days.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that fire is as much a part of our natural landscape as the gum trees and the creek beds.

As a society, we have embraced a lifestyle as close to nature as possible – perfectly sandwiched between the sea and the bush.

It is our choice to live in the bush but it is equally our responsibility to learn to live with the reality of bushfires.

So what makes Ash Wednesday stand out? What is it about this particular anniversary that draws us together year after year?

25 years on...

It's now 25 years on, and the

area around Tea Tree Gully and the north-eastern hills is a very different community.

A new generation of children has grown up. Families have moved in and others have moved on.

The urban sprawl has eaten up much of the large land areas and the nature of farming has changed substantially.

Yet as individuals and as a community, we are still drawn together each year to remember this one event that has defined our local community forever.

It's not just about fires. It is about the extraordinary strength of our friends and family, our neighbours and fellow firefighters who stepped up without flinching, putting themselves in harms way to protect what was most precious to them.

The 25th Anniversary makes me proud to be part of such a community. Proud to have grown up here and proud to be part of a bigger family called the Country Fire Service.

The anniversary is as much about the tragic and significant loss of life and property as it is about the knowledge gained and lessons



Left to right: Neville Milton, Mark Hawkins, Ross Schlien, Leon Hurst, Rod Hills.

learned from that harsh experience.

It's a time to pause and acknowledge that rare species known as the "volunteer firefighter".

Some might consider this yellow coated 'being' an endangered species. Perhaps they are not endangered, but they're definitely a species that deserves to be protected and praised.

Some 1,390 CFS volunteer firefighters battled the fires on Ash Wednesday around Tea Tree Gully, Anstey Hill, Cudlee Creek and Lobethal. Many more went forward to fires burning across the State. Men and women didn't think twice jumping on the back of a truck and working around the clock. And not



PLAQUE PRESENTED TO CFSVA EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR WANGARY SUPPORT

The Eyre Peninsula Branch of the CFSVA has presented a plaque to Executive Officer, Wendy Shirley, thanking her for the overwhelming support she provided to volunteers during the Coronial Inquest into the Wangary bushfires.

Wendy played a pivotal role during the three years after the Wangary fire ensuring that volunteers were given all the support they needed during the investigation and the release of the findings.

Apart from ensuring that all volunteers had legal representation paid for by the State Government - a total of six barristers in all - she also made sure they were provided transport and lodging, and were generally made to feel comfortable during the unnerving period.

Eyre Peninsula Branch President, Russell Branson, said it was suggested by numerous volunteers that the branch, on behalf of its members, present a plaque to Wendy to formally recognise her support. "Wendy made what were often very

difficult circumstances bearable for our members. If anyone was seen to be experiencing any difficulty with the process, Wendy went out of her way to ensure that they were looked after," Russell said.

"She was speechless when we presented the plaque to her at a recent CFSVA Management Meeting.

"It's only a small token of our appreciation for the tireless hours she spent in support of the volunteers but I know she appreciated it because she saw first hand what our members had gone through," he said.

Wendy said that she was very grateful for the plaque and didn't expect anything from the support she provided.

"The Coronial process was a very difficult period for many volunteers. I saw it as an excellent opportunity for the Association to do as much as possible to help them through it. We'd do it all again tomorrow if we had to, though I hope we never have to," she said.



^ CFSVA Executive Officer, Wendy Shirley, is presented her plaque from the Eyre Peninsula Branch at Cummins CFS Station.

CFSVA FINAL SUBMISSION TO REVIEW OF SAFECOM LEGISLATION

Thank you to all CFS volunteers who provided feedback on the CFSVA's submission to the review of the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) legislation.

The review was conducted by Mr John Murray APM and examined the legislation affecting the Country Fire Service, Metropolitan Fire Service and State Emergency Service

since the inception of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act in 2005*.

CFSVA President, Ken Schutz, said that he believed the final submission was an accurate representation of volunteers' thoughts and concerns.

The CFSVA's final submission is available for downloading from the news column on the CFSVA website, www.cfsva.org.au

— TEA TREE GULLY

just at the peak of the fires, but in the long days following. Men and women saved neighbours' properties while their own homes, properties and livelihoods burnt to the ground.

I'm truly humbled by the guts and sheer heart of our volunteer firefighters who served the community on Ash Wednesday, and who continue to serve today.

Twenty-five years on - we have shiny new trucks with every safety feature imaginable. Rural firefighting has moved on in so many ways with state of the art equipment, rigorous training programs and a fleet of aerial firefighting resources. But the essence and intrinsic qualities of our volunteer firefighters will thankfully never change.

Time past and lessons learnt...

Twenty-five years ago it was a very different world for firefighters.

I am sure some of you will remember, perhaps not too fondly, the heavy 15-gallon knapsacks and the coils of rubber hose lugged around to add on to the hose reels.

So, what have we learnt from the Ash Wednesday fires? We have learnt that fires are inevitable. No amount of ground crews or aerial resources can ever match the force of catastrophic bushfires like Ash Wednesday. When the weather conditions are that extreme, with a fuel load that high, we have to accept that nature will unleash its fury no matter what we throw at it. And so, our ability to prepare for bushfire becomes our best and most powerful defence.

We will never forget the horrors of Ash Wednesday. Those images will stay with us as a reminder of our innate fragility but also our strong spirit. I don't need to describe them to you because I know you all have your own recollections of the fires. Those who were just children at the time and those who've lived through many decades of fire danger seasons, will have memories that come back to haunt them at the sound of the fire siren or the uncertain smell of a hot northerly wind on a dry summer's day.

However the strength and resilience of the local community reflects a healing process that started 25 long years ago. I hope that we can all ensure that those lives that were lost, were not lost in vain.

Because of this tragedy, as with many bushfire tragedies before and since, we have learnt valuable lessons. The cost was high - too high some might say, but we are a stronger, more resilient community as a result.

We really have come a long way. But our journey forward will always be tinged with memories of one of the darkest of days in South Australia's history.



^ Back left to right: Liz Sandford, Jenny MacDonald, Bernie Tindall, Pam Harrison. Front left to right: Kath Sandford, Rhonda Goodes.

v Back left to right: Wayne Harris, Stan Simper, Murray Corston, Ian Glidon, Graham Verrall, Arthur Tindall, Mike Sandford. Front left to right: Brian Leaney, Maarten Nieuwenhoven, Dean Sandford, Ray Goodes.



GOLD COIN
FOR
GEOFF

GOLD COIN FOR GEOFF APPEAL



▲ Geoff Buyrn (front) with Andy Thomas, Wendy Shirley, Ken Schutz and Euan Ferguson.

The "Gold Coin for Geoff" Appeal was officially launched on 8 February with a segment broadcast on the video-based website YouTube.

Geoff Buyrn is a member of the Mount Bryan Brigade in the Burra and District CFS Group who, at a fire in November 2006, became a quadriplegic when the fire appliance he was driving rolled on a hill-side.

It happened in just a few seconds. Geoff now requires daily therapy and support.

He was duly compensated by Workers Compensation and the CFSVA Top-up Insurance. However, money will still be tight for Geoff and, as a gesture of goodwill, it was decided at a meeting attended by CFS Management, the CFSVA, the CFS Foundation and the Burra

and District CFS Group to hold a gold coin appeal to improve Geoff's overall well being.

CFS members across South Australia were encouraged to dig deep and donate a gold coin to help make Geoff's life that little bit easier. Your generosity will assist him in many ways such as setting up a computer system so he can stay in touch with friends and family.

The appeal closed on 31 May. The final amount raised will be included in the next Volunteer magazine. Thank you for your support - together we can really make a difference. Geoff's positive spirit, fierce determination and great big smile are an inspiration to us all.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

AAVFBA - THE AUSTRALASIAN ASSEMBLY OF VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE ASSOCIATIONS INC. By: Ken Schutz, President, CFSVA



Did you know that there is a national body looking after volunteer firefighters' interests?

The Australasian Assembly of Volunteer Fire Brigade Associations (AAVFBA) is the equivalent of the CFSVA but at a national level.

The CFSVA is a member of the AAVFBA and I - Ken Schutz - sit on the executive of the AAVFBA.

From now on the executive has decided to put updates and outcomes from the AAVFBA into all State volunteer firefighter magazines to make sure everyone is aware that, collectively, the States are working on various issues and their progress.

This is the first of such newsletters from the AAVFBA President, Bruce Conboy.

If you would like to know more about the AAVFBA please contact me at anytime.

AAVFBA President's Newsletter Who we are

The AAVFBA is an incorporated body representing the various States volunteer fire brigade associations and the New Zealand United Fire Brigades Association. Eleven of 13 Associations are affiliated.

The Association exists to allow fire brigade associations to network, provide information exchange and advocate on national issues.

The Board

The Board of the Assembly is

made up of myself from Victoria as President, Terry Hunter WA Vice-President, Bruce Corbett Tasmania as Secretary and members Ken Schutz SA and Richard Davidson NZ.

The AAVFBA board (executive) met recently at CFA Headquarters in Melbourne, the first of two planned meetings during the year.

The Assembly holds its AGM in conjunction with AFAC's annual conference.

The arrangement reflects the relationship that the Assembly and AFAC have developed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed at last years AGM in Hobart. The MOU covers the two parties working cooperatively.

The Assembly has an opportunity to have input into AFAC deliberations.

Funding and Support

The Assembly has a very limited funding stream provided by its member associations.

Much of the Assembly's current expenditure is on travel and accommodation costs.

The recent board meeting cost \$3500 as board members flew in from New Zealand and other states.

The Assembly actively seeks assistance through grants or sponsorships not only to cover travel and accommodation costs, but importantly to provide an executive officer time to coordinate national affairs.

The Assembly resolved to prepare a professional submission for

presentation to AFAC for assistance. The submission would contain some of the issues raised by VFBV CEO Andrew Ford when he addressed the board.

The Assembly is seeking to meet AFAC staff in June.

Assembly Publications

Two business proposals to publish a glossy magazine for the Assembly, at no cost to the Assembly, were considered.

The board agreed not to accept either offer at this time. It was felt that the Assembly needed to set up a strong base with administrative support first.

The Assembly felt it was a huge commitment to embark on. There was concern not to interfere with current State and association magazines.

As an interim step the Assembly will seek to have its information posted in association publications.

2008 AGM

The 2008 AGM of the Assembly will be held in Adelaide from 29 August to 31 August immediately prior to the AFAC conference. The CFSVA is organising the meeting.

Coronial Inquiries

The board considered the report of the Eyre Peninsula Coronial inquiry.

The main recommendation that only staff be incident controllers has been rejected by the South Australian CFS and its Volunteer Association (CFSVA).

There is a pressing need for coronial inquiries into fires being

rearranged from legal blame apportioning outcomes to more scientific lessons learnt outcomes.

Most states and territories have conducted similar coronial inquiries which are most difficult for the volunteers who are involved.

The Board is to approach AFAC to ensure incident controllers are appropriately trained personnel having regard for local knowledge. It will be emphasised that volunteers are most professional in the delivery of their services.

Lower Speed Limits at Incidents

Volunteer firefighters have been pressing for lower speed limits to apply in the vicinity of emergency scenes where hazard lights are flashing. South Australia has had 40kmph limits for some years; but other states have resisted providing improved safety at incidents. Road workers get 40kmph limits even when they leave the job.

Australian transport ministers have agreed to have common road rules nationally but delay implementation.

South Australia meanwhile is seeking 25kmph limits.

Transfer of Volunteers

The Assembly is to approach AFAC to facilitate the transfer of volunteers from state to state, and country to country, as they change employment or seek education around the nation, so that volunteers competencies are readily recognised.

Bruce Conboy, April 2008

FACES IN THE CROWD

GEORGE POLOMKA'S 60 YEAR FEAT

Not many people can claim to have 60 years of volunteer fire fighting under their belt.

In fact, George Polomka is the *only* CFS volunteer in South Australia to have achieved the feat.

His six-decade anniversary with the CFS ticked over on April 2nd this year.

The 80-year-old is still a valuable, enthusiastic member of the Athelstone Brigade and just as humble as the day he joined the CFS back in 1948.

"I'm the last person in the world to make anything of it," says George.

"I've just gone along for the community... I don't think any brigade or any firefighter has ever strived to make a fuss about it."

George's aversion to any "fuss" about his achievements was evident when Premier Mike Rann presented him with a plaque to recognise his service in front of the Athelstone Brigade in April.

The Premier commented that the only way people could be sure George Polomka would attend an event in his honour, was to hold it on a weekly training night at the Athelstone Brigade's station!

"The fact that George would rather quietly go about his duties – as he has done on the community's behalf for a remarkable 60 years – says as much about his character as it does about his humility."

The CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, also attended and paid tribute to George's efforts.

"The CFS volunteer spirit literally courses through his veins," he said.

"Every week he fronts up to the brigade for training in the unassuming way he has done for the past 60 years."

The plaque that was awarded to George is installed at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga in the Adelaide Hills; recognising the double classroom block as the George Polomka Building.

GEORGE'S HISTORY

George joined Jamestown CFS as a foundation member in 1948 when the organisation was known as the Emergency Fire Service.

He was awarded life membership with the CFS in 1971.

In 1974 George became the first volunteer Regional Officer in Region 4, the biggest CFS region in the State stretching nearly 700,000 kilometres from Burra to the NSW and NT borders.

In the 1960's he was pivotal in raising money to build a new fire station at Jamestown.

Like so many long term volunteers, George Polomka also played a part in fighting the devastating Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983.

The experience prompted him to become heavily involved in designing new fire appliances with better safety features.

Mr Polomka's dedication to his community doesn't end with firefighting.

He has served as a District Councillor and the Mayor of Jamestown, and was a long-term volunteer with the St John's Ambulance Service which he joined in 1969.

For several years he also drove the Campbelltown Community Bus.

To top it all off, George Polomka was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in 1999.

All of this achievement seems like serious stuff, but George is known for his wicked sense of humour.

He's a committed, competent trainer but has played the odd trick on fellow volunteers.

Many can remember being woken in the dead of night at training camps by his demanding voice, ordering them to haul hoses over the dormitory roof or perform an unexpected drill!

George is now a volunteer communications and administration officer with the Athelstone CFS Brigade with no plans to retire from the organisation just yet.

LONG TERM VOLUNTEERS

There are several other long term CFS volunteers snapping at the heels of George and his achievement.

Seven have now served 55 years or

more, 55 have served over 40 years and 4617 have clocked up at least 20 years.

This means nearly one third of all CFS members have been with the organisation for more than two decades.

No doubt they feel just the same as George does, when he says:

"I've achieved something I wanted to achieve and I've enjoyed the opportunities that I've had to serve the community."



▲ The plaque presented to George by Premier Mike Rann at a commemorative event held at the Athelstone CFS station in April. The plaque is installed at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga recognising the double classroom block as the George Polomka Building.



George Polomka is the only CFS volunteer to reach the milestone of 60 years. Photo courtesy The Advertiser

George Polomka with his wife Elaine. Photo courtesy The Advertiser





NEW STATE TRAINING OFFICERS



In the last edition of the Volunteer we gave you an insight into the men and women who work within the State Training Centre at Brukungu.

Since then, three new individuals have been employed as State Training Officers to focus on Rural Firefighting.

With the aim of assisting with the delivery of rural based courses across the State, these new staff members have been kept very busy over the past six months.

As part of their training portfolio, these training officers deliver courses in; Basic Firefighting 1, Suppress Wildfire, Suppress Wildfire Up Skill, Plantation Firefighting 1, Navigate in Urban and Rural Environments, Map Reading, Introduction to GPS and Government Radio Network.

The training officers have been employed to assist with the delivery of training sessions to individual Brigades, Groups or for Regional and State based courses.

So who are the new State Training Officers – Rural Firefighting?

COMMUNITY WATER GRANT FOR BRUKUNGA

With a firm commitment to water conservation, recycling and preservation, the CFS State Training Centre at Brukungu has been successful in obtaining a Federal Government Community Water Grant.

The funding will help build a 424,000 litre concrete tank which will enable water run off from the hot pad training area to be captured and stored for future use.

Currently there are four tanks at Brukungu, with a water storage and recycling capability of around 347,000 litres but this new facility will more than double the water conservation abilities of the training centre.

The stored water is used for hot pad, compartment fire behaviour, multi story breathing apparatus training, as well as watering the grassed areas.

As a guide, for every one millimetre of rain that falls, two million litres of water goes into the storage tanks.

The storage facility should be complete by the end of the year.

VAUGHN ELSWORTH



Brigade: Lyndoch CFS, previously with Woomera

Volunteer Service: 12 years

Position within the Brigade: Lieutenant 3 and Brigade Training Coordinator

Training Background: Spent 14 years teaching in schools from Reception to Year 12 as well as contract work for TAFE. Vaughn has taught across a diverse range of curriculum from music and IT to the Sciences.

Previous Employment: Fire Training Industry delivering evacuation training and warden training to corporate organisations as well as initiating the setting up of BA and HAZMAT training for mining industry clients.

What attracted you to the position:

The ability to travel around the state and not be restricted to a single area or region, as well as interacting with a large group of individuals who want to put something back into the community in which they live.

What do you love about the job:

The people, interacting with people from all parts of the state who come from different backgrounds and have different life skills. I love the travel, I can be at opposite ends of the State in the same week. I now have a job that started out as a hobby, I always enjoyed teaching and enjoy focusing on adult education rather than children.

ROBIN GEYTENBEEK



Brigade: Summertown CFS

Volunteer Service: 16 years

Position within the Brigade: Lieutenant 1, Brigade Training Coordinator and Group Training Coordinator.

Training Background: Brigade Training Coordinator for nine years and Group Training Coordinator for over seven years. Robin also has Certificate IV in Workplace Training and Assessment.

Previous Employment: Cabinet maker / Shopfitter for over 10 years.

What attracted you to the position: The chance to do something that I love for a living.

What do you love about the job:

Meeting different people and sharing knowledge with others. I also find I learn as much from the participants as they learn from me.

MICHAEL MATHEW



Brigade: Clare CFS

Volunteer Service: 8 years

Position within the Brigade: Captain for 5 years, now Lieutenant 4

Training Background: Secondary school teacher and coordinator, TAFE lecturer. Michael also has a science degree, teaching diploma and Certificate IV Training and Assessment.

Previous Employment: Coordinator – Clare High School

What attracted you to the position: The opportunity to contribute to the CFS in a full-time capacity.

What do you love about the job:

Getting out in the field and working directly with volunteers, travel and flexible work arrangements.

TRAINING TALK

HUET COURSE

By: Gary MacRae, CFS Volunteer Aircrew



Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter in action.

Fire bombing aircraft are well known as an invaluable firefighting tool, swooping from the sky to accurately rain down their fire-stopping loads of foam and retardant.

The pilots of these aircraft, along with our own CFS air crews, routinely fly in some of the most dangerous and inhospitable of conditions experienced in Australian aviation operations.

In recent years CFS Air Operations has expanded its role across the State, requiring many hours ferrying people from place to place, such as Port Lincoln.

This requires significant flight time over water.

As a result, the CFS has included Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET) as part of the air crews' operational requirements.

In February four CFS Air Attack Supervisors - Wayne Atkins, David Pearce, Greg Stone and Gary MacRae - attended the specialised course which was run by RHO Aviation Training Services at the Adventure Blue Dive Centre, Glenelg.

During the course, skills needed to escape a submerged helicopter were practiced in a special training prop which looks like a small raft with a mock-up helicopter cockpit on top.

The crews were strapped in and then tipped upside down in a pool to simulate a ditching helicopter.

The trainees were then required to demonstrate correct procedures to affect an escape.

The HUET course markedly increases the chances of survival should an aircraft be required to ditch into the water...or on the land for that matter.



The HUET trainees take to the water. Going...



... going ...



... gone!



THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer



All CFS incidents are managed using AIIMS (the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System). The AIIMS structure chart is illustrated in Diagram 1.

AIIMS is used at small incidents where an Incident Controller is identified and performs all the incident management responsibilities.

As an incident grows in size or complexity, more of the system is established. For example someone may be delegated the role of Operations, which often starts with a Sector Commander, or someone could be delegated logistical roles, such as arranging catering or supplies.

The fires on Kangaroo Island in December 2007 were an example where nearly all of AIIMS was used.

One of the key principles of AIIMS is the concept of Functional Management.

AIIMS uses specific functions to manage an incident and the four functions used are Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics.

The following pages provide an overview of the Kangaroo Island fires from the perspective of AIIMS incident management broken up into the four key functional areas as seen in Diagram 2.

The Incident

Multiple, intense and sustained lightning across all areas of Kangaroo Island resulted in 12 fires beginning on the island.

The complex of fires burnt approximately 20 percent (90,000 hectares) of Kangaroo Island.

The four major fires were the Chase Fire (63,000 hectares), Solley's Fire (3,000 hectares), Central Fire (6,000 hectares) and Destrees Fire (18,000 hectares).

A number of Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) Reserves were burnt by the fires, those being: 84.4 percent (61,715 hectares)

of Flinders Chase, 39.0 percent (960 hectares) of Western River Wilderness Protection Area and 46 percent (17,900 hectares) of Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area.

Landholders were affected by the fires in many ways, including 14,500 hectares of private land burnt with some stock lost.

Photos taken by: CFS Promotions Unit, aerial photos by Gary MacRae, CFS Volunteer Aircrew and Leanne Adams, CFS Incident Management Project Officer.

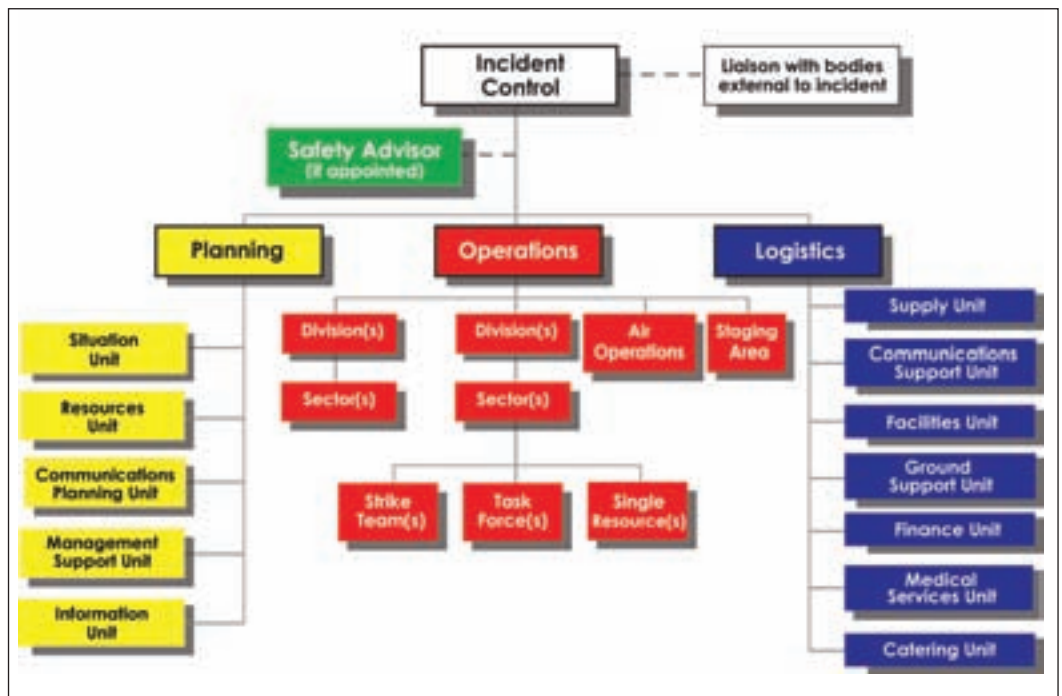


Diagram 1: The Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) structure chart.

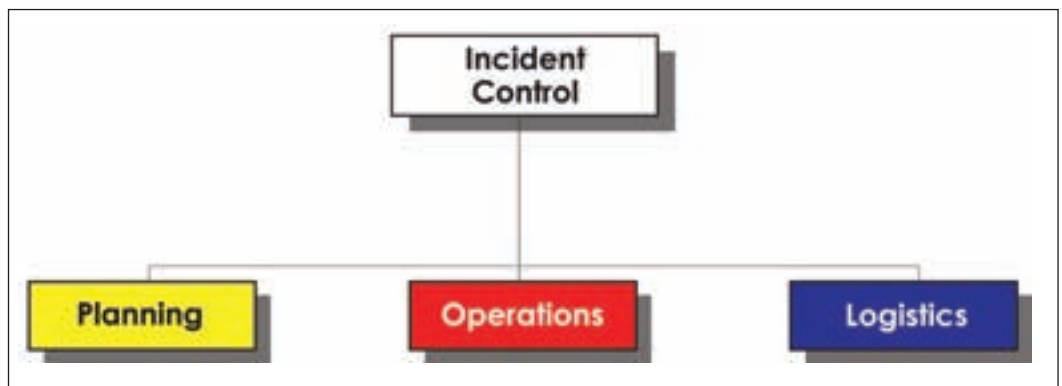


Diagram 2: The four key functional areas of AIIMS - Control, Operations, Planning and Logistics.

THE 'OPERATIONS' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

Operations is the tasking and application of resources to resolve an incident - illustrated in Diagram 3.

Operations is the bread and butter of CFS. It is what brigades do every day when responding to all types of incidents and is fundamentally what we do as a service.

During the incidents on Kangaroo Island, Operations commenced

when multiple fires were reported due to lightning strikes and local brigades responded.

Initially brigades from the western end of the Island responded to fires and when a second band of lightning came through the central part of the Island all KI brigades became involved.

Other operational resources included plant, equipment and bombing aircraft. As the incidents escalated further,

Strike Teams from the mainland were responded.

Operational resources are managed within the Span of Control, which is the number of groups or individuals that can be successfully supervised by one person and is usually 1:5 ratio, for example one Crew Leader to five crew members or one Strike Team Leader to five appliances.

Operational resources include

appliances, private vehicles, plant and equipment and aircraft.

They can be used as single resources or they can be put into Strike Teams, which can include a command vehicle and five appliances.

Alternatively a Task Force could be assembled for a specific task, for example some plant, equipment and appliances assembled into a team to establish a fire break.



Example of a private vehicle assisting with firefighting activities.



Seal Bay.



A dozer and appliances rounding up fires that had jumped control lines.



Seal Bay.



Firefighters.



Appliance.



Crews.

Incident Control

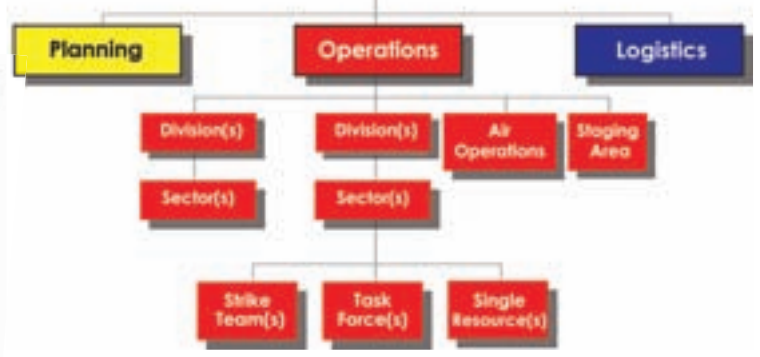


Diagram 3: Operations key functional area of the AIIMS structure.



THE 'OPERATIONS' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

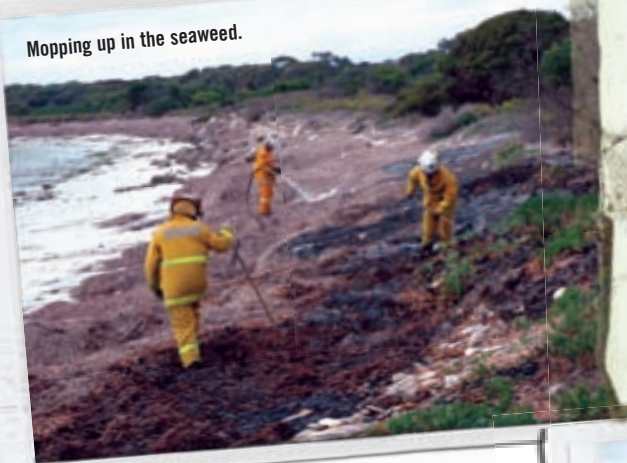
CONT.



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Mopping up in the seaweed.



Example of heavy plant equipment utilised during firefighting activities.



Filling at dam.



Seal Bay.



✓ The KI fires map. There were five significant fires on KI which were broken into either the Chase Division or the Destrees Division and each fire was broken up into Sectors where appropriate.

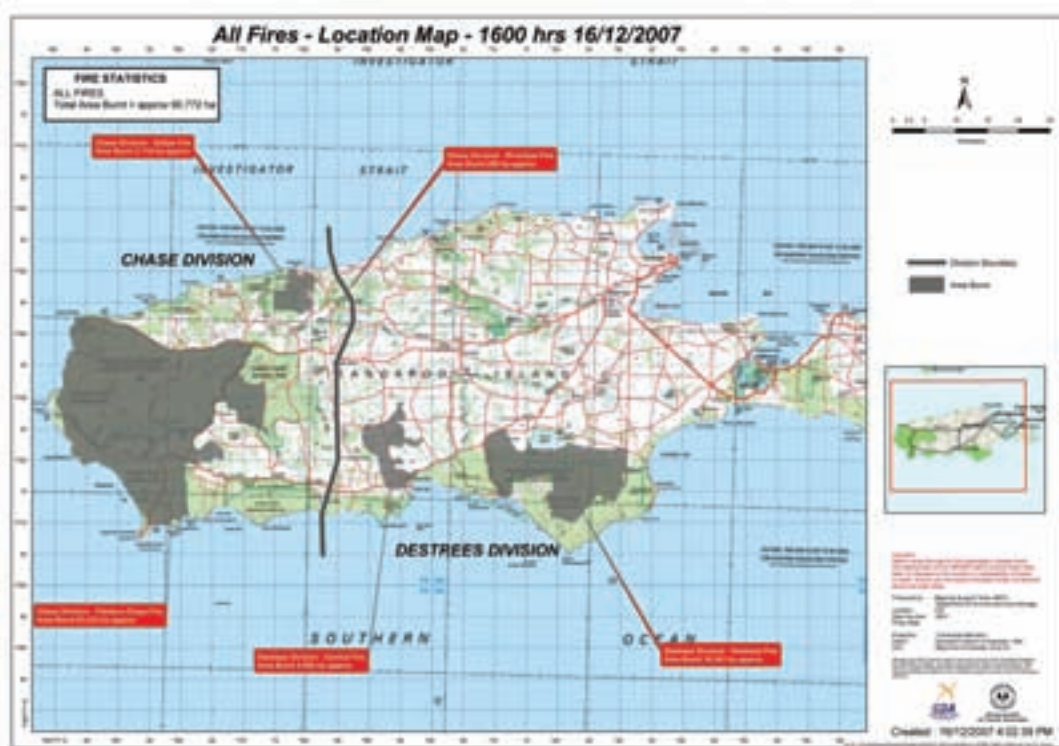
Incidents are often divided into Sectors and Divisions, depending on the size of the incident.

During the Kangaroo Island fires there were five significant fires, so it was treated as a 'complex' of fires (meaning there are multiple fires being managed with one Incident Management Team).

The fires were delegated to either the Chase Division or the Destrees Division and each fire was broken up into Sectors where appropriate (see map).

Each Division had a Division Commander that reported to the Operations Officer in the Incident Management Team and each Sector had a Sector Commander who reported to the relevant Division Commander.

During times of high levels of activity there was an Operations Officer in the Incident Management Team for each fire.



Air Operations

Air Operations is part of the Operations function. At the KI incidents there was an Air Operations Manager whose role was to develop the Air Operations Plan, conduct strategic decision making relating to the use of aircraft, attend incident management briefings, liaise with the Incident Management Team and request logistical support such as additional foam and fuel.

There was also an Aircraft Officer whose role was to request logistical arrangements, such as transport, accommodation and catering for pilots and the mixing crew who were located at Turkey Lane Airstrip.

Additionally the Aircraft Officer coordinated all the reconnaissance, intelligence, observation and tactical flights.

There was an Air Base Manager and up to 12 support crew located at the Turkey Lane Airstrip.

Their role was to support aircraft by providing re-fuelling, filling aircraft with water and foam or retardant.

Also, there were Air Attack Supervisors who liaised with the pilots of bombing aircraft and with Sector Commanders.

They provided feedback on the effectiveness of the bombing operations, including the laying of retardant, accuracy and effectiveness of drops.

The Air Observer is supported by Air Operations, however they report to the Situation Unit in Planning and provide valuable information about fire behaviour, topography and vegetation in addition to providing plots of the perimeter of the fire.

For the KI fires FLIR (Forward Looking Infrared) was used.

This resource was brought to South Australia by DSE (Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment) and is a heat-sensing camera that is flown over fires.

The data it collects is combined with GPS and is provided to the Mapping Support Team to put onto maps that are then used in the field and by the Incident Management Team.

During the KI fires, NSW Rural Fire Service and DSE supported CFS by providing Air Operations Management and Aircraft Officers.

Operations and the Incident Action Plan

Operations is responsible for implementing the Incident Action Plan.

The Incident Action Plan outlines objectives and strategies.

The objectives will generally describe what is to be achieved with a timeframe.

The strategies describe how the objectives will be achieved, for

example through backburning operations, creating a mineral earth break or by asset protection.

There were a variety of strategies used on KI, such as asset

protection, creating breaks with machinery and backburning.

Some interesting Air Operations statistics from KI:

- Bombers used an average of 7,000 litres of Jet A1 fuel per day
- Rotary Wing Aircraft (not including Erickson Airplane) used 4,000 litres of Jet A1 fuel per day
- Erickson Airplane used an average of 2,000 litres of fuel per hour
- Reconnaissance Aircraft used an average of 1,400 litres per day of Avgas
- An average of 640 litres per day of foam was used in aircraft
- On one of the busy days on KI, 8 tonnes of retardant was used.

Aircraft used at KI

Bombers

- 555 and 558 (Air Tractor -502, 1900 litres)
- 563 and 564 (AT-602, 2500 litres)
- 580, 581 and 584 (AT-802, 3200 litres)

Helitaks

- 536 (Bell 212 used both Belly Tank and Long line bucket 1200ltrs)
- 341 (Erickson Airplane from VIC 7500ltrs)

Air Attack / Air Observer Platforms used at KI

FireSpotter

- 501 (Local aircraft used)
- 514 (DEH aircraft)
- 505 (Lower South East aircraft)
- BirdDog 500

Rotary

- Firebird 507 (used for both roles)
- Firebird 534 as above
- Rescue 53 as above

The objectives will generally describe what is to be achieved with a timeframe.

The strategies describe how the objectives will be achieved, for

example through backburning operations, creating a mineral earth break or by asset protection.

There were a variety of strategies used on KI, such as asset

protection, creating breaks with machinery and backburning.



Turkey Lane Airstrip.



Helitak.



Erickson Airplane.

Reconnaissance and bombing aircraft.



Bomber drop.



THE 'OPERATIONS' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

CONT.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES



Backburning operations.



Backburning operations.



Appliances protecting assets at Flinders Chase.



Staging Area Manager.



Staging Check in.



T-cards.



Appliances at Staging.



Crew briefing at incident.



Decontamination and cleaning of vehicles at Staging.

The relevant parts of the Incident Action Plan should be communicated to each person involved in the incident.

For example, a Sector Commander briefs Sector personnel on the strategies and tactics of the Sector.

Staging Area

The Staging Area is also part of Operations and once a Staging Area has been established, all operational resources check in and out of the incident via Staging.

The Staging Area Manager reports to the Operations Officer and lets them know which resources are available at Staging and notifies Operations when resources are deployed to the incident.

At Staging there is a record kept of incoming and outgoing resources, and this information is gathered through the use of T-cards.

On KI, the Staging Area was co-located with the Base Camp on Parndana Oval.

THE 'CONTROL' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

Diagram 4: The Control key functional area of the AIIMS Structure.

Control is the management of all activities necessary for the resolution of an incident - illustrated in Diagram 4.

In the initial phases of an incident the Crew Leader on the first arriving appliance will usually become the Incident Controller.

At this point the incident is usually a Level 1 incident and can be managed at the location of the incident.

As an incident progresses and becomes larger and more complex, often another person, usually an Officer, will come and take over the incident.

Prior to the fires on Kangaroo Island the local CFS group was aware of the incoming weather and were already monitoring the situation.

The Group Officer, Terry May, was already in the Group Control Centre at Parndana when the first fires were reported.

Initially there were three fires almost simultaneously reported on the north coast; one was quickly extinguished, the other two were not contained.

Then the second part of the storm went through and brigades from the western end were responded.

Because the Group had already been activated, Terry May became the Incident Controller for all of the incidents.

As the incidents progressed further and became a Level 3 incident, the Regional Commander, Mark Thomason, became the Incident Controller.

CFS usually appoints one Incident Controller for day shift and one for night shift.

At this incident, one Incident Controller was appointed for day and night (although they slept at night), with a Deputy appointed for each of the day and night shifts.

This is the method used in the United States because it promotes consistency between the day and night shifts and the feedback has been very positive after it was used on KI.

The role of the Incident Controller at Level 3 incidents is very complex.

Responsibility for operations is delegated to the Operations

Officer, which allows the Incident Controller to focus on other areas of responsibility, such as establishing the Incident Management Team, identifying risks, determining priorities, interagency liaison, facilitating media management, developing the Incident Action Plan, communicating within the control structure, reporting within the chain of command and communicating with the public.

The Incident Controller is required to keep the State Coordinator informed, who can then brief the Minister and other agencies at State level.

Incident Levels

Level 1 – Incidents that can be resolved using local or initial response resources only.

Level 2 – Incidents that are more complex either in size, resources or risk. They are characterised by the need for:

- Deployment of resources beyond initial response, or
- Sectorisation of the incident, or
- The establishment of functional sections, or
- A combination of the above.

Level 3 – Incidents that may require establishing Divisions or effective management of the situation. These incidents will usually involve delegation of all functions.

Safety Advisor

The Safety Advisor reports to the Incident Controller on matters that affect safety.

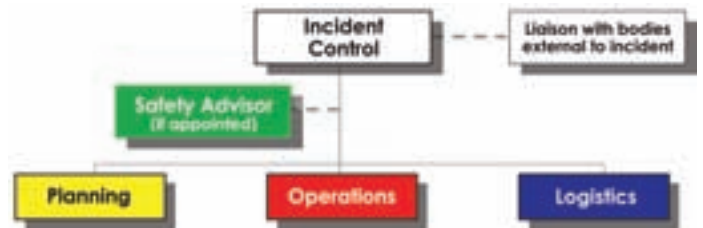
The Safety Advisor will monitor safety issues, monitor and report on injuries and provide advice regarding safety messages to crews.

There was a Safety Advisor on KI throughout the course of the incident.

Interagency Liaison

There were many agencies involved on KI and it was important that there was a high level of coordination and communication with all of those agencies.

During KI there were both Interagency and Interstate Liaison Officers appointed, who provided





<<
State Emergency Service personnel at base camp.

information and advice to those agencies.

South Australian agencies that attended the incident included: Country Fire Service, Department for Environment and Heritage, ForestrySA, SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission, SA Metropolitan Fire Service, SA Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, St John and Salvation Army Emergency Service.

South Australian Police (SAPOL)

SAPOL was considered to be a Supporting Agency to CFS, which was

the Control Agency for the fires.

SAPOL provided traffic control, coordination, attended taskings and provided advice to residents in the area.

There was a team approach taken to advice provided to the community and standard messages were developed and communicated by the two agencies.

CFS and SAPOL identified dangerous areas on the Island, which were areas where people and property were unlikely to be able to be protected and it would place emergency personnel at unnecessary risk.

CFS and SAPOL visited residents in those dangerous areas and in some cases asked people to leave the area.

This joint approach provided authority and credibility to the requests and was very effective.

At the peak of the incidents there were 24 SAPOL Officers, some during the day and some at night.

There are usually only three SAPOL personnel located on KI, including one Sergeant and two Officers.

Interstate Liaison

There were many individuals from many interstate agencies deployed to

KI to support the South Australian agencies.

The agencies included the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, Country Fire Authority and Victoria Parks plus New South Wales Rural Fire Service, Department of Environment and Conservation Western Australia and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service.

These agencies brought enormous support, both in firefighting and in incident management, and valuable skills which provided a great learning opportunity for South Australia.



South Australian Police were a Supporting Agency to CFS who was the Control Agency for the KI fires.



New South Wales Rural Fire Service appliance.

Police vehicles at Parndana.



Country Fire Authority appliances.



THE 'PLANNING' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

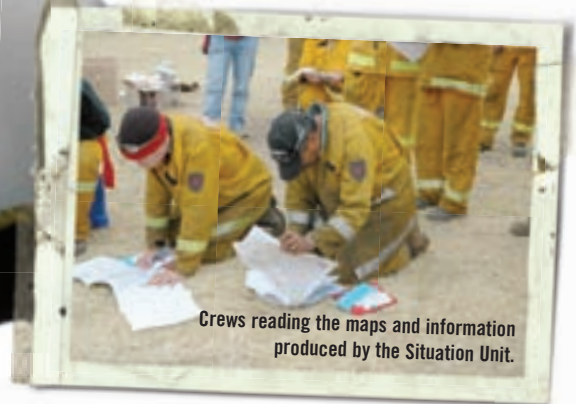


An Air Observer plots a fire on KI.

Planning



Diagram 5: The Planning key functional area of the AIIMS structure.



Crews reading the maps and information produced by the Situation Unit.

Planning is the collection, analysis and dissemination of information and the development of plans for the resolution of an incident - illustrated in Diagram 5.

In the initial phases of an incident, the planning for the incident usually occurs mentally in the head of the Incident Controller.

As an incident progresses, planning becomes a lot more complex and there are many more factors that need to be considered.

During the KI incidents there were Planners focussing on each of the fires.

Situation Unit

The Situation Unit collects all the information about the current situation.

This was done on KI through Situation Reports received from Division and Sector Commanders, Air Observers, Ground Observers and by the Bureau of Meteorology.

The Situation Unit produced maps (through the DEH Mapping Support Team), Situation Reports and Incident Predictions.

The Situation Unit also identified alternative strategies and identified

the risks and likely outcomes associated with each.

Resource Unit

This Resource Unit gathers and maintains information about resources at the incident.

The Unit needs to have an understanding about which people, vehicles and equipment are at the incident and where they are, for example, en route, allocated to a sector, resting, etc.

This is one of the most difficult roles in the incident, especially at present where there is no particular system to track resources at an incident.

The Resources Unit is also heavily involved in the demobilisation of the incident i.e. getting everyone and everything home.

This was a particularly difficult job with incidents on Kangaroo Island because everything needed to be transported by plane or ferry in addition to the road transport.



The Bureau of Meteorology liaises with Situation Unit personnel.



The DEH Mapping Support Unit prepares a map of the fires.



THE 'PLANNING' FUNCTION OF THE AIMS STRUCTURE

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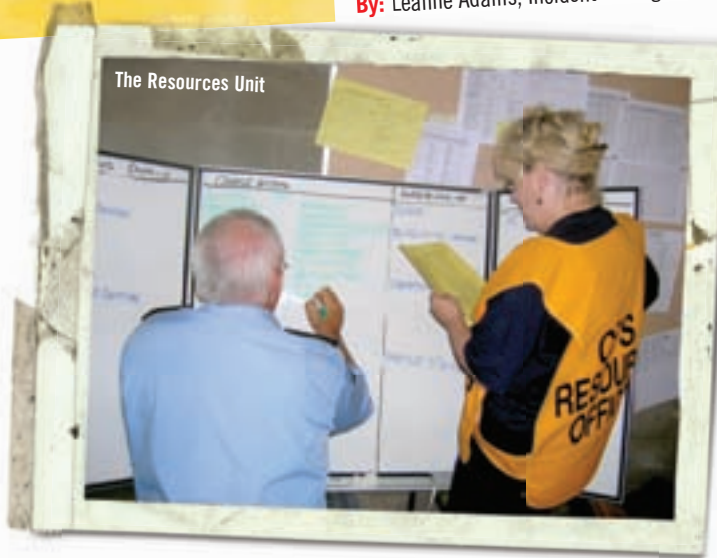
INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer



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Communication Planning Unit

The Communication Planning Unit prepares the Communications Plan with technical advice.

KI was one of the first, if not the first, time an individual has been appointed as the Communications Planning Officer for an incident in South Australia.

This was particularly useful because this role had a direct link back to the CFS State Coordination Centre, where they were able to access additional equipment and gain communications advice.

It was beneficial to have this position in place because it was able to provide an effective plan for communications, supported by appropriate hardware and technology.

Management Support Unit

There were many roles undertaken by this unit, including operating

radios, answering phones, logging, photocopying, security, IT support and filing.

These are vitally important roles and there weren't enough people to fill all of the roles required.

There were many CFS volunteers in these roles, plus we were able to use SAFECOM personnel to assist us with some roles.

KI was the first time that the Incident Management IT kit was deployed, including IT support.

The system was so new that it wasn't quite finished and it hadn't been tested, so it got a significant test-run during those incidents.

The system includes a number of laptops which are all networked and linked to a shared drive; there are also printers connected to the system and computers that have internet and email access.

There were several issues with the system, however it was a

significant improvement on previous incidents where there has been no interconnectivity between computers.

The SAFECOM IT personnel were highly competent and very helpful with all IT issues during the KI fires.

Information Unit

The Information Unit provides information to all the relevant stakeholders.

They ensure relevant parties get the appropriate sections of the Incident Action Plan.

The Information Unit ensures communication of relevant information is occurring internally within the incident management structure, in addition to external communication such as with the media, community, support agencies, etc.

Management of the media occurs within the Information Unit, and the Media Officer will have very close links with the Incident Controller who is required to approve any information released publicly.

During the KI incidents there was a Media Officer on the Island for most of the incident. The Media Officer liaised closely with the Incident Controller, provided information for media releases, arranged media interviews and attended to many media enquiries.

One method that has become increasingly successful in providing information to the community is community meetings.

There were 20 meetings held on the Island at various locations including Vivonne Bay, Kingscote, Penneshaw, Western Districts and Parndana.

On some days there were four meetings held per day.

In total, 587 people attended these community meetings.

A newsletter was prepared for members of the community each day which provided response and recovery information.

The meetings provided operational, preparedness and recovery information.

Operational and preparedness information consisted of the current situation, what had happened, what we were doing, how people could help, together with how they could prepare as a community.

Recovery information was linked in with other agencies that could provide immediate assistance, for example, SPAM, Mental Health Services, Telstra, PIRSA, DFC, etc, and representatives from these agencies attended the meetings.

In addition, door knocking activities were conducted with SAPOL to inform residents of the potential weather conditions and to ensure that they had an adequate Bushfire Action Plan in place.

The community meetings continued after the incident to assist in the recovery process.

Four meetings were held in late January and early February at Flinders Chase, Western Districts, Kiawarra (closest to D'estrees) and Vivonne Bay.

These sessions were designed to offer support to the community on what services they were able to access and how to prepare for the remainder of the 2007/08 Fire Danger Season.



THE 'LOGISTICS' FUNCTION OF THE AIIMS STRUCTURE

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

Logistics is the obtaining and maintaining of human and physical resources required to support an incident - illustrated in Diagram 6.

Supply Unit

The Supply Unit acquires and distributes materials and equipment for infrastructure support.

On Kangaroo Island, the Logistics Section supplied a huge amount of supplies to support the incident including bedding, tents, food, water, fuel, hoses, equipment, gloves, stationery, etc.

One difficulty with incidents on KI is that many of the supplies need to be

brought onto the Island specifically for the incident.

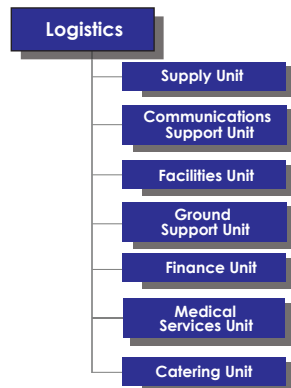
This provides a significant challenge because transport needs to be arranged from Adelaide, across a ferry and from the ferry to the destination.

There is a set schedule for ferries which had to be worked around and sometimes additional ferries needed to be chartered.

There are added complications and regulations that needed to be dealt with when transporting fuel.



Diagram 6: The Logistics key functional area of the AIIMS structure.



Facilities Unit

The Facilities Unit obtains and manages the necessary facilities and accommodation to support operations and incident control and maintains them in working order.

While this unit was not specifically appointed during the KI incident, these functions were carried out by the Logistics Section.

Some facilities used during the incident were the Base Camp, Staging Area, Incident Control Centre, various accommodation facilities and the Air Base.

There were many items that needed to be brought in to support these facilities including phone lines, tents, floors for tents, marquees, bedding, camp beds, photocopiers, tables, chairs, etc.



Base Camp and Staging

The Base Camp established at Parndana Oval was the largest Base Camp ever set up in South Australia for a CFS incident.

There was a huge number of people accommodated at the Base Camp and there was a significant amount of work done by many individuals to support the camp and the Staging Area, including personnel from SES, SAAS, St John, Salvation Army, CFS, MFS and interstate agencies.



THE 'LOGISTICS' FUNCTION

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRE

SCHOOL ACCOM.

MENS AND LADIES
SHOWER TRUCK

VEHICLE RECONDITIONING

DEH ACCOM.

TENT CITY 1-79

TRUCK PARK

MARSH AL

MARQUEE 3

MARQUEE 4

WATER STORES

SES/SALVO MANAGEMENT CARAVANS

SES TENT CITY



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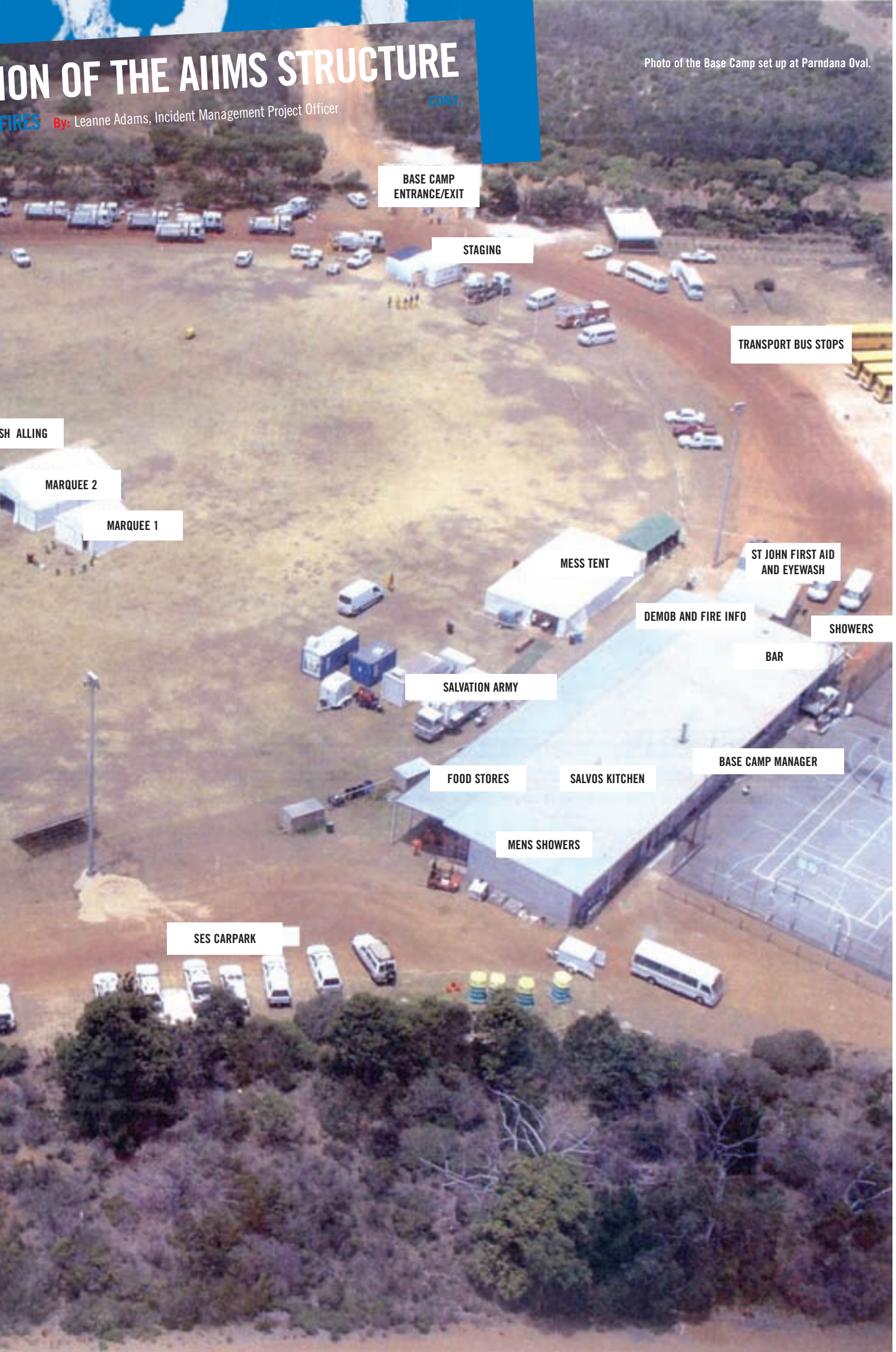
VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

ION OF THE AIMS STRUCTURE

FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

CONT.

Photo of the Base Camp set up at Parndana Oval.



BASE CAMP
ENTRANCE/EXIT

STAGING

TRANSPORT BUS STOPS

SH ALLING

MARQUEE 2

MARQUEE 1

MESS TENT

ST JOHN FIRST AID
AND EYEWASH

DEMOB AND FIRE INFO

SHOWERS

BAR

SALVATION ARMY

BASE CAMP MANAGER

FOOD STORES

SALVOS KITCHEN

MENS SHOWERS

SES CARPARK



THE 'LOGISTICS' FUNCTION OF THE AIMS STRUCTURE

CONT.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer



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Briefing by Base Camp Manager.



Food tent at Base Camp.



Supplies.

Ground Support Unit

The Ground Support Unit was not officially established at the KI fires, however the roles were performed by the Logistics Section. This Unit provides transport for personnel, equipment, fuelling, mechanical maintenance and security of equipment and vehicles at an incident.

Finance Unit

Managing incidents is an expensive exercise, particularly on KI where there are many transport costs involved in moving personnel, vehicles and equipment on and off the Island.

There were many ferries and aircraft chartered to move personnel, some of them from interstate. These logistical challenges, combined with the scale of the fires, resulted in a significant cost to suppress the fires.

The Finance Unit is responsible for purchasing supplies and hire of equipment and collection of cost data. At an incident, this function is an extension of the purchasing and cost management that is done on a daily basis within CFS.



SES fuelling at Staging.



Some of the many buses used to transport personnel during the incident.



The SAMFS mechanical support truck provided excellent mechanical support to vehicles during the incident.

Medical Unit

The Medical Unit provides medical support, such as first aid and emergency medical response, to personnel involved in managing the incident. St John and SA Ambulance provided invaluable support to

the incident by providing first aid facilities at Base Camp, in addition to ambulance response to firefighting personnel at the incident. The Medical Unit is responsible for developing a Medical Plan.



St John volunteers applying first aid at the Medical Station at Base Camp.



Some of the St John crew that provided first aid support at Base Camp.



First aid station.

Catering Unit

As with many CFS incidents, Salvation Army Emergency Services (SAES) provided invaluable catering support during the entire incident.

Over 14,000 main meals were supplied and at the peak of the catering effort, there were 29 SAES catering personnel on site.

Four SAES vehicles - a large catering truck, generator set, mobile freezer/cool room and large catering trailer - were deployed.

CFS provided logistical support by providing additional freezer cool room facilities, along with a large generator set and additional catering equipment.

While SAES provided a huge amount of catering, there were also many others involved in providing food during the incident, including local individuals and businesses that prepared and delivered many meals.



Some of the many SAES personnel that provided catering during the KI incident.



Filling up jerry cans at Staging.



A firefighter receives his meal at the SAES catering truck.



Firefighters line up to be fed by the SAES.



SUMMARY

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT – THE KANGAROO ISLAND FIRES CONT.

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

Coordination

All of the roles in the AIIMS Incident Management Team that have been described occur at the incident or in the Incident Control Centre near the incident.

To support an incident of this scale there is a huge amount of work that goes on at CFS Groups, Regions, the CFS State Coordination Centre, State Emergency Operations Centre and in the offices of supporting interstate agencies.

The Regional Coordination Centre, in the case of the KI incidents, was at the Region One Coordination Centre at Mt Barker.

They provided a Logistical Support function, as they supported the incident by providing additional personnel and arranging for much of the transport onto and off the Island.

They also liaised with the CFS State Coordination Centre regarding Strike Team requirements from other agencies and Regions.

All other CFS Regional Coordination Centres were active either with their own incidents, such as the Warooka

fires which occurred in Region Two, or in support of the KI incident organising Strike Teams and other resources.

This meant that many of the Groups around the State were busy organising Strike Teams.

The CFS State Coordination Centre was active and provided additional Logistical Support for large scale items such as pallets of foam, retardant, bottled water or chartering large passenger aircraft to transport interstate personnel.

For the first time in CFS history, there was an Interagency Liaison Cell set up where there was a representative from each interstate agency involved in the fires.

The State Planning Cell was active, as was the State Air Desk and interagency liaison including DEH and ForestrySA.

The Victorian DSE also assisted CFS by preparing an assessment of vulnerable communities on Kangaroo Island.

The State Emergency Operations Centre was activated for the most





dynamic times of the incident, with the relevant State agencies represented, such as other emergency response agencies, PIRSA, etc.

Recovery and Rehabilitation

There is still much work to be done on recovery and rehabilitation of the environment and for the communities on KI.

The vast amount of area burnt has resulted in significant environmental damage and while the vegetation will return quickly, it will be some time before the true damage is known.

The landscape is currently a sea of green across all firegrounds, particularly with Mallee and Yacca regeneration.

Animals will take a lot longer to recover from the devastating effects of the bushfire, with some having to migrate from surrounding areas.

Animal sightings already reported include koalas, echidnas, kangaroos and platypuses.

In addition, there are currently other changes underway following the December bushfire.

Cape Forbin Fire Management Plan (North West corner of KI)

has been reviewed to incorporate changes and the Flinders Chase Fire Management Plan will be reviewed, in particular the fire access track network and prescribed burn program will be reviewed.

A fire management plan for the Destrees Bay, including Cape Gantheaume Wilderness Protection Area and Seal Bay Conservation Park, will commence shortly.

Nearly all areas of Flinders Chase National Park have been opened, including the Cape du Couedic Road, West Bay Road and Shackle Road.

DEH staff have been working hard to remove trees from across roads and tracks, rehabilitate walking tracks and making areas safe for visitors.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL WANTED!

Can you see yourself or someone else you know in any of the incident management roles described in this article?

On several occasions this year we were unable to fill incident management positions requested.

If you are interested in AIIMS roles contact your Regional Office to find out more.



1 MOUNT LOFTY RANGES
& KANGAROO ISLAND

BELAIR FIRE

CFS volunteers tackled a bushfire which threatened homes at Belair in the Adelaide Hills on 17 January.

One hundred and twenty CFS firefighters and twenty Department for Environment and Heritage staff battled the flames.

Crews were hampered by unpredictable valley winds which swept the fire front dangerously close to a caravan park and neighbouring houses.

Residents could only stand by and watch as four aerial waterbombers flew to assist ground crews.

SAPOL closed a number of roads in the area as the day wore on, with the smoke clearly visible from Adelaide.

Overnight, CFS crews were deployed in Belair to monitor the area.

No properties were damaged, although it came close, with reports the blaze reached some backyards.

It later emerged a slasher caused the blaze, which blackened 30 hectares of land.



^ Peter and Rose Reynolds watch the Aircrane.
Photo: The Advertiser

>> Flames above the trees.
Photo: The Advertiser

v Smoke seen from the city.
Photo: The Advertiser



The air crane filling up.



THANK YOU FROM THE MAYOR

Having witnessed the recent Belair bushfire at close hand, I felt I should give credit where it is due.

Just to let you know of my background, I was in the Belair EFS (prior to it becoming the CFS) for almost 10 years, 30 years ago.

At that time we experienced many more fires in that area.

I am Chair of the Mitcham Bushfire Prevention Committee and have been a member of the Region 1 Bushfire Prevention Committee for 10 years and a member of the State Bushfire Prevention Committee for 6 or so years.

On the day, I was made aware of the fire by the smell of smoke at my house in Kingswood.

Two of my sons live a few doors apart in Serpentine Road, 200 metres from the fire.

Both sons are members of the Belair CFS and both left work to attend the fire.

I was able to get up Windy Point Road to defend both properties which I did by starting a bushfire pump and wetting the house and surrounds and by turning on sprinklers at the second property.

By that time two fixed wing water bombers were dropping water over the edge of James Road and at about the same time two large helicopters arrived and were also pounding the slopes with thousands of litres of water.

Not long after, the huge Incredible Hulk (not Elvis but a similar craft) arrived at the scene.

From the balcony of my son's home I witnessed spectacular precision firing of two fixed wing bombers, two large helicopters and the Incredible Hulk.

The way these craft were flown into the tight and difficult terrain was a sight to see.

I must congratulate all the CFS brigades that came from near and far on containing the fire to grass, bush and trees.

The State Government and CFS Headquarters must also be thanked for sending the two bombers and the three helicopters to what was a very steep and dangerous situation.

They quickly took control of what

could have been a disaster had the fire been able to get away.

I understand it took all that night and all day Friday to extinguish burning trees and fallen branches.

The professional coordination of the suppression of that fire was great.

Some would say we were lucky the wind was blowing the wrong way - that may be correct, but that fire was very professionally extinguished and I hate to think what would have happened had it jumped James Road and got into hundreds of hills face homes.

Yours Sincerely
Ivan Brooks - Mayor

(Correspondence to Premier and CFS CO dated 7 February 2008)



ALDINGA BEACH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday 18 May 2008 both past and present members of Aldinga Beach CFS, along with members from neighbouring brigades and invited guests, celebrated the 40th anniversary of Aldinga Beach CFS with a BBQ lunch.

Held at Aldinga Beach Station, the day commenced with speeches by invited guests, including Leigh Miller, CFS Manager Prevention Services. He presented the Brigade with a plaque on behalf of Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer, in recognition of 40 years of diligent service to the district.

Aldinga Beach CFS would like to pass on its thanks to all past members who have contributed to the establishment of what has become a strong and professional Brigade.



^ From left: Leigh Miller (CFS Manager Prevention Services), Lorraine Rosenberg (City of Onkaparinga Mayor), Anthony Thorpe (Region 1), Dean Norman (Aldinga Beach Captain), David Przibilla (Kyeema Group Officer), Leon Bignell (State Government representative) Photo: Tanya Norman, Aldinga Beach CFS

PREMIER'S AWARDS

As part of the Eastern and North Eastern Suburbs Community Cabinet, Premier's Awards were handed out during a BBQ and Forum at San Giorio La Molara Community Centre in Payneham in May.

Three CFS volunteers, all from Region 1, were presented Premier's Awards – those being Terry Beeston, East Torrens Group Officer, George

Polomka, Athelstone CFS and Sandy Taylor, Deputy Group Officer East Torrens Group.

Congratulations!

>>

Left to right: Terry Beeston, East Torrens Group Officer, George Polomka, Athelstone CFS and Sandy Taylor, Deputy Group Officer East Torrens Group.



WILLUNGA FIRE

The CFS attracted widespread praise for its hard hitting tactics on 14 March, when volunteers faced one of their toughest challenges of the year so far – a ferocious blaze in Willunga, which started under suspicious circumstances.

The strategy to strike quickly and with everything they had averted a major catastrophe during the State's record-breaking heatwave.

The Willunga fire destroyed one home and nine firefighters were injured.

More than 160 firefighters battled the blaze with 30 appliances, as temperatures topped forty degrees.

Ground crew were helped by two fixed winged water bombers, an air crane and two observation aircraft.

At one point the Range Hope Forest crew were engulfed with flames and had to take refuge inside their truck. They were treated for minor burns and smoke inhalation.

A family with four children lost their home in the area, but fortunately were not at home when the fire went through.

The swift and targeted approach by the CFS managed to contain the fire, stopping it from spreading further.

Flames at the Willunga fire on 14 March 2008. Photo: Chris Sedunary, Hindmarsh Valley CFS





50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORTON SUMMIT-ASHTON CFS



A half-century of service was marked on 18 May as more than 100 past and present members and their families gathered at the Norton Summit Station to celebrate the Brigades' 50th Anniversary.

The invited guests included Alexander Downer, the Federal Member for Mayo and Lindsay Simmons, Member for Morialta, who represented Carmel Zollo, the Minister for Emergency Services. Also present was Isobel Redmond, the Member for Heysen, Chief Officer SA Country Fire Service Euan Ferguson, Commander of CFS Region 1 Chris Martin and Adelaide Hills Council Deputy Mayor Bill Gale.

Brigade Captain Doug Munn provided an insightful account of some of the more memorable events over the past five decades, from the formation of the Norton Summit-Ashton EFS, which initially used the East Torrens District Council tip truck to attend fires with a slip-on tank and pump, through to today where the Brigade operates three modern appliances.

Euan Ferguson paid tribute to the sense of community within the Brigade. He acknowledged the early beginnings and the way in which the community and member support has

significantly helped build Brigade fire appliances and the Station at Norton Summit. He also made special mention to the families of members who provide the silent support to all CFS volunteers.

Service Awards for active years of voluntary service were awarded to Brian Herde, Ray Lind, Bethany MacDermott-Palmer, Shirley Munn, John Naumann and Ray White for ten

years. Jeanette Taylor received an accolade for 30 years.

National Medals for being active diligent firefighters were presented to Robert Butler and Lee Watson for 25 years, 1st Clasp. Terence Beeston received 35 years, 2nd Clasp.

Robert Butler and Miar MacDermott were awarded Life Membership for 20 years of distinguished service for the CFS.

Five of the former six Captains also returned to help celebrate the occasion and to catch up with old friends and relive some of their memorable past. They are Jack Makings, Ross Wightman (who was absent, and now living in Perth), Dean Gebhardt, Sandy Taylor, Lee Watson and Doug Munn, the current Captain.

A cake celebrating the anniversary was cut by founding member Jim Pellew and current cadet Eddy Mills.



▲ Left to right: Dean Gebhardt, Doug Munn, Jack Makings, Keith (Sandy) Taylor and Lee Watson.

MASSIVE RESPONSE TO BALHANNAH FIRE

On a baking high-risk day in March, firefighters from CFS Brigades across the Adelaide Hills responded en-masse to a grass fire near Balhannah.

One hundred firefighters and 20 appliances, supported by an Aircrane, two fixed wing bombers and two aerial observation aircraft, meant the fire was contained quickly.

In hot, dry and windy conditions, the fire started near the junction of Mattners Road and burnt more than eight hectares of farmland.

The intense response from CFS crews brought the situation under control within 20 minutes.

Onkaparinga CFS Group Officer Peter Wicks told the Mount Barker Courier they had stopped a "fast moving" fire from posing "a serious threat to public safety".

He added "the conditions on the day were really bad and blowy so we threw everything we had at it as quickly as we could to stop the spread."

Property owner Fiona Challen applauded the efforts of CFS crews, telling the Courier, "I looked out my kitchen window to see aerial support crews dousing water to the flames engulfing my property."

She added "I honestly feel if there wasn't the aerial support to aid the

ground units then there is no doubt my property, my livestock and life would have been seriously at risk."

▽ CFS brigades respond to the grass fire at Balhannah on 14 March 2008. Photo: Mount Barker Courier.




McLAREN VALE WINERY COLLAPSE

McLaren Vale and Aldinga Beach CFS responded to an incident with a difference at Wirra Wirra Winery in McLaren Vale on 6 March.

Kyeema Group Officer, David Przibilla, explained that the infrastructure which supports some wine fermenters gave way.

"CFS responded to the incident to assist SA Ambulance to rescue a worker with injuries who was stuck within the collapsed structure," he said.

"I could not quantify the amount of wine lost in the collapse, but it would be in the thousands of litres."

The wasted wine flowed through the carpark. 
Photo: Daniel Tinker, Aldinga Beach CFS



The collapsed fermenting structure at Wirra Wirra Winery.

Photo: Daniel Tinker, Aldinga Beach CFS



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VOLUNTEER · STATEWIDE

EUDUNDA CHEMICAL SPILL

By: Sonia Post, Region 2 Commander



^ CFS volunteers and staff deal with the aftermath of the chemical spill at Eudunda.



Just after midnight on Wednesday 28 May a member of the public contacted the Gilbert CFS Group Officer directly, reporting that a quantity of “wet stuff” was leaking out from under the utilities room at the Eudunda swimming pool where the pool’s chemicals were located.

On arrival, an unknown substance was found on the outside of the door and looked like it was coming from inside the building.

Further investigation revealed the source of this substance was a quantity of swimming pool chemical from a 1,000 litre tank; that had escaped into the bunding around the tank, and had subsequently seeped through the bunding.

Crews had challenges with the heavy fog, which made it difficult to conduct a visual assessment of the incident from a safe distance.

The road was blocked to traffic during the night to keep crews safe, as the thick fog made spotting people and vehicles difficult, even at short distances.

In the daylight hours, the fog lifted sufficiently to re-open the road and maintain crew safety.

Crews identified the chemical, stopped the leak and stabilised the situation. A vacuum truck was sourced and crews mopped up the chemical.

The incident lasted well over 12 hours.

Andrew Allchurch and Kym Booth (both Gilbert Group) acted as Incident Controllers, with Shane Atze (Nuriootpa CFS) acting as Operations Officer.

LIGHT CFS GROUP POST CHRISTMAS DINNER

By: Lindy Alderslade, Administration Coordinator, Light Group CFS

Members of the Light CFS Group held their annual Post Christmas Dinner at The Southern Hotel, Gawler, on Saturday 9 February.

Approximately 48 people attended the Dinner, which included the Group Officer, Deputy Group Officers, Captains, Group Officers and their partners.

Guests included CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and Regional Officer Sonia Post.

Euan and Group Officer Peter Kemp presented awards to ex-Deputy Group Officers Graham Pontt and Jeff Kernich. All had a good time.

Regional Commander John Hutchins and ex-Group Officer Ray Bryant were apologies at the dinner.



^ From left Euan Ferguson, Graham Pontt, Peter Kemp (Light Group Officer) and Sonia Post (Regional Officer).

NATIONAL MEDALS PRESENTATION NIGHT

By: Sue Tuddenham, Regional Administration Officer, Region Two

Dozens of CFS volunteers were recently recognised at the Region 2 National Medals presentation night in Gawler.

National medals are awarded to volunteers who have completed 15 years of service, and Clasps are added every time an additional 10 years is served.

In all, 62 CFS volunteers who have collectively given an astounding 923 years of service, received awards.

Nine members celebrated between 35 and 51 years of service, receiving their Second and Third Clasps.

Sadly three members received National Medals or Clasps posthumously, and those awards were collected by family or friends on their behalf:

- Robert Buttery, Deputy Group Officer, Para CFS Group, 1st Clasp – representing more than 25 years of service.
- Frank Hollands, Kersbrook CFS.
- Reginald Stewart, Avon CFS, 1st Clasp – representing more than 25 years of service.

A further 25 CFS members received their clasps for 25 years to 35 years. Twenty-six members received Medals or Clasps for 15 to 25 years of service.

Regional Commander John Hutchins said that the National Medals Presentation offered a great

opportunity to thank CFS volunteers at the close of a very busy Fire Danger Season, which ended on 30 April 2008.

“The sacrifice these volunteers make to ensure that South Australia is kept safe from fire and other emergencies is extraordinary and commendable,” said John.

The National Medal Presentation was attended by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC and CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, as well as other dignitaries.

“Not only do I congratulate the volunteers but also their families and employers who provide invaluable support,” said Minister Zollo.

The National Medal Presentation followed the tenth annual International Firefighters' Day commemorated on 4 May. The day recognises firefighters worldwide for their daily acts of goodwill.

International Firefighters' Day is also known as St. Florian's Day. St. Florian is the patron saint of all firefighters and was the first known commander of a firefighting squad in the Roman Empire.

He lost his life fulfilling the same mission firefighters all over the world continue to fulfil to this day.



^ Left to right: Simon Butler, Wes Schilling, Russell Butler, Lyle Rohrlach, Toby Mifflin, Shaun Falkenberg, Rick Kessner, Mark Schwarz, Erin O'Doherty, Kym Haebich.



^ Roy Schmidt and Adrian Behn.



^ Accepting the award for Reginald Stewart (deceased) is Andrew Stewart (centre).



Left to right: Annette Halford, Vera >> Pietersen, Daryl Barkla, Tony Pietersen and Brian Grocke.



CASE IH GIVES \$5,000 TO WEETULTA / NALYAPPA CFS BRIGADE



Lyndon Polgreen, Captain Weetulta-Nalyappa CFS, being presented a cheque by Colin Dickinson, Business Manager of Case IH, with (from left to right) Cummins Filtration Business Manager for South Australia, Victoria and Tasmania, Kevin Wilkinson, Bruce Clasohm (winner of a \$500 retail voucher) and Larwoods Ag Services Manager, Kym Flint. Photo: Andrew Cadd, Weetulta / Nalyappa CFS

Weetulta-Nalyappa CFS Brigade was the lucky recipient of a \$5,000 cheque from Case IH.

Captain Lyndon Polgreen was presented with the cheque from Business Manager of Case IH Parts Direct Shipment, Colin Dickinson, on Tuesday 26 February.

The donation comes after a promotion in which all customers who purchased a genuine Case IH filter last year were automatically entered into a draw to win a host of prizes, including a \$500 retail

voucher and donation to the Country Fire Service of their choice.

Bruce Clasohm, a farmer from Arthurton and also a brigade member was the winner from all the entries across South Australia and the Northern Territory.

He was selected after purchasing a Case filter from his local dealer,

Larwoods Ag Services, at Kadina.

Bruce was grateful his win will benefit his local CFS brigade.

"I've always tried to support the local fire service and recently rejoined as a volunteer because I think it's important to help protect your local community," he said.

Along with the donation to the

CFS, Bruce has also received a \$500 gift voucher, which he plans to spend at Bunnings.

Larwoods Ag Services Spare Parts Manager, Des Westlake, said it was wonderful the dealership was able to give something back to the local community while promoting the use of genuine parts.

FAREWELL TO ROY, PAT AND PAUL

By: Gayle Schmidt, Robertstown CFS

The first farewell goes to Roy Schmidt who has been a member of Robertstown Brigade since 1969, when it was known as the Emergency Fire Service (EFS).

Roy was our very trusty and sometimes scary truck driver. He was known for taking the truck where no-one had ever taken it before.

As soon as the siren sounded you would count on Roy – if he was home – to always be there.

We were very lucky to have Roy as a member of our Brigade.

He was one of the Lieutenants for many years and helped in whatever way he could with the Brigade.

Over the years he has also collected the following Medals and Certificates – National Medal, 1st and 2nd Clasps indicating 15, 25 and 35 years of service.

Our second farewell goes to Pat Schmidt, who was our radio operator, catering manager and anything else that was asked of her.

She joined the ranks of the Robertstown Brigade in 1975 when the CFS was also still known as EFS.

Pat can recall the first shed the team operated from. There was no form of communication and members had to wait until the men arrived back from their callout.

Things have changed a lot over the

years; the Brigade now has up to date radios, phones and everything else to communicate with.

But there's one thing that has remained the same. No matter what, Pat could always be counted on if there was even a hint of food being needed. She would always be there to organise everything, with her crew of helpers.

Pat achieved her 10 and 30 year service awards.

Both Roy and Pat Schmidt enjoyed being members of CFS and also helping the community.

We wish them well with their future endeavours and thank them for their service with our Brigade.

Last but not least we'd like to farewell Paul Mortimer, also known as Churchie.

He was only a recent member of the Brigade but in that time held the position of Training Officer and Lieutenant.

He undertook some training courses himself to update his skills and towards the end of his time with the Robertstown Brigade, provided Level 1 Training to new members.

Paul helped wherever he could, with whatever he could in the Brigade.

We wish him well in his new home at Ardrossan.

BALAKLAVA CFS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

By: Jenny Stewart, Balaklava
Brigade Administration Officer



A group photograph celebrating Balaklava CFS's past, present and future.



Life members of the Balaklava Brigade.



CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson hands Balaklava CFS Brigade Captain Kevin Julyan a plaque celebrating 60 years.

The rich history of the Balaklava CFS was celebrated on 25 May at the Balaklava CFS Station.

The event began with a toast to the CFS and continued through lunch, followed by another toast and finished up with afternoon tea.

Life members of the Brigade were on hand to share memories of the 'old days' and stories of how things have changed over the years.

HISTORY:

In January 1944, the then Premier Tom Playford announced that rural councils would be responsible for fire protection.

On 12 October 1944, the council bought a Beresford Stork pumping unit, which was housed in the council car shed when it wasn't mounted on a council truck.

One of the conditions of the purchase was that a crew had to be trained. The crew consisted of nine Emergency Fire Service fire control officers and three volunteers.

By 1948 it was obvious that this set-up was impractical, so the council bought a 1942 Ford known as the Blitz for 325 pounds.

Members fitted it out and the Blitz was commissioned on 31 January 1948 by the late Fred Kerr.

A Country Climax trailer pump was also obtained around this time.

In 1950 the Brigade formed a women's auxiliary and in July 1958 the Brigade was registered.

By 5 August 1964, the Ford Blitz was no longer adequate and the council was again approached for a more appropriate vehicle. Members continued to petition the council and became so disgruntled they threatened to resign, which they did on 15 September 1965.

With public support, a Ford F700 was purchased and fitted out by Brigade members.

A new International unit was bought in 1977 and this time the fit out was carried out by Carey Gully.

A fire station was built and it opened on 28 February 1978, at which time the International vehicle was commissioned by Fred Kerr.

In 1978 on 9 May, the Brigade was re-registered as the Balaklava Country Fire Service and again in 1983 on 11 October when the council became the District Council of Wakefield Plains.

In November 1984, a Ford F100 four wheel drive was obtained to enable better off-road capability.

In 1993 the station was upgraded, with a communications room, meeting room, shower and toilet amenities added.

Over the years equipment has changed but the Brigade continues to respond to fires and other emergencies in a Hino, the Balaklava 24, and an Isuzu, the Balaklava 24P, appliances which are purpose built, safe and reliable.

The Brigade currently boasts 33 members, including nine life members and five cadets who are anticipating a new station in the near future.

Sixty years of hard work, support and the dedication of many volunteers have ensured Balaklava and the surrounding district has a viable and efficient Brigade proudly serving the community.



GUMERACHA WEIR FIRE

On 4 March, CFS crews were called in to deal with a grass fire at the Gumeracha Weir on the northern side of the Adelaide Mannum Road.

The fire burnt in a north-westerly direction and razed about 25 hectares of scrub, before being brought under control.

Around 200 CFS and ForestrySA volunteers attended and were assisted by support in the air from five water bombing aircraft.

The fire started across the road from a house owned by Chris and Angela Hannig but fortunately the wind direction pushed it away from their property.

Later that day, Chris Hannig said the incident had forced him and his wife to suddenly implement their Bushfire Action Plan.

The cause of the fire was found to be an angle grinder that was being used by a contract worker at the Weir.



CFS crews mopping up at the Gumeracha Weir fire on 4 March 2008. Photo: CFS Promotions Unit



FREELING SHED FIRE

Photos: Sonia Post

Members of the Shanahan family at Freeling have suffered three costly hayshed fires at their properties in less than a year.

On Thursday 20 March 2008, Stephen Shanahan was surprised and upset when he noticed a fire had been deliberately lit at his Gawler Road property.

Region 2 CFS volunteers attended, however there was little they could

do but monitor the fire to ensure it didn't spread.

Volunteers took it in turns to give many hours of their time to watch the fire safely burn out over the Easter long weekend.

The team effort was another example of how CFS volunteers constantly generously give their time and energy when it is needed most.



Stephen Shanahan pulling bales from the burning shed.

CFS volunteers hard at work over the Easter long weekend.



The shed at Freeling burnt for several days.



FOUL BAY, EDITHBURGH AND PARSONS FIRES



In December last year, lightning strikes ignited fires at Foul Bay, Edithburgh and Parsons which caused havoc for locals and firefighters. The firefighting effort was massive. More than 60 Brigades from across the State attended the Yorke Peninsula region to help out and share the load. More than half of those Brigades returned to complete a second shift. At the same time, Brigades from across the State were also helping around the clock to fight the Kangaroo Island fires. It was a difficult time for all, but well co-ordinated.

In all, the Foul Bay, Edithburgh and Parsons fires burnt about 800 hectares and were collectively referred to as the Warooka fires. During the height of the fires, there was a close call for the Foul Bay township and the public were encouraged to keep off several roads to remain safe. Thankfully, wind changes assisted the firefight and firefighters ensured other communities in the region didn't come under threat. Overall there was a great combined firefight from the ground and air.

<< The Brentwood Unit head south along Foul Bay Road at the fire west of Warooka. The road was being used as a firebreak to stop the fire from heading east into cropping land.
Photo: Stephen Fooks, Warooka CFS

REGION 2 THANKS TO ALL FOR HELPING DURING WAROOKA FIRES

To the residents, farmers, contractors, employers and everyone involved in the Warooka complex of fires (Parsons, Foul Bay and Edithburgh), THANK YOU very much for the huge effort you made in assisting the Country Fire Service in bringing these fires under control. Without you, our job becomes that much harder.

To the many people who donated time, resources and products for the Salvation Army who, in turn, provided 2,000 meals to over 300 firefighters

who battled the blazes for five days - thank you.

To the men and women who fixed our trucks, provided accommodation and supplied food - thank you.

To those employers who unselfishly gave our firefighters time off to attend these fires - our whole community thanks you.

Without our volunteer firefighters, our community is dangerously vulnerable.

To the partners, parents and grandparents of our firefighters - thank you for your care and support.

A special thanks to the District Council of Yorke Peninsula and contractors who supplied drivers, graders, tankers and dozers without question and sourced these at a moment's notice when needed.

To the men and women who made up the Incident Management Team based at Yorketown CFS Station - this fire would have been a lot worse had it not been for the careful planning, logistical support and operational expertise of many well trained CFS people - thank you.

To the people of the Yorke Peninsula - thank you for all you have done.

Last, but certainly not least, the firefighters from the CFS and DEH and local farmers who risked their lives to save the township of Foul Bay and who fought the Parsons and Edithburgh fires so determinedly - thank you.

(Yorke Peninsula Country Times, 18 December 2007)

WILLIAMSTOWN FIRE

Country Fire Service firefighters were called to a fire at the Warren Reservoir near Williamstown just after 3.30pm on Wednesday 12 March.

The fire was on the southern side of the Warren Reservoir burning between Gordon Road and Warren Road, burning in a southerly direction towards Watts Gully.

The fire was burning in grass and scrub and burnt around 35 hectares.

The rate of the fire slowed down as the afternoon progressed and

the blaze didn't enter an adjacent pine plantation.

Bombers attacked the head of the fire, while ground crews made good progress working on the flanks.

Firefighters made the best use of daylight with aggressive firefighting tactics.

Altogether more than 150 CFS, Department of Environment and Heritage and Forestry SA firefighters responded and brought the fire under control.



^ CFS crews at the Williamstown fire on 12 March 2008.
Photo: CFS Promotions Unit



MVA AT MURRAY BRIDGE



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VOLUNTEER - REGION 3

In the early hours of the morning of 19 March, CFS crews responded to an accident involving a four-wheel drive and a train, between Murray Bridge and Monarto South.

The Murray Valley Standard reported two men leapt from the Toyota Landcruiser seconds before impact, and a third person was trapped for two hours after the accident.

The trapped man was extricated and airlifted to hospital.



^ CFS crews at an MVA in Murray Bridge. The car was crushed into a railway cutting.
Photo: Mike Coddington, Murray Bridge Captain



^ The vehicle is lifted from the ditch with a crane.
Photo: Mike Coddington, Murray Bridge Captain

SPEEDBOAT UP IN FLAMES

In January of this year a Victorian family's holiday plans were ruined when their \$40,000 speedboat burst into flames at Paringa's Bert Dix Park boat ramp.

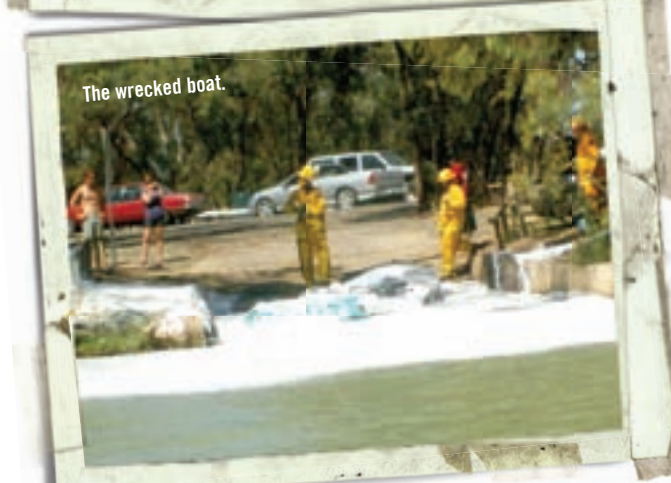
In the process of launching the boat, it ignited when the ignition key was turned. Fortunately the owners were not injured and had time to move their car and boat trailer out of the way and called 000.

Paringa Captain Phil Heading, 1st and 2nd Lieutenants' James Rigby-Meth and Brian Gilgen and pump operator Gilbert Pilgrim made short work of extinguishing the speedboat.

Photos of the incident were captured on a camera phone by CFS Training Manager Brenton Eden while he was on holidays.



The ski boat well alight.
Photos: Brenton Eden, CFS Training Manager



The wrecked boat.

REGION 3 SUPPORT ON KANGAROO ISLAND

By: Ray Jackson, Regional Prevention Officer, Region 3

Region 3 provided approximately 124 Incident Management personnel and firefighters to assist on the island and some even went back for a second deployment.

This was also the first of what could also be anticipated of many interregional responses for the IMT / staging pod.

After disgorging all the IMT resources at Parndana the pod was set up at the oval base camp / staging area where all the staging resources located in the pod were utilised.

CFS crews on scene.



PARINGA AWARDS EVENING

By: Kerry Broughton, Paringa CFS

An awards dinner and presentation was held at the Paringa Hotel on 17 May this year.

As a coincidence, this event was held in National Volunteers' Week and each member who attended was presented with a volunteers' certificate by Mick Ayre, CFS Manager of Strategic Services.

The certificates were produced by the Renmark Paringa Council.

Several members also received awards of entitlement from 2007. Scott Turner received the National Medal and Phillip Heading, Brian Gilgen and Greg Forbes were awarded the First Clasp to the National Medal.



Mick Ayre and Claire James.



Scott Turner and Mick Ayre. Scott also received the National Medal.

BRUNO BAY

By: Ray Jackson, Regional Prevention Officer, Region 3

On 17 November last year lightning started a fire near the Bruno Bay boat ramp in the Moorook Field and Game Reserve.

There followed a few nervous days for Cobdogla and Moorook, as at times thick smoke and embers affected the townships.

CFS, SES and DEH crews using floating pumps battled to contain the fire front day and night in hazardous conditions.

However, when things were starting to look good, a freak wind gust on Sunday afternoon picked the flames up and caused the fire to spot over the river and the Sturt Highway, causing the road to be closed.

Over the next three days the fire spotted across the river a further three times.

Fortunately, dangerous weather conditions which had been forecast did not become a reality, and following a huge effort by local

crews and volunteers from other regions the fire was contained by 21 November.

Due to the type of vegetation, the area needed to be continually monitored for some weeks afterwards.

This fire also marked the first use of the R3 Incident Management Team/ staging pod in a real life scenario.

The pod proved an invaluable resource for the IMT as well as at the staging area.

It enabled them to have on hand all that is required to set up an incident control centre and staging area in one hit.



⤴ Warnings displayed at Loch Luna Game Reserve.



⤴ Smoke billows across Bruno Bay.
Photos: Rosemary Gower.



⤴ A beautiful sunset at Bruno Bay.



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VOLUNTEER REGION 3

ONE MAN FIREFIGHT AT GLENDAMBO BECOMES A TEAM EFFORT

By: Nik Ludborz, Regional Prevention Officer, Region 4



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VOLUNTEER - REGION 4

It was an extremely busy day for the CFS across the State on 6 December last year.

While attention in the early part of the day was tuned to the events unfolding on Kangaroo Island, a situation had developed at the Mobil Roadhouse at Glendambo, 284km north of Port Augusta on the Stuart Highway.

Earlier in the day, it is alleged that a person set fire to accommodation behind the Roadhouse. Intervention by Woomera Emergency Services Paramedics and SAPOL Officers resulted in the distressed person being forcibly removed from the burning building.

The temperature was nearing 40 degrees with an estimated 70 – 80 km/h north wind blowing.

At approximately 12.30pm, Glendambo 14 arrived on scene, with a crew of one; Glendambo Captain, Rick Mould. He was confronted with one ATCO hut already destroyed, a second partially involved and a third beginning to burn, along with flames impacting on a gas bullet. In addition, a caravan was fully involved. As a result of leaf litter and grasses burning in the yard, the polypipe water connection to the Roadhouse was burnt through, resulting in loss of water to the facility and hydrants.

Additional resources were called in

from Woomera Emergency Services (one hour travelling time), Roxby Downs CFS (1.5 hour's travelling) and Coober Pedy CFS (two hour's travelling) to help combat the incident, while Stirling North CFS (two hour's travelling) was dispatched to provide coverage to the township of Woomera while their appliances were out of town.

Utilising a 19mm sideline and a 38mm line, Rick was able to provide protection to the gas bullet and defensively fight the fire. Water for the 14 appliance was sourced from a nearby 25,000 litre static water supply. During this time, a passing traveller, Peter Van Kruyssen, rendered assistance to Rick in fighting the fire.

While the resulting fire caused an estimated \$300,000 in damages (three ATCO huts, one caravan), undoubtedly Rick's decisive actions and ability to combat the fire on his own for the majority of the time prevented the fire from spreading to the roadhouse complex, contained the fire to the boundary of the property – an estimated \$2 million save – and averted a potential BLEVE.

Thanks goes to all the Emergency Services who rendered assistance to Rick and it goes to show that even though distance can be a tyranny in the bush, it doesn't dampen the spirit of helping a mate who needs a hand.



Team work... crew from Roxby Downs CFS, Coober Pedy CFS and Woomera Emergency Services.



Some of the damage caused.



Glendambo Brigade Captain, Rick Mould, at the scene.



A close call... the fire was stopped only metres away from an LPG bullet.

ANZAC DAY 2008

By: Alan Zubrinich, Napperby CFS

Napperby CFS was invited to participate in, and lay a wreath at the Anzac Day Dawn Service in Port Pirie.

It was the first time CFS had participated in this annual service, an event which traditionally attracts well over 1,500 people.

Jye Kluske, a young member of our Brigade, was nominated to lay the wreath on behalf of the CFS.

Jye joined representatives from MFS, St Johns, Legacy, RSL, Red

Cross and all of the Armed Services to honour the fallen.

To me this inaugural event was very special as my 86-year-old father was there to remember his mates who fought with him in the Pacific Region but did not make it home.

Returned Serviceman and Brigade Member, Maurice Walter, was present to hear Mayor Geoff Brock from the Port Pirie Regional Council congratulate the Napperby CFS Brigade.



Members of the Napperby CFS who took part in the commemorative ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Port Pirie. From left: Jye Kluske, Brian Cook, Maurice Walter, Alan Zubrinich, Alan Munn and Ian Lee.

ANDAMOOKA OPENING

By: Pete Shalley, Volunteer Support Officer, Region 4

The new joint CFS/SES facility at Andamooka was officially opened by State MP Lyn Breuer, the Member for Giles, on Friday 16 April.

Lyn provided a brief history of the Andamooka Emergency Services which included:

Andamooka was registered as an EFS Brigade in 1972 and changed to CFS in 1979.

The first appliance was a Blitz, which they spent more time pushing than driving.

In 1985 a CFS/SES combined group set about fundraising to fill the gaps in equipment and training.

Andamooka SES operated as a registered Unit from 1988.

This new facility has been designed to meet the operational needs for the Andamooka Community and surrounding areas including Roxby Downs both now and into the future.

The master of ceremonies for the day was Nigel "Digger" Campbell, who was the CFS Captain during most of the planning and construction time of the new facility.

Anne Legg (Current Captain), Stefan Bilka (Unit Manager) and Max Thomson (Communications

Officer with both services) were all involved in the planning of this important event.

Speaking for the individual Emergency Services Organisations at the opening of this state-of-the-art facility were Matt Maywald (A/Deputy Chief Officer SES) and Mick Ayre (Manager, Strategic Services CFS).

They outlined the team work and community spirit that has enabled the services to work together in such a cooperative and professional way.

They also highlighted the fact that most members in the area have dual membership in both of these emergency services.



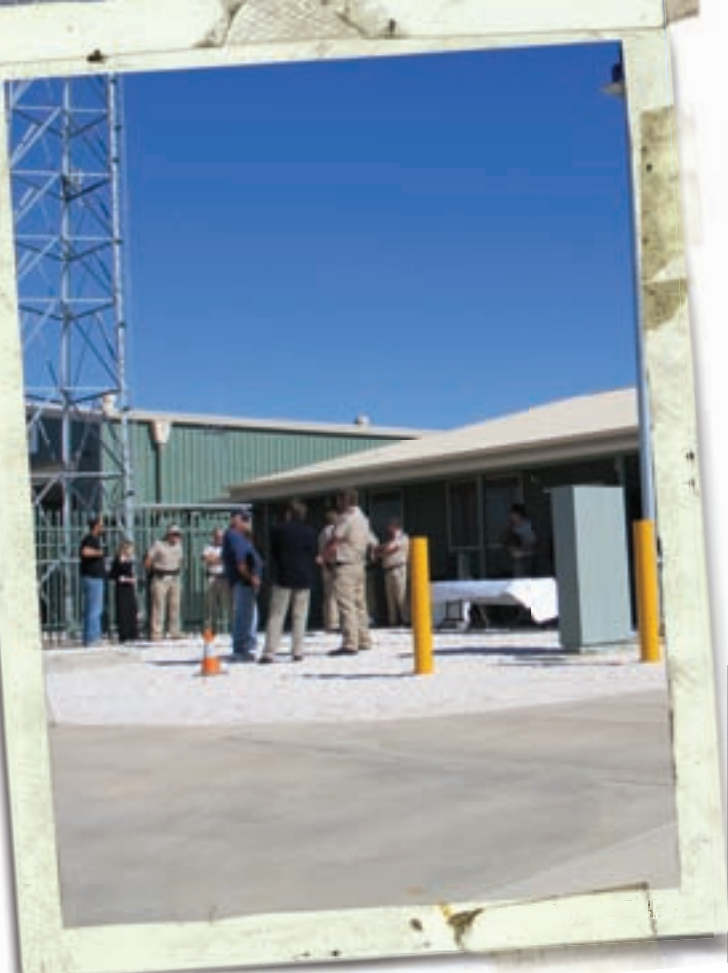
Stefan Bilka was also presented with life membership to the CFS, as well as the local honour of being the first life member of the 'Andamooka Emergency Services'.



From L-R: Max Thomson, Anne Legg, Stefan Bilka and Digger Campbell.



Lyn Breuer with Digger Campbell in the background.



BLEVE IN PORT AUGUSTA

By: Pete Shalley, Volunteer Support Officer, Region 4

At around 2.30am on 4 February a suspicious fire at the old wrecking yard in Port Augusta resulted in the explosion of one of the vehicles, which was fitted with an LPG cylinder.

Stirling North CFS crews were called to assist the local MFS crews.

As the MFS crew arrived and was gaining entry to the property, one of the vehicles exploded.

The rear parcel shelf was found approximately 50 metres away from the vehicle and the roof 150 metres in the other direction across the Eyre Highway.

One other vehicle fitted with an LPG cylinder was found to be venting.

These pictures show the damage caused when the venting process is unsuccessful, compared to one that has vented correctly.



NEW WOOMERA STATION

By: Mick Obst, Commander, Region 4

On 29 January 2008, the new Woomera CFS Station was officially opened by Kevin Godfrey, Manager CSI Woomera - Defence.

This new station was funded and built by the Department of Defence and is now located on

the same site as the Woomera Emergency Services.

The new Woomera 34P was commissioned by Malim Watts, CFS Manager Operations Service, when he handed over of the keys to the Woomera Brigade Captain Graeme Austin.



The new single bay CFS station at Woomera.



Outside photograph of the newly refurbished Woomera CFS Station which includes a kitchen, offices, meeting room and toilets.

AIR OP TRAINING DAYS

By: Phil Richards, Millicent CFS



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VOLUNTEER - REGION 5

Aerial firefighting familiarisation sessions were held in the Lower South East Primary Response Zone in February this year.

The training aimed to provide experience and greater understanding of aerial operations for both CFS crew and Green Triangle Forestry organisations.

In total over 80 personnel attended both training nights.

The sessions were conducted at Lucindale and Millicent airstrips, using two AT-802 Airtractors and a Cessna 172 Spotter aircraft (Spotter 505) which is normally based in Millicent, and air crew.

Participants were briefed on the CFS Air Operations structure, communications plans, drop zone safety, aircraft familiarisation, aircraft filling and aerial fire fighting strategies including the use of foam, retardant and gel.

The practical session that followed included demonstration of fire bombing drops and a scenario that

enabled crews to experience the steps involved with initial tactical ground-air communications.

The foam drops were conducted in both high and low fuel environments in order to illustrate the differences in effectiveness and coverage.

The need for strong air-ground integration in both the establishment of strategies, tactics and implementation of the same was stressed.

It was highlighted that poor situational awareness can lead to inappropriate strategies being developed, and the ability of air operations to provide timely and reliable intelligence was a crucial factor to be considered in assisting the Incident Management Team's planning process.

General feedback from those who attended indicated that they had a greater appreciation of air operations.

Further sessions pre-season would result in better integration of air and ground resources in future rural fire operations.

TILLEY SWAMP TROPHY

CFS volunteer Josh van Loenen received a special award after leaving Tilley Swamp Brigade following six years of service.

He was involved in every aspect of the Brigade, and left with a heavy heart for a training position in tropical Mackay, North Queensland.

At his last meeting he received a special send off and an award declaring him Tilley Swamp Firefighter of the Year for Outstanding Service 2006 – 2007.

Thanking his captain for the accolade Josh added: "Needless to say I won't need a written reference to join up with a crew up north".



Josh van Loenen and Wayne Allen, Brigade Captain Tilley Swamp CFS.

UP IN SMOKE

CFS crews battled to save an eighty year-old vintage car, which burst into flames while being driven at Padthaway near Naracoorte in February.

Despite crews responding immediately, the 1928 Hot Rod, which was worth around \$30,000, was destroyed in the blaze on the Riddoch Highway.

Fortunately the owner escaped uninjured.



A Padthaway CFS member moves forward to douse the flames engulfing an eighty year-old car. Photo: John Fennell.



⤴ The Airtractor in the skies. Photo by Jim Reekie, Naracoorte CFS



⤴ An Airtractor AT802F prepares for flight. Photo by Jim Reekie, Naracoorte CFS

GOSH, JOSH!

Proud CFS member David Will from Bangham Brigade, south of Bordertown, couldn't resist sending in photos of his six-year-old son Josh and his custom-built fire truck.

It comes complete with a radio, knobs, switches, hose, lights and a ladder.

Josh even has a kitchen timer which he sets to go off as his pager. "My son always had a great interest in the CFS, with a box full of old Volunteer magazines stashed under his bed and a Lego fire station. His commitment to everything CFS is unquestionable," said David. Well done Josh!



Josh Will and his specially built appliance. Photos: David Will, Bangham CFS



Vehicle instrumentation.

ROAD TRAIN BLAZE

Photos: Gavin Lehmann, Group Officer, Caralue CFS Group

These dramatic images show the devastating effects of a fire on the rear trailer of a road train.

It is thought the fire was caused by the brakes.

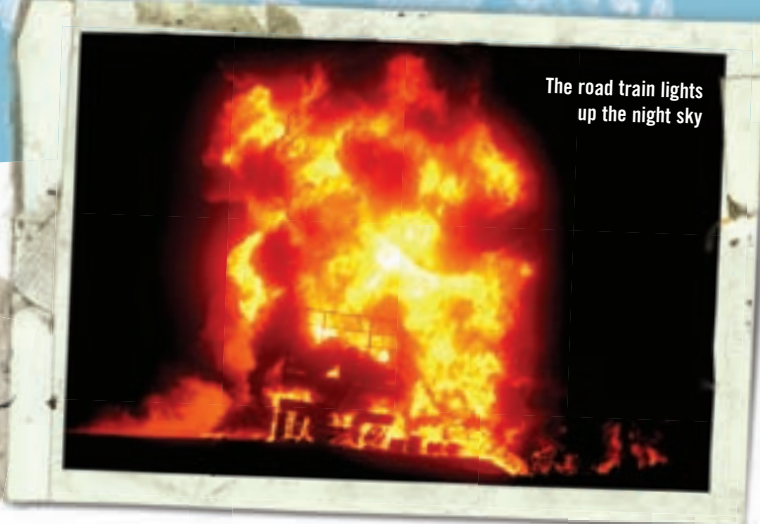
The road train was carrying a number of drums of oil, with a car and ute on top.

The CFS crew which responded used CABA to put out the flames, which lit vegetation on both sides of the road when the drums exploded.

The explosion severely damaged the road surface, leaving the Eyre Highway closed for several hours.



Dousing down



The road train lights up the night sky



The aftermath

REGION 6 UPDATE

By: Kevin May, Commander, CFS Region 6

Region 6 staff and volunteers helped Region 1 with the Kangaroo Island fire incidents during December 2007.

Several officers supported the Incident Management Team over a number of shift changes, which allowed a better understanding of managing a very large campaign fire over many days.

Region 6 also supported a number of shifts on the fire ground with Strike Teams.

Approximately 130 personnel gave their time for the incident, with all Groups supporting the Region and the State.

Crews attended Group debriefs and the Region also held a debrief of the KI Fires.

The job was wonderfully supported by the Salvos, providing an excellent variety of meals.

All agencies worked well together to complete the incident and a good working friendship was forged with all the interstate and local agencies involved.

Travel arrangements went smoothly considering the numbers

of personnel shifted by aircraft over that period.

The Region 6 2007/08 Fire Danger Season was quiet for Brigades, compared to other years, which allowed volunteers to spend time with their families and have a good break before the training season starts for all of us.

KIMBA TRUCK ROLLOVER



Truck rollover in Kimba.

Photo: Gavin Lehmann, Group Officer, Caralue CFS Group

In January 2008, Kimba CFS members responded to a truck accident in Kimba.

The vehicle rolled over, spilling fuel, but did not catch fire.

The driver and two passengers escaped serious injuries, but the road was blocked off for around two days to allow the clean up to take place.



PHAMOUS PHOTOS



⤴ Minlaton CFS Brigade Captain extinguishes a hot spot at the Wild Dog Hill Road fires near Warooka.
Photo: Stewart Germaine, Southern Yorke CFS Group



⤴ How high do I have to climb to get the perfect picture? Freeling hay shed fire (March 2008).
Photo: Sonia Post



⤴ Sunset over Kangaroo Island at the western end (December 2007).
Photo: John Garfield, One Tree Hill CFS



⤴ Sunshine through the ruins of the hay shed fire at Freeling (March 2008).
Photo: Sonia Post

Simply send in your photo with the name of the 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

When 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.

The winner receives a prize to the value of \$50.



⤴ Through the smoke, a helicopter maps an area of Flinders Chase after a scrub fire (December 2007).
Photo: Krystal Graham, Aldinga Beach CFS





^ WINNER - Six-year-old CFS fan Josh Will from Bangham near Bordertown has a specially built fire truck.
Photo: David Will, Bangham CFS



^ Smoke plumes from a backburn at Solly, Kangaroo Island (December 2007).
Photo: Volker Scholz, DEH Strike Team Leader



^ Smokey Strikes Again!
Photo: Stewart Germaine, Southern Yorke CFS Group



^ Brentwood Unit A24 at the Parsons fire west of Warooka. The road was used as a fire break.
Photo: Stephen Fooks, Warooka Brigade





ANZAC EVE YOUTH VIGIL

By: Facility Hopkinson, Youth Programs Officer, Volunteer Management Branch

For many people, ANZAC Day celebrations capture more of our national character than any other day on the calendar.

The ANZAC's valued qualities such as stoicism, uncomplaining, helping your mates, having a go, courage, determination and mateship.

These qualities are evident in the work of the CFS, and it was an honour for our cadets to be part of the 9th ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil stems from the military tradition of 'Holding Ground', whereby a reconnaissance patrol would find and hold strategic position in preparation for the arrival of their army.

This would often involve an all-night vigil, keeping awake on watch, alert that the area of battle is secured against threat.

The first ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil was held in 2000 at the State War Memorial on North Terrace, and has grown to include over 150 young people from 13 different organisation's including both the CFS and SES.

These young people 'hold ground' on the site of the War Memorial in shifts for the 12 hours leading up to the Dawn Service, when they hand over to the Defence Force Catafalque Party who in turn 'hold ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

During this time no-one else is granted access to the site, except for the formal laying of tributes, in which representatives from youth, cultural and community groups lay wreaths and tributes to recognise the fallen.

In all, around 300 people participate in the Youth Vigil and ceremony.

The Youth Vigil has become so popular that this year they were held at Marion, Morphett Vale, and Blackwood, as well as the original site of State National War Memorial on North Terrace.

This year, the Governor, His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, attended as Guest of Honour at the State Vigil, and 2007 Young South Australian of the Year, Nikki Vasilakis, was guest speaker.

Nikki spoke of the example that our servicemen and women have set for younger generations.

She called on the youth of today to show gratitude for the sacrifices they made during great conflicts.

The attendance of our cadets at this important event was a show of this gratitude, and also of the example they are willing to set for others.

Congratulations to all the cadets who represented the CFS at the vigils, maintaining at all times professionalism, reliability, enthusiasm, bringing honour to the uniform and taking pride their work.

The cadets with me at the State War Memorial Vigil were set the challenge of staying up all night, fuelled only by bad fast food, iced coffee and a sense of duty.



^ CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, with some of the cadets at the State War Memorial Vigil, North Terrace, Adelaide.

Not only did they take on the challenge but they were exceptional representatives for the formal ANZAC Eve ceremonies, including laying tributes to the fallen, meeting the State Governor, educating touring dignitaries on the symbolism of the monuments, standing guard and delivering eloquent speeches to the assembled guests.

I have received such glowing feedback about our cadets,

and they certainly represented themselves well.

Special mention must go to Ellen-Louise Hills from Taillem Bend Brigade, who spoke during the event about the significance of the Youth Vigil, and Kim Marshall from SES Eastern Unit Cadets who thanked the Governor and dignitaries after the event.

Also a very, very special thank you to the Cadet Leaders at all of the vigils, without whose support and



v Mawson CFS Cadets at the City of Onkaparinga Dawn Service Morphett Vale after a long night participating in the Anzac Youth Vigil in the south.



^ Cadet Under Officer 619Sqn RAAF Cadet with 16 year old Matt Holecek, Morphett Vale CFS who was the Master of Ceremony for Anzac Youth Vigil in the South Evening Service.

Cadets:

Michael Andersson, Ryan Todd (of Sedan); Adam Byrne, Jake Holmes, Braden Selby, Nathan Ayres, Sam Ayres (of Meningie); Ellen-Louise Hills, Dwayne Martin and Jack-Henry Hills (of Tailem Bend).

The Blackwood Vigil

Seven Cadet Leaders and 13 cadets from Coro Group.

Cadet Leaders:

Sara Pulford, Jim Pulford, Janita Bentley, Grant Elliott, Rebecca Wilson and Rick Philp, with Lucas Wilson coming in for the pack-up.

Thanks to others that also came and went throughout the night to show support.

Cadets:

Tom Pulford, Keeley Bryan, Isaac Eckermann, Patrick Higgins, Jesse Luter, Matthew Maloney, Megan Mitchell, Jaryd Opie, Jake Size, Sam Speak, Matthew Stratfold and Andrew Victorsen.

The Morphett Vale Vigil

Fifteen Cadet Leaders and 31 cadets from Kuitpo Group, Seaford, Happy Valley, Aldinga Beach and Morphett Vale Brigades.

Cadet Leaders:

Troy March, Angie Chomel, Simon Skuce, Pam Atkinson, Russell Bloomer, Tim Evans, Sue Leslie, Mark Vawser, Kym Vawser, Leanne Smith, Jeff Benham, Jennifer Oates, Monique, Richard Davis and Callum Deans.



^ Ellen-Louise Hills of Tailem Bend CFS, who spoke at the Youth Vigil.

Cadets:

Renee Davies, Luke Chomel (of Seaford); Joshua Churchward-Bohn, Sophie Evans, Samantha Hall, Daniel King, Tyson Pienaar, Michael Laundry, Ryan Reynolds (of Morphett Vale); Bradley Benham, Sarah Donkin, Pheobe Ellis, Shannon Endersby, Daniel Hoskin, Amanda Leslie, Kris O'Shaunessy, Joshua Anderson, Christina Rees, Michael Houghton, Sarah Smith (of Kuitpo); Chris Cowan, Matt Anderson, Sadie Morrison, Forrest Norman, AJ Karagiolis, Cindie Sullivan (of Aldinga Beach); Nick, Lachlan, Sam, Kelly and Nathan (of Happy Valley).

enthusiasm it would have been impossible for CFS and SES cadets to be involved in this important event.

The State War Memorial Vigil

Three Cadet Leaders and 10 cadets from Region 2. With so many organisations involved in the main vigil, the number of CFS and SES cadets invited to attend was limited to 10.

Cadet Leaders:

Graham Curtis, Wayne Lehmann, and Debra Hills. With acknowledgment to Daniel Jones, David (DJ) Ryan, Megan Wilton, Rob Metcalfe – SES Cadet Leaders who also provided support and supervision for the CFS cadets – and David Baker, SES Cadet Leader, and Region 2 VSO supporting both SES and CFS cadets.

SCOUT CHALLENGE

By: Peter Jarman, Roseworthy Cadet Coordinator



Two teams from the Light Group (Roseworthy and Freeling CFS) took part in the 2008 Scout Youth Team Challenge at Woodhouse Scout Camp at Piccadilly in the Adelaide Hills on Saturday 5 April.

The teams participated in a number of activities, including erecting a rope bridge over a river and crossing safely, horizontal bungee jumping, navigating using a compass, archery, skate-boarding, puzzles and blindfolded navigation.

As each activity was completed, each team was awarded a gold, silver or bronze point.

At the completion of the activities the points were added up and certificates were awarded.

Both the Roseworthy Cadets and the Freeling Cadets were awarded Gold Certificates.

The two teams were the only non-scout teams in the Challenge (this is out of approximately 100 teams) and they enjoyed themselves so much they will be entering the Challenge in 2009.

The two CFS Cadet Firefighter teams are a credit not only to South Australia, but to the CFS, their brigades and families, but more importantly to themselves.



THANKYOU CFS



66

VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU CFS

Train Incident

As a passenger on the Ghan train which collided with a truck on August 6, I would like to express my highest praise to the train staff and the CFS for their handling of the incident, the efficient and courteous evacuation of the passengers and also to the ambulance crews and those person(s) from the RAH who went through the carriages to see if anyone needed assistance.

I was not injured in the accident.

The rescue and treatment of the truck driver and treatment of others who were injured was no doubt also done with the utmost professionalism.

Margaret Dingle - Norwood
(Advertiser, 9 August 2007)

Residents Say Thanks

Kangaroo Islanders Helen Read and Sharon Soloman couldn't contain their gratitude for the firefighters who battled the bushfires - so they put up a sign: "Thanks CFS".

There were displays of thanks across the island but the simple sign at American River reflected how all the islanders feel.

"We wanted to do something because we know how much they did," Ms Soloman said.

"Not just the interstaters but also the locals who went out on the trucks then came home and did it all again with their own truck."

More than 130 interstate firefighters and the Elvis aerial bomber went home yesterday.
(Advertiser, 17 December 2007)

Thank You

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all those involved in fighting a fire on my property at Echunga, December 14.

The prompt action of neighbors, CFS and workers in the area who pitched in saved my property from serious

damage, and potentially other properties in the neighbouring area.

Fortunately the property had been cleared of dry grass and other litter in preparation for summer.

This should serve as a warning to others to do the same as this factor most certainly saved my house.

Robyn Hedley - Echunga
(Mount Barker Courier, 19 December 2007)

Uleybury Thanks

It would be much appreciated if you could please pass on our very grateful thanks to all those involved in responding and extinguishing the fire that occurred on Friday 28 December in the Uleybury / Craigmore area.

The CFS organisation and your volunteers are truly wonderful and do a great job.

Our property on Chapman Drive was located across from the paddock that was on fire and the fire did spread to the edge of our property.

We were very thankful to see the water planes arrive to help extinguish the fire.

Again, thank you.

Julie and Gary Wharton - Uleybury
(Unsolicited email - 4 January 2008)

Great Job

You guys do a GREAT job in protecting property, lives and assets.

Although I haven't been directly affected, I as a local resident express my gratitude to the hundreds of volunteers who give up their time and risk their lives in service to others and who are often criticised for it.

I regularly check the CFS website and notice the quick response times to fires that potentially could have been much worse! (eg. Belair fire on 17/1/08).

With gratitude.

Local Resident - Adelaide
(Unsolicited email dated 18 January 2008)

Thank You

Please pass on our grateful thanks to the members of the Belair CFS and all the other units who fought yesterday's bushfire in Brownhill Creek.

We are enormously grateful to them for their gruelling hard work in often dangerous conditions.

We are full of admiration for the members of the CFS as yet again they work tirelessly to protect us all.

Our very best wishes to you all
Joan and Colin Butler - Springfield
(Unsolicited email dated 18 January 2008)

Thank You

As a resident of Old Belair Road, I am writing a brief email to express our sincere thanks to the absolute professional approach that has been taken in the past 20 hours in relation to the fire in Mitcham/Belair.

The CFS is amazing and we are in awe of the work that every volunteer/worker places into what they do.

THANKYOU, you are true heroes.

Could you please pass this on to anyone who may read (or want to!), we cannot thank you enough, it is times like this that the public realise what you do and how incredibly important you all are.

Ryan and Kylie Fleetwood - Belair
(Unsolicited email dated 18 January 2008)

Thank You

As a hills dweller and former Glenalta resident, thank you for your brilliant work yesterday.

Even though I no longer live close by, because friends know that I always monitor the ABC radio on high fire danger days and take all threats seriously and have a plan, friends and family from the area of the fire rang me yesterday for information - they live and work in the immediate area and did not know which radio station to listen to, nor your website or hotline numbers or even such critical information as a map of alternative routes to leave the area.

The sense of "it won't happen to me" still prevails, but at least a handful of people will now have plans and perhaps they will influence their neighbours to get on board.

I don't know what else you can do to get the message out to be prepared.

I sometimes think that only hip-pocket incentives have the power to make the otherwise indifferent act - perhaps if every business and household in fire danger areas paid an additional ESL, with an offer to waive the levy if they could demonstrate they had a plan and met basic preparation requirements each year?

It could start at a modest level and increase for each year that they don't act perhaps?

More bureaucracy I know, but I can't think of a more effective motivator.

Best wishes and thanks
Lisa Ward - Crafers
(Unsolicited email dated 18 January 2008)

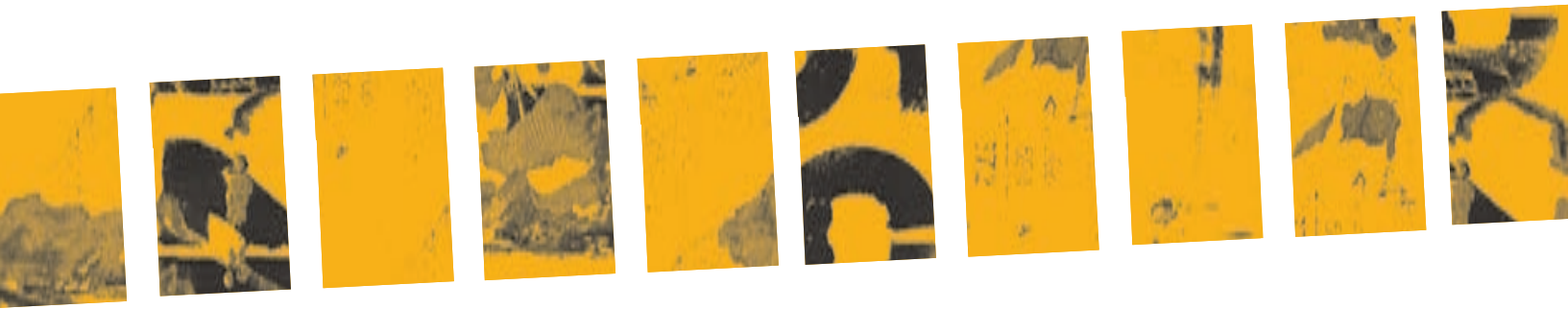
Thanks to the CFS

While the media is often quick to be scathing of less than perfect performances of the CFS, such as in the Yorke Peninsula episode, the media often gives much less attention to success stories which are less dramatic and hence less newsworthy.

It is impossible to give excess praise to the efficiency with which resources were allocated to last week's Brownhill Creek - Old Belair Road bushfire.

The continuous cycles of flare-up and douse-downs were clearly evident as each helicopter and plane dumped its load of water on the fire front - which was for the most part inaccessible to ground crews.

This fire would almost certainly have raged into a major disaster if it were not for the impeccable efficiency with which the CFS fought this fire primarily from the air, with



numerous ground backups around the entire perimeter.

The CFS are our modern day local heroes – no two ways about it.

Robert Dickinson - Mitcham
(Independent Weekly, 26 January 2008)

Letter of Thanks

There are organisations around the world that know no boundaries like Doctors Without Borders.

I have just joined one such group that I will call Farmers Without Fences – thanks to the Country Fire Service.

However, although I was not ready for this destruction, 2 days later, it does seem such a trivial issue and minor inconvenience when you consider what could have eventuated.

At least fences can be fixed.

Last Friday 14 March, I watched a fire travel from the roadside into my property, across one paddock and fan out into 3 other paddocks in the space of 15 minutes.

The potential for a catastrophic bushfire of major proportions existed

when you realise that the areas that were burnt had been heavily mowed and grazed, with minimum ground cover to prevent erosion and that the spotted gum plantation had been high pruned...yet the ground still burned.

There is no doubt in my mind that my property, my livestock and my life were beyond lucky.

We were literally saved by the most outstanding efforts from a highly committed group of 120 individuals (most of whom are volunteers) and the sheer fire fighting power and volume supplied by aerial support in the shape of two planes, two helicopters and an air crane.

I wish to express my sincerest gratitude to everyone who was involved in containing the Balhannah fire at 'Millewa' on Murray and Mattner Road.

Whichever area you were involved in – behind a radio or behind a hose, on the ground or in the air you certainly got it right!

Local vigilance, rapid response, precision teamwork and good quality resources combined to produce in this case a successful outcome not

only for me, but also for our whole community and the Hills in general.

I am at a loss as to how to thank you all however, I feel deeply privileged to live and work amongst such wonderful people.

Thank you so much, to everyone.
Fiona Challen - Balhannah
(Unsolicited mail dated 16 March 2008)

A Big Thanks

To all the firemen and firewomen that helped in the Willunga fire...A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

For many residents and farmers, including ourselves, this was a very scary time and we are glad it's over due to the quick response and the knowledge of all the men and women involved.

Sadly, for a few people, help was too late as the fire spread so quickly, but hopefully they will get through this with lots of help from the community.

Again, thank you all for a job well done.

Jack and Tania de Kievit - Yundi Road
(Unsolicited email - 18 March 2008)

Bushfire Heroes

Thank you to all the men and women on the ground and in the air for extinguishing the fire near Williamstown.

The actions of these brave people averted a potential disaster as the fire occurred in dense, tinder-dry eucalyptus bushland, which is part of a long corridor of national park, surrounded by thousands of hectares of pine forest.

The outcome of this lightning strike could have been very different.

Louise Jones - Williamstown
(Adelaide Advertiser, 18 March 2008)

Rapid Response

With my gutters full, pumps primed, armed with my scanner, I was on fire watch on Deviation Road on Friday.

Having noted, via the internet, a fire at Balhannah, I went outside to look for the fire.

Two fixed-wing bombers were

already at work which was the only way I knew where the fire was. I couldn't see any smoke.

Although I could not hear any sirens, I could hear very quickly that our local brigades were on the fire ground.

The calmness and organisation demonstrated was exceptional.

The CFS is to be congratulated for its extremely rapid response to this fire.

To all the men and women on the ground and those in the air, you were terrific, well done.

Di Liebelt - Summertown
(Mount Barker Courier, 19 March 2008)

Thank You

My name is Heather Bitter, and my family and I live near Williamstown in South Australia.

I was wondering whether you might be able to place a thank you letter from our family to all the CFS service that has helped so diligently in our area of late.

I have seen the 'Volunteer' magazine and hoped I may be able to communicate our appreciation through that.

Of particular note are the recent fires near the Warren, and the rapid and thorough response of not only our local, but the many appliances from out of the area, that attended.

It was the closest we have come to an impending fire and we were quite distressed.

The support of the many volunteer CFS personnel was fantastic.

Within days of this, there was a severe car accident to deal with, as well as fallen limbs from trees and other incidents which required support.

It is mind blowing that CFS volunteers are all so dedicated to our communities and I just wanted them all to know that it is very much respected and appreciated by us.

The role modelling for young people in our area, by these courageous and committed people, is fabulous.

Thank you one and all.

You are indeed our local heroes.

Heather Bitter and family
near Williamstown
(Unsolicited email dated 9 April 2008)



^ A message of thanks to all those who helped with the KI Fires as they departed the island from Jayne Bates, Mayor of Kangaroo Island.



VOLUNTEER [OBITUARIES]

Rob Buttery of Tea Tree Gully CFS

By: Andrew Oakley AFSM, Para CFS Group Officer



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VOLUNTEER - OBITUARIES



Rob Buttery with his wife Pat.

Rob and his family immigrated to Australia in 1974 and with Rob having spent five years volunteering in the British Fire Service, he soon joined the Tea Tree Gully Emergency Fire Service in South Australia.

Over a number of years Rob held the positions of Senior Firefighter, Fire Control Officer, Lieutenant and subsequently Brigade Captain with the Tea Tree Gully Brigade.

During this time he also held the positions of the Brigade Training Officer, Brigade Administrative Officer and was the Brigade representative to the Mount Lofty Volunteer Fire Fighters Association.

Rob had a keen interest in the training aspect of the Country Fire Service.

He set up the first Cadets in Tea Tree Gully, became an Instructor and spent many weekends training CFS personnel

throughout the region and State.

He was also the first regional representative on the State Training Committee.

Rob, having started the competition team at Tea Tree Gully, was the Captain of the team when it won best "Brigade in the State".

He went on to become a member of the State Competitions Committee that organised the competitions and eventually became a judge.

After Ash Wednesday in which a Tea Tree Gully appliance was destroyed by fire, Rob was a member of the committee which raised funds for a new truck and assisted in the design of the RFW (TTG 34 fire appliance) that served Tea Tree Gully CFS and the community for many years.

In the early 1990s Rob became a Deputy Group Officer of Para Group, a position he held at the time of his death.

In 1992 Rob completed the

SACFS Incident Management Course and had taken part in numerous Incident Management Teams throughout the State.

As a Deputy Group Officer, Rob took on the position as Chairman of the Finance Committee and many executive management meetings were held in his office at Wattle Crescent.

Rob, Fire Investigator, carried out over 140 investigations, many in the early hours of the morning.

Rob's work assisted police in the arrest of several arsonists.

In recognition of his 31 years of voluntary service, Rob was awarded the Australian National Medal, Life Membership of the South Australian Country Fire Service and the British Fire Services Medal.

Recently, along with Deputy Group Officers Gerry Thomson and Rob Styling we had the opportunity to visit Rob.

It was an extremely sad time for all. One of Rob's favourite stories is; "For Ash Wednesday 1983, Rob had the appliance backed down a narrow track on Anstey's Hill, with numerous lengths of hose run out ready to battle the oncoming fire front.

Rob decided that it was time to beat a hasty retreat out of there, driving off with many lengths of hose dragging behind the fire truck.

As it would happen one of the lengths became entangled, and to avoid doing extensive damage to the truck and pump, Rob took out an axe and calmly cut the hose off and escaped the oncoming fire."

The time that we shared with Rob will be cherished forever.

Whilst writing Rob's eulogy and gathering my thoughts, I asked a close friend "how would you best describe Rob Buttery?"

The answer was "He was always a gentleman, very dignified, and to the last, never complained about anything."

This response pretty much says it all.

To Pat and her family; Rob was a husband, father and grandfather.

To members of the CFS family he was a friend, colleague and dedicated volunteer.

Goodbye Rob, we will miss you.

Vale Rob Buttery

By: Euan Ferguson AFSM, CFS Chief Officer

We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Para Group Deputy Group Officer Rob Buttery.

Rob had a long fight with cancer and was strong enough to see his brother, who recently travelled from

England, before he passed away.

Rob has had a long association with the Tea Tree Gully CFS brigade and the Para Group.

Rob will be missed.

We offer our sincere condolences to all the Buttery family. (Firewire No. 131, 22 February 2008)

Roger Bonython of Summertown CFS

The Summertown, Uraidla and wider community were deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Roger Bonython on 17 July 2007.

This was evident by the large crowd that overflowed the Uraidla Football Clubrooms as people came to say goodbye to his funeral.

Roger was born at the Monreith Hospital at Burnside, to Lance and Edna Bonython and was his parents' only child.

He lived at Bonython Road, Summertown for all of the 65 years of his life.

Through working with his parents in the garden and orchard, Roger learnt a strong work ethic which continued throughout his working career.

Roger attended Uraidla Primary School, followed by three years at Oakbank Area School.

He could not wait to come home from school and start work.

At 16, when Roger obtained his drivers licence, he began doing regular trips to the East End Market and later to the Adelaide Produce Market.

Roger only stopped his trips to the market four years ago after he purchased a farm at Nildottie.

After 49 years, Roger was arguably one of the longest attending persons at the market.

In his early years many happy hours were spent with family and friends at Black Point fishing; experiences he continued to share with his wife and children.

During his teens, Roger learned to play the piano accordion, took up small bore rifle shooting, and was a member of the Adelaide Small Bore Rifle Club.

Roger married Valerie in 1966 and in 1967 was blessed by the arrival of their first-born son, Darren, followed by Janet, Linda and Steven.

Roger was very proud of all his children and their accomplishments with work, sport and in life.

His family, both close and extended, were extremely important to him.

Football and the Uraidla Football Club were a huge part of Roger's life.

He began playing as a Senior Colt, played in quite a few B Grade Finals and finished with a B2 Premiership.

At 38 years of age, Roger stopped playing football to become the President of the Club, a position he held for nine years.

Roger was extremely proud to receive Life Membership from the Uraidla Football Club.

The SA Country Fire Service, previously the EFS, was another part of Roger's life that was dear to his heart; a way to give back to the community.

The Summertown EFS was formed in 1957 and Roger joined as a 17 year old believing it to be an important part of living in the Hills.

Roger hardly ever missed a Monday night training session at the Station.

As with all brigades starting out, there was little money available so appliances were built from community donations, fundraising and massive amounts of volunteer labour.

Roger, along with several others, was very hands on in the building and setting up of the Brigade's appliances; the first "Blitz", which he always had a soft spot for, then two Land Rovers and a Nissan Patrol, two water tankers and a 34 Isuzu, as well as several building projects that were required to house the appliances.

Roger was involved with the CFS for over 35 years, holding the position of Captain of Summertown and Districts EFS/CFS for 15 years.

He was also a Fire Control Officer and a Deputy Group Officer of the East Torrens Group.

Being a very active member, Roger was presented with Life Membership as well as the National Medal for service to the community.

Peter Bonython, current Captain of Summertown and Districts CFS, explains that if you were ever on the fire ground with Roger, you could guarantee that you would be the last to leave.

"It didn't matter how long Roger had been out there, he would painstakingly check the area for any possible hotspots that may rekindle," Peter said.

"Despite being faced with the challenge of a large fire, Roger always had a quiet, warm, friendly, reassuring smile that would settle your nerves and give you confidence to go on."

Roger was involved with both Ash Wednesday campaign fires and at his funeral, when an opportunity was given for anyone to say a few words, a local resident got up and said:

"I would not be alive today if I hadn't been with Roger at the Ash Wednesday II fires."

"There were four of us on the small Summertown appliance and as we were nearing the Mt Lofty Summit the fire storm hit."

"Roger stayed calm and in control as he took us through what looked like a black cave of smoke and flames to a clearing on the summit we sought refuge then tried in vain to save the kiosk."

"A Summertown firefighter died in the holocaust, which etched deeper the sad memories that Roger had of that day."

As time went on Roger's family grew as Malcolm, David and Rachael married into the family and Roger welcomed them with love.

The farm at Nildottie was a whole new interest for him, he enjoyed helping the boys, meeting new people in a new environment, sharing a joke with the employees who came to pack onions; he just

loved spending time in the open space.

He enjoyed the family occasions which were celebrated at the farm and he loved to share the farm experience with all who came to visit him and he shared it with pride.

In the latter years, one of his greatest joys was his beloved grandchildren, Jacob and Tahlia.

He loved to spend time with them, taking them for rides on the forklift or planting vegies in the backyard and watching them grow, kicking the football and reading stories, and when they left there was always a 'high five' instead of a hand shake.

Roger was an honest, caring, loving husband, father and grandfather who welcomed all friends whether they were his or his children's into his home.

He had a cheery word for all, a sparkle in his eye and quite often a joke to share.

He worked hard, played hard and gave himself to all he met.

After the funeral service a guard of honour was formed that stretched from the clubrooms out onto the road, with CFS volunteers on one side and football club members on the other.

Many more joined the guard of honour because they wanted to salute a man who had touched their lives.

Since Roger's passing, little Grace Oliver was born to Darren and Rachel.



Roger Bonython with his wife Valerie.





Mark James Chivell of Woodside CFS

Mark lost his battle with cancer at the Stirling Hospital on 20 January 2008 at the age of 56 years.

At 18 years of age Mark started work with the Post Master General's Department (PMG Department) as a technician.

He worked with PMG for 35 years seeing different name changes such as Telecom and Telstra.

Mark then found part-time employment picking up milk samples from factories and taking them to Flaxley for testing.

A man of many skills and achievements, Mark loved motorbike riding and he held a Light Aircraft Pilot's Licence.

He loved tinkering and fixing things, and was often found with his head under the bonnet of a motor vehicle.

Mark completed a Diesel Mechanics Course, and hoped to one day take

over the Maintenance Officers job at the fire station.

Twenty five years ago Mark and Margaret bought a property at Murdock Hill where he raised cattle, and enthusiastically set about growing trees.

A member of "Trees for Life" Mark would propagate trees and transplant them.

Mark's passion for trees, especially natives, can be seen in the great variety of species growing around the homestead on the Chivell property.

The loss of Mark's first wife Margaret in a tragic farm accident was very hard on him, but he picked up his life and found happiness with his second wife Felicia.

Mark joined the Woodside CFS on 26 July 2002.

He was one of those active, reliable, capable people, who put a lot of effort into all that he did.

When the Administration Officer fell

ill with Ross River Fever, Mark was happy to help out in the role.

Mark was a dedicated member of the Woodside CFS Brigade, and served on both the Executive Management Committee and the Social Committee.

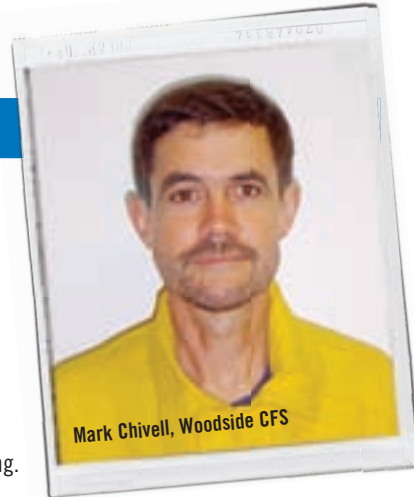
Mark was actively engaged as Secretary-Treasurer of the Social Committee at the time of his passing.

Always eager to improve his skills Mark participated in the training courses provided by the CFS, including First Aid, Road Crash Rescue, Truck Driving and Chain Saw.

Mark's one regret was that he didn't join the CFS earlier.

Mark's funeral service was held in the Mawson Chapel at Centennial Park on Friday 25 January 2008.

The chapel was overflowing into the outside passageway with friends who had come to say "goodbye" and show their last respects.



Mark's popularity in the CFS was shown by the large number of comrades that attended his funeral service.

Brigade members wore their CFS shirts and formed a guard of honour as the family and friends filed past and placed a sprig of rosemary on the coffin at the completion of the service.

Mark will be fondly remembered by his fellow firefighters for the diligent way he went about doing things, and his willingness in helping to get the job done.

Colin "John" Matheson of Birdwood CFS

By: Malcolm Herrmann, Birdwood CFS and Chris Cotton, Lobethal CFS

Colin John Matheson, commonly known as "John" or affectionately known to Birdwood CFS members as "Metho", passed away on 19 April 2007 at the age of 79 years.

In his early life, he worked on Nilpena and Kembroke Park Stations in the far North of South Australia.

In 1943, John enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy and served with distinction in Burma.

On returning he worked briefly at Lucy Creek Station before taking up a soldier settlement block near Bool Lagoon in the South East.

This broad experience laid the foundations for his wealth of knowledge for the maintenance of equipment and radio communications.

In 1972 John officially started his career with the CFS in the South Eastern area of Spence at Lucindale.

In 1984 John and his family moved to Birdwood, where he immediately transferred to the local CFS brigade, becoming a Lieutenant in 1986.

Amongst his most unenviable memories are the number of fatal vehicle accidents he had attended since being in Birdwood, particularly one where two local teenagers were killed on the Williamstown Road back in 1986.

John never forgot the memories of such accidents and the devastation it wreaks on local communities.

On another occasion John remembered being in charge of the

Birdwood unit at a large fire near Gumeracha where he and his crew were the only defence between the fire front and the township.

"The fire was coming towards us at a rate of knots and setting small spot fires on the Gumeracha side of the vineyards. We did the best we could and knocked down the main front (of the fire) before it could get to the vineyards and the township. Back-up from other units were on the way, but gee it was quite scary."

John seldom ever missed a training night since being at Birdwood.

According to daughter Mardi, who is currently a member of the Oakbank CFS, he just lived for the CFS and the local community.

Whenever funds were required, Metho was always there to assist and was instrumental in raising funds for a second fire unit at Birdwood.

A dedicated volunteer, John worked tirelessly and unselfishly for

the CFS and for his community and this was recognised by his award of the National Medal in 1993 and for his long standing service and commitment he was awarded Life Membership.

Birdwood members paid tribute to John at his funeral service held at Lobethal.

The Birdwood community are the poorer with the passing of John "Metho" Matheson.



John Matheson, Birdwood CFS.

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VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BRANCH

1300 364 587



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VOLUNTEER - STATEWIDE

In Appreciation



On behalf of the Kangaroo Island Community and Council I would like to thank each and every member of your organisation who came to support our community during the Kangaroo Island fires in December 2007.

The impact from the fires on our community were immense, but the potential for devastation was averted due to the efforts of volunteers such as yourselves, who so willingly came to our aid. We greatly appreciate your commitment and skill in helping defend and support our community when our need was greatest.

Once again, on behalf of the Kangaroo Island Community we thank you for your efforts.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor Jayne Bates





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