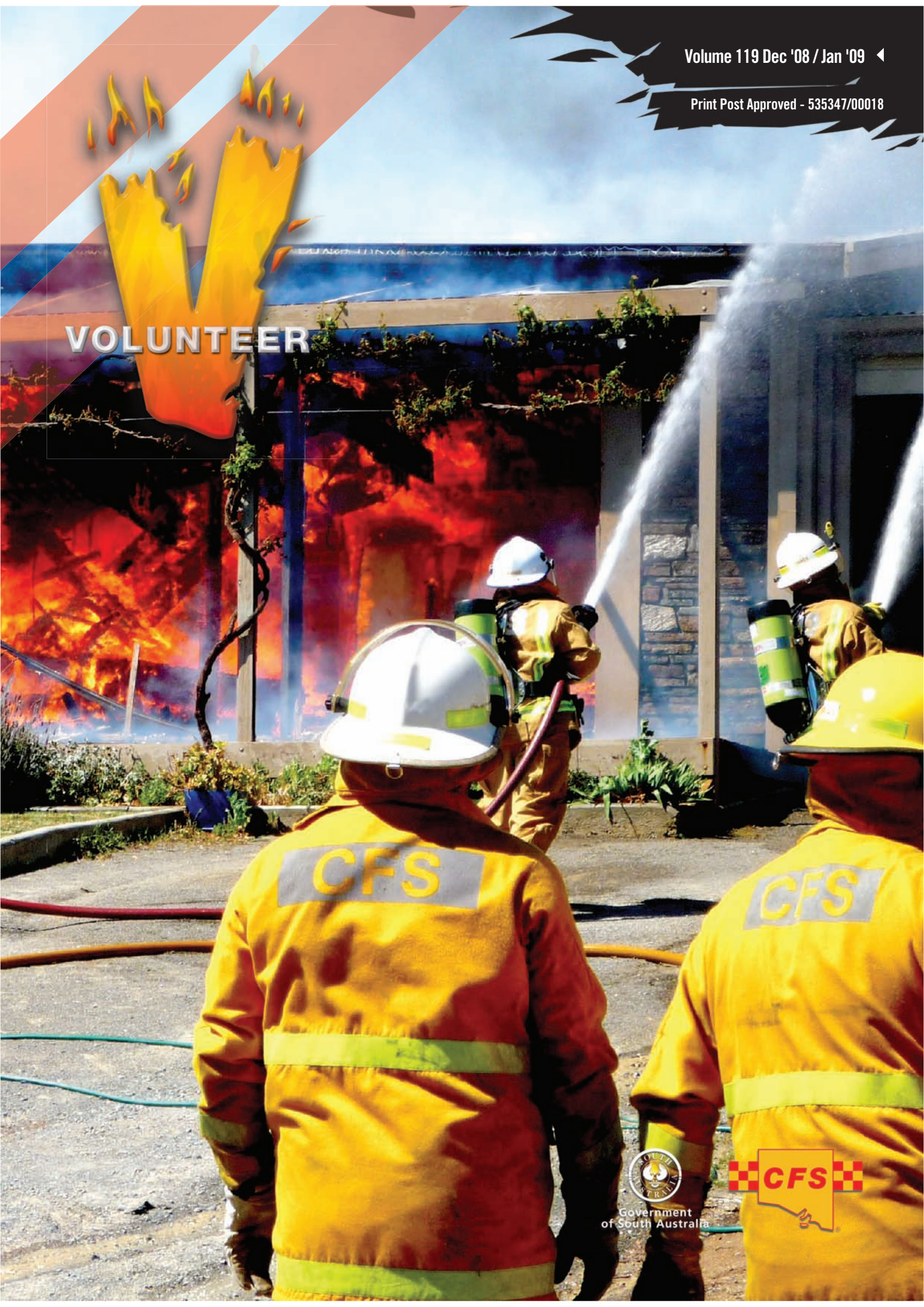


VOLUNTEER



Government of South Australia





24,720 kg

N173AC

HELICORP

HELITACK

733

MAX CAP 2650 US GAL

24,700 kg

2530 lb

The Country Fire Service launched its fire fighting fleet, including the Erickson Aircrane water bombing aircraft, in December at Mount Crawford. To read more about the fleet see Page 8.

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Editorial Team - Managing Editor: Karina Loxton **Editors:** Chris Metevelis, Mel Hunter, Carmen Lewis, Nicole Ely. Tel 08 8463 4206 (CFS Media Line). 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.sa.gov.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. *Volunteer* is published by Boylen Media. Comments and opinions expressed in *Volunteer* do not necessarily represent the views of the CFS. *Volunteer* is free to all CFS volunteers.

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VOLUNTEER - CONTENTS



[CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

As another fire season draws on, our minds turn to the many things that have changed since this time last year.

At a political level we welcome the Hon. Michael Wright MP as the incoming Minister for Emergency Services and acknowledge the former Minister, the Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC for her period as our minister.

Significant progress has been made implementing the recommendations of the Deputy Coroner from the Wangary Fire Coronial Inquest.

Of particular importance to CFS and rural landholders is the Native Vegetation Fire Code of Practice and a delegation of Native Vegetation Council Authority for fire prevention related clearance applications to CFS.

In the May budget the Government also provided funding for a high

volume fire fighting helicopter that commenced operations in late December.

In May we established the Command, Leadership and Incident Management Task Group to hasten the pace of training and accreditation of incident management teams.

The Tactical Command and Leadership Course is being delivered throughout the state and I get many positive comments about the value of this course, particularly from our young operational leaders.

In September we hosted the first CFS Youth Summit, which will forerun a greater voice of youth in various aspects of CFS management and decision making.

Finally, we recently conducted a field day to develop new firefighter competition activities for the future.

We expect that in October 2009 there will be a new, revitalised approach to CFS competitions at both a regional and state level.

At the core of these activities are two guiding principles: firstly, a safer community; and second, safer and more effective support to our volunteers.

CFS would not exist without volunteers. The value of CFS volunteer contributions to community safety is immeasurable.

For your selfless service; your professionalism; your teamwork and fearlessness in adversity and for your commitment to the communities of South Australia, we thank you.

To each and every one of you, and to your families and loved ones, have a restful and joyous festive season and a safe and prosperous fire season.

Thank you all.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES



[CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

I have written in past issues on how the Country Fire Service, the Volunteers Association and volunteers are moving into a new era where our organisational structure, processes and situations are changing.

This has become more evident as 2008 has gone by, with the realisation of the policy of the emergency services sector and Adelaide Fire responding the fastest, nearest and most appropriate brigade whether it is MFS or CFS to an incident.

This policy, alongside of other issues has meant that many peri-urban brigades are now having to change the way they do their business and respond to incidents in their area.

Amongst the brigades that this

affects there are varied opinions on how best to overcome the issues whilst still providing the best possible service to the public.

Throughout Australia there are many different models being used to provide the best possible service, and the CFSVA has now instigated talks with the brigades with the aim that it will be easier if we are proactive in our approach rather than reactive when the issues become unbearable.

We also have had preliminary discussions with other stakeholders.

We held a meeting with a number of brigades in mid November to start the process regarding their thoughts on what type of model would suit their area best, with the main aim being to keep volunteer brigades in place for as long as possible.

The CFSVA has negotiated with CFS and the Public Affairs Unit to have three issues of the *Volunteer* magazine printed each year and to come out in specific months being March, July and November, with the March issue being a larger issue.

The *Volunteer* magazine is a very professional magazine and the envy of many other services, so let's keep it that way and get your articles in now for the next issue.

May the rest of the fire season be a safe and quiet one.

[PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Wow – who can believe this edition of *Volunteer* has come around again so quickly – it only seems like yesterday we put to bed the bumper July edition!

Since then, the SAFECOM Public Affairs Unit has been busy working on a number of CFS projects and gearing up for the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season.

Unit members have successfully completed BFF1 and AIMS training and have been learning lots on CRIIMSON, the SCC, BIMs and BWMs. And we all got a taste of what is to come during Exercise Team Spirit. As you can imagine, it's been a steep learning curve for all of us!

One of our most significant projects for the CFS has been the

'Bushfire Ready' media campaign. Chris Metevelis and Karina Loxton have been working closely with the Community Education section in crafting the key messages for the TV, press and radio adverts and the script for the new DVD which has been mailed to over 40,000 households.

The team has also helped with the

CFS presence at the Royal Adelaide Show, provided PR assistance and the MC talents of John Foody for the CFS Youth Summit, designed and produced new CFS stationery and a PPE safety poster, and attended the Paskerville hay shed fire and the CFS/SES facility openings at Booleroo Centre and Hallett.

MoUs have been signed with



MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Michael Wright

Since being appointed the Minister for Emergency Services in July, I have been able to develop a far greater appreciation of the extraordinary contribution CFS volunteers make to the South Australian community, not just during times of bushfires, but all year round.

The State Government shares the sentiment of all South Australians in that we are incredibly grateful for the enormous contribution of our CFS volunteers, and we constantly feel indebted to the extent to which they help our community.

I know so many of you give generously of your time, but the dedication, courage and inspirational commitment we all see so often from CFS volunteers, should not go unheralded.

Community Cabinet presented a perfect opportunity over the past year to extend the Government's enormous gratitude and I have taken

great pleasure, as I believe the Premier has, in being able to present Volunteer and Employer Recognition certificates to those who truly exemplify the CFS spirit.

Along with thanking CFS volunteers, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the previous Minister, the Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC for all her hard work and for the contribution she has made not only to the CFS but to the fire and emergency services sector in general.

The Government is committed to ensuring the CFS has access to adequate resources to make the tasks as easy as possible and has significantly increased funding since coming to office in 2002.

Several new appliances have been recently commissioned like the Freeling 34 appliance and their new QAV, new and revamped stations have been opened including the joint CFS/SES facilities at Booleroo

Centre and Hallett, and the contract for the \$36 million Computer Aided Dispatch system has been signed.

The CFS now has its very own Erickson Airplane based in South Australia, bolstering the number of aerial fire fighting resources available to CFS volunteers.

With three years of sustained drought signalling an earlier start to the fire danger season in some districts and drier than normal conditions predicted over the coming months, we are likely to face a very challenging period.

Nevertheless, I hope you have an incident free summer and that you all have a chance to relax.

I know that should you be called upon, your commitment to protecting and defending the communities of South Australia will be unwavering.

On behalf of all South Australians, I thank you and wish you all an enjoyable festive season.

COMMISSIONER OF FIRE AND EMERGENCIES, SAFECOM David Place

September 18 marked a new chapter in the history of the fire and emergency services sector with the launch of the Statement of Strategic Direction.

The Strategic Direction is a shared vision agreed to by the Chief Officers of each agency, representatives of the volunteer associations and government and business leaders, all of whom make up the SAFECOM Board, and charts the way forward for the sector over the next six years.

Our six priorities are: community engagement; community resilience; building partnerships; being accountable; seamless integration; and communication.

The spirit of the Strategic Direction can already be seen in a number of CFS initiatives such as Bushfire Ready (community engagement

and resilience), the Volunteer Charter (building partnerships), and *Volunteer* (communication).

The six priorities will shape the activities of the CFS, MFS, SES and SAFECOM. Everyone in the sector – not just the Board, but all levels of management, staff and volunteers – has a role to play in embracing the values and priorities set out in the document and contributing to their achievement as they go about their activities every day.

You, our frontline volunteers and staff, put your lives at risk every day and we always endeavour to keep this at the forefront of our planning.

With this in mind, we have held a number of Volunteer and Employer Recognition events, and significant progress has been made with the Volunteer Management Review and

the Volunteer Administrative Review.

We have also progressed with our legislative change program which involves not only some of the Wangary outcomes, but the John Murray Review and the Bushfire Management Review.

By December, the Wangary Working Party will have fulfilled a vast majority of the Coroner's recommendations and there will be some exciting developments in bushfire prevention management as a result.

As the fire danger season rolls on, thank you all for your selfless dedication, and I wish each of you a safe and relaxing (and incident free) summer.



FIVEaa and the ABC to help in the dissemination of critical bushfire information during an incident, Nicole Ely has just completed training and media accreditation for the state's journalists and camera crew and the team has helped get the new CFS website ready for its launch.

While the team has had to bid farewell to Mel Hunter who has

departed to have her third child (a girl Jayda), the team has been buoyed by the addition of new Media Liaison Officers Carmen Lewis and Melissa Veal to assist in handling the media lines for the three agencies during the day and with writing media releases, internal communications and other public relations activities. Haley Cahalan will also replace

Nicole Ely as Media Liaison Officer with Nicole being appointed to the MFS Senior Public Affairs Officer position recently vacated by John Foody who has decided to return to the MFS.

By the end of January, the Public Affairs Unit should finally be fully staffed – bolstering the resources available for the remainder of the

fire danger season.

As always, we welcome your ideas and contributions for news items and articles, and wish you all a safe fire season.

Karina Loxton, Chris Metevelis, Tara Rischmueller, Nicole Ely, Carmen Lewis and John Foody/ Mel Hunter (until December).



EARLY START TO FIRE DANGER SEASON

By: Chris Metevelis

In announcing the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season dates during a media conference arranged by the Public Affairs Unit at CFS headquarters in October, the Bureau of Meteorology predicted the likelihood of above average temperatures and dry conditions, and the CFS warned South Australians of a high likelihood for potentially ravaging bushfires.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright announced an early start to the fire danger season in five of the fifteen Fire Ban Districts in South Australia.

“Our emergency services volunteers do a remarkable job and are skilled to face another harsh summer, but it’s vital they have the support of all South Australians who need to ensure they assist them as much as possible by preparing their properties,” Minister Wright said.

“This is about providing everyone living in bushfire prone areas the opportunity to be prepared and feel confident they’ll know what to do in the event of a bushfire,” Mr Wright said.

CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson, said South Australia has experienced

three consecutive years of sustained drought which has increased the potential for bushfires in some regions because of low sub-soil moisture levels.

“There was close to average rainfall in July and August, that’s resulted in a flush of grass growth and therefore this year, as well as having dry scrub fields, there’ll be a lot of grass around,” Euan told the gathered media.

“We’re giving ample warning about the start of the fire danger season because we want people to start taking action now by bringing forward their bushfire

action planning, their preparations and to practice their plan”.

The Weather Bureau’s senior forecaster John Nairn said although South Australia’s agricultural areas have been drier than average, they are not as dry as they were this time last year.

“The Bureau’s seasonal climate projections maintain drier than normal conditions,” he said.

The announcement of the fire danger season dates received widespread media coverage, including prime placement on page 9 of *The Advertiser*.

Fire Danger Season 2008/09

Fire Ban District	Start date	Finish date	Comment
Adelaide Metropolitan	15 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	Two weeks earlier than normal
Eastern Eyre Peninsula	1 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
Kangaroo Island	1 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	One month earlier than normal
Flinders	1 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
Lower Eyre Peninsula	1 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
Lower South East	15 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	One week earlier than normal
Mid North	15 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	No change from normal
Mount Lofty Ranges	15 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	Two weeks earlier than normal
Murraylands	15 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
North East Pastoral	1 Nov 2008	31 Mar 2009	No change from normal
North West Pastoral	1 Nov 2008	31 Mar 2009	No change from normal
Riverland	1 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	Two weeks earlier than normal
Upper South East	15 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
West Coast	1 Nov 2008	15 Apr 2009	No change from normal
Yorke Peninsula	15 Nov 2008	30 Apr 2009	No change from normal



CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson announcing the new fire danger season dates.

From left, SES Chief Officer Stuart Macleod, Commissioner of Fire and Emergencies David Place, Weather Bureau Senior Forecaster John Nairn, Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright and MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton.



CFS AND SAPOL PREPARE FOR THIS SEASON’S BUSHFIRES

By: Chris Metevelis

The CFS and Police (SAPOL) demonstrated their willingness to work closely together to protect South Australia’s communities from bushfires this summer at a media event on 14 November, and issued a warning to anyone who may deliberately start a fire – they will get caught.

Both agencies were joined by the MFS and SES for an impressive

media launch at Belair National Park to mark the start of the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season, when all of South Australia’s 15 fire ban districts came under fire restrictions.

The Premier Mike Rann said that inevitably at this time of the year, South Australians are reminded of the devastating fires the state had previously experienced such as

Ash Wednesday, Wangary and more recently, Kangaroo Island.

“But what we have also learnt from our past is that this threat can be reduced by educating our communities on how to be prepared for a bushfire and how to respond when one occurs,” Mr Rann said.

“The normally dry conditions within our state coupled with the long

drought and in recent times, the behaviour of troublesome individuals within the community, means that the risk of bushfires will be heightened even further.”

The CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said people who live, work or plan to visit a bushfire-prone area, need to be prepared with a Bushfire Action Plan. “Bushfire



Continued from Page 6

Ready' is a strategy that's been developed by the CFS to help people make informed decisions about their ability to deal with a bushfire," he said.

The Premier and the Chief Officer threw their support behind an informative 'Bushfire Ready' DVD which will help guide people through preparing a Bushfire Action Plan.

"I strongly encourage people to watch the DVD and to plan, prepare and practice their Bushfire Action Plan and become Bushfire Ready," Euan said.

On days of extreme fire danger when the CFS is at its highest level of preparedness, SAPOL will also be running Operation NOMAD.

SAPOL's Chief Superintendent Silvio Amoroso said the program began in 1992 involving the deployment of dedicated police resources to deter and detect deliberate acts of lighting fires.

"We have the means and resources to track down anyone who deliberately or negligently lights fires during the fire danger season and last year police apprehended 173 people," he said.

"This is a serious crime that is reflected in the fact that South Australia has the toughest penalty in Australia with up to 20 years' imprisonment for a conviction."

Chief Superintendent Amoroso encouraged the public to report any

suspicious behaviour in bushfire prone areas to police either through BankSA Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or the police on 131 444, or if police or fire attendance is required, 000.

The media launch featured a display of emergency vehicles from the CFS, MFS, SES, SAPOL, the Police Rescue helicopter and ForestrySA.

The media were also reminded that during the fire danger season the CFS will have a fleet of 15 fire fighting aircraft including an Erickson Aircrane water bomber.

CFS Aviation Services Manager David Cant said that the 7,200 litre capacity helicopter, to be based in South Australia, will provide a significant boost to the fire fighting capabilities of the CFS.

"In the past we've been well served by this resource being available in South Australia when it's not required in other states but we recognise the benefits of having an aircrane based here, particularly given the outlook for a potentially dry and hazardous fire season," David said.

"The key message here is that this fire danger season, there will be more aircraft, with increased capacity and improved flexibility of the fleet," David said.

The CFS fleet of fire fighting aircraft will cover all the high risk areas across South Australia,

including Lower Eyre Peninsula, Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South East.

In addition to the Erickson aircrane, there will be another 14 fire fighting and aerial surveillance aircraft including three Bell helicopters, seven fixed-wing air tractors and three fixed-wing surveillance aircraft.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright said the State Government's expenditure on aerial fire fighting has increased considerably every year since its first

Budget in 2002/03 when it allocated \$1.5 million.

"This State Government has increased spending on aerial fire fighting to a record \$6.8 million in this year's State Budget," Mr Wright said.

The total includes \$1.85 million from the Federal Government's national funding package for aerial fire fighting.

"These measures are aimed to ensure that communities and CFS volunteers are well equipped and prepared to respond to bushfires this season," Mr Wright said.



^ CFS, MFS, SES and SAPOL were well represented for the launch of the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season and Operation Nomad.

Premier Mike Rann addresses the media at the launch of the fire danger season and Operation Nomad. >>



CFS ASKS RESIDENTS "WHAT IF?"

By: Chris Metevelis

The Country Fire Service recently launched a new DVD to reinforce its key bushfire safety messages and help South Australians in high risk areas prepare for the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season.

More than 41,000 DVDs were mailed to householders as part of the CFS Community Education and Public Affairs collaboration to inform people about bushfire behaviour and risks, and help motivate them to take responsibility for their property, preparation and personal safety.

The free DVD comes with a Bushfire Action Plan and is packaged in an eye-catching envelope depicting an aggressive grassfire with the thought-provoking question printed on the back, 'What if there was a bushfire coming towards you right now?'

CFS Community Education Manager Fiona Dunstan says the 22-minute DVD encourages people, especially those who live in areas where

bushfires are a constant seasonal threat, to assess their own risk and make informed decisions about how to prepare themselves, their family and their property for a bushfire.

"Bushfires can have a profound effect on families and the communities they live in," Fiona said.

"This DVD will help them be 'Bushfire Ready' by walking them through how and why to prepare a Bushfire Action Plan, how to undertake preventative measures and reinforcing the need to share their plan with the family and neighbours."

The DVD is presented by CFS ambassador and volunteer Brenton Ragless who took time out from his commitments as the Channel Nine News weekday weather presenter to film his segments in several locations around the Adelaide Hills.

"I thoroughly enjoyed working on this project and hope that it helps to reinforce the messages of bushfire

safety which can be critical for those who live, work and may visit areas of high bushfire risk this season," Brenton said.

The simple mantra 'Plan, Prepare and Practice' your Bushfire Action Plan is frequently emphasised by Brenton during his commentary.

The DVD will supplement the fire danger season media campaign which includes print advertising in *The Advertiser*, the *Sunday Mail* and regional newspapers and a new television advertisement which is being screened on Adelaide metropolitan and regional TV in the South East, Eyre Peninsula and Riverland.

The campaign asks 'What if there is a bushfire right now?' and poses the questions 'What if it's at night?; What if the power is cut?; What if the kids aren't home?; prompting people to prepare for the imminent and unpredictable.

The TV commercial was market tested in focus groups with positive

feedback. Some noted that it would motivate them to visit the website to access a Bushfire Action Plan and for those who had already prepared a Bushfire Action Plan, they said the advert made them realise they weren't fully prepared and made them rethink their preparedness.

The DVD can be viewed by logging on to the CFS website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au or can be obtained by filling in an order form online.

In a studio filming a family and their Bushfire Action Plan for the CFS television commercial. v



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

COMMUNICATING WITH FIRE FIGHTING AIRCRAFT

By: Narelle Rawnsley

NEWS & UPDATES



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

This summer the CFS will have a wide range of aircraft in its suite of aerial resources.

Most of the fleet, including the high volume Erickson Aircrane, was showcased recently at the Mount Crawford airstrip during an operational demonstration and exercise.

The CFS will have 14 aircraft contracted for water bombing and surveillance purposes with additional support from the Adelaide Bank helicopters if required (refer to chart).

With the possibility of aircraft arriving at a fire ground, communication between ground and air becomes vital to ensure both effective and safe fire fighting operations.

Firefighters in the Mt Lofty Ranges, Lower Eyre Peninsula and Lower South East Primary Response Zones should be aware that aircraft may be automatically despatched and may be overhead prior to their arrival.

The first arriving officer or incident controller will not only provide guidance to resources on the ground, but will need to consider providing advice to incoming fire bombing pilots.

This advice should include things like:

- Hazards for aircraft (powerlines, SWER lines [single wire earth return lines], radio masts, fences, turbulent wind conditions, change in fire conditions).
- The exact location of the fire.
- Where you would like the aircraft to 'drop' its load (i.e. along the eastern flank near the house with the green roof).
- Your priorities for the ensuing drops.
- Whether you will need continued bombing (to be authorised via the Regional Coordinator/Regional Duty Officer).

Sometimes, pilots of fire bombing aircraft can provide valuable information about the direction of the spread of the fire, potential assets under threat and alert of impending bombing drops.

There are a number of levels of communication with aircraft and they are assigned VHF, GRN or both types of radio communication.

Those which predominantly affect people on the fire ground are:

Response (usually on GRN only):

- Aircraft responds to fire on Regional Air Ops Talk Group.
- Initial communication on fire ground between bombers and Incident Controller (IC) is on the designated Air Operations Talk Group.
- Region authorises continued bombing.

Tactical (initially on GRN and may move to VHF):

- Divisional/Sector Commander (ground operations) to aircraft. Pilots flying to a fire often find it difficult to identify an appropriate CFS officer to speak to, so information sharing about the fire and points listed above, does not always occur. It is therefore essential that the Incident Controller (the person in charge) should make contact with the pilot.

Pilots use a number of different radios to talk to air traffic control, other aircraft and the ground, therefore the Incident Controller may have to call them several times and wait for a response if they are on another radio.

CFS SOP 10.15 provides a thorough outline of aerial operations and communications.

All brigades and group officers are aware of it and should ensure they can use both GRN and VHF to speak with aircraft. VHF will alleviate any congestion on GRN.

An excerpt from SOP 10.15:

"Each CFS Region will have a dedicated Regional Air Operations Talk Group to ensure effective radio coverage in the region and minimise interference with other adjacent region operations.

All air operations will remain on the designated Air Operations Talk Group and VHF Frequency as per the Air Operations Communications Plan Table.

Aircraft will not switch to local group talk groups or Regional Management Talk Groups. This policy has been developed to reduce cockpit management issues for pilots and aircrew during hazardous flying conditions. This procedure does not apply for incidents within the Lower Eyre Peninsula Primary Response Zone.

Aircraft transiting from one region to another or relocating airbases, will report to the State Air Desk via the State Air Operations Talk Group."

CFS AERIAL FIRE FIGHTING FLEET FOR THE 08/09 FIRE DANGER SEASON

Response Zone	Aircraft Type and capacity	Function	Tactical Call sign	Nominated Operational Base (NOB)
Mt Lofty Ranges Primary Response Zone	Erickson S64E Aircrane 7000 litres (1)	High volume RW bomber	Helitak 733	Brukungu
	Bell 205A - 1400 litres (2)	RW Bomber and Transport	Helitak 534	Parafield
	Bell 214B - 2600 litres		Helitak 574	
	Airtractor AT 802 3100 litres	FW Bomber	Bomber 580 Bomber 582	Woodside
Lower South East Primary Response Zone	Bell 206L Longranger (3)	RW Bomber coordination, intelligence and transport	Firebird 504	Parafield
	Airtractor AT 802 3100 litres	FW Bomber	Bomber 581 Bomber 584	Mt Gambier
	Cessna 182	FW Bomber coordination, intelligence and transport	Firespotter 505	Millicent
Lower Eyre Peninsula Primary Response Zone	Airtractor AT 602 (4) 2400 litres	FW Bomber FW Bomber	Bomber 563 Bomber 564	Pt Lincoln (North Shields)
	Cessna 182	FW Bomber coordination, intelligence and transport	Firespotter 506	Pt Lincoln (North Shields)
Secondary Response Zone	Airtractor AT 802 3100 litres	FW Bomber	Bomber 583	Woodside
	Cessna 337	FW Bomber coordination, intelligence transport	Birdog 500	Woodside
Adelaide Bank Rescue Helicopter Service	AB 412 BK117 EC130 (5)	RW Bomber coordination, intelligence transport	Rescue 51 Rescue 52 Rescue 53	Adelaide Airport



CFS PARTNERS WITH ABC RADIO AND FIVEAA

By: Chris Metevelis

The Country Fire Service recognises the importance of disseminating timely and accurate information about the location and movement of bushfires, particularly when they are likely to pose a threat to personal safety or property.

It is therefore no coincidence that the CFS has maintained a long-standing relationship with media who share a common desire of informing the community about bushfires and promoting safety awareness.

This was recently highlighted when the CFS renewed its agreements with ABC Radio and FIVEaa through a Memorandum of Understanding to reinforce procedures for the broadcasting of Bushfire Information and Bushfire Warning Messages.

The CFS prepares these messages detailing the specific threat of a bushfire which is then conveyed to both media organisations to be broadcast immediately by interrupting scheduled programs.

These messages are also available on the CFS website soon after they're released to the media.

The ABC has for many years played a pivotal role in the dissemination of these messages by utilising its expansive radio network on both AM and FM frequencies throughout South Australia and with its AM signal, is capable of providing coverage throughout the entire state.

FIVEaa has also been proactive by extending its goodwill to helping the CFS get its Bushfire Information and Warning messages out to its radio audiences.

Although the FIVEaa radio signal is generally confined to the Adelaide metropolitan area, its programs can be heard beyond these boundaries by streaming from its website.

FIVEaa general manager Paul Bartlett says the station is committed to helping the CFS get its key warning messages out.

"One of the things that FIVEaa values is that we exist to make Adelaide a better place.

"Having an official arrangement with the CFS means we can provide our listeners and the people who are affected by fires with the best possible information as quickly as possible to enable them to make their plans accordingly," he said.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson says the close relationship between the ABC and FIVEaa is one of many that have been forged with media organisations to help serve the community.

"The CFS isn't in this by itself, we need organisations like the ABC and FIVEaa to partner with us," he said.

"The fact that we've signed an agreement bares testament to that relationship and also means that

we've revised the procedure by which we do it, and so this is an indication that we'll continue to work together in the future."

FIVEaa can be heard on 1395 on the AM band or by logging on to the website www.5aa.com.au.

ABC Local Radio in Adelaide is on 891 on the AM band. The frequencies of regional stations can be found on the ABC website on www.abc.net.au/local.



^ Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and FIVEaa General Manager Paul Bartlett with the Memorandum of Understanding.

GREECE FIRES – LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

By: Andrew Lawson

During the northern hemisphere's summer of 2007 Greece experienced its worst fire season on record that resulted in 76 deaths and numerous injuries, with most of the fatalities occurring in the Peloponnese region.

Later that year, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and MFS District Officer George Rodis were invited by their counterparts in Greece as part of an AFAT Australian fire fighting delegation of six members, to share their experiences and knowledge of bushfire prevention and suppression.

In April 2008 during a strategic planning day presentation involving

managers of the fire and emergency services sector, Andrew said that the 2007 fire season in Greece not only led to the loss of dozens of lives but also resulted in almost 270,000 hectares of land being burnt.

"AFAT members saw first hand the devastation and learned that the conditions were recognised by international experts as extreme, and that the fires would have challenged any country's fire suppression efforts," Andrew said.

"The problems and experiences of the Greek community presented many similarities to those experienced in the Australian context."

Andrew said that parallels were drawn with the rate

of fire spread, difficulty in preparing the community and the management of community information.

"Some of the challenges that were identified included the limitations of resources, utilising the media to provide the community with accurate information and the use of accurate mapping."

AFAT members believe that there is great value in fostering ongoing relationships with their Greek counterparts. To this end, in January the CFS will host Major Ioannis Kapakis and Major Christos Lambris from the Hellenic Fire Brigade.

>> Members of the AFAT team demonstrate Australian fire protective clothing at the Hellenic Fire Brigade Headquarters in Greece.



^ AFAT representatives in Greece. Standing from left Mark Sullivan (ACT), CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, George Rodis (MFS), Richard Alder (VIC), Ken Burns (TAS), Terry Maher (WA) and Australian Embassy staff.



A NEW LOOK CFS WEBSITE

NEWS & UPDATES

By: Chris Metevelis

In October, the CFS became the first of the sector's agencies to launch its new-look website to the general public.

The release marked the culmination of work undertaken by a dedicated sector-wide team of people who spent several months planning, developing, transferring and updating data to the new content management system.

The new CFS site shares a common menu structure and a similar look and feel with the MFS, SES and SAFECOM sites while retaining its individual branding.

Some of the new features inherent in the improved platform include better search facilities, community surveys, a secure area for volunteer/staff access and direct links from internal information systems such as CRIIMSON.

Deputy CFS Chief Officer Andrew Lawson was among the first to commend the new site.

"This will be a great resource for the public, the media and CFS volunteers."

"In particular, the community will benefit from the additional information available from the site including real time updates from

CRIIMSON showing current incidents," he said.

"A range of enhancements are already planned to further improve the functionality and will be added over time."

The CFS site has over 20 fact sheets for the public providing useful tips on how to prepare their property and family for a bushfire and the 'Bushfire Ready' television commercial and educational DVD can also be viewed online.

More than 800 people have already subscribed to receive news, BIMs and BWMs and other updates from the CFS site.

Community information is one of the six priorities in the sector's new Strategic Direction and the new websites will play a key role in helping to improve the way we communicate with all our stakeholders.

All four sites were publicly launched on 6 December 2008.

The CFS website address is www.cfs.sa.gov.au.



The recently launched CFS website.

"The new website is great! The up-to-date Current Incidents is excellent and very useful. I am a CFS volunteer, rural property owner and Fire Safe Group Coordinator for my area."

Kim Lau - Bradbury CFS

"I think your new website is slick and information is easy to find if you go looking for it."

David O'Carroll

"I find it extremely useful to receive media releases and other CFS notifications."

Dr Gwenda Mayo

SOUNDING THE SIRENS IN THE HILLS

By: Chris Metevelis

The CFS has begun consulting with members of the Mitcham Hills community to look at reactivating fire sirens at Belair, Blackwood and Eden Hills stations during the fire danger season.

About 140 people attended a public meeting in November chaired by Mayor of Mitcham Ivan Brooks, to discuss the issue.

Local State MP and Member for Davenport Iain Evans who has lived in the region all his life told the meeting he was concerned about the growing level of complacency amongst residents in the Adelaide Hills.

"Many people have moved to the

Hills recently and have never been involved in dealing with a bushfire and many people who have lived there for many years have got a bit complacent," he said.

A motion was moved during the meeting calling for the Mitcham Hills fire warning sirens to be activated only during the bushfire season, for all fire call responses by local brigades.

Mr Evans expressed his support for the reintroduction of fire sirens in the Mitcham Hills as another means of warning people of bushfires.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson told the meeting the process to reintroduce sirens in the Mitcham

Hills would require the help of the community to make local residents aware what it meant when sounded.

"If we implement this recommendation we're going to need all of the help that we can get to inform those people who aren't here," Euan said.

A working group of CFS, Blackwood/Belair and District Community Association and Blackwood South Neighbourhood Watch representatives was established to work through a number of tasks to reactivate the sirens.

"Each local community is different - that's why we held this meeting to listen to that local community voice; and we'll now work with these

organisations to develop the ground rules," Euan said.

"What I want to do now is to work through with the local group what the issues are. When do we sound it, how do we sound it, who sounds it, what happens if the power goes off, etc, all need to be considered."



CFS Regional Commander Chris Martin fielding questions at the Mitcham Hills public meeting.



GETTING BUSHFIRE READY AT THE ADELAIDE SHOW

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

✓ Chief Officer Euan Ferguson in the CFS marquee at the Royal Adelaide Show.

A cubby house, a portable AM radio, a mirror, crayons and a large koala wouldn't normally be associated with the prevention of bushfires - unless there's a link to the Royal Adelaide Show.

The Community Education section of the Country Fire Service stepped up its Bushfire Ready challenge, by combining these elements to maximise its education message at the Royal Show CFS marquee.

Preparing, planning and practicing a Bushfire Action Plan were the key messages and captured in the catchphrase - Bushfire Ready.

CFS Community Education Officer Natasha Huber said she was pleased with the response by the hundreds of visitors who engaged and interacted with her team at the marquee.

"Bushfires are part of our lives every summer and this opportunity enabled us to provide people with information to help them prepare for a bushfire in an interesting and engaging way," she said.

"Even Smokey the CFS mascot made regular appearances at the Show with free give-aways to children and an endless supply of hugs."



FIERY WOMEN

By: Therese Pedler, Di DeLaine, John Probert, Helen Goodman and Catherine Rowe

Fifty women have taken part in a series of three workshops on Lower Eyre Peninsula to evaluate and develop their bushfire safety skills.

The program involved practical demonstrations of fire fighting techniques and the use of equipment including hoses and water pumps.

The program was well received and demonstrated that practical involvement in a learning exercise can shift women's bushfire survival strategy from 'leaving early' to 'staying and defending'.

Men tend to have a better understanding of bushfire, particularly as emergency management remains a predominantly masculine field.

Women are more likely to evacuate although not without their children, and are more likely to consult with neighbours, friends and relatives in the evacuation decision which may help to hasten evacuation.

In an assessment of bushfire casualties:

- The number of women dying in fires has increased over the last 30 years.
- Most women perish while sheltering in (rather than actively defending) the house or attempting to flee.
- Late evacuations still account for most deaths.

Research into the 2005 Wangary Fire by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) and civilian casualty statistics suggested women required specific targeting for bushfire safety information.

Of the nine civilian casualties in the Wangary Fire, there were three women and four children. Eight of the nine casualties died in or near their cars while one woman died sheltering in her bath.

Many women took action contrary to 'Stay and Defend or Leave Early' advice. Many did not know what fire

fighting equipment to use or how to use it. Of those who left their property during the fire event, 81% left late.

Numerous studies have shown that of those who decide to 'Stay and Defend', many were not committed and were likely to leave at some stage during the fire despite the intention of staying. Those uncommitted suffered stress from the experience of being alone, lacked confidence, or realised they were not prepared.

Empowering people to decide

whether to prepare and stay and defend or leave early, provided they act on their decision, is probably the single most important strategy for protecting people and property in bushfires.

Preventing late evacuation, by providing women with bushfire safety skills training, was a key aim of the pilot project in the Lower Eyre Peninsula region.



<< Some of the participants of the fire safety workshop on Lower Eyre Peninsula.

GRAIN HARVESTING CODE OF PRACTICE

By: Terry Hassam

At harvest time many grain growers face high temperatures, low relative humidity and strong winds.

These weather conditions hamper efforts to prevent the spread of fire. Over the years, fire has escaped from many grain harvesting and handling operations, causing significant loss of crops and other property.

Current legislation does not prevent harvesting in adverse fire weather, and

is limited to providing requirements to control the outbreak of a fire, such as equipment and fire breaks.

The situation prompted the CFS and the South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) to work together with farmers to create a voluntary, state-wide code of practice.

The voluntary code applies to harvesting and grain handling operations that happen 'in the paddock', including operation

of grain harvesters, operation of vehicles involved in transporting grain, grain dryers and grain augers.

SAFF was concerned about ongoing fire escapes and the variations in codes, and felt it was necessary to create a benchmark code for all grain growers and handlers.

The draft code was successfully trialled over the 2007/08 harvesting season.

During the trial, farmers had access to a 'sticker' to attach to harvesting

machinery to calculate the wind speed for any temperature/relative humidity combination at which harvesting operations should cease.

The Grain Harvesting Code of Practice was recently launched at the SAFF Annual General Meeting.

An information kit, sponsored by SAFF, CFS and the State Government, has been circulated to grain growers, with copies of the code available from local councils and regional CFS offices.



VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYERS COMMENDED

VOLUNTEER STRATEGY & SUPPORT (FORMERLY VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT BRANCH)

As part of SAFECOM's Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) four events have been held since the last edition of *Volunteer* to acknowledge the tireless efforts of volunteers, including self-employed volunteers, and the employers who allow their staff to regularly drop tools to volunteer for emergency services.

Two VERSP barbecues have been held to coincide with the SAFECOM Board's regional meetings at Clare and Murray Bridge, and two VERSP breakfasts were held before Community Cabinet in September and October.

At these events, 21 CFS volunteers received Premier's Certificates of Appreciation in recognition of their outstanding volunteer service and more than 63 employers and self-employed volunteers have been awarded

Employer Recognition Certificates.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright said, "I know so many of you give your time generously without expecting reward, but activities such as the Volunteer and Employer breakfasts allow us, in some small way, to formally recognise your contribution and say thank you."

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson said that employers of volunteers such as Taylors Wines of Auburn also deserve special recognition.

"It takes a special kind of employer to allow staff to drop everything at short notice and do this," said Euan.

Taylors Wines received an Employer Recognition Certificate to acknowledge their support of the emergency services sector with more than half of their total staff being volunteers with the CFS or SES.

>> Peter Venning, 60 Mawson Group, clocked up 35 years' service in December.



<< Bert Fell, Seaford CFS, received a recognition certificate at the October VERSP event.



The CFS Honour Roll – Premier's Certificate of Appreciation

Pam Harrison – Para Group
Robert Turnbull – Salisbury Brigade
Geraldine Pentland – Virginia Brigade
Dawn Brown – One Tree Hill Brigade
Richard Scutter – One Tree Hill Brigade
Linda Cozzitorto – One Tree Hill Brigade
Trevor Moate – Dalkeith Brigade
Brenton Henschke – Dalkeith Brigade
Lucy Sibley – Blewitt Springs Brigade
Joan Harris – Blewitt Springs and Mawson Ops Support Brigades
Di Neill – Clarendon and Mawson Ops Support Brigades
Michelle Tuckey – Happy Valley Brigade
David Mosel – Kangarilla Brigade
Brenda Finney – Morphett Vale Brigade
Pam Atkinson – Morphett Vale and Mawson Ops Support Brigades
Karin Scholtyssek – Seaford Brigade
Shirley Chomel – Seaford and Mawson Ops Support Brigades
Peter Venning – Morphett Vale Brigade and GO Mawson Group
Ian Taverner – Morphett Vale Brigade DGO Mawson Group
Helen Low – McLaren Flat Brigade
Lorna Oates – McLaren Flat Brigade

CFS Honour Roll – SAFECOM Certificate for self-employed volunteers

Garth Morgan – Garth A Morgan
Gillian Napier – Gillian Marie Designs
Ron van Zoelen – Ron van Zoelen
Jeff Anderson – South Coast Security Services
Phil Birtles – Top Class Entertainment
Adam Clifford – A&E Clifford Plumbing
Albert Fell – Albert Fell
Betty LaVars – Betty LaVars
Marcin Bal – Bluestone Security Solutions
Glynn Williams – Glynn Williams Upholstery
John Hoskins – Hoskins Racing
Neal Roden – Jims Mowing (Flagstaff Hill)
Noel and Lucy Sibley – NJ & L Sibley
Stephen Cameron McVicar – Stephen Cameron McVicar
Thomas LaVars – Thomas LaVars
Joanne and Kym Vawser – Windy View
Denis Crispe – Denis Crispe

VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT REVIEW

A review of support for volunteering in SES and CFS undertaken by Volunteering SA has recommended some changes to clarify and focus the services provided by the SAFECOM Volunteer Management Branch.

The aim of the review was to benchmark the services provided to volunteers against the National Standards for Involving

Volunteers in Not-for-Profit Organisations (NS).

The main recommendations are that the branch:

- continues to offer field support staff to volunteers
- has an increased focus on providing strategic advice to agencies on current volunteering trends and issues

- develops Service Level Agreements with the SES and CFS to agree service priorities
- changes its name to the Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch.

The review also recommended greater training in rights and responsibilities of volunteers and volunteer managers and the

implementation of the National Standards in the agencies.

Mark Groote, from Housing SA and formerly a volunteer manager with the Salvation Army, has recently been appointed as manager of the renamed branch and will be charged with implementing these recommendations.

A copy of the review is available from the SAFECOM website.

NEW RECRUITMENT MATERIALS AVAILABLE



A number of new display materials have been produced to assist CFS brigades with recruitment.

The new materials, including A-frame signs, canvas banners and pull up signs, place a much greater emphasis on the volunteers and

include an area for local information to be added.

The new materials were developed thanks to a grant from Emergency Management Australia.

To hire the material contact your Volunteer Support Officer through your regional headquarters.



YOUTH HELP TO SHAPE FUTURE OF CFS

The CFS gave its younger members a chance to step up and be heard at the first CFS Youth Summit back in August, leaving many feeling we have a strong future of volunteering and community spirit in South Australia.

Around 40 CFS volunteers aged between 18 and 25 came together with young representatives from SES and SA Ambulance Service to share ideas and plan for the future.

Delegates identified issues and developed recommendations in the areas of volunteer recruitment and retention (especially youth); CFS innovation and change with regards to equipment and technology; and helping volunteers achieve the elusive work-life-volunteering balance. These recommendations were officially handed to CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson for consideration in future strategic planning within the CFS.

Euan said, "The summit was an opportunity for young volunteers to shape the future of the CFS and I

was impressed with their level of passion and breadth of ideas."

Delegates also took steps to create a CFS Youth Advisory Council which will continue to identify and inform on the issues most relevant to young CFS volunteers.

Delegate Lisa West from Lincoln CFS described it as, "a great opportunity to express our opinion on topics that affect us and know that we are being listened to".

For 19-year-old Chris Sedunary, an ambassador for youth initiatives with the Southern Fleurieu Youth Advisory Council as well as a member of the Hindmarsh Valley CFS, the summit left him feeling positive about the agency's direction.

"I think some extremely valuable ideas have come out of the discussions we've had, which will ultimately lead to improvements in many areas," said Chris.

Ashborne CFS member James Crossman echoed Chris' sentiments saying, "hopefully some of our ideas make a difference in the future of the CFS."



Participants in the 2008 CFS Youth Summit.



^ Lisa West, Lincoln CFS.



^ Chris Sedunary, Hindmarsh Valley CFS.

WRANS REUNION



Most of you probably know Eileen Dunlop from her work with the Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch, but Eileen is also on the organising committee of the ex-WRANS and RAN Women Reunion to be held in

Adelaide to coincide with ANZAC Day commemorations in 2009.

Eileen said, "The CFS has many members with a connection to the defence services and this reunion will be a good opportunity to catch up with old friends and

commemorate ANZAC Day."

Activities include the Dawn Service, the ANZAC Day Parade, a luncheon and a church service, as well as a cruise on the River Murray and a bus trip to the Barossa Valley.

To register or to find out more,

visit www.navalassoc.org.au and follow the links through to Reunions. Alternatively, email wrans.reunion2009@yahoo.com.au or mail The Registrar, WRANS-RAN Reunion 2009, PO Box 7250, West Lakes, 5021.



CADET CAMP

REGION 4

By: Pete Shalley, CFS Region 4 Volunteer Support Officer

In June, Orroroo came alive when approximately 75 CFS Region 4 cadets and their leaders converged on the town for a cadet camp.

These cadets and leaders hailed from areas such as Roxby Downs, Terowie, Woomera, Stirling North, Wilmington, Iron Knob, Peterborough and Yongala.

There were fun and games for all, with the cadets participating in pizza making and delivery contests (fake

gross pizzas), a human knot exercise, lucky squares, flashover drills, obstacle courses and much more.

The food was great thanks to the parents and leaders, and everyone left with full stomachs and high spirits.

Although Orroroo had been experiencing plenty of cold and windy days, the sun came out and put on a great day for the cadets. And as all the cadet leaders will know, sun means

CADETS



water, and water means wet cadets.

The support from the cadets in the region was great and the hard work which went into the camp paid off,

because everyone, including the adults, enjoyed themselves immensely.

All the cadets are already counting down the days until the next camp.

ADVENTUROUS SPIRIT! By: Jennifer Oates, CFS Region 1 Cadet Representative

In September, 130 cadets and cadet supervisors from across Region 1 had a ball taking part in the 2008 Region 1 Cadet Activity Day at Greenhill's Adventure Park, Victor Harbor.

The day provided a great opportunity for cadets to catch-

up with friends and share new experiences.

The weather forecast for the day was bleak, but it didn't deter the cadets and supervisors from participating in the activities with great gusto.

There were many challenges on the

go-karts and in the mini-golf, while others took the opportunity to bounce-around on the air mat.

It was great to see so many Region 1 cadets taking part. Each participant showed the same relentless enthusiasm they have for cadet training.

REGION 5 CADETS By: Margaret Ludwig, Acting Volunteer Support Officer, CFS Region 5

The Region 5 cadets thoroughly enjoyed the two joint activities they took part in during 2008.

The first was a regional camp that was held at the Grampians Retreat and Field Studies Centre near Dunkeld, Victoria.

The venue offered amazing scenery, wildlife and varied challenges such as a huge flying fox permitting speeds up to 40 km/h.

There was also a giant swing that required all cadets to lend a hand on the rope to pull the swinger up to 17 metres in height before the swinger self-released.

The cadets participated in several other activities including a challenging low ropes course, several teamwork challenges, night orienteering and a campfire, and a rogaining course that covered large areas of bushland.

The second activity Region 5 cadets completed was a competitions 'come and try' field day at the Naracoorte Showgrounds.

Cadets and leaders joined their families to have a fun day trying out all the competition drills under the expert guidance of several seasoned

participants from the Naracoorte Brigade.

Many cadets developed new skills and by the end of the day it was difficult to select the winning teams. Several events had to be re-run to determine the cup winners.

Leaders also had a go and were then keen to return home to continue practicing the drills with their cadets and brigades.

All agreed that the drills were a wonderful way to improve hose-handling and branch skills in a friendly yet competitive environment.

NEW CADET EVENTS FOR STATE COMPETITIONS By: Jennifer Oates, CFS Region 1 Cadet Representative

On Sunday 12 October, the CFS held an event at Bonython Park as part of the State Competitions revamp. Although it was a warm and windy day, there was great participation from all cadets involved.

The day got off to an energetic start with CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson leading the cadets in a series of warm-up exercises and chatting to them about personal safety in fire fighting operations.

After the cadets had an opportunity to see their Chief Officer in a new

light, they got on with the task of demonstrating the new competition events they had been practicing, and trying out the events demonstrated by other cadets.

The cadets and supervisors from the Mawson Group Kuitpo Cadets in Region 1 showed off their superior skills in the 'Two Appliance Operations' event. They demonstrated the efficiencies of utilising a 34 appliance and a 14 appliance to hit multiple targets, before making up all equipment and stowing appropriately on the appliances.

Meanwhile, it was the cadets from Region 6 that displayed incredible stamina in travelling to Adelaide to participate in the event. Forty-eight cadets and nine supervisors represented the Kimba, Cowell, Ceduna, Port Lincoln and Streaky Bay brigades. The cadets demonstrated the Station Response event and the Relay Pumping event with flair.

It was great to have the support of the Salvation Army, providing the catering for the day and introducing the cadets to the concept of meal

breaks on the fireground - wind and dust included.

The day was a great experience for all cadets and supervisors who attended. The feedback gained from this event will be used by the new State Competitions Committee when they look at the scheduling of the State Competitions for 2009.

If you would like to offer any further input or have any questions regarding cadet participation in the State Competitions, please speak to your Regional Cadet Representative.



VETERAN FIREFIGHTER TRACING HISTORY

NEWS & UPDATES

By: Chris Metevelis

Rex Hall AFSM is well known for his long standing service to the Country Fire Service which in 2007 was documented in a 456-page book which he wrote and titled 'Forty Five Flaming Years'.

Rex's book captured the paths of comradeship and mateship which defines the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) and the CFS, in a frank, humorous and personal account of serving the community over more than four decades.

This author has now set himself another challenging task to write a book about the history of the CFS - and he needs help.

"Presently I am conducting

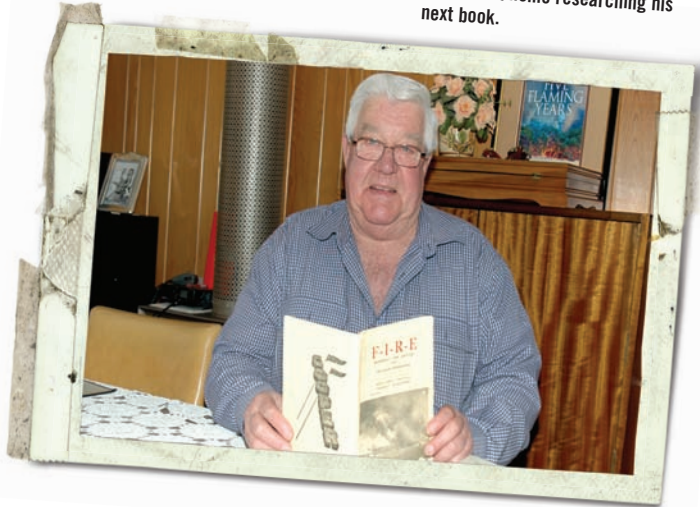
research and sourcing information from the past EFS and CFS manuals, magazines and historic photographs," Rex said.

"But I would greatly welcome the assistance of anyone who can supply me with early photos or records of our CFS history."

Anyone who can help Rex by providing more details about specific brigades, their history or documents from meetings and any other useful information, should contact Rex through his email address at: gadang@rbm.com.au.

Rex is hoping to have his new book published by the middle of 2009.

✓ Rex Hall at home researching his next book.



✓ CFS appliances at the Naracoorte Showgrounds after the Heritage Parade.



CFS HERITAGE PARADE

By: Chris Metevelis

More than one thousand people lined Smith Street at Naracoorte on 26 October 2008 to see a procession of modern and historic CFS appliances.

The parade was organised by the South East Branch of the CFS Volunteers Association and featured more than 50 vehicles, with the oldest of them a Chevrolet Blitz fire truck dating back to 1940.

CFS Heritage Committee chairman Rex Hall AFSM said he was pleased with the response from the local

community who were also invited to a family day BBQ at the Naracoorte Showgrounds after the parade.

"The street parade gave the public an opportunity to view these appliances up close and to gain a sense of history," he said.

There was also support from Forestry SA which brought along one of its bright yellow tankers from Penola and even a heritage fire truck from across the border in Victoria took part in the parade.

The event was also part of the CFS

Volunteers Association 'Thank You Day' when volunteers and community organisations were also presented with Certificates of Appreciation.

"It was appropriate to thank the many businesses, volunteers and members of the public who have contributed towards the preservation

of South Australian fire fighting equipment, both old and new, over the last few years," Rex said.

"The day was a success, with the parade, the presentation and the BBQ being well received and supported by the community," he said.

SAPES GAMES

By: Malim Watts

The 5th South Australia Police & Emergency Services (SAPES) Games will be held in Adelaide from 1-10 May 2009 and will showcase some brand new sports and see the return of some old favourites.

Games management are excited to announce the introduction of a Mountain Bike Short Course Service Event. This is a relay event open to services that have mountain bike patrols/responders. Competitors will be required to ride in as near to full operational kit as practically

possible on the mountain bikes utilised by their service. A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the winning team, so get your teams organised for what will be a fun filled event.

We will also see the return of the Cycling Hill Climb event which will work its way up the challenging Norton Summit Road and Beach Volleyball which will be a two-day event at City Beach.

The theme for 2009 is 'United in Competition' emphasising an opportunity for around 25

emergency service organisations to unite in a fun and competitive environment, regardless of age, sporting ability or respective roles within each agency.

The 2009 SAPES Games will be a great opportunity for individuals and teams to prepare in readiness for the 2009 World Police & Fire Games in Vancouver, Canada.

Log on to www.sapes.com.au and register online from 1 February 2009 or contact Malim Watts on 8463 4294 for more information.



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

IRIS – INCIDENT RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer



The Country Fire Service (CFS) is in the process of adopting a resource tracking system which was developed in Victoria by the DSE (Department of Sustainability and Environment).

The system is called IRIS (Incident Resource Information System) and is a computer-based system used for tracking resources including people, vehicles and equipment and is used during the management of emergency events.

IRIS users will be able to view at a glance which resources have been responded to large incidents and where they are located. This information can be critical at all levels e.g. the Incident Control Centre, regions and state. The system will greatly decrease the number of calls required to identify resource commitment and status and will decrease the duplication of information that currently occurs.

IRIS has been specifically designed for the fire services environment and has been developed based on AIIMS principles. IRIS is a very close fit to our organisation and the way we manage incidents and the DSE are providing the system to us at no purchase cost.

IRIS uses a drag-and-drop interface which has been modelled on Microsoft Office File Manager, so people who are used to moving files on their computers will find IRIS easy to use.

This is very important because if you haven't used IRIS for a while and you're required to use it during an incident, it won't take long to re-familiarise yourself with it.

IRIS has been used in Victoria since 2000. Since then IRIS has been regularly upgraded and improved in response to user needs and requests for additional features.

IRIS will draw information that is important to track during incidents from CFS's Training and Administration System (TAS) which holds information about people and vehicles in CFS,

Department for Environment and Heritage and ForestrySA.

IRIS will be used by trained IRIS Dispatchers who will be located in the CFS regional offices. Their role will be to record the dispatch of resources such as strike teams or incident management people to incidents on IRIS.

The usual processes for organising strike teams will still occur using the Strike Team Response form; groups will provide the region with a list of people and vehicles that will be in the strike team. Then the IRIS Dispatcher will create that strike team on IRIS and record its dispatch to the incident.

There will also be an IRIS Operator located at the Incident Control Centre who will report to the Resources Officer in the Planning Section.

The role of the IRIS Operator is to create the event/incident in IRIS, record the arrival of incoming resources that have been dispatched by the region(s) and record their deployment to whichever area they will be located at the incident. The IRIS Operator will also record the release of that resource from the incident.

IRIS is held on a central server which can be accessed by users linked to the CFS network.

The information updated on the system can be viewed by all people logged onto IRIS.

For example, the IRIS Operator at the Incident Control Centre can view resources such as Strike Teams that have been dispatched to that incident by the IRIS Dispatcher at the Regional Coordination Centre.

The IRIS Dispatcher at the Regional Coordination Centre can also view what time resources were released from the incident or can view how

many regional resources (people and vehicles) are attending the incident and who they are.

IRIS can generate report outputs in Microsoft Excel. For example, IRIS can quickly produce summaries of who is in a Sector or at the incident, or provide total numbers of personnel involved to enable arrangement of catering, transport or accommodation.

Additionally, IRIS can provide reports at any level e.g. the names of personnel and vehicles at an incident, summaries of how many resources from a region are still available, or give a summary of the number of resources deployed to incidents state-wide.

IRIS will be most beneficial for larger and more complex incidents and on extreme fire weather days; it will not be used for every incident.

A sample of the system is currently being used for training purposes

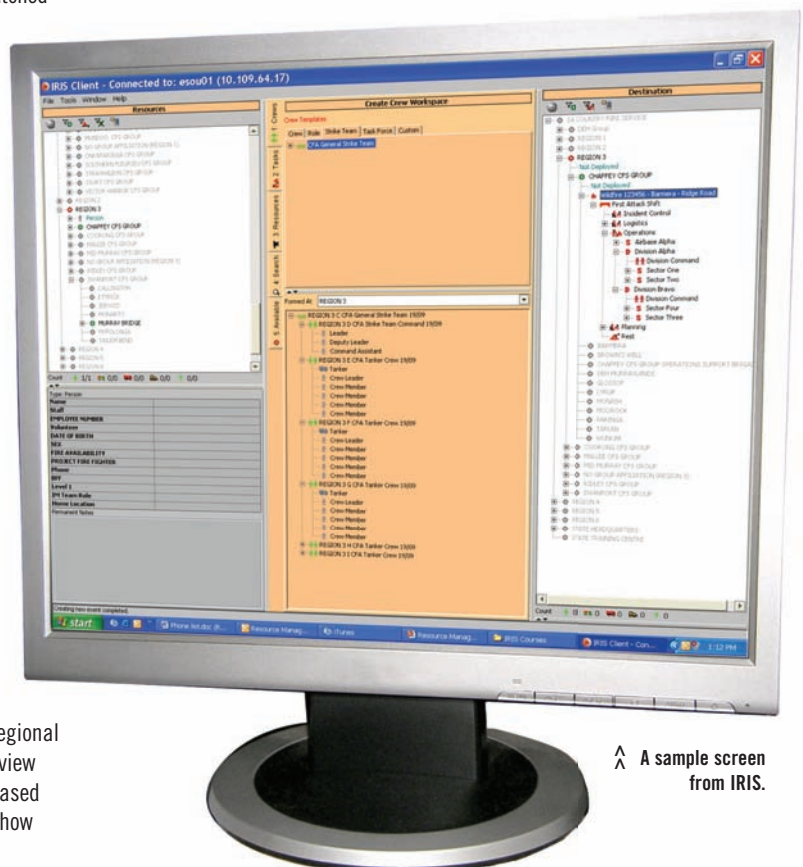
with the latest version of IRIS set to be installed shortly.

The system will feature data direct from TAS to ensure IRIS always has the most up-to-date information.

Training has been provided to IRIS Operators and Dispatchers in every region. There have been IRIS Dispatcher courses held in each region to train regional staff and regional operations support brigade personnel and there have been two IRIS Operator courses so far to train people who will be operating IRIS at incidents.

The plan is for each group, but especially groups that have level 3 Incident Control Centres, to have an identified and trained IRIS Operator.

Please speak to your Regional Training Officer if you are interested in becoming an IRIS Operator or IRIS Dispatcher or have identified someone who would be suitable for this training at group level.



▲ A sample screen from IRIS.

RESOURCES OFFICERS

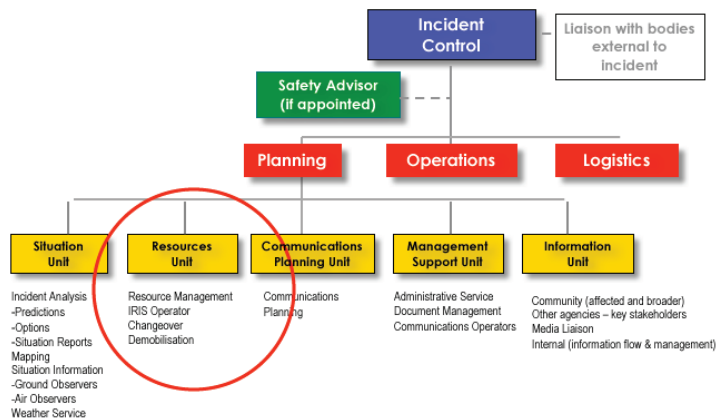
By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer

Ken Firms DSE,
Jasmine Filmer
DSE, Leanne Adams
CFS and Karen
Philp DEH

>>



Units within Planning Section



During incidents the Resources Unit is responsible for tracking resources (people, vehicles and equipment), changeover planning and demobilisation planning. If resources aren't effectively tracked and we don't know what resources we have, how many there are and where they are, this can lead to many problems including inadequate catering, accommodation, transport and management of resources.

Some of the tools that can help us track resources effectively are T-cards, Strike Team Forms, IRIS (Incident Resource Information System) and appropriately trained Resources Officers. Prior to the Resources Officer Course that was run in October, there was only one trained Resources Officer in the state; now, 16 CFS people from DEH and CFS have completed the training, greatly enhancing our ability to effectively track resources during an incident.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson opened the course and said, "Good

resource management is firstly about good safety, and secondly means that resources are applied effectively and efficiently to an incident, resulting in the effective use of volunteer and staff time."

While this course was run for us by the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment, future courses will be run by Karen Philp, Department for Environment and Heritage and Leanne Adams, CFS. There will continue to be opportunities for mentoring by the Victorians during incidents here in SA and in Victoria.

Inadequate resource management has been identified as one of the key factors that can contribute to fatigue, lack of adequate catering and accommodation and poor deployment management. Some things that are being or have been done to address this include:

- Identifying suitable personnel to fill roles in the Resources Unit - as well as people from CFS, the Department for Environment

and Heritage are providing a considerable number of people to be trained and used in these roles during incidents

- Resources Officer training
- Introducing IRIS (Incident Resources Information System)
- Providing training for IRIS Operators and IRIS Dispatchers
- Development of new T-cards
- Ongoing research into other

resource tracking options to support the current innovations such as Automatic Vehicle Locators and bar coding options.

A review will be conducted at the end of 2008/09 fire season to determine if resource management has been more effective due to these improvements and where further improvements can be made.

RESOURCES OFFICER COURSE

By: Lachlan Hennekam (a CFS cadet from Yorketown on work experience during the Resources Officer course)



CFS cadet Lachlan Hennekam

Management System) – the system that is used to manage incidents in South Australia.

A three-day Resources Officer course was presented in South Australia for the first time at the start of October at the SA State Training Centre at Brukungu.

Fire Training Officers Ken Firms and Jasmine Filmer from Victoria were the presenters and 16 people from DEH and CFS attended.

The course detailed the various roles of the Resources Officer who must communicate with the Operations Officer, Logistics Officer and the Situation Officer to obtain and provide information about the deployment and monitoring of resources.

The Resources Unit, which is managed by the Resources Officer, is a function of the Planning Section in AIIMS (Australasian Inter-service Incident

COMMAND LEADERSHIP TASK GROUP

By: Mark Thomason

Earlier this year a Command Leadership and Incident Management Task Group was established to progress and enhance a number of CFS programs.

The core function of this task group is to progress incident management, leadership training and manage the Centre for Lessons Learnt.

The task group is headed by Mark Thomason as the Manager of Operational Improvement. Other staff include:

- Leanne Adams – Incident Management Project Officer
- David Pearce – Training Development
- Corey Dunn – Training Development
- Lee Watson – Training Development
- Bob Kearney – Leadership

Two regional officers are also seconded on a three-month rotation to work on specific projects.

To date, the task group has been focusing on the formation of Level 3 Incident Management Teams, the development of a Strike Team Leader and Sector Commanders course and developing an Incident Management doctrine.

Another key aspect of this group is communication with volunteers, with a small group of volunteers provided the opportunity to comment on draft papers or proposed changes to systems of work within CFS.

A section of the new CFS website has been dedicated to the Centre for Lessons Learnt and over the coming months information will be released to progress this important aspect of the CFS.



MANAGING FIRES IN THE URBAN/RURAL INTERFACE

By: Leanne Adams, Incident Management Project Officer



The urban/rural interface is defined in the Glossary of AFAC Rural Fire terminology as 'the line, area or zone where structures and other human development adjoin or overlap with undeveloped bushland'.

On 23 September 2008 a workshop regarding fires in the urban/rural interface was held at the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) headquarters and was attended by senior operational MFS personnel and senior CFS operational staff and volunteers who operate in the urban/rural interface.

The purpose of the workshop was to gain a shared understanding about what the urban/rural interface is and how CFS and MFS jointly operate in those areas. Topics included asset protection, multi-agency incident management, the 'Stay or Go' policy and the use of strike teams and aircraft.

At the end of the day, participants also had the opportunity to view the new MFS Incident Command Vehicle which is available for use at CFS incidents however it has clearance restrictions which will limit where it can travel to and be positioned.

Chief Officers Grant Lupton from MFS and Euan Ferguson from CFS jointly opened the day. Grant's message focused on encouraging both services to work together and to respect each other. He observed the effects that terrorism and climate change are having on the way emergency services do business. There have been many countries including Australia that have experienced significant fires on the urban/rural interface in recent years and Grant considers the risk in the Adelaide Hills and other parts of the state to have some of the worst potential to impact communities.

Euan's message focused on defining urban/rural interface fires which includes: a 'wildfire' in an urban environment or an urban fire with wildfire behaviour characteristics. They are characterised by an urban environment, wildfire behaviour, high-value assets, dwellings which have high emotional values, many agencies involved, a concentration of resources, ground

and air response, special tactics and strategies and are often in the public eye and media spotlight.

Euan described the objectives of interface incident management as being:

- seamless integration
- actions are 'tenure blind' i.e. they pay no mind to administrative boundaries
- cooperation
- common operational objectives
- actions that are aligned
- incident controlled quickly and effectively
- actions based on risk
- the most important things protected first e.g. critical infrastructure
- safety first
- public that are resilient, informed, empowered, action-aligned
- that the people in the front line know what to do, are capable of doing it, feel safe, well-equipped and supported.

Some of the key points that came up during the day were:

- There are limitations to where MFS vehicles can be used during CFS incidents because their vehicles are two-wheel-drive and don't carry much water. The most appropriate use of MFS vehicles at CFS incidents is:
 - For **Asset Protection** in areas that are easy to access, have sealed roads and have good access to water.
 - For **Change of Quarters** where CFS resources are attending a rural incident and MFS are brought into a CFS station to provide emergency cover for the township/suburb.
 - For **Post Incident Assessment** where the fire front has passed and MFS come in to put out spot fires, and assess and report on damage to assets.
- MFS Strike Teams are comprised of 3 pumps, 1 command vehicle (with possibly only one person) plus possibly a tanker. MFS Strike Teams need to be requested through the Regional Duty Officer who will then request them through the State Duty Officer.
- Where one agency is supporting the other the Incident Controller will be

from the Control Agency and the leader of the supporting agency will be a commander e.g. CFS Commander or MFS Commander

- For incidents that have the potential to impact homes our policy is that residents should plan to leave early or prepare their homes and stay to protect them during fires. Evacuation, particularly last minute evacuation, is discouraged.

Some outcomes and items that will be progressed from the day include:

- Discussions will be held at the Deputy Chief Officer's forum covering:
 - The possibility of having VHF radios in MFS Command Vehicles and developing an inter-agency Communications Plan.

- The use of CFS Commander vests/tabbards - as opposed to CFS Incident Controller vests and gaining an understanding when they are used.

- How fires are managed when fires cross boundaries and consider the possibility of using Unified Control for incidents on MFS/CFS boundaries.

- Agreed pre-arranged plans for Interface Fires.

- Reviewing the Aerial Bombing Primary Response Zone to consider covering relevant MFS areas.
- Communication Plan to enable MFS to communicate with Air Operations.

∨ CFS and MFS personnel at the workshop on fighting fires in the urban/rural interface.



∧ The new MFS Incident Command Vehicle.

2008 EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDALS AND MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS

The 2008 Emergency Services Medal and Ministerial Commendations were announced at a ceremony in Adelaide on 24 November 2008.

Of the 32 medals and commendations presented, the Hon. Michael Wright presented seven to CFS volunteers and CFS/SAFECOM staff in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the CFS and, in turn, the community.

The citations for the awards glowingly describe the dedication and commitment of these volunteers and staff.

Emergency Services Medal

Wayne Atkins CFS Senior State Training Officer

On 13 March 2008, a bushfire in the area of Taylors Road, Willunga burnt 150 hectares and destroyed one house.

During the height of the fire, Wayne was the first arrival Air Attack Supervisor who was responsible for the safe medivac of a number of firefighters injured in a burnover on the Range-Hope Forest fire appliance.

Wayne and the pilot from Heliair landed the helicopter in hostile conditions to medivac these personnel to the Willunga Oval.

Ian Taverner Deputy Group Officer, Mawson CFS Group

Ian has been a dedicated member of the CFS since 1969, has been on numerous management and operational committees and has been the Deputy Group Officer for Mawson for over 10 years.

He is held in high esteem by his peers for not only his dedication to the job, but more importantly his operational and fireground skills.

He has exhibited exemplary operational capabilities, including during the Mount Bold and Willunga fires where he was Divisional Commander.

Richard Mould Jnr Brigade Captain, Glendambo CFS

On 6 December 2007 a person had barricaded himself in a hut at the rear of a roadhouse and set fire to its contents.

While the person was removed from the burning building, the temperature was nearing 40°C with an estimated 70-80 kph north wind blowing.

The Glendambo CFS was contacted and one crew member arrived, that being Richard Mould, who fought the fire solely with the exception of a passing traveller who provided assistance.

Undoubtedly Richards's bravery,

decisive action and ability to combat the fire on his own for the majority of the time prevented the fire from spreading to the roadhouse and averted a potential BLEVE (boiling liquid expanding vapour explosion).

Ministerial Commendations

Mark Hewitson Group Officer, Ceduna CFS Group

Mark is always putting forward new ways of improving how the unit carries out its business and gets support from the community. Mark always puts in 110% for the service and is always positive and supportive with his group.

He is now heavily involved with the merging of the Streaky Bay group and the Western Eyre region and also plays an important part in the Region 6 Volunteer Management Committee.

He has an excellent working relationship with all emergency services officers and the community in Ceduna.

Andrew Lawson CFS Deputy Chief Officer

Following the 2005 Wangary fire, the former 'phased warning system' of CFS was identified as no longer meeting the needs of CFS and the community. During 2005 and 2006 Andrew

acted on the recommendation from CFS Project Phoenix to develop a new CFS Bushfire Information and Warning System which was subsequently introduced in time for the 2006 bushfire season.

Andrew took carriage of this important project, developing the bulk of the system content and personally leading the process of consultation and approval within CFS and the State Emergency Management Council.

Quentin Russ Group Officer, Tumbay Bay CFS Group

For many years Quentin has been a major support for the Tumbay Bay CFS in the position of Group Officer and Brigade Officer. Under his leadership, his group excels at operations and administration.

Quentin stood up for the community after Wangary with unwavering courage against those who had passed judgement against the service and volunteers.

Quentin is one of those volunteers who believe volunteering is the only way to be part of a community, and as such, is involved in many other community groups in Tumbay Bay.

Lee Watson CFS State Training Officer, Brukunga

Lee has been instrumental in ensuring that the training department of the CFS has continually maintained its accreditation as a registered training organisation.

As a result of memorandum of understandings with Fire and Rescue Northern Territory and Bushfires NT, the training department has a responsibility to ensure that its quality systems and processes for training delivery and accreditation work effectively for both SA and NT organisations, and Lee has worked tirelessly to maintain consistently high standards in this area.

Lee's dedication and achievements as a career officer within the CFS have been acknowledged in receiving this commendation.

▼ Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson receiving his Ministerial Commendation from Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright.



▲ CFS Chief Officer with some of the Emergency Services Medal/Commendation recipients from L-R: Mark Hewitson, Lee Watson, Ian Taverner, Wayne Atkins and Quentin Russ.



CFS VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

By: Wendy Shirley

CFSVA



The CFS Volunteers Association held its 2008 Annual General Meeting at Brukunga on Sunday October 19 2008.

This was an election year, and the CFSVA is pleased to report that Ken Schutz was re-elected as the Association President and Wayne Thorley was re-elected as Vice President.

Rex Hall, South East Branch, Russell Branson, Eyre Peninsula Branch and Glen Willson, Kangaroo Island Branch were elected to the Executive.

The meeting outcomes included:

- a decision to seek free admission to national parks in the state for all CFS volunteers
- a progress update on the CFS Heritage Parade and Volunteer Thank You Day hosted by the South East Branch
- a decision to seek talks with SAPOL and Region 3 staff over volunteer concerns regarding traffic diversions on the Dukes Highway
- discussions on flexible service delivery and CFS future staffing levels, age profile and succession planning – both issues to be furthered with volunteers and CFS Executive
- the Association will write to the Chief Officer seeking volunteer participation on selection panels for CFS Regional Commander and Chief Officer positions because of the direct contact and importance of these positions to volunteers
- further talks to be held with Minister Wright regarding the review of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*.

The Association held a planning session the following day to commence the development of its new strategic plan.



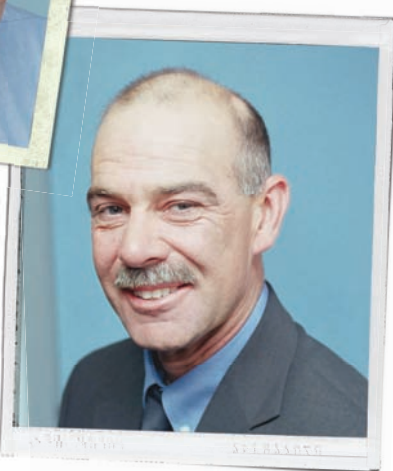
^ Delegates of the CFSVA State General Committee.

^ State CFSVA Management Committee (L to R): Wayne Thorley, Vice President, Greg Forbes, Riverland Branch, Russell Branson AFSM, Eyre Peninsula, Rex Hall AFSM, South East Branch, Wendy Shirley, Executive Officer, Glen Willson, Kangaroo Island Branch, Ken Schutz AFSM, President, Fred Munzer, Yorke Peninsula Branch, Roger Flavell, Mt Lofty Branch, Tim Cooper, Northern Branch, Ray Bryant, Lower North Branch. Absent: Neil Turner, Murraylands Branch, Ian Gordon, Pastoral Branch.



<< Vice President Wayne Thorley.

∨ Ken Schutz, re-elected as CFSVA President.



<< CFSVA Executive (LtoR): Russell Branson AFSM, Wayne Thorley, Vice President, Glen Willson, Ken Schutz AFSM, President, Rex Hall AFSM and Wendy Shirley, Executive Officer.

Your Branch Representatives

South East Branch
President Rex Hall AFSM
Delegates Kim Nicholls and Malcolm Unger

Murraylands Branch
President Neil Turner
Delegate Sue Mickan

Kangaroo Island Branch
President Glen Willson

Mount Lofty Branch
President Roger Flavell
Delegates Noel Sibley, Nick Ditter, Colin Chomel

Riverland Branch
President Greg Forbes
Delegate David Lindner

Lower North Branch
President Philip Parker
Delegates Ray Bryant and Jim Sandford

Northern Branch
President Tim Cooper
Delegates Andy Thomas and Ken Campbell

Yorke Peninsula Branch
President Fred Munzer
Delegate Lin Warren

Eyre Peninsula Branch
President Russell Branson AFSM
Delegate Paul Hutt

Pastoral Branch
President Ian Gordon

The CFS Volunteers Association now has a new sponsor.

Origin Energy State Manager SA/NT Marc Sneddon presented CFSVA Executive Officer Wendy Shirley with a cheque to sponsor the CFSVA Bulletin and several other Association projects. Thank you Marc for Origin's generous support!



CFS VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION NEWS BITES

By: Wendy Shirley, CFSVA Executive Officer

Has your brigade seen.....? The new Association DVD *CFS Volunteers – 24 / 7 / 365* was posted to all brigade administrative officers in July. This DVD features the best assets of our service – the men and women of the CFS. It was produced by Brenton Ragless and can be used as a recruitment tool. If you haven't seen it – ask your admin officer.

Speaking of Brenton - he is doing really well as the Channel 9 Weather Reporter. It's great to see him highlighting the efforts of CFS volunteers and the situation with the fire season whenever he has the opportunity. "Good onya" Brenton!

Also sent out to brigades via

regional offices was a laminated copy of the CFS Volunteer Charter. It is good to see them hanging in stations when I get out and about. The challenge is now to ensure the Charter is effective!

And if you live in the Southern Cross Television -Channel 4 viewing area, you may have seen the series of Community Service Announcements being televised. Those living in large areas of Regions 2, 4 and 6 can see these ads, which are aimed at boosting volunteer numbers, including women, young people and those of other ethnic backgrounds. The Association has produced these ads, and hopes they will assist brigades with recruitment. Our thanks are extended to Southern Cross Television for their assistance.

>> CFS Volunteer Charter.

✓ Brenton Ragless - Part of the 9 news team.

✓ CFS DVD cover.



GOLD COIN FOR GEOFF APPEAL

By: Joel Schirmer

The 'Gold Coin for Geoff Appeal' was established by CFS management, the CFSVA, the CFS Foundation and the Burra and District CFS Group to raise funds to assist Geoff Buynr, a CFS volunteer from the Mount Bryan Brigade who was severely injured in a fire ground accident in November 2006.

On Saturday 30 August CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, presented Geoff with a \$21,500 cheque allowing him to purchase a voice activated computer system and a few other amenities for his new care-assisted residence.

Geoff is most grateful to his CFS mates and the public for contributing to the fund, saying, "I am truly honoured by everyone's generosity and would like to thank all who donated. You've really helped me".

Thank you to the following people and organisations for making donations:

- Angaston CFS
- Ardrossan CFS
- Ash Wednesday Memorial
- Athelstone CFS
- Ausfirefighter Forum
- Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation
- B Thompson
- Balaklava CFS
- Barmera CFS
- Birdwood CFS
- Bundaleer CFS Group
- Burnside CFS
- Burra and District CFS Group
- C R Sousa
- Callendale CFS
- CFS Foundation
- CFS HQ staff
- CFSVA Mount Lofty Branch
- CFSVA Northern Branch
- CFSVA South East Branch
- Clarendon CFS
- COAC Members
- Coffin Bay CFS
- Corio CFA volunteers
- Cudlee Creek CFS
- East Torrens CFS Group
- Eden Hills CFS
- Flinders Chase National Park
- Freeling CFS
- Geoffrey Sinclair
- Guillaume Duros
- Halidon CFS
- Hallett CFS
- Happy Valley CFS
- Hermitage CFS
- Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC
- Hoyleton CFS
- Ironbank CFS
- James and Linda Hall
- Kapunda CFS
- Kingscote CFS
- Land Management Corporation
- Lucindale CFS Group
- Mannum CFS
- McCallum CFS
- Meningie CFS
- Morphet Vale CFS
- Mount Bryan CFS
- Napperby CFS
- Neville Farrall
- Nuriootpa CFS
- Oakbank Balhannah CFS
- One Tree Hill CFS
- Ororoo CFS
- Palmer CFS
- Parndana CFS
- Penneshaw CFS
- Penola CFS
- Port Clinton CFS



<< CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and CFSVA President Ken Schutz presenting the \$21,500 cheque to Geoff Buynr.

>> Wendy Shirley receiving a \$1,000 cheque from Greg Crossman of the Professional Firefighters Foundation.



- Port Victoria CFS
- R Edkins
- Region 1 Operations Brigade
- Region 2 Operations Brigade
- Region 5 Operations Brigade
- Riverton CFS
- Roxby Downs CFS
- Salisbury CFS
- Salt Creek CFS
- Sedan CFS
- Snowtown CFS
- Southern Fleurieu CFS Group
- Spence CFS
- Spencer CFS Group
- Stirling CFS
- Stirling North CFS
- Strathalbyn CFS
- Sturt Volunteer Firefighters Welfare Association
- Tea Tree Gully CFS
- Terowie CFS
- Two Wells CFS
- Uniting Church Stop By, Clarence Park
- Virginia CFS
- Watervale CFS
- Weetulla/Nalyappa CFS
- Willunga CFS
- Wirrabarra CFS.



By: Garth Hogarth, CFS State Training Officer – Special Rescue

CFS AND ABB GRAIN JOIN FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING

In a joint initiative by CFS and ABB Grain Ltd (ABB), volunteer firefighters from the CFS conducted specialist breathing apparatus training at the Ardrossan Silos in early August.

Historically volunteers have had to travel to the Adelaide Hills or to Naracoorte to participate in the one-day re-accreditation training,

resulting in extra time away from family and work.

Investigations into better ways of conducting the CFS re-accreditation programs were based on the need to reduce the impact that the courses have on a volunteer's time.

Rather than the volunteers having to travel to attend the course it was decided that the course would be

brought to the volunteers, making the course more accessible to those that normally would not have the time to travel all the way to Adelaide.

ABB was extremely generous in allowing the CFS to not only use the silos at Ardrossan, but also provided facilities at Wudinna and Jamestown. They also arranged for ABB staff members to be on-site throughout the duration of the course to assist when needed.

ABB Ardrossan Operations Coordinator Joanne Klitscher said, "As an integral part of many rural South Australian communities, it's pleasing to be able to assist and support an organisation such as the CFS to train their volunteers.

"Not only does a partnership like this enable the CFS to conduct

their training, but also provides participants with valuable knowledge on the workings of the silos should they need to respond to an incident here," says Joanne.

Participants of the courses agreed that having the training course held in their local area was more than useful. It ensures that if local volunteers are required to respond to a silo complex on Yorke Peninsula they are familiar with the site. For many participants if the course was not held locally they would not have been able to attend.

The CFS would like to thank ABB for continuing to provide their facilities and support to the many CFS volunteers across South Australia.



22

VOLUNTEER - TRAINING

BUSHFIRE INVESTIGATION COURSE

Two Bushfire Investigation Courses were held at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga during September.

The courses were designed to update trained bushfire investigators and offer information

that is useful to other operational personnel.

Personnel from the CFS, MFS, South Australian Police (SAPOL), Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) and ForestrySA attended the courses.

The courses covered new bushfire investigation forms that will be used during the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season. Other topics included fuel hazard guides, digital photography, fire behaviour and legal

scene preservation.

Thank you to the staff from the CFS, MFS, SAPOL, DEH and Crown Law who assisted with the delivery of the presentations.

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Long Lasting Power

A FIT-FOR-PURPOSE FLEET

By: Arthur Tindall, CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Manager

Prior to the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, CFS brigades had significant input into the design of their appliances. Whilst brigades had 'ownership' of the appliance they built, there was little standardisation and the quality was usually dependant on the money available.

During the Ash Wednesday fires many appliances either failed to make it to the fires or broke down whilst fighting the fires.

The decision was made then to update a large portion of the fleet with appliances that were diesel powered and of a standard configuration. The CFS also implemented a resource allocation model, Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover, to ensure resources were appropriately allocated.

This model remains in place today and has served the CFS well but the agency is now in a period of significant change and consideration needs to be given to how to meet the challenges these changes will bring.

Changes in population demographics and an ageing population, the mining boom, climate change, water restrictions and changes in land use management are all set to impact on the CFS.

The problem the CFS faces is that what we build today will remain in the fleet for 20 years. Consequently the question needs to be asked; are we building the right appliances to meet the needs of CFS in the future?

The CFS has for a long time predominantly used a 'one size fits all' fleet profile which has served us well in the past. However, feedback from volunteers has indicated that some feel our vehicles are overly complex and carrying stowage they will never use. Others have commented that our vehicles have

become overly 'urban' centric. But what other options do we have?

The CFA is developing a vehicle where the crew fights the fire from inside the vehicle using remote control monitors. Tasmania has introduced a large number of smaller vehicles that are easier to drive and can be operated with less crew. Western Australia has introduced appliances that carry as much water as possible on ten tonne chassis but have reduced stowage.

When conducting a review of our fleet it is imperative that we challenge the 'status quo' and become visionary to ensure that we leave a legacy given that many senior volunteers will not be with CFS in 20 years' time.

The review must also be conducted on the premise that the CFS capital funding base is unlikely to increase in the foreseeable future. This is an important consideration as a current 34/34P costs in excess of \$250,000 to build and stow.

Is our mix of appliances adequate; how much water and stowage is considered appropriate; what kinds of licenses are required; what is the optimum and practical number of crew; should we consider remote control monitors requiring less crew; what size pumps are ideal; what sort of foam should be carried; should drinks fridges be incorporated... these are just some of the questions that need to be asked in reviewing the suitability of our fleet.

There are obviously many more questions that could and should be asked but our choices are clear - we can either continue as we are and accept the risk that our fleet may not be fit for purpose in the future, or we can be visionary and introduce change that reflects what we perceive to be the future needs of CFS.

If you have a view on this subject you are encouraged to provide

feedback to:

Arthur Tindall, CFS Manager
Infrastructure and Logistics,
PO Box 2468, Adelaide, SA 5001

or email tindall.arthur@cfs.sa.gov.au

Adapted from a paper tabled to COAC.



^ The current 34 appliance.
Photo: Sandy Paterson

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23

VOLUNTEER - LOGISTICS & EQUIPMENT

NEW BREATHING AIR COMPRESSORS

LOGISTICS & EQUIPMENT

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

Over the past twelve months the CFS has replaced eight breathing air (BA) compressors around the state with new state-of-the-art Bauer Mini Verticus 3 air compressors supplied, installed and commissioned by Dräger Safety. Draeger won the contract to supply CFS via a tender process.

The CFS brigades who have been supplied with the new BA compressors are Burnside, Clare, Coonalpyn, Dalkeith, Echunga, McLaren Vale, Naracoorte and Roxby Downs.

The BA compressors deliver 250 litres of filtered breathing quality compressed air per minute and are very quiet at only 68dB(A).

Some installations were also fitted with air storage banks to provide an initial 'quick fill' of breathing apparatus cylinders.

Dräger has also recently been awarded the CFS BA compressor servicing contract.

The new BA compressors supplied by Dräger Safety. Photo: Ken Murphy, Service Operations Manager Dräger Safety Pacific Pty Ltd.



CHANGE OF SAGR N PAGING SUB-CONTRACTOR

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

The CFS implemented some minor changes to SAGR N paging services during November and December 2008.

Telstra provides paging to SA (SAGR N) and since 2000 has sub-contracted Link Communications and more recently LinkQ to manage the

infrastructure and the paging services.

As of 30 November 2008 Telstra appointed a new paging sub-contractor, Xacom.

This development has seen very little change for CFS SAGR N pager users, however there are some points worth noting:

- Users can still use the CFS indial paging number 1300 650 840 to send pager messages.
- Airsource paging software and the access to the SAGR N has not changed.
- Operator Assist Services (OAS) has new indial numbers and each

individual user has been notified of their new telephone number.

- The pager repair process has not changed.
- The SAGR N Helpdesk number located on the back of pagers has not changed. It remains **1300 130 495**.

24 VOLUNTEER - LOGISTICS & EQUIPMENT

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



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 - Separate boot compartment
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\$67⁰⁰



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



- ◆ **Drink Bottle Holder:**
- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
 - Holds 8 drink bottles

\$50⁰⁰

\$50⁰⁰

- ◆ **Note Pad & Radio Holder:**
- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas



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MOUNT LOFTY RANGES & KANGAROO ISLAND

>> CFS Volunteer Peter Simpson flies the CFS flag during a trip to the Arctic Circle.

A photograph from last edition of *Volunteer* magazine of CFS Operations Planning Officer Narelle Rawnsley braving freezing conditions in the Antarctic to proudly take a photograph with the CFS flag, seems to have started something.

Volunteers are starting to share pictures from far and wide, with the CFS logo proudly on display.

Narelle's photograph prompted Peter Simpson of the CFS Strathalbyn Brigade to send in a photograph taken during his holiday in the Arctic Circle.

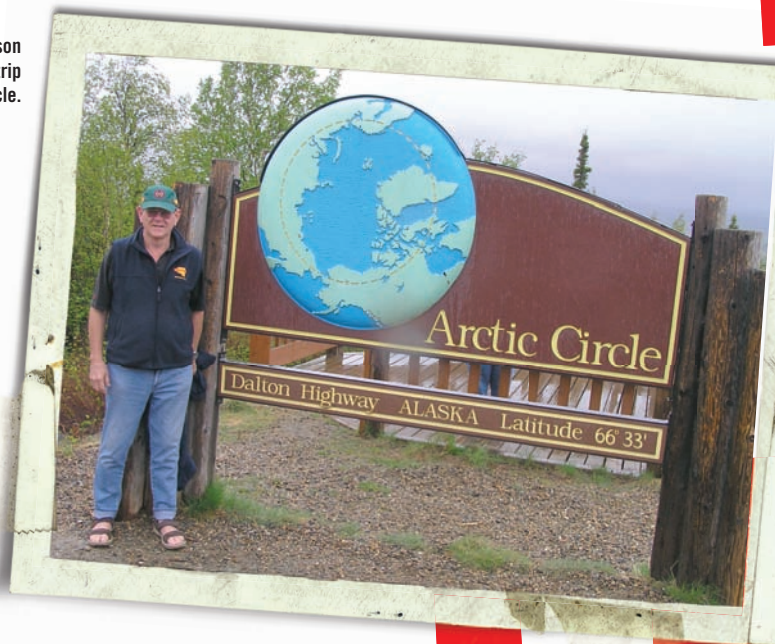
Peter says it just goes to show how much CFS members travel.

He called in at several fire stations to exchange shoulder patches, and is happy to say that he noticed a few patches from other South Australian CFS brigades already on display.

On the coach trip down the Dalton Highway from Coldfoot to Fairbanks, Peter and his wife were told that a fire which started by a lightning strike in 2004 burned 7.2 million hectares in the region.

Peter said, "They just let them burn, as they know that snow is not all that far away."

We'd like to thank Peter for sharing his photograph, and encourage others with similar photographs and stories to send them in to *Volunteer*.



HAPPY VALLEY HOUSE FIRE

On 24 October 2008 CFS crews in Adelaide's south were kept busy by a house fire on Courageous Avenue at Happy Valley. The call came through at 4.32 pm and the job was quickly upgraded to a second alarm.

The house was fully involved when crews arrived and the fire was threatening neighbouring homes.

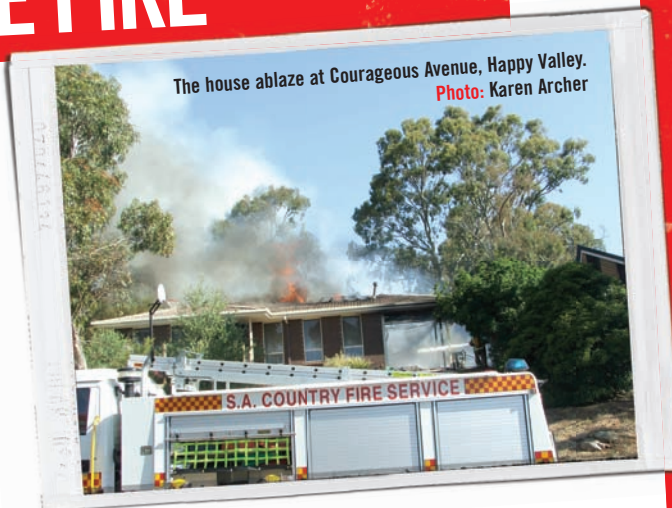
In all, 30 firefighters from five CFS appliances and two MFS appliances worked together to battle the blaze.

The fire burnt through a fence into a neighbour's yard.

Crews isolated the neighbour's gas meter which was on fire and the SA Ambulance Service treated one occupant of the burning home for shock.

Crews used 12 breathing apparatus sets, three high pressure lines and two, 38 mm lines to extinguish the fire.

Fire cause investigators estimated the damage bill to be \$400,000. The fire's cause was undetermined but believed to be accidental.



MILANG'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The CFS Milang Brigade was founded in 1948 and recently marked its 60th anniversary with a community event.

CFS volunteers, past members and local residents attended the brigade's headquarters on Sunday 14 September to celebrate the brigade's history.

CFS Deputy Chief Andrew Lawson presented a commemorative plaque. Service and life membership awards were also handed out.

Historical photos and several old vehicles were on display, including retired appliances that had been rebuilt by brigade members.

HOUSE FIRE AT MASLIN BEACH

Article published in *The Advertiser* on 25 September 2008.

A wooden two-storey house at Maslin Beach has been destroyed by fire and will be demolished.

The blaze began in a front bedroom of the Maslin Ct house just after 10 am, prompting numerous emergency calls.

Callers included the home's owner, who was outside with her grandson when she saw smoke.

The woman went into the house and tried to call 000 but the telephone line was down.

She then went to a neighbour's house where she called 000.



More than 25 CFS and MFS firefighters responded to the call-out, arriving to find the house well ablaze.

They tried to extinguish the fire but it took hold throughout the wooden property, eventually destroying an upper level.

The total damage bill is estimated to be at least \$300,000.



SERVING LOBETHAL FOR 80 YEARS

Past and present Country Fire Service volunteers took part in a community celebration to mark the 80th anniversary of the Lobethal CFS Fire Station on Sunday 14 September 2008.

In its early days, the Lobethal CFS Brigade was run by farmers on the outskirts of the town. Gradually, the town's people donated and raised funds for equipment.

In 1984, the Brigade was relocated to its current site on Post Office Road and new extensions were added two years ago. These days, the station is also shared with local SES volunteers.

CFS Brigade Captain Geoff Weidenhofer said the Lobethal Station has a long, proud history.

"In the last 12 months our volunteers have responded to more than 145 calls in the district.

"The majority of our work involves road crash rescues and we've no doubt come a long way since the early days of this brigade," Mr Weidenhofer says.

The Lobethal Brigade's 80th anniversary celebration included the presentation of long service certificates to volunteers and life membership presentations.

Lobethal's History

It's believed that prior to 1940, the township of Lobethal had two separate fire brigades. One was

organised by the farmers near the outer surrounds of the town called the Lobethal Bush Fire Brigade. It is suggested that the organisation did not have much in the way of equipment, mostly hand tools.

The other fire organisation was run by the townspeople and called the Lobethal Town Brigade, which had a hand drawn hose reel and 80 feet of heavy cotton hose.

In 1940, a young Constable Bob Gregory was posted to Lobethal and brought the two organisations together. He had the Lobethal area proclaimed as a Fire District and paid two pounds for registration which gave legal substance to the volunteer unit. The townspeople then purchased a Studebaker for 40 pounds and modified it to suit their needs. The brigade then converted an ancient Dodge vehicle bought for seven pounds 10 shillings into a pumping unit.

On 29 January 1943 a very large hay stack fire started on the property of Mr J.S. Pfeifer near Woodside and he called the Lobethal Brigade for help. Other brigades were called in from Unley EFS and it took around three hours to extinguish.

The Supervisor of the Lobethal EFS was Mr Ern Dearman who was on the Bush Fire Advisory Committee. He wore the Service Medal of the Order of St John and

was also appointed Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

The first fire station was opened in 1950 which was also used as the vehicle shed for the St John Ambulance Service. In 1984 the brigade moved to where the station is now and in 2006 added another extension.

The first meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary was on the 30 December 1959 and the first President was Mrs W. Ramm.

The Lobethal Brigade has had nine

fire trucks since the first unit. Two of these have been road crash units.

The brigade has 24 active members, five cadets and 21 support members. Over the years, Lobethal has 18 Life Members and 17 National Medal recipients.

In 1986 the brigade lost its longest serving Captain Mr Brian Fox while fighting a fire at the Woolen Mills.

The Lobethal Country Fire Service is a member of the Onkaparinga CFS Group, and attends between 140 and 150 call outs each year.

✓ CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson (centre, left) joins Region 1 staff member Andy Warner and Lobethal past and present members in marking 80 years.
Photo: Kendrea Rhodes



PUPPY RESCUE

By: Matt Bonser, Morphett Vale CFS Lieutenant

The Country Fire Service is often mistaken for an organisation that responds to only one type of incident: fire.

However, as we know, CFS volunteers are regularly called out to help with a variety of situations. A perfect example of this happened at 3 am in the morning on 28 August 2008.

The Morphett Vale CFS Brigade was called out to a report that a puppy was trapped in a drain at the back of a house.

When the brigade arrived, volunteers found that the puppy had indeed fallen into a drain and was stuck about half a metre underground. Firefighters could see

the dog's head sticking through the pipe but couldn't retrieve the puppy.

Morphett Vale CFS consulted with the owner of the house and devised a plan to dig out the entire concrete section surrounding the drain and take the PVC pipe apart.

Hand tools were used to break apart the concrete surrounding the basin, allowing firefighters to dig to the same depth as the dog. The PVC pipe was then broken apart and the puppy was gently removed from the drain. The animal was shaken but not seriously injured.

CFS Incident Controller Matt Bonser said, "This incident highlights the diverse range of incidents that CFS volunteers



^ The puppy rescue in action.

respond to. In this case, volunteers spent nearly two hours in the early hours of the morning to assist the resident and remove the trapped puppy.

"No matter how much training you do, you can never plan or train

for every situation. In this case however, our volunteers showed a very high level of professionalism in dealing with a difficult situation that resulted in a good outcome for the puppy and the resident," he said.



Around 50 years ago, the first fire station of what was then the Aldgate Emergency Fire Service (EFS) was just a double garage.

Trevor Crouch, the President and longest-serving active member of the Aldgate Brigade, can still remember it.

"It had two doors at the front, but they were sliding doors, which slid one in front of the other. It was awkward because we had two trucks, and you couldn't get them both out at once.

"Then they put the lean-to on the back to have a meeting room and a kitchen which consisted just of a sink and a bench, that was your lot," said Trevor.

"I don't know why we didn't all die of food poisoning from the sandwiches that were made there, it certainly wouldn't meet today's standards.

"Then a radio room was built to one side inside the shed, which made it fairly difficult to get the second truck into the garage. The radio room got clobbered quite a few times," said Trevor.

The brigade moved into a new purpose-built \$600,000 station at the end of the first week in September, the very week Trevor Crouch completed 45 years of service.

"What we have now is a far cry from what we had then," he said.

"But we deserve it, and so does every other voluntary organisation

for the time and effort they give to the community."

The new station not only has ample room for the appliances, but also an office, radio room, proper toilets, a spacious training room and a modern kitchen. The roof doesn't leak and there is even a permanent standpipe, which Stirling's tanker has already found useful.

At the launch, Aldgate CFS Brigade Captain Keith Clark said the new station is, "fantastic; they have given us everything we wanted."

Keith also paid tribute to the nearby Church of Christ, which made space available for a temporary fire station while the new one was being built.

He also acknowledged the generosity of the local community, saying, "Without donations from the general public over the years, the brigade would not have had the \$20,000 necessary to build a temporary shed, and to purchase additional land for the new car park."

The brigade held an open day and barbecue in October for the general public and envious neighbouring brigades.

Natasha Huber from the CFS Education Unit gave a Bushfire Blitz information session and answered questions on bushfire safety.

The Aldgate Brigade responds to between 150 and 200 incidents a year, and is always on the lookout for new members.

Aldgate CFS Brigade President Trevor Crouch, who clocked up 45 years of service the same week the new Aldgate Station opened.



The old Aldgate CFS Station last year, before it was replaced.



The new Aldgate CFS Station.

WILLUNGA MARKS 50 YEARS

A rich history spanning half a century was marked on Sunday 28 September 2008 at the Willunga CFS Station.

The Willunga Brigade in the Adelaide Hills formed in 1958 as a result of devastating fires in the region.

The town committee met to discuss the potential for further serious fires to hit the Willunga area and decided a CFS brigade should be formed to give the community adequate fire protection.

Fifty years on, the Willunga community is still benefiting from this foresight. This was none more evident than during the Willunga bushfire in March last year.

CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson attended the 50 year celebrations, and said the Willunga Brigade has always been willing to help people beyond the local community.

Euan said, "Over the last half century, members of the Willunga Brigade have assisted with large bushfires threatening other communities across the state and the nation.

"Time and time again they have put their own lives on hold to battle fires far from home such as in Sydney, Wangary and Kangaroo Island.

"Their willingness to constantly put others before themselves epitomises the spirit of a CFS volunteer," Euan said.

The Willunga CFS Brigade Captain Mark Gloster said, "Members old and new were there to thank the community for their support over the years, and help people better understand the role of CFS volunteers".

CFS mascot Smokey the koala helped out on the day, and there were several CFS appliances from the brigade's history on display.



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

By: Paul Walsh, Strathalbyn CFS

Every two hours someone loses their life to blood cancer. Currently, 30,000 Australians are living with one of these cancers and only four out of 10 adults survive a leukemia diagnosis.

These startling statistics prompted the Strathalbyn CFS Brigade to take part in the Leukemia Foundation's fundraising event, The World's Greatest Shave.

The brigade was recently presented with an award by the Leukemia Foundation for being in the top 30 fundraisers in the 2008 World's Greatest Shave event.

In fact, the brigade raised over \$9,500 and was rated the 13th highest fundraiser in all of South Australia and the Northern Territory.

The event was held on the verandah of the Remax building in

Dawson St. Twenty people including Mayor Kym McHugh and councillor Trent Rusby had their heads shaved.

Another 21, including councillor Anne Woolford, had their heads coloured and/or waxed. There were some very strange sights to be seen about the town that day! Who would have thought that fundraising could be so much fun?

The Strathalbyn CFS thanks all who raised funds at their workplaces, and their families and friends who kindly donated.

The Leukemia Foundation has a vision to cure, and a mission to care. All who took part in the fundraising event greatly assisted this cause.

A big thank you must go to our fantastic volunteer hairdressers Rebecca Shean and Tonya Scott who demonstrated amazing creativity



^ Back row, L to R: Kerri Taylor, Mariska Threadgold, Greg Pfeiffer, Paul Walsh (with a double mohawk that was shaved off as soon as he got home), Don Maddern, Mal Yeates, Simon Patterson, Andrew Patterson, Andrew Mephram, Mary Drinkwater. Front row, L to R: Andrew Begg, Lorraine McVitty, Brenton Scott, Jasmine Hammond.

while toiling away under very trying conditions.

Another big thanks to our sponsors Woolworths, Strathalbyn Pharmacies,

Strathalbyn Hair Fashions and Remax.

The next World's Greatest Shave event isn't far away. The Strathalbyn Brigade highly recommends taking part.

PEDAL PRIX

By: Sara Pulford, BAO/Group Cadet Coordinator, Coromandel Valley CFS Brigade

Over the weekend of September 20-21, Sturt CFS Group Cadets took part in the Annual HPV Pedal Prix race at Murray Bridge.

The race, which lasts 24 hours from midday Saturday to midday Sunday, is an endurance race for human powered vehicles and their riders.

There were around 250 vehicles racing together during the event, which were grouped into one of four age range categories.

Although they take many shapes and range from quite simple to the high-tech, all the vehicles are essentially an enclosed, recumbent bike.

Our team's entry was the culmination of over two years of planning. We first had to apply for

a change in the rules to allow a non-school group to compete in the under-16 race category. The team gained sponsorship from many local businesses as well as support from within all levels of the CFS.

Our racing vehicle, which we named 'Wildfire', was kindly donated to us by Westbourne Park Primary School. The cadets, guided by Group Cadet Coordinator Sara Pulford's husband Terry, redesigned and rebuilt the vehicle in a series of workshops over the winter months. The team was also mentored by Alex Moncrieff from the experienced Coromandel Valley Primary School Team.

Our team of 12 riders finally finished 46th in our category (out of 67), 135th overall and completed 260

laps, meaning the cadets pedalled 559 kilometres in the 24 hours.

We also achieved second place in the 'Best Presented Team' competition, judged on the quality of the vehicle, the pits and the team themselves.

This is a fantastic result for a first attempt, which we could not have achieved without the support and enthusiasm of all the cadet leaders, the parents and the cadets themselves – we will look to doing even better next year!

>> Cadet Kane McCann is flagged across the finish line by Glen Dix, famous for waving the flag at every Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide.

v Front row (L to R): Sara Pulford, Sam Speak, Devin Langford, Kane McCann, Matthew Maloney. Middle row (L to R): Jake Size, Keeley Bryan, Megan Mitchell, Daniel Riddell, Jesse Luter, Jaryd Opie, Terry Pulford. Back row (L to R): Mark Size, Tom Pulford, Charlie Harris, Isaac Eckermann, Jim Pulford, Rick Philp, Aaron Bentley, Janita Bentley.



OLD NOARLUNGA HOUSE FIRE

CFS crews were challenged by a fire that destroyed a house in Loud Street at Old Noarlunga.

The damage bill was more than \$250,000 and the cause is thought to have been suspicious.

Crews managed to stop the intense fire from spreading to nearby homes and property.

A volunteer captured several photographs during the fire fight.



OLD NOARLUNGA SHED FIRE

Upon arrival at Trim Crescent, Old Noarlunga, firefighters found a five by eight metre shed alight which contained a car and a boat.

There was little that firefighters could do but engage in defensive fire fighting as the shed contained four LPG cylinders and some stored ammunition.

Two CFS and two Metropolitan



Fire Service appliances attended this incident.

The damage bill was estimated to be about \$50,000, and the cause undetermined.

PASKEVILLE HAY SHED FIRE

The massive hay shed fire burned for several days and was too intense for firefighters or fire investigators to get close to.

>> CFS Incident Controller John Hutchins of Region 2 addresses local and Adelaide media at the Paskeville fire.



A view of the Paskeville hay shed fire during the day.



In August a devastating arson attack at a Paskeville hay company left an estimated damage bill of between \$10 and \$15 million. At the height of the fire, 60 CFS volunteers responded. Volunteers continued to work in shifts for several days ensuring the fire safely burnt itself out.

It was another example of the typical selfless, enthusiastic CFS volunteer spirit on display. MFS Fire Investigators assisted the CFS by attending the fire to determine its cause, but the blaze was too big and too dangerous to get close enough to. Finally, on 3 August the CFS handed

control of the fire scene back to SP Hay. The company supplied hay to about 100 local farmers, meaning the fire will have a lasting impact on the local community. SP Hay has promised to help relocate affected workers to its plant in Western Australia while the export plant at Paskeville is rebuilt.

NEW FREELING APPLIANCES

By: Liz McLaughlin, Freeling CFS

Freeling CFS members were thrilled to receive two new vehicles in August. The Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Michael Wright attended the Freeling CFS Station to commission the appliances.

Minister Wright was joined by CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson in presenting the keys for the new Freeling 34 and Freeling Quick Attack vehicles to the Freeling CFS Captain, Paul Lucantoni.

After the official ceremony, service awards were presented to Freeling CFS members by Minister Wright.

Other officials who attended the occasion included the Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP, CFS Region 2 Commander John Hutchins, Light Group Officer Peter Kemp and Light Regional Council Mayor Robert Hornsey.

Visitors and members were welcomed by Chairman Graeme Seymon. Once the official business

Freeling CFS Brigade members celebrate their new vehicles with the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Michael Wright, Member for Light Tony Piccolo, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, CFS Region 2 Commander John Hutchins and Light Mayor Robert Hornsey.



>> Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Michael Wright and CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson present the keys to Freeling CFS Captain, Paul Lucantoni.



was over, brigade members excitedly inspected their new vehicles and joined the special visitors in having afternoon tea.

PORT VINCENT'S 50TH

Port Vincent CFS Brigade members marked its 50th Birthday at their station on Sunday 19 October, 2008.

Past and present brigade members and their families reunited on the day to share the brigade's half-century milestone.

Brigade memorabilia and historical items were on display and all enjoyed a wonderful meal that was prepared by Krysia George.

The brigade presented Ralph Crouch with two shillings in a frame. The coin once belonged to Ralph and was the first donation which led to the opening of the brigade's cheque account all those years ago.

Ralph, the Inaugural Brigade Secretary then cut the 50th Birthday cake with the help of his grandson, Sam Cosh, who is the youngest member of the brigade.

>> CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson presents Port Vincent CFS Brigade Captain Stephen Kolla with the brigade's 50th anniversary plaque.



HOUSE FIRE AT REMLAP PROPERTY IN PALMER

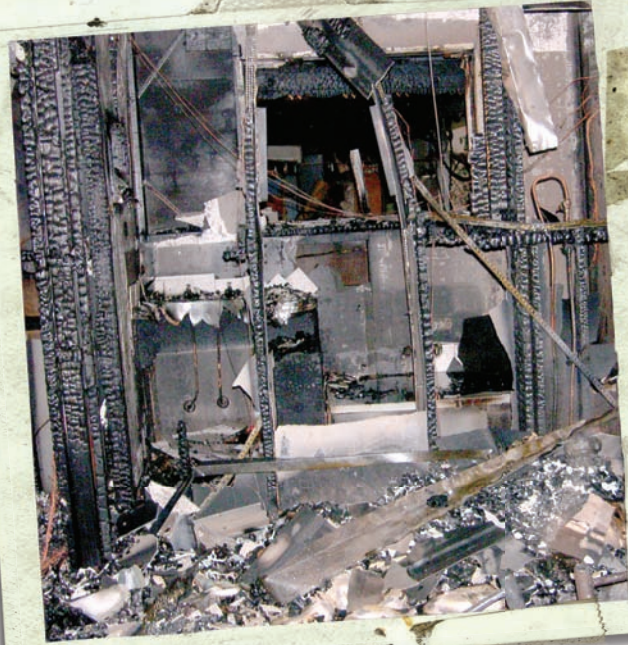
CFS volunteers from Palmer, Mannum and Murray Bridge responded to a house fire at Palmer on Sunday 17 August 2008 at 6:40 pm. On arrival, brigades found the family home on the Remlap property engulfed in flames.

More than 25 firefighters, some wearing breathing apparatus took around 30 minutes to contain the fire. The home had extensive smoke and heat damage and Fire Cause

Investigators were called in to determine the cause.

The fire started in a front bedroom of the house and was ignited by combustible materials left too close to an electric heater. The damage bill was \$300,000.

The fire highlights the dangers of leaving heaters unattended and placing combustible materials close to heaters.



^ The house on the Remlap property in Palmer sustained extensive damage.

Photo: Dawn Hunter

CFS WAIKERIE VOLUNTEERS

TAKE TOP PRIZES AT NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE CHAMPIONSHIPS THE RIVER TIMES

The Waikerie CFS team, along with members of the Nuriootpa CFS team, have proven that Waikerie residents are in safe hands after winning numerous trophies at the recent NSW Rural Fire Service Championships.

After two days of fast-paced competition against the top 14 CFS teams in the NSW region, the Waikerie/Nuriootpa team came away with 'Best Visiting State Team', First in the 'Disaster or fire on a House boat' drill, and Third in the 'Pump and Ladder' drill.

The Championships saw more than 200 of the country's best fire-fighters from NSW, Queensland, South Australia and the ACT competing in a variety of skills-based drills.

Rural Fire Service (RFS) State

Commissioner, Shane Fitzsimmons, said each of the teams were put through their paces in events including defensive structural fire fighting, tanker driving, navigation, equipment use, teamwork and emergency response.

This year's State Championships featured a water-based event for the first time, which the Waikerie CFS team won, with crews having to respond by fireboat to a mock fire on board a house boat.

"Events such as this show how versatile our members are. We respond to bush fires, structure fires, search and rescues and motor vehicle accidents and these mock scenarios reflect the real-life experiences our crews deal with," Mr Fitzsimmons said.



^ The Waikerie/Nuriootpa CFS team with their \$5,000 worth of trophies were (from left) David Allen, Michael Furnell, David Mustard, Graeme Ward, Michael Sheppard, Todd Filmer and Group Officer Rex Kemp.

Photo: The River Times

FAREWELL AND WELCOME REGION 3 REGIONAL COMMANDER

In April this year staff and volunteers from Region 3 farewelled Regional Commander Chris Martin after nearly seven years in Region 3. Chris left the post to take up the position of Region 1 Regional Commander.

A farewell function was held for

Chris at Region 3 headquarters. CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson was in attendance along with a large number of volunteers who took the opportunity to wish Chris farewell and to thank him for his valuable contribution to the region. Chris was presented with

a framed photograph of the Region 3 IMT POD which was regarded as one of Chris' great achievements for the region.

On 18 August 2008 the region welcomed a new Regional Commander, Richard Coombe. Prior to taking up the

appointment Richard was the Manager of Assets and Infrastructure for the SES. He has been a CFS volunteer for 10 years and is a Lieutenant with Meadows CFS. The staff and volunteers in Region 3 look forward to working with Richard.



MORGAN FIELD DAY

In August Region 3 held its bi-annual Field Day at Morgan, with the Mid Murray CFS Group hosting the event.

The day consisted of five exercises set around the theme of 'New Technology in Changing Times'. The drills were designed for all skill levels to ensure all members were able to learn and enjoy the drills in a non-competitive environment.

Hybrid Vehicles

With the evolution of the motor vehicle industry, hybrid vehicles are becoming more prominent. This session, facilitated by Graeme Hancock, Road Accident Rescue Training Officer, provided trainees with a basic overview of the safety issues surrounding hybrid vehicles such as battery isolation difficulties, leakages and the risk of fire.

Floating Pumps

The current water conditions have led to brigades accessing floating pumps. This drill enabled participants to learn more about the pumps and covered topics such as setting up the pump, draughting using floating pumps and general pump maintenance and safety. The facilitators were Chris Bond, Walker Flat CFS and Steve Hein, Mypolonga CFS, with assistance from the Cadell CFS Brigade.

Atmospheric Monitoring

This session, facilitated by Tanya Wutke, Hazmat Training Officer, provided a demonstration of the Mercury Spill Kit and Sampling Kits.

Wildfire Investigation

As wildfire investigation is an integral part of the CFS, this exercise was aimed at skills demonstration and information sharing regarding the role of a Wildfire Investigator. Session outcomes for participants were to develop a better understanding of the importance of scene preservation, how to respond fire investigators to a fire scene and rudimentary fire investigation

techniques. Facilitators were Ray Jackson, Prevention Officer CFS Region 3 Headquarters and Wayne Thorley, Swanport Group Officer.

Navigation

This exercise was based on the 'Navigate in Rural Environments' course and participants were involved in navigation using maps and compasses. Key points of the exercise were identification of locations, map features and navigating a route between two points. The facilitators were Michael Mathew and Robin Geytenbeek, State Training Officers – Rural Team from the State Training Centre at Brukunga.

Sixteen brigades attended the day: Barmera, Wunkar, Morgan, Brown's Well, Monash, Murray Bridge, Blanchetown, Mannum, Cadell, Eastern Districts, Bowhill, Palmer, Walker Flat, Moorook, Waikerie and Meningie.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson also attended along with Arthur Tindall, Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, Brenton Eden, Manager Training and Lee Watson, State Training Officer Quality Systems and Professional Development.

There were also representatives from other agencies including Sandra Russell, Department of Correctional Service Cadell Training Centre and Bryan Ward, SA Ambulance Service. Wendy Shirley also attended representing the CFS Volunteer Association.

The Salvation Army Field Van catered for the event providing hot meals and desserts in the field. Region 3 commends the work done by John Dunkley and his team of volunteers that ran the van on the day.

The Region 3 Field Day was a great success thanks to everyone who attended and the many hours and dedication put in by the organising committee consisting of Region 3 staff and volunteers from the Mid Murray Group.



<< Participants tackling the navigation exercise.



^ There was an impressive turnout from across the region for the Field Day.

NEW PINNAROO CFS VEHICLES

The Pinnaroo CFS took delivery of two new vehicles in October. One was a six wheel bogey-drive Land Cruiser and the other a modified milk tanker capable of holding 17,000 litres of water.

The Land Cruiser is a prototype quick attack appliance which can hold 1,000 litres of water.

The quick attack appliance will predominately be used for national parks fires and is also part of a new CFS strategy to get trucks rolling

quickly with fewer crew.

The Land Cruiser vehicle replaces a 34 appliance, a 3,000 litre 4WD which has been kept as a spare regional vehicle.

The milk tanker will be used in minimal water supply areas. It has a 5,000 litre collar dam, a large piece of tarp which holds 5,000 litres of water. The modified milk tanker can be used in association with aerial support.



Pinnaroo CFS new prototype quick attack appliance.
 Photo: Sandy Paterson



NEPABUNNA CFS RECEIVE THEIR FIRE APPLIANCE

By: Peter Shalley, Volunteer Support Officer, Region 4

Some of the Nepabunna CFS Brigade volunteers who took part in the day's events. L to R: Wade Johnson, Dulcie Wilton, Judy Johnson, Geraldine Johnson, Kelvin Johnson (Bridge Captain) and Ian Johnson.

On Saturday 25 October 2008 the Nepabunna CFS Brigade officially became the newest functional CFS brigade in Region 4 taking receipt of their new 24 fire appliance. It was handed over by Sandy Paterson, CFS Manager Vehicles and Equipment, representing CFS headquarters and Bluey Devine, Acting Regional Commander, Region 4.

As well as the hand over of the appliance, the volunteers from the Nepabunna CFS Brigade were provided with appliance training by Nik Ludborz, Region 4 Regional Prevention Officer and Lindsay Hincks, CFS OHS&W Officer. Nik and Lindsay were assisted by five volunteers from the Stirling North CFS Brigade.

One of the skills practised on the day was the use of the foam branch. This caused a small area of the community to resemble a scene from a snowfield, not a common occurrence for this community in the heart of the Flinders Ranges!

On this landmark day for the Nepabunna CFS Brigade the volunteers not only received their appliance but also were presented with their Personal Protective Clothing (PPC).

The day was an excellent opportunity for the Nepabunna and the Stirling North Brigades to establish a professional and social relationship, and was so successful that more training events are being organised for the future.



NEW JOINT CFS AND SES FACILITIES

On Sunday 3 August 2008, CFS and State Emergency Service (SES) officially opened two new state of the art facilities in the state's north at Booleroo Centre and Hallett.

The Booleroo Centre CFS/SES facility, established over 20 years ago, has a combined membership of approximately 49 emergency service volunteers, with many of the volunteers working across both organisations.

Similarly the 41 emergency service volunteers, who came together in late 2007 at the Hallett facility, also work across both the CFS and the SES.

The two services have developed a close working relationship, responding to hundreds of emergency incidents, which have been of great benefit to the local community.

The new CFS/SES facilities at both Booleroo and Hallett provide both

organisations with modern facilities which will allow them to provide a greater level of emergency support to the local and much wider community.

Both facilities have the operational capacity to become incident control centres and are valued at \$730, 000.

Euan said it is excellent to see the initiative come to fruition and was a true example of partnerships within the community.

"Together CFS and SES provide emergency response to fires, road accidents, storm damage and many other emergency incidents which occur in the Booleroo Centre and Hallett local area. These new facilities will provide the resources and support necessary for our emergency service volunteers to continue to play a vital role in the community," said Euan.

^ The new CFS/SES Booleroo Centre Station.
Photo: Karina Loxton



✓ Hallett's new joint CFS/SES facility.
Photo: Karina Loxton



REMOVABLE MAGNETIC LABELS FOR VEHICLES ON THE FIREGROUND

By: Bluey Devine, Regional Operations Planning Officer, Region 4

>> An example of the UHF 9 magnetic label to be used by appliances and command vehicles on the fireground in Region 4.



Debrief information obtained over the last few years following major incidents has lead to the CFS Region 4 implementing one ultra-high frequency (UHF) citizens band (CB) fireground channel across the region for the 2008/09 fire season.

It had been established that consistently at rural incidents communication issues have been evident between CFS, farm units, local government and heavy machinery operators in relation to UHF (CB) usage on the fireground.

In an attempt to improve communication on UHF (CB) during

fires, CFS Region 4 has established a single UHF (CB) fireground channel which will be UHF 9. In the case where two or more fires may occur in the same area at the same time, secondary UHF channels, UHF 19 and UHF 29, will be utilised.

All CFS appliances and command vehicles in Region 4 will display removable magnetic UHF 9 labels on the doors to assist in informing others on the fireground. If appliances are responded out of Region 4 or if a secondary UHF channel is being used, the magnetic labels will be removed to avoid confusion to others on the fireground.

GEORGETOWN CFS RECEIVE A HELPING HAND FROM STUDENTS

By: Bluey Devine, Regional Operations Planning Officer, Region 4

Community spirit is well and truly alive in Georgetown. The local CFS brigade, which has strong ties with the Georgetown Primary School, has been able to raise awareness and educate the local school students about the fire danger season thanks to an interactive competition.

The competition, which commenced prior to the fire danger season, encouraged Georgetown Primary School students to design total fire ban signs.

All the designs were then judged and the top two were painted onto a sign by the students.

On Tuesday 9 December 2008 the Georgetown CFS Brigade visited the Georgetown Primary School where they were presented with the total fire ban sign.

The new sign will be placed in Main Street at Georgetown on total fire ban days to alert the community.

Ironically, less than an hour after Georgetown CFS took ownership of the new sign they responded to a fully involved shed fire in the township. Their quick actions prevented the spread of the fire which caused \$30,000 damage.

SKILLS MAINTENANCE DRILL

By: Geoff Slee, Mt Remarkable Group Officer, Region 4



Many of the 56 volunteers who participated in the skills maintenance drill.

Photo: Geoff Slee

Many volunteers and staff in Region 4 have been busy preparing for the fire danger season with a range of activities conducted during the last half of 2008.

On Monday 20 October 2008 eight appliances and 56 firefighters from

the Mount Remarkable CFS Group converged on the Melrose Oval in Melrose for their annual Skills Maintenance Drill.

Group Training Officer, Wendy Martin, congratulated the brigades from Appila, Booleroo Centre, Mambray Creek, Melrose, Port Germein, Wilmington, Wirrabara and Wirrabara Forest on their commitment and performance.

Sunday 26 October 2008 and Sunday 16 November 2008 saw 18 vehicles and over 68 CFS volunteers from the Bundaleer, Spencer, Mount Remarkable and Flinders CFS Groups complete their annual Fire Track Inspections through the Beetaloo Valley, Wirrabara Forest and Dutchmans Stern areas.



Georgetown CFS Brigade members with Georgetown Primary School students and the new total fire ban sign.
Photo: Meredith Appleyard (Flinders News)

FORESTRYSA DONATES A BULK WATER CARRIER

An official handover of a 9,000 litre, six-wheel drive Mercedes bulk water carrier (BWC) from ForestrySA to CFS took place at Wirrabara Forest in August.

Islay Robertson, from ForestrySA handed over the keys to the BWC to Mt Remarkable Group Officer, Geoff Slee.

The BWC will be housed at the Melrose CFS Station.

ForestrySA are replacing the 9,000 litre BWC with a 13,000 litre BWC that will operate out of Jamestown. This new larger BWC will also be made available to CFS should there be a significant local incident that requires it.

<< The 9,000 litre bulk water carrier donated from ForestrySA.
Photo: Pete Shalley



PENOLA CFS READY WITH A NEW TRUCK

By: Naracoorte Herald

Article published in Naracoorte Herald, 18 September 2008.

WATTLE Range residents can expect a quicker response now that Penola CFS has a new truck.

The \$250,000 Isuzu truck can travel up to 10 km per hour faster than the old one, according to Penola Brigade Captain John Rymill.

The truck comes after only four years service from the old vehicle which will be refurbished and sent to another CFS brigade in the region.

"The old truck is still very decent but the new Isuzu is definitely a class above," John said.

"The best feature on the truck would have to be the halo system. When it gets too hot outside, the truck sprinkler system on top of the truck kicks in." The truck also holds 3,000 litres of water and has much more storage space.

Roller doors run the length of the vehicle and allow maximum storage and easy access to tools.

The whole fire crew took part in a training session on September 9 2008 and learnt all of the basics.

Penola volunteer firefighter, Braeden Mustart said, "It is definitely a lot better than the old one and will give us that extra 10 per cent during an emergency.

"Once we rode into flames with the old truck and then it got pretty hot and it was pretty scary. With the new one we will be confident enough to do that every day of the week."

The new unit is a boost to the morale of Penola CFS and will help them to cover the whole Wattle Range district.



▲ The new and improved Penola truck.

LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES

PERFORM WELL IN MOCK EXERCISE

By: Border Watch, Mt Gambier

Article published in Border Watch, 15 October 2008.



▲ Volunteers involved with the exercise in Mt Gambier. Photo: Margaret Ludwig

EMERGENCY services were called to a plane crash at the Mount Gambier Airport on the morning of Sunday 12 October, which spiralled into a missing person search.

That was the scenario that faced emergency services crews from South Australia Police, South Australia Ambulance Service, Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and the State Emergency Service when they headed to the airport for a training exercise in conjunction with airport personnel.

A simulated scenario had a plane

landing but veering off the runway and bursting into flames. While all passengers survived the light plane crash, one fled the scene after becoming violent towards a second passenger, the Federal Treasurer. Another passenger also went missing, sparking a police search.

Ambulance officers attended to the passengers, while MFS and CFS crews battled the blaze.

Exercise Director and SAPOL South East Superintendent, Trevor Twilley said the response produced pleasing results.

"It went very well, I was very happy

with the results," Supt Twilley said.

The crews responded in real time to the scenario, with MFS South East Regional Manager, George Rodis also praising the efforts of all involved, but did point out small improvements could be made.

"All went well and I think every outfit probably identified some small deficiencies," Mr Rodis said.

The scenario was designed as part of a Civil Aviation Safety Authority requirement, which requires scenarios such as this to be staged at least every two years.

ABC SOUTH EAST RADIO BROADCAST FROM REGION 5

On 23 October 2008 the Region 5 Training Centre was converted into a temporary studio and Region 5 staff opened their doors to the team from the ABC South East morning radio show.

For two and a half hours the morning show, hosted by Alan Robertson, went behind the scenes of the Region 5 training centre and gave the show's listeners an opportunity to learn more about the CFS in the South East.

Topics covered included interviews with Region 5 Regional Commander Brett Merritt on the issues surrounding bushfire prevention and preparations for the fire danger season.

The Region 5 Regional Training Officer Scott Murray took the morning show crew on a tour of the training centre and Community Education Officer Vicki Hann discussed raising awareness and

educating the local community about being 'Bushfire Ready'.

Two local cadet volunteers also had the opportunity to have a chat with Alan about what it means to be a volunteer with the CFS.

Other guests who visited the training centre to appear on the show were representatives from SAPOL, who discussed policing breaches relating to fire and public awareness and local landowner,

By: Brett Merritt

Joe Hole who is also a CFS Group Officer from the Naracoorte Group, spoke about how to prepare for the fire danger season around the farm.

Residents in the South East were also given the opportunity to call in and ask questions.

The broadcast was a great success and raised awareness of the CFS in the South East and helped to build relationships with the local media.



NEW FACILITY OPENS AT CUMMINS

By: Russell Branson, Cummins Brigade Captain and Darren Rule, Cummins Administration Officer

Staff and volunteers in Region 6 officially opened a new facility in the state's west at Cummins housing the Lower Eyre Peninsula Group Centre and the Cummins Brigade Station.

The facility, complete with three vehicle bays and all the features of a group centre took 15 months to build and is valued at approximately \$670,000.

Additional features of the facility include a locker and storage room that were built thanks to fundraising by CFS Cummins volunteers in conjunction with the business Smorgon Great Scrap Round Up, who raised in excess of \$6,000.

The launch of the facility was well attended with Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC, previous Minister for Emergency Services, along with Kevin May, Region 6 Commander, Barry Hetherington, Group Officer Lower Eyre Peninsula Group and Russell Branson, Captain Cummins Brigade commemorating the opening.

One hundred and fifty people celebrated the facility opening with a group BBQ and the presentation of several volunteer certificates of service, including some for 30 plus years of service.

>>
L to R: Russell Branson, Cummins Brigade Captain, Kevin May, Region 6 Commander, Barry Hetherington, Group Officer Lower Eyre Peninsula Group and Hon. Carmel Zollo MLC, (previously Minister for Emergency Services).



CFS PARTICIPATE IN CLEVE FIELD DAYS

By: Therese Pedler, CFS Community Education Officer, Region 6

During August the region of Cleve, on the central Eyre Peninsula between Pt Lincoln and Pt Augusta, came alive with a series of Field Days. The area with a usual population of 1,000 boomed across the period with 8,000 people attending the Field Days.

The bi-annual Cleve Field Days, which are run on alternate years to the Yorke Peninsula Field Days at Paskerville, are well-loved

community events that CFS Regions 6 and 2 participate in every year.

At this year's Cleve Field Day the CFS was involved with the Yellow Brick Road trail with a focus on community education.

The CFS tent included an eye-catching cubby house highlighting features of a 'Bushfire Ready' home as well as some aspects that were clearly not 'Bushfire Ready', such as gutters with leaves and inappropriately placed plastic furniture.

Those who attended the tent were given the opportunity to answer a few 'Bushfire Ready' questions and go into the draw to win a bucket of 'Bushfire Ready' products, including a fire blanket, smoke alarm and an extinguisher.

The colourful cubby and the fruit boxes for the Yellow Brick Road show bag drew in crowds of children and proved to be an excellent way to engage with the local community and communicate the vital 'Bushfire Ready' messages.



^ CFS 'Bushfire Ready' cubby house at the Cleve Field Day.

CUMMINS VOLUNTEER EMPLOYERS RECOGNISED

By: Darren Rule, Cummins Administration Officer

In August the Cummins CFS acknowledged a special group of local business people who employ, and in some cases are, CFS volunteers.

Certificates of recognition were presented at the newly refurbished Cummins Brigade Station to thank the employers for years of support for CFS by allowing their employees to leave work and attend to callouts in the local area.

Those recognised were:

- Mark Dickinson - Landmark Cummins
- Gordon Modra - GW Modra and Co

- Shane Fuss - CW Fuss and Son
- Robbie Slater - RJ Slater and Co
- Bev Branson - Thrifty Link Hardware

- Jill Wedd - Trigg and Wedd Cummins.



L to R: Mark Dickinson, Gordon Modra, Bev Branson, Shane Fuss, Jill Wedd and Robbie Slater.

FAREWELL SIMON VOGEL

By: Kevin May, Regional Commander

Region 6 headquarters said a sad farewell to our Regional Operations Planning Officer, Simon Vogel in October. After many years with the CFS Simon has taken up a position with the Fire and Emergency Services Authority of Western Australia.

Simon will be the Area Manager of the Great Southern Region based at Narrogin, 200 km South East of Perth.

Region 6 personnel and volunteers wish Simon, Tanya, Corey and Hayley all the best for the future and their new life in WA.

FACES IN THE CROWD

FIGHTING THE GOOD FIGHT

This excerpt and photograph was published in the Summer 2007 issue of Barossa Living and has been kindly provided by Barossa Living to feature in this issue of Volunteer.

In the depths of a bushfire, blanketed in thick choking smoke, fighting a wall of flame there is little time to be scared.

Most of us will be lucky enough never to get that close, but in his 51 years with the Country Fire Service (CFS) John Atze knows better than most what it's like.

"It's certainly not fun," John says. "We all acknowledge that it can be frightening, especially with a big bushfire, but your training kicks in pretty quickly and you get to work.

"We are well drilled so it should never be life threatening.

"You watch out for each other and never let anyone risk their life and do something stupid — life comes first."

John started as a CFS cadet in 1956 when he was just 14. He became a firefighter two years later and has been a volunteer with the Nuriootpa CFS ever since. He was also Captain of the Nuriootpa Brigade from 1986 until July this year when he stood down.

"I grew up on a vineyard block and my Dad preferred that I spend my Saturday's pruning rather than playing footy," John said. "But he was very supportive of me joining the CFS because he knew how valuable it is to the community."

His commitment to the CFS saw him presented with an Australian Fire Services Medal by the Governor in 2002 as a part of Australia Day celebrations.

"It was a nice accolade to get," he said. "But it is really about the team and the unit.

"There is a real camaraderie amongst CFS volunteers. You spend a lot of time together, we have a couple of hours' training every week and once you have fought a fire with someone there is a special bond.

"You are relying on them to follow their training and watch your back."

In the hard times the brigade pulls together.

"There are times when it gets tough. After a bad car accident or a fire with a fatality is never easy.

"But we make sure that we have a

debrief back at the station and talk about it. You have to. Everyone knows that it is OK to cry if that's what you need to do.

"There is always counselling services available and we encourage all of our firefighters to talk about things rather than bottle them up."

While there is undoubtedly some challenging times as a CFS volunteer, the good outweighs the bad.

"We have a bit of fun. There is a strong social club and we tend to have a couple of beers after training.

"You get to know a lot of different people from the community and meet some guys from other brigades around the state."

However, with the competing demands on young people these days of family, sport and social occasions it's getting harder to find volunteers, according to John.

"Nuri has sufficient numbers, but ideally we could use six more," he said. "Everyone has a busy life these days, but it is a really rewarding thing to do, and vital for the community."

CFS volunteers are made up of young and old, men and women, tradesmen and pencil pushers, students and farmers. Anyone over 16 with a basic level of fitness can join.

"We adhere to occupational health and safety standards, and make sure that everyone is given a role they are capable of," he said. "We have three female firefighters and three female cadets here at Nuriootpa who do a great job."

The support of family and employers is a vital aspect of the success of any CFS crew.

"The employers of our volunteers are very understanding, which is essential because we need to drop tools and respond to a call at any time.

"That also goes for our families. We wouldn't be able to provide this vital community service for everyone else's families without the support of our own."

According to John, CFS firefighting is no different to the lives of metropolitan

firemen and firewomen, although there is no brass pole to slide down.

"We carry a pager with us 24 hours a day and we can get called out at any time," he says. "If someone rings 000 the call goes through to CFS headquarters, they take down the details and page everyone in the appropriate brigade.

"Anyone who can respond will do so and once we have a crew of six, we leave headquarters.

"The average response time is four to five minutes from the time we get

the page until the first truck leaves the station."

At 65, John could be forgiven for hanging up the overalls and leaving the firefighting to younger blood.

"I still do alright, so I'll keep going for a while yet. There are some good young guys and girls here and I'll pass on what I know to them.

"I've been involved in the CFS pretty much my whole life, it's been really rewarding and while I'm still healthy I'd like to keep contributing to the community."



^ Ready for action... firefighter John Atze.
Photo: Barossa Living, Summer 2007



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VOLUNTEER - FACES IN THE CROWD

THANKYOU CFS

Fire victims say 'Thanks'

THE residents of a home burnt out on Range Road when bushfires swept through Willunga have thanked the community for their assistance.

Natalie Cunningham, Stuart Haines and their children were renting the property from Donna and Jeff Tapfield and family when the fire occurred.

Although the home was lost, the families have paid tribute to the fire fighters.

"We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the CFS for risking their lives fighting this ferocious fire and are ever thankful no lives were lost," Donna Tapfield said.

"We have sent donations to the CFS and have encouraged everyone else to do the same.

"We have been overcome by the love and concern from our community and their desire to help us in any way they can."

Excerpt from a Thank You letter published in *On the Coast*, 1 June 2008.



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VOLUNTEER - THANK YOU

DVD Congratulations

Dear Euan, I was wondering if you could pass on my congratulations to all involved in putting together this year's 'Bushfire Ready Campaign'.

I think the campaign this year has stood out from past years with the inclusion of a very professional and informative DVD to complement the bushfire action plan. It really brings to life what is required to become bushfire ready.

Brenton Ragless has done a sterling job as usual in the video and the inclusion of real residents and firefighters has added a nice personal touch.

The messages are clear, informative, thought-provoking and are a real call to action for all residents.

My experience is that the vast majority of residents are either totally unaware of the dangers of bushfires or they are very complacent thinking it won't happen to them.

We as a service continue to have a huge challenge to promote and educate residents on being bushfire ready and this campaign is a huge leap forward in terms of education and awareness.

Well done to all involved in pulling together this campaign. This compliments the work of the frontline firefighters which makes CFS an organisation for which we can be truly proud of.

Regards,
Jason Sabeeney
Captain – Mount Pleasant CFS Brigade.



Family Thanks

Following the loss of our home [in Kingston] as a result of a house fire I would like to thank everyone who donated food, clothes, toys etc for Tyler and myself.

The support was overwhelming and we really appreciate the generosity of many people – especially the two girls unknown to us who just after the fire gave some toys for Tyler. Your

compassion was so much appreciated.

Thanks to the CFS which tried to save as much as they could. Your dedication to your job has allowed me to have a

few happy memories in the form of photos of my son's first few years.

CARLY and TYLER McPEAKE, Mt Gambier
An excerpt from a letter published in *The Coastal Leader*, 9 October 2008.

PHAMOUS PHOTOS



CFS Volunteer Peter Simpson flies the CFS flag during a trip to the Arctic Circle. He says it just goes to show how much CFS members travel.
Photo: Peter Simpson, Strathalbyn CFS



Region 4 cadets from Stirling North near Port Augusta certainly know what to do with their spare pegs! They made it onto TV on the 'Friday Night Live' program on Channel 10.
Photo: Stirling North CFS



A confused possum watches on at the recent Bushfire Investigation course at Cleland Wildlife Park.
Photo: Sonia Post

Or email photos to:
publicaffairs@safecm.sa.gov.au

Simply send in your photo with the name of the photographer and/or name of submitter, address, telephone number and brigade name (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.

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.

The 'fingers of God' seen recently during a Bushfire Investigation Course at the Cleland Wildlife Park.
Photo: Sonia Post

VOLUNTEER [OBITUARIES]



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VOLUNTEER - OBITUARIES

Kiley Cameron, CFS Staff and Volunteer with Murray Bridge CFS

Kiley Cameron was a child of the Mallee, attending Mannum primary and high schools, who enjoyed playing rugby. Her first job was at the Mannum Kiosk while still a student.

She had a generous, caring nature and loved animals and cars in almost equal measure. In a cruel twist of fate, she was killed instantly as a passenger in her own car, in an accident near Murray Bridge.

Kiley was the second child of Geraldine and Noel Cameron and changed family circumstances saw Merv Lomman become her stepfather when she was six.

In 2002, she moved to Adelaide to live with her older sister, Jodi, and work at McDonald's at Pooraka.

"When she worked the graveyard shift, she would bring home bacon double cheeseburgers, hash browns and pancakes for breakfast," recalls Jodi.

Typical of the Gen-Y generation, Kiley worked at several jobs before finding her niche.

She worked at IDSC Strathmont Centre for three years until 2005 in various roles in administration, cleaning and as a carer.

However, she dearly wanted to work with animals and completed a TAFE

course in animal handling and also completed numerous work experience placements at Monarto Zoological Park in 2004.

Between 2005 and 2007, she would work 10-hour days at Strathmont during the week and on weekends she worked as a paid casual employee at Monarto.

Here she loved looking after the cheetah cubs and the rhinos, feeding snakes, lions and other animals.

She was so passionate about Monarto that she held her 21st birthday there, and the guests went on a twilight tour.

However, in 2006 Kiley changed direction and found a job in the Region 3 CFS office in Murray Bridge as an Administration Officer.

She threw her energies into the CFS, moving to the Region 1 CFS office at Mount Barker in 2007 and completing seven major CFS training programs.

Her plans came to fruition in May when she became a volunteer firefighter with the Murray Bridge Brigade, where she lived.

Jodi says she "always had a partner" growing up, in Kiley.

"One of her favourite pastimes was dressing up and as the older sister, I made myself the make-up director,

dabbing all the colours of the rainbow on her cheeks," Jodi says.

"She had an enormous amount of compassion and care in her heart.

"When we were kids, Kiley would give her prized possessions away to her friends and family, wrapping them up with bows and putting personalised cards or notes to go with them. She never changed."

Kiley was a car enthusiast and owned several vehicles. Her favourite activity was to get dirty completing the detailing for a car show.

The Clipsal 500 race was Kiley's annual highlight and she would snap up tickets for the following year the first day they were released.

Kiley backed the Ford racing teams and would line up to get signatures and pictures taken with Ford drivers.

"Kiley achieved a lot in her 24 years and was so looking forward to fighting her first fire," says Jodi.

Kiley is survived by her mother, Geraldine, father Noel, stepfather Merv Lomman and sister Jodi.
(*The Advertiser*, 9 August 2008)

From CFS State Headquarters...

By: Euan Ferguson, CFS Chief Officer (FireWire 142)

Most would be aware of the tragic death of Kiley Cameron in a motor vehicle accident.

Kiley was the Region 1 Administrative Officer, a volunteer at the Murray Bridge CFS Brigade and formerly the acting Administrative Officer in the Region 3 HQ's.

We remember Kiley as a vibrant and happy worker who was very committed to CFS.

Our sympathies and prayers go to her family and friends and to all those in CFS who have been saddened by her passing.

Kiley's youth and potential make her sudden passing a shock. Kiley will be sadly missed.

Her memory will inspire us to live life to its fullest and to give thanks for what we have.

From CFS Region 1...

By: Chris Martin, CFS Regional Commander

Kiley was interviewed for a Regional Administration position in 2006.

Region 3 required a person to fill in for a Regional Administration Officer who was taking 12 months' maternity leave.

Kiley was the final of three candidates to be considered for the position.

The panel agreed that she had a unique quality and that the 'shy kid' certainly expressed a desire to learn,

Benjamin Griggs, Birdwood CFS

Benjamin (Ben) Griggs was born in Romford in the United Kingdom and attended the Ardleigh Green public school in Essex.

After completing secondary school, Ben took up an apprenticeship in painting and decorating, when at the age of 18 years he was called up for National Service. He enlisted in the Royal Engineers where he served for seven years. During an overseas posting to Kowloon and Hong Kong, he came to know Muriel whom he later married at Gidea Park Baptist Church, Ardleigh Green on 27 March 1954.

Ben then returned to the civilian workforce, first working at the

Ford Motor Company and then in partnership in a painting and decorating business.

In 1964, Ben and his young family immigrated to Adelaide, and Ben secured employment at the General Motors Holden (GMH) factory at Elizabeth.

After leaving GMH, Ben returned to his life-long passion of painting and decorating, before eventually securing a position in the then Public Buildings Department where he worked for 22 years before retiring in 1992.

Ben had a high sense of community service. Some of his involvement included Club Leader for Boy Scouts;

Coach, Treasurer and later a Judge for the SA Bands Association Marching Girls; Mobile Support Team Member for Variety Bash; Foundation Member for the Royal Flying Doctor Service Gawler Support Group; volunteer for Red Cross Opportunity Shop at Elizabeth North; and volunteer for Tax Help for low income earners.

Ben was a dedicated CFS member, firstly serving at Tea Tree Gully and later at Birdwood where he played a pivotal role in fighting the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

He was also the Birdwood Training Officer and the Gumeracha Group Training Officer.

Ben was awarded Life Membership of the CFS and later awarded the Australian National Medal.

Although heavily involved in community activities, Ben's first priority was for his beloved wife, Muriel of 54 years and his family, sharing many happy days with them on holidays and at sporting events.

Birdwood CFS Brigade President Graham Hissey recalls, "Ben was the sort of bloke to whom you could give a task to and you would know that it would be done properly.

"Ben had an excellent understanding of CFS protocols, procedures, an eye for detail and

13 February 1984 – 5 July 2008

participate and was prepared to grasp the opportunity and move from her current employment.

Kiley was at Region 3 for 12 months and she fulfilled all expectations and more.

At the end of the Region 3 position period, Region 1 had an administration vacancy and took the opportunity to speak with Kiley about filling in for the position.

Kiley was enthusiastic to continue on in a role that she enjoyed and accepted the acting position without a second thought.

As we all know, CFS gets into your blood and Kiley was no exception. She decided to join the Murray Bridge CFS Brigade as a firefighter.

Kiley approached her work and brigade duties tenaciously.

Her work ethic belied all of the current generation XYZ thinking and she continued to take on more tasks with the ready smile and answer 'yes sure'.

Kiley continued to learn and provide exemplary service to her fellow staff and volunteer customers.

I firmly believe that in the relatively short period of two years Kiley has added a 'Golden Thread to the Tapestry' that makes up the CFS.

She will not be forgotten.

From CFS Brigade...

By: Members of Murray Bridge CFS

Kiley was only with the brigade for a number of months but her presence has left a significant imprint.

Forever the team player she will be, having time for everyone and making the most of any opportunity that came her way.

Whether it is training or an incident - Kiley would be there meticulously dressed in her PPE with the adrenalin clearly rushing through her body.

She was not only a fellow firefighter, but a close friend to many.

Rest in peace Kiley - we continue to miss you, but in our hearts and minds you will always remain a member of our brigade.

From her friends...

Kiley was a treasured friend of many.

She held very special and treasured friendships outside her staff and volunteer capacity within the service, all of whom will continue to celebrate her by honouring the lessons she taught us individually allowing us to enrich our own lives.

For this we are truly blessed.



Kiley with the Lameroo 24P appliance out the front of the Region 3 HQ office.



^ Kiley practising using a hose during her Basic Firefighting 1 training course.

20 July 1929 - 28 July 2008

who never saw a problem, only a solution waiting to be found," said Graham.

Immediate past Brigade Captain Harry Bryant vividly remembers Ben, "as a very dedicated member who made a significant contribution both on and off the field of operations and had the ability to impart his vast knowledge to other members of the CFS".

Although Ben left Birdwood to retire in Gawler, he is fondly remembered by the many members of the Birdwood community who attended his funeral.

Vale Ben.

Ben Griggs with his wife Muriel.



VOLUNTEER [OBITUARIES]

Nicole Wright, Ceduna CFS

23 February 1989 – 24 February 2008

Nic, as she was called, joined the Ceduna CFS as a cadet in 2000 following in the footsteps of her grandfather (Brian Pope) and her mother (Hazel Pope).

Nic was an energetic and enthusiastic young girl, always putting 100% into whatever she did.

Competitive by nature, Nic excelled in all she put her mind to, including sport, CFS competitions and something not everyone knew – cooking (she was a regular entrant in the Ceduna show).

Nic spent every opportunity attending CFS activities and this commitment to succeed earned her the 'Bill Kavanagh Cadet of the Year' award in 2001.

During her time with the Ceduna CFS, Nic participated in as many brigade activities as she could such as camps, competitions, ANZAC Day parades, community events and fundraisers.

At Nic's first CFS competition at Meadows in 2001 her team came third in the Cadet Hose Drill.

Nic believed they had the ability to improve and encouraged more training and team work under the guidance of her grandfather and mother.

The results from this extra work became evident at Hackham in 2002 when the team came second, but really paid off in 2003 at Crystal Brook where they won several events.

This success provided a new dimension within the Ceduna Cadets, that being 'Girl Power' and proved that girls can match it with the boys.

Nic's attitude to enjoy life was evident wherever she went; she was well respected amongst all CFS members, the community and the sporting fraternity where she played.

She matured into a natural leader, looking out for others and leading by example.

Tragically on 24 February 2008 the day after her 19th Birthday, she was involved in a horrific accident and did not survive. The accident stunned the entire community.

Nic's memory will always be a part of the Ceduna brigade and our condolences go to parents Hazel and Allen, brothers Leon and David and grandparents Brian and Doreen Pope and Dulcie Wright.

Never forgotten and sadly missed.



▲ Nicole Wright of Ceduna CFS Brigade.



<< Nicole displaying her medals and prize at the CFS competitions.



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T: 08 8244 6500
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E: admin@cfsva.org.au
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VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT BRANCH

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
T: 1300 364 587
E: cfsrecruitment@cfs.sa.gov.au





*** SUMMER SPECIALS ***

NOWA AUSTRALIA

Ph : (08) 8380 9976

Fax : (08) 8380 9977

EMERGENCY 24 Hr : 0418 825 300

NEW SEASON FIRE HELMETS! HERE!!!!

- A.S. APPROVED - Structure & Rural Helmets with High Impact Visors as STD !
- RURAL STD BF1 \$ 115.00 ea Plus G.S.T. (STD Colours)
- RURAL - DV1 \$ 125.00 ea Plus G.S.T. (STD Colours)
- RURAL/BOXER - Special \$ 120.00 ea Plus G.S.T. (STD Clrs)
- STRUCTURAL's FROM \$ 265.00 ea Plus G.S.T. (STD Colours)



BARGAIN FIRE HOSES

- A.S. APPROVED - ULC 1/4 Turn Forestry (Wajax) Couplings Fitted
- CLASS H - 25mm x 30m - Medium Percolating \$ 205.00 ea Plus G.S.T.
- CLASS H - 38mm x 30m - Medium Percolating \$ 245.00 ea Plus G.S.T.

CLASS 'A' BUSHFIRE FOAM

Australian Made & Biodegradable,



• 20 Lt Pail \$ 85.50 ea Plus G.S.T.

- Delivery to incident available
- Colour coded pails
- Training & Class 'B' Foams Available



***NEW- B.A. MAT**

- Std Size 12 x Cylinders
- Can Be Made to Order
- 1 x Person set up
- 525Gsm P.V.C.
- Ability to place cylinders on uneven ground
- Dimensions : 182 x 94cm



TAIPAN & OLIVER FIRE BOOTS

Oliver Footwear

25-396 Oliver - 10" high - Pull on Turnout Boot \$195.00 ea + G.S.T.

25-395 Oliver - 8" high - Lace up Hi-Cut Boot \$195.00 ea + G.S.T.

Taipan Footwear

5080 Taipan Elastic Sided fire Boot \$122.00 ea + G.S.T.

5074 Taipan Front Zip (Low Cut) Rural fire Boot \$145.00 ea + G.S.T.

5072 Taipan Front Zip - Structure fire Boot \$169.00 ea + G.S.T.

5095 Taipan Side Zip - Structure fire Boot \$170.00 ea + G.S.T.

5076 Taipan Front Zip (Waterproof) fire Boot \$195.00 ea + G.S.T.



AUTHORISED SPARES AND REPAIRS

AVAILABLE FOR ALL THREE MAJOR BRANDS OF FIRE PUMPS 24HRS SERVICE

Full comprehensive training on all products, pumps, foams & anything else that you use!

Fully Equipped workshop for all your fire service needs with hose repairs, pump servicing, rescue tool servicing, nozzle servicing on all major products!

24 HRS - 7 DAYS - 0418 825 300