

VOLUNTEER





Around 90 cadets from Region 2 took part in a training camp at Brukunga last month. They were supervised by 27 adult leaders with some of their activities captured on this page. To read more turn to page 20.



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Front cover image: CFS firefighters Neil Topperwein (Gumeracha) and Lieutenant Terry Dymond (Cudlee Creek) monitoring a fire on Thomson Road at Churchill in Victoria on 9 February 2009. Photo taken by David Bradshaw, Kersbrook CFS.

Editorial Team – Managing Editor: Chris Metevelis. Editors: Haley Cahalan and Karina Loxton. Tel (08) 8463 4206 (CFS Media Line). If you would like to contribute to *Volunteer*... send your photos and stories to: The Editor, *Volunteer*, 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. Comments and opinions expressed in *Volunteer* do not necessarily represent the views of the CFS. *Volunteer* is a free publication to all CFS volunteers.



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VOLUNTEER - CONTENTS



[CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

The following is an edited copy of a presentation I made on the Day of National Mourning, on Sunday, 22 February at Hazelwood Park, Burnside. I hope in some small way it captures the sentiment that I feel within CFS and within fellow South Australians towards our Victorian counterparts.

In Remembrance Of Black Saturday (Sunday, 22 February 2009)

This beautiful rugged landscape is shaped by earth, water, wind and fire. Unforgiving, indiscriminate and sometimes without reason, these elements periodically exercise their rule over humanity with devastating consequences.

And these elements have shaped the spirit of our people.

How often do we hear of great feats of courage, strength and unity in the face of adversity?

Natural disasters such as Black Saturday help define us as a nation and as a people.

Bushfire is a natural part of our Australian environment.

Rarely though, do we see such unbounded and uncontrollable fury of nature.

On the 7th February 2009 we were reminded of our humility and our powerlessness in the scale of nature. We have been reminded of the fragility of life.

Material possessions can be replaced.

But the true values of humanity: the love of family and friends, and the compassion and mateship between neighbours and our community are what life is all about.

We mourn the loss of many and are filled with sadness and sorrow for all those who are at loss, for all who are in pain.

To those who have lost everything, (some whilst selflessly serving others); to those who feel unbounded grief and sadness; and to those

whose life now seems filled with despair; we say: "You are not alone".

We are here by your side. We are with you, in your time of need.

Let us take strength from the spirit of mateship and the resourcefulness that arises from adversity – for this is what has defined us as Australians.

In the dawn of a tomorrow, the seeds of a new forest will grow from the ashes of the bushfire.

We pray that, so too, will tomorrow bring hope, repair and recovery for all who have suffered from this catastrophe.

We wish you determination, courage and strength of spirit.

You are in our thoughts.

We are your mates.



[CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

Like most South Australians, I ended late Saturday afternoon, February 7, with a sigh of relief. Another looming bushfire disaster thwarted by a welcome cool change ending another record-breaking heatwave.

Unaware of the unfolding fire situation in Victoria, I switched on the television to see out the day's final hour. Initial information was limited as the impending chaos was still being realised, but around 20 deaths had been reported, possibly more.

My heart immediately went out to those just a 10-hour drive to the east.

Then, with every passing hour, the death toll climbed. Surely, I thought, the toll won't match the 78 deaths that occurred on Black Friday (1939). But by Monday morning it was official, in the space of 24 hours Victoria's bushfires had become the nation's worst natural disaster in history with more than a hundred deaths. A day later and the toll neared 200 with thousands left homeless.

Who could have thought that a bushfire could reach such a level of destruction?

It is now loud and clear that, despite the most technically advanced equipment or the highest amount of human resources made available, the most unimaginable of consequences during bushfires or any other natural disaster can become real.

With the Wangary coronial inquest still fresh in our minds, I can't begin to imagine what process awaits the people of Victoria. However, we can be certain that the next 20 years of bushfire mitigation will be different to the last.

The Victorian Country Fire Authority and respective Volunteers Associations, our own local CFS and other emergency services have the full support and backing of the CFSVA. Operationally we will support the volunteers who have gone to Victoria to assist and our thoughts and prayers go with them.

Corporately, we stand strong with the CFS through whatever challenges they may face with a national inquiry. Rest assured, this is not just an issue and tragedy for Victoria, but for all Australia.

We have unprecedented conditions with more people living and working in high fire risk areas than ever before. We have just ended a record-breaking heatwave on the back of several consecutive years of drought.

I take this opportunity to say how proud I am of you all and to encourage you to take stock of your own livelihoods.

To all who were involved in the fire fighting operations in Victoria, while others kept our own state under their watchful eye and to those who have or know those who have lost loved ones, we surrender our warmest regards and condolences and hope for a swift recovery.

You are not alone and we will walk with you on the uneasy road ahead.



[MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Michael Wright

Fire and emergency service volunteers are unique individuals who are willing to confront dangerous and unpredictable environments to protect our community.

Our volunteers and staff are well trained, well equipped and go about their duties with the utmost professionalism and pride. In spite of these admirable attributes, there are regrettably occasions where injury or death can occur in the line of duty.

We saw this harsh reality reinforced tragically with the death of Canberra firefighter, David Balfour, killed by a falling tree near the fire-ravaged Victorian town of Marysville. In two other incidents we learned that SAMFS Senior Firefighter, Scott Pearson, was seriously injured along with SACFS firefighter Lieutenant Ian Kleinig, who were part of the South Australian support team battling the Victorian blazes.

I am told that Scott and Ian are on the road to recovery and my thoughts and best wishes for a speedy return to full health are with them and their families.

In total, South Australia deployed over 750 firefighters and emergency services workers to help our friends and neighbours across the border.

Our people were working in and around the areas of greatest impact, with crews involved in a number of urgent interventions early in their tour of duty. The majority of our support teams returned tired, with the enormity of the disaster in Victoria taking a significant physical and emotional toll.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend everyone involved on a job well done. I would also like to thank their families and employers, because without their support and generosity, the deployment to Victoria would not have been possible.

The devastating bushfires will be remembered as one of the darkest days in Australia's history.

That is why, as a Government, we must take steps to do all we can to prevent a similar incident happening here in South Australia.

In State Parliament, on Thursday 5 March, I announced the formation of a specialist taskforce, consisting of experts in various fields, who will be working side by side to bring South Australia to a new level of bushfire preparedness.

They'll analyse key issues arising from the Victorian bushfires and look into immediate, medium and long term solutions needed to improve bushfire management practices and strategies in South Australia.

The taskforce will be headed by CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson.

I look forward to discussing the findings of the taskforce with you in future editions of the *Volunteer*.

[CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SAFECOM David Place

The dedication, valuable service and selfless commitment of volunteers across the emergency services sector is unquestionable.

Responding to bushfires, building fires, hazardous spills, heatwave, floods, storms and road crashes are all part of the routine of emergency services.

These incidents will occur with unpredictable frequency and when they do, in most instances, our volunteers will be the first on the scene.

With this in mind and spurred by past events from which lessons have been learnt, such as Ash Wednesday in February 1983 and more recently, Wangary in January 2005, we approached our current fire season with a mixture of caution and anticipation.

Our worst fear of a catastrophic bushfire this fire season climaxed on Friday, 6 February when forecasts of extreme fire danger were predicted for the following day and at the end of almost a week of soaring temperatures above 40 degrees.

A combination of a heightened level of preparedness, a strong police presence through Operation Nomad and perhaps an element of good fortune in the weather helped South Australia avert the sort of bushfires which Victoria unfortunately sustained.

The devastating Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria demonstrated the strength and will of a cross-sector partnership to respond quickly to a call for help from our Victorian counterparts.

Teams of predominantly CFS volunteer firefighters, in addition to MFS, SES and SAFECOM personnel, were deployed in groups of around 75 people in a weekly turnaround over a four-week period, as the fires continued to burn in Victoria.

The magnitude of the consequences of the Victorian bushfires will resonate for many years with most to be influenced by the recommendations of the subsequent Royal Commission.

For our part, the South Australian Government has established a Bushfire Taskforce to be chaired by the

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and I will be among its eight members.

The Bushfire Taskforce will view key issues from the Victorian bushfires and assess any action required to improve bushfire management practices and strategies in South Australia.

The South Australian Government has also initiated a media campaign and review on the management of native vegetation in relation to urban developments. It has also implemented a review of bushfire protection and risk rating, with plans to also fast track a telephone-based warning system.

The Bushfire Taskforce will consult with other agencies and report back to State Cabinet by the end of the year.

As the fire danger season draws to an end, many will be comforted by the impending sense of relief, but in the hiatus of the ensuing months, others will no doubt be contemplating bushfire strategies and policies for preparedness.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES

THREE WEEKS

NEWS & UPDATES

OF CONTINUOUS DEPLOYMENT TO VICTORIA

The last contingent of Country Fire Service (CFS) and Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters and staff, along with SA Ambulance Service paramedics returned home on 4 March 2009 ending almost three weeks of continuous deployment to Victoria.

Just under 800 firefighters and support staff from the CFS and MFS provided much needed assistance to their Victorian counterparts as they struggled to contain a range of fires in the most ravaged parts of the state.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson paid

tribute to their commitment, selfless efforts and professionalism for assisting the Victorian bushfire effort – with some being deployed more than once.

“The CFS praises the firefighters who gave up their time to offer their services interstate and also those who stayed behind to ensure the safety of the South Australian community,” Euan said.

“The deployment was highly successful as it took into account the needs of South Australia while assisting Victoria with their request for resources.”

South Australia’s Aircrane ‘Flynn’ was also deployed to Victoria on Sunday, 2 February and returned 11 days later.

“At no point in time was South Australia’s bushfire readiness compromised due to the deployment interstate and overall, it was a successful operation,” Euan said.

The CFS also committed five fire fighting appliances and a command vehicle to the Victorian bushfires in addition to 19 Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) vehicles.

ForestrySA also sent fire fighting staff and support personnel to Victoria.

Strike teams from DEH and ForestrySA remained committed to the Victorian bushfire effort for an extra week.

“Our thoughts are now with those many Victorians who have been left devastated by the loss of lives and the insurmountable task of rebuilding their communities,” Euan said.

“I am sure that in the days, months and years ahead, we can continue to assist their recovery.”

CFS firefighters at the Toorourrong Reservoir Park, near Whittlesea. Photo by Michael Alderslade



[PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

This summer, we have seen some of the most extreme fire risk days on record, but thanks to the selfless dedication of you, our volunteers, some good fortune, and the chorus of strong messages imploring the public to be vigilant and prepared, we have so far it seems, escaped the worst.

The Public Affairs Unit has certainly been kept busy since the last edition of *Volunteer*. The media’s thirst for information during incidents such as Proper Bay, Gawler River and the heatwave, and the media’s extraordinary interest in the Black Saturday fires – from South Australians rallying to support our Victorian neighbours to the

national policy debates – has seen the public affairs team and CFS personnel inundated with media requests.

We were at the airport to see off a number of the Victorian deployments, have fielded hundreds of national and local requests for media interviews and have organised many press conferences and media

releases to promote the work of the CFS and the fire danger risk.

The team has also been working on a number of education campaigns. In response to the Victorian fires, we worked quickly to extend the duration of the Bushfire Ready campaign. Anecdotally, the ‘What if’ campaign has been well received and appears



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

Quotes from CFS firefighters deployed to Victoria...

"The respect from the community to the CFS/CFA was just amazing. They were giving us the thumbs up and waving, it was just fantastic."
Shane Wade, Hindmarsh Valley (The Victor Harbor Times, 26/02/09)

"It was a great feeling to give relief to the CFA members, to let them go back to their families and grieve. Many of them had lost friends and even loved ones."
Shane Wade, Hindmarsh Valley (The Victor Harbor Times, 26/02/09)

"It was like the fire picked and chose which houses to burn; there were timber houses still standing and brick houses destroyed."
Thomas Wooldridge, 19, Mount Gambier (The Border Watch, 13/02/09)

"It was utter devastation I suppose. You could compare it to Hiroshima, just after the war. The smell of death was in the air, animals had been burnt and there were rotting carcasses."
Shane Smith, Naracoorte (Naracoorte Herald, 19/02/09)

"We just did our job, that's all. We gave CFA volunteers time at home to sort out their problems."
Andy Bartosek, Naracoorte (Naracoorte Herald, 19/02/09)

"The intensity of the fire was greater than I'd ever seen, houses were just turned to ash."
Nigel Petersen, Mangalo (R6) (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 26/02/09)

"There's a lot of hard work ahead for the Victorians – the clean up hasn't really started."
Nigel Petersen, Mangalo (R6) (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 26/02/09)

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright addresses CFS firefighters at Adelaide Airport before their deployment to the Victorian bushfires. Michael Wright (centre), with Andrew Lawson (left) and Euan Ferguson (right).
Photo: Nicole Ely



to have made people stop and think about their preparedness. With the support of television and radio stations we secured additional airtime for an extra 3-4 weeks and metro radio aired the commercial for the first time, further extending its reach.

We have also been collaborating with the Native Vegetation Council on a

print and radio campaign to educate people on what they can do to clear their property of native vegetation for bushfire prevention. And the 10-year smoke alarm retirement campaign generated good media coverage both regionally and in Adelaide.

As flagged in the last edition of *Volunteer*, two new Media Liaison

Officers have joined the team. Melissa Veal comes to us from Safework SA and Haley Cahalan was the editor of the *Murray Valley Standard*. Melissa had a real baptism of fire being confronted with the Proper Bay fire in her second week on the job, while Haley had a steep learning curve with the Victorian fires.

Although it has been a busy time for us, our thoughts are with our media counterparts interstate and to those who have selflessly given their time to lend a hand in Victoria's time of need.

Karina Loxton, Chris Metevelis, Tara Rischmueller, Nicole Ely, Carmen Lewis, Haley Cahalan and Melissa Veal.



FIREFIGHTERS SHAKE THEIR BOOTS FOR VICTORIA

AFAC KNOWLEDGE WEBSITE

By: Naomi Brown, AFAC CEO

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) in South Australia teamed up in February for 'Shake the Boot' and raised \$200,000 for victims of the Victorian bushfires.

Dozens of APFF and MFS firefighters joined volunteers across Adelaide and regional South Australia to collect money for this cause.

APFF President and MFS District Officer, Greg Crossman said he was

stunned by the level of generosity shown by children, teenagers, adults, community groups, schools and businesses.

"The amount of people who walked up to our collectors at shopping centres and community centres to hand over anything from ten cents to hundreds - or even thousands - of dollars, was amazing," said Greg.

MFS Acting Chief Officer, Mick Smith said the money will make a great deal of difference to many lives.

The Victorian bushfires and floods in Queensland and NSW meant that February was a busy month for AFAC members.

The way in which agencies have worked together, shared resources and provided support for each other has been commendable and I thank everyone for their ongoing support.

The large loss of life and destruction of property on 7 February has meant that a number of national policy issues have come under scrutiny, particularly 'Prepare Stay and Defend or Go Early' and AS:3959 Building in bushfire prone areas.

The Bushfire CRC has established a Bushfire Research Taskforce that has begun work on the fire ground. The evidence gathered will be available for the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission and

coronial inquiries that will follow and will ultimately be made available to AFAC members and for research purposes.

If you have not subscribed to the electronic AFAC (Knowledge Web) KW news I would urge you to do so as it will become an increasingly important method of keeping you updated with the Research Taskforce and the events of the upcoming 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

You can subscribe from the home page of the Knowledge Web at www.afac-kw.com

Read more on page 38 about South Australia's response to the Victorian bushfires with a Bushfire Taskforce being established.

VICTORIAN ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FIRES

The Royal Commission into the Victorian bushfires has begun taking evidence from survivors with the first of its submissions closing on 18 May, 2009.

Retired Supreme Court Judge Justice Bernard Teague heads the Royal Commission and is being assisted by Justice Ron Maclean and Justice Susan Pascoe.

The Commissioners have extensive

powers to call for any papers or persons relevant to their inquiry and will make recommendations on a wide range of aspects including fire preparation, planning schemes, response measures, communication systems and strategies, training and resources.

The Victorian Government has asked the Royal Commission to ensure that there is an interim report

this year, so recommendations that might be made in that interim report can be put in place in time for the fire season of 2009/10. The final report is due by July 2010, so that any final recommendations can be put in place for the fire season in 2010/11.

Justice Teague has indicated that the inquiry will be split into two groups of issues. Issues to

be addressed before the next fire season will include the adequacy of warnings, causes, ways to help victims and raising awareness.

Fuel reduction burning, planning and building are expected to be tackled in the second phase.

The full terms of the Royal Commission can be found on the website: www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au

✓ Part of the CFS and MFS deployment to the Victorian bushfires near the staging area at Alexandra.



Quotes from CFS firefighters deployed to Victoria...

"There was nothing there that you'd really want to remember."
Brad Batt, Stewarts Range (South East) (Naracoorte Herald, 26/02/09)

"Most of them (locals) were in good spirits mainly ... those who were still there had a smile."
Brad Batt, Stewarts Range (South East) (Naracoorte Herald, 26/02/09)

"It didn't matter what job we did, it just had to be done."
Kym Schmidt, Angaston (The Leader Newspaper, 25/02/09)

"It instills a lot of pride in people, individuals and the brigade."
Andrew Young, Angaston (The Leader Newspaper, 25/02/09)

"After the Wangary fires in 2005, it was the least we could do. We had a lot of Victorians help us out – so we like to do what we can."
Simon Pedler, Yallunda Flat captain (Stock Journal, 19/02/09)

"Everything was black; everything was laid to the ground."
Shane Wade, Hindmarsh Valley (The Victor Harbor Times, 26/02/09)

SA SCHOOL CHILDREN AND CFS BRIGADES GET BEHIND VIC APPEAL

South Australian children have raised more than \$128,000 for bushfire affected schools in Victoria.

The Education Minister, Jane Lomax-Smith, said the efforts have been brilliant with some schools also having collected food and supplies for pets.

"Amazingly over \$128,000 was raised for those bushfire affected schools in Victoria," she said.

"Even kindergartens have found ways of raising money by raising several hundred dollars from efforts such as fairs or fetes or even ice-cream stalls.

Dr Lomax-Smith said many

children, particularly in the hills areas, understood the impact of fires and wanted to support schools and preschools in Victoria where toys and books had been lost.

"It's an amazing achievement for children in schools," she said.

Funds were also raised by

community groups and various CFS Brigades including Aldgate, Bridgewater, Stirling and Burnside which collected more than \$9,000 during an ABC Radio live broadcast at Aldgate on 13 February and almost \$120 from an afternoon tea at CFS HQ.



<< Part of the SA firefighting deployment to the Victorian bushfires at the Churchill-Jeeralang complex.
Photo: Adam Hurle

Colin McDonald (left) and Phil Dunkley from Region 1 Operations Brigade near the Alexandra base camp.



<< Station Officer Leigh Cunningham with Ian Baines, Neil Topperwein and Terry Dymond mopping up along Jeeralang West Rd, Jeeralang.



CFSVA PRESIDENT'S MEMORIAL SERVICE MESSAGE

By: Ken Schutz AFSM, CFSVA President

Like most South Australians, I ended late Saturday afternoon 7 February with a sigh of relief. Another looming bushfire disaster thwarted by a welcome cool change ending another record-breaking heatwave.

Unaware of the unfolding fire situation in Victoria, I returned home late Saturday night from a motor vehicle incident in our area in which a person known to most of us who attended was killed, I switched on the television to unwind for a while before going to bed. Initial information was limited as the impending chaos of the fires was still being realised, but around 20 deaths had been reported, possibly more. Already dealing with one death, my heart immediately went out to those just a 6-8 hour drive to the east from where I live.

Then, with every passing hour, the death toll climbed. Surely, I thought, the toll won't match the 78 deaths that occurred on Black Friday (1939). But by Monday morning it was official, in the space of 24 hours Victoria's bushfires had become the nation's worst natural disaster in history with more than a hundred deaths. A day later and the toll continued to climb with many more missing and thousands left homeless.

Words like *unbelievable* and

devastating repeatedly filled my mind and later became regular statements in discussions with others. Other words like *tragedy* and *horror* have become too small to describe the situation.

To lose your house and property can be a traumatic event in itself but to lose a loved one and in some of these cases your whole family, is the most dramatic and traumatising event in a person's life.

After talking to many people who went through the Wangary Fire on the Eyre Peninsula a few years ago, they all described the noise, the heat, the smoke and the speed of the fire as like nothing you could ever imagine. The fear that comes with a fire like these is horrific, but many of those who lost their lives selflessly did so while trying to save others, putting their own fear at the back of their minds; their bravery will not be forgotten by any of us and while we have marked this day to mourn... it's also time for the good news stories... it's time to make public the efforts of unsung heroes that when Victoria dialled triple zero... Australia responded.

To those who have or know those who have lost loved ones, we surrender our warmest regards and condolences and pray for a swift recovery. You are not alone and we will walk with you, the uneasy road ahead.



Wreaths laid at the memorial service.



<< People gather at Hazelwood Park in Adelaide for a memorial service for the Victorian bushfires.

>> CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson speaks at the memorial service.



VFBV BLACK SATURDAY VOLUNTEER RECOVERY FUND

Volunteer Fire Brigades Victoria has created a trust fund to enable those wishing to provide assistance specifically to volunteer firefighters and their brigades affected by the February 2009 bushfires.

The fund, called VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund, is designed to complement the Bushfire Appeal and the CFA Donations Trust Fund and has been established by VFBV specifically to provide financial support to volunteers.

Donations to the fund are tax deductible and trustees of the fund are all volunteer firefighters and members of the VFBV Board.

Contributions to the fund can be made through the Bendigo Bank:

BSB No: 633.000

Account No: 136263787.

For further information and

updates visit the VFBV website www.vfbv.com.au.

The VFBV Black Saturday Volunteer Recovery Fund is distinctly separate from the VFBV Volunteer Welfare Fund that the VFBV maintains to assist volunteer firefighters and their families who experience financial difficulties from time to time.

As well as being financed by contributions from brigades, the Welfare Fund welcomes contributions from the wider community.

People wishing to make contributions to the broader community appeal are encouraged to do so through the Red Cross 1800 811 700 or go to www.redcross.org.au, and those wishing to target donations to specific brigades or to general volunteer support initiatives can do so through the CFA Donations Trust Fund, by contacting the CFA on (03) 9262 8542.

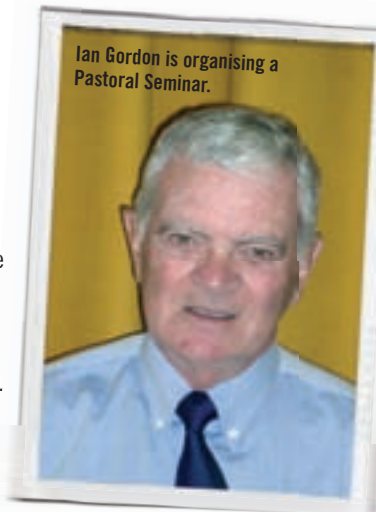
PASTORAL SEMINAR IN THE PLANNING

Planning is underway for a Pastoral Seminar to be held after the fire season.

CFSVA Pastoral Branch President Ian Gordon is organising this seminar, to which all brigades in the pastoral region will be invited.

The seminar will include topics of interest to brigade members both of an operational and volunteer nature.

Information will be sent to the relevant brigades as it becomes available.



Ian Gordon is organising a Pastoral Seminar.

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES MEMORIAL SERVICE

A community memorial service was held at Hazelwood Park on Sunday, 22 February as part of the national day of mourning for the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

The event was organised by the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) and the Salvation Army led proceedings.

CFSVA executive officer, Wendy Shirley, said that the community event provided an opportunity for people to gather and mourn those who died in the Victorian bushfires.

"It was also an opportunity for everyone to acknowledge the efforts of firefighters," Wendy said.

"This included CFS volunteers and other emergency services personnel from interstate and overseas including the United States and Canada, who were committed to helping those affected by this devastating tragedy," she said.

Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, who took part in the service, said it was a chance for

everyone to reflect on the enormous contribution of firefighters here and around the country.

"Members of the fire service make an extraordinary sacrifice, putting their own lives on the line to save and protect those of others," he said

"I personally extended my thanks to the dozens of members of the fire service who pledged their help and support during the height of the Victorian tragedy.

"Saturday February 7 will be forever etched in the minds of all Australians as the day when Victoria faced its worst disaster and it was therefore important to begin the long road to recovery as a nation, by taking part in the national memorial service."

CFS Brigades have also been contributing to the fundraising efforts towards the Victorian Bushfire Appeal, including just over \$9,000 which recently was raised in one morning by the Aldgate Brigade.



<< CFS Brigade Captain from Two Wells, Adam Harris and daughter Carla, 3, pay their respects to the victims of the Victorian bushfires.

Photo: The Advertiser

>> CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton at the Memorial Service.

Photo: The Advertiser



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING

By: Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

Edited speech read at the Memorial Service on Sunday, 22 February 2009 by the Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright on behalf of the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

When the histories of nations are written, there are times which sorely test a nation's soul.

Whether through the carnage of human conflict or through the terrifying forces of nature unleashed.

This nation Australia has just been put to such a test. And you the people of Australia, you the people of Victoria and most especially you the people of these fire-ravaged communities you have faced the test and still you stand.

As a people, we weep for the lost,

tend to the injured, console the suffering. And yet our work has barely begun.

In meeting this great test, as a people, and as a nation, we have drawn deep on our ancient values and given them fresh voice in our modern age.

Values of courage.

Values of compassion.

Values of steely resilience.

These are Australian values. Values also of our deepest common humanity.

For on Black Saturday, what we saw at work was the worst of nature yet the best of humanity.

A new army of heroes in which the yellow helmet evokes the same reverence as the slouch hat of old. Courage. And compassion.

In recent days, we have witnessed unspeakable suffering.

We have lost mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers, brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, the tiniest of children, family, friends and neighbours. No words can provide solace for grief so personal. But simply know this: you who suffer are not alone.

This great Australian family is with you. And led by an almighty army of Australian volunteers stretched across this vast continent. And beyond our shores, know too that you are surrounded by an ocean of compassion from every country on God's earth.

Governments of all persuasions and at all levels have failed communities in the past. Let us resolve not to fail these communities in the future.

To do this will be hard. But let us resolve, learning from the mistakes of the past, to rebuild together.

Our nation's flag now flies across the charred remains of these precious communities, flags by the hundreds.

Flags of courage, flags of compassion.

Flags of resilience. Flags of hope.

Great Australian values that will see Australia through this great testing of our nation's soul.

Let us honour each of the precious human lives that has been lost. And let us also resolve that from this time forth, on every February 7, the nation pause at noon for one minute silence, to honour their memory in what is the greatest peacetime disaster in our nation's history.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO SAY 'THANK YOU'

The CFSVA has made \$300 available to each branch for any group that wishes to hold a thank you event for its members.

This amount will be available for events run before June 30, and will be on a 'first in' basis on application to the relevant CFSVA branch.

DELEGATE INFORMATION PACKS UPDATED

The CFSVA has updated its 'Information Package for CFSVA Delegates'.

This package has been developed to assist CFS Volunteer Association delegates in their role of ensuring volunteer input into CFS and SAFECOM decision making.

It includes a position description, some valuable contact details, and also a list of the CFSVA, CFS and SAFECOM committees, boards and

working parties that have volunteer representation.

There are quite a number of them!

These packages are currently being distributed at branch meetings.

If you are a CFSVA delegate and you have not yet received your package please contact the state office on 8244 6500 or email admin@cfsva.org.au and we will post one out to you.

DEVELOPING FUTURE LEADERS

A five-day leadership program called 'Developing Future Leaders' will be held from August 3 - 7 in Manly, New South Wales.

Run by the Australasian Fire Authorities Council, it is a highly recommended course that has been attended by a number of CFS volunteers who have all reported very favourably on it.

Volunteers from all around

Australia and New Zealand attend, which makes it a great networking opportunity.

It is of no cost to the attendees.

Information about this course will be posted on our website at www.cfsva.org.au as soon as it becomes available.

Applications involve a nomination form and a short statement outlining why participants would like to attend.

NEWS & UPDATES

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Wattle Range Council has announced the region's 2009 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award winners, who were honoured on January 26.

Among the recipients was Wyly Preston, who was named Penola's Citizen of the Year.

The retired Penola farmer was nominated for his outstanding work within the community.

While farming at Maaoupe, near Penola, Wyly served with the Country Fire Service until his recent retirement.

The Maaoupe fire truck was active for eight days during the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, during which time he was a fire control officer and he received a national medal for his services.

He is known locally as the "Mr Fixit" for his knowledge of farm equipment.

Closer to town he has been an active member of the Penola Lions Club, serving as president twice and being involved in many projects.

Wyly is also involved with Rural Watch, the Greenrise Management Committee and the town's sports club, mans the gate at Penola races, organises parking at festivals and sets up seats and music for the Community Christmas Carols.



Other CFS recipients featured in this edition of *Volunteer* include; Wayne Thorley and Gilbert Pilgrim, page 28 and Quentin Russ and Barry Jagger, page 33.

YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FROM TWO WELLS By: Plains Producer

Lewiston student Matthew Harmati has been named District Council of Mallala's

Young Citizen of the Year.

The 17-year-old has been involved with Two Wells CFS for four years, and has a

long list of personal achievements.

This year he was named rural youth ambassador at the Gawler Show, and

was one of five South Australians to win a place on the 2008 Premier's Anzac study tour.

POSTHUMOUS GONG FOR VOLUNTEER

By: Leader Messenger

Former Tea Tree Gully Country Fire Service volunteer Robert Buttery has been awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal almost a year after his death.

Mr Buttery, who lost his battle with cancer at the age of 68 last February, joined the CFS soon after arriving in Australia from England in 1975.

"There was a fire lit by some school children down the road, and so of course as soon as he saw the fire he was off," Mr Buttery's wife Patricia, 67, said.

"That is basically how he began at the fire service."

Moving through the ranks from

firefighter to deputy group officer, Mr Buttery remained a member until his death.

Mrs Buttery remembers her husband as a positive person who was dedicated to his volunteer work. "He always said no matter what life throws at you there was always a silver lining."

Mrs Buttery said although she was very proud of her husband, he would have been embarrassed to receive the Australia Day honour.

"He was a very outstanding gentleman," she said.

"Even in his death they called him the dignified gentleman."

Rob Buttery (dec) with his wife Pat. Rob has been awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR CFS

The Chief Officer of the CFS Euan Ferguson and the Chief Officer of the MFS Grant Lupton hosted two international firefighters from Greece in January as part of an Australian rural fire service educational visit.

Major Ioannis Kapakis and Major Christos Lambris from the Hellenic Fire Service spent a week familiarising themselves with CFS operational and community education imperatives.

Their visit followed an Australian senior fire fighting delegation to Greece in 2007 which included the CFS Deputy

Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and MFS District Officer George Rodis.

The delegation was invited to Greece by the Hellenic Fire Service several weeks after the country's worst fire season with 76 deaths and numerous injuries.

"This is an acknowledgement and recognition by the Hellenic Fire Service of the quality of service our CFS volunteers and staff provide to protect their communities," Euan said.

"This visit also reflected the strong ties between the CFS and international fire fighting agencies," he said.

The Hellenic Fire Service firefighters

spent seven days in Adelaide which included a tour of the MFS Headquarters in Wakefield Street.

The MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton said: "South Australians were also impacted by the fatal fires in Greece in 2007, given the state's large Greek community and the fact our fire services have faced similar challenges.

"The strong bond between South Australia's fire services and the Hellenic Fire Service was forged through this tragic event and continues to be mutually beneficial from a learning perspective," Grant said.

"The MFS and CFS can easily relate to the difficulties faced by the Hellenic Fire Service, given our own battles with bushfire, including the Proper Bay fire at Port Lincoln," Grant said.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson said the Hellenic Fire Service clearly recognises the high quality of service that CFS volunteers and MFS firefighters provide during bushfires.

Andrew said: "The CFS and MFS hope that their relationship with the Hellenic Fire Service will continue to grow, so that all three services can reap the rewards of exchanging skills and knowledge."



From left, Major Ioannis Kapakis, MFS District Officer George Rodis, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Major Christos Lambris.

WANGARY BUSHFIRE RECOMMENDATIONS

By: Sally Hardy

The implementation of all 34 recommendations has been ongoing since the Deputy Coroner handed them down on 18 December 2007.

Significant progress has been made and as we go to print only five recommendations remain outstanding, the majority of which are dependent upon changes to the *Fire and Emergency Services Act*. The Act is currently under review.

Key initiatives that have been implemented include:

- The provision of a large volume water helicopter based in South

Australia during the fire danger season.

- The release of two research reports into farming practices and bushfire risk.
- Farm fire unit guidelines and information.
- Introduction of landowner and water liaison officers within Incident Management Teams.
- The seeking of input from landowners/landholders regarding topography, vegetation, existing fire breaks and accessibility by CFS Regional Coordinators.
- Endorsement of policies by the State Emergency Management

Committee regarding CFS policies and procedures for issuing public warnings for bushfire.

- Empowerment of the CFS Regional Coordinator to undertake the role of Regional Public Warnings Officer and create and deliver public warnings.
- 2008/09 Fire Danger Season campaign to increase awareness of citizens to listen for radio announcements relating to bushfire.
- Establishment of pre-planned level 2 Incident Management Teams in each region.
- Research into the fitting of

after market, non-standard mufflers to vehicles used in rural environments.

- Creation of a Native Vegetation Code of Practice.

The implementation group chaired by David Place, Chief Executive SAFECOM, comprises key stakeholders including SAPOL, Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation, Local Government Association, CFS, SES, MFS, Department of Environment and Heritage and PIRSA.

Copies of the recently released farming research reports and further information can be found at www.safecom.sa.gov.au.



MARK JOINS VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT TEAM

Mark Groote has recently commenced as the Manager, Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch, SAFECOM.

Mark trained as a social worker, and commenced his career with The Salvation Army where he worked with young people, and went on to manage the Red Shield Housing Association.

In this role Mark managed volunteers across administrative, governance, and service delivery areas.

Mark comes to SAFECOM from the Department for Families and Communities where he has extensive management experience, particularly in the housing sector where he managed the Housing Policy Units for

the South Australian Housing Trust and the Aboriginal Housing Authority.

Mark has also been responsible for the management of the Supported Accommodation Assistance Program and Crisis Accommodation Program and led the creation of the Homelessness Strategy Team.

Mark is excited about the opportunities to contribute to the work of SAFECOM.

"Volunteers play such a significant role in our agencies, and I'm thrilled to be leading the Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch," he said.

"I'm also looking forward to getting out and about and meeting many of the people who volunteer their time for the CFS and SES."

Mark Groote is the new Manager, Volunteer Strategy and Support.



FEEDBACK SOUGHT ON WORKLOAD REVIEW

Agencies within the emergency services sector continue to receive feedback from volunteers concerning the administrative burden that is placed on them, impacting their willingness to volunteer.

As a result, SAFECOM engaged an external consultant to conduct a survey of volunteers and look at options to reduce the administrative burden for volunteers.

Key recommendations put forward by the report include:

- A streamlined approach to forwarding correspondence.
- Providing staff to assist larger groups.
- Better usage of online reporting through the website.
- Minimising meetings and using technology such as teleconferencing, online forums and feedback.
- Clarifying job descriptions for all volunteer roles and developing Position Descriptions.
- Training in the rights and responsibilities of volunteers and volunteer managers.
- Recognising the full range of leadership skills required for volunteer roles.
- Clear guidelines for conflict resolution responsibilities and training assistance provision to Regional Commanders.

As part of the development of a Service Level Agreement between the SAFECOM Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch and the CFS and

SES, the job description, training and leadership issues will be prioritised.

The report can be downloaded from the initiatives and reviews section of www.safecom.sa.gov.au. The SAFECOM Board has asked for feedback on the report's recommendations, and this can be provided to Sally Pfeiffer, SAFECOM Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch via email sally@safecom.sa.gov.au or phone (08) 8463 4102 by 15 May 2009.

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By: Mark Groote

Did you know that each year in Australia, more than six million people over 18 years of age do some kind of voluntary work in their local community?

That's over a quarter of our entire population – a great effort by any comparison.

Emergency service volunteers play such a key role in our community – safety, awareness, protection, prevention – and you are part of this! While we all have different reasons for volunteering, each role that a volunteer plays is part of a

much bigger picture – so remember you are part of a process which makes a significant contribution to our community.

I have recently commenced in SAFECOM as the Manager of the Volunteer Strategy and Support (VSS) Branch (you might know us by our former name – the Volunteer Management Branch).

I have a background as a social worker, and worked for The Salvation Army before joining Housing SA (in the Department for Families and Communities).

Having worked with volunteers in my previous positions, I'm excited to be in SAFECOM, and working on ways to support you as a volunteer in the CFS.

During 2008, Volunteering SA undertook a review of the VSS Branch.

This review had a number of recommendations which looked at how the branch meets the National Standards in Volunteer Management.

We're working through this report to look at ways we can improve our services to volunteers, and will be working with the CFS and the CFSVA to do this.

In coming editions, we'll report back on some of the exciting projects we are working on, and what we are planning to achieve over the next twelve months.

If you would like any further information or want to get in touch with the VSS Branch, please contact the Volunteer Support Officer through your local CFS Regional Office, or call 8463 4102.

MANAGE YOUR NATIVE VEGETATION

The State Government is reminding South Australians of the actions they can take to minimise the impact of bushfires by legally clearing native vegetation.

In the wake of Victoria's devastating bushfires, the CFS and Native Vegetation Council (NVC) have launched a campaign outlining the steps regional landholders can take today to clear native vegetation that presents a bushfire risk on their property.

Chief Officer of the CFS Euan Ferguson said that bushfire safety is a responsibility that is shared by all South Australians.

"Everyone has a part to play in protecting lives and property against the threat of bushfire and where possible conserving native vegetation," Euan said.

The NVC's Presiding Member Dennis Mutton said it was important to highlight the exemptions that exist in the *Native Vegetation Act 1991* that allows the clearance of native vegetation without the need for formal approvals.

"The State Government recognises that, native or not, if plant growth has the potential to threaten lives or property it must be managed," Dennis said.

Euan added that preparation is the key to surviving a bushfire and both the

CFS and NVC can offer valuable and constructive advice to help landholders take the appropriate measures now to become Bushfire Ready.

Landholders who have native vegetation on their property can take the following actions today:

- Clear any tree branches that overhang your house or other buildings on your property.
- Clear native vegetation up to 20 metres from around houses (with the exception of large trees which will require approvals).
- Clear native vegetation up to 5 metres around property buildings such as sheds and garages.

- Clear native vegetation along property boundaries up to a depth of 5 metres to create a fire break. In some regions of the State this can be 7.5 metres.

The campaign features statewide radio and print advertisements, a fact sheet and poster and a 'portal' has been created on the CFS website bringing together information from the CFS and NVC.

Further clearance of native vegetation can still be sought by contacting the NVC. Visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au for further information.



BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY! By: Nicole Ely

The CFS, MFS and the State Government have launched a state-wide campaign urging people to send their smoke alarms into retirement when they reach 10 years of age.

Regardless of whether smoke alarms are battery operated or connected to the mains power supply, smoke alarms only last for 10 years under normal operating conditions.

CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson said the fire services are asking people to check when they installed their smoke alarms.

"If they have passed their 10

year 'use by' date, replace them immediately," he said.

MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton, said, "Years ago in a house fire you would have well over 10 minutes to get out. Today that time has reduced to less than 4 minutes. So every extra warning per second is vital."

Today's housing designs and our increasing preference for synthetic furnishings and building materials have reduced the amount of time available to escape from a house fire.

"Old smoke alarms take longer to respond to smoke, or may not respond at all, reducing critical escape time

from a house fire. It's so easy to lose track of the years and not realise that your smoke alarm is too old to be relying on," Grant said.

Research undertaken by the MFS indicates that only one third of the population knows that smoke alarms have a limited life.

Emergency Service Minister, Michael Wright, said it was crucial for people to make the effort to check their alarms, which could have life-saving consequences.

"We're asking all South Australians to take the time and do the right thing by themselves and their



families, as making sure that your smoke alarm is in good working order could just save your life and home in a fire emergency."

BUSHFIRE ACTION PLANS SAVE EP HOMES

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

By: Haley Cahalan

The Jackner family home with the green roof in the middle of the picture, moments before the fire front impacted on the home. No major structural losses were suffered because of the family's Bushfire Action Plan.



Well prepared bushfire action plans saved many Eyre Peninsula homes when the Proper Bay fire tore through outer Port Lincoln in January this year.

Kaelie and Steven Foord's property on Proper Bay road was the last hit by the fire.

The family of four kept busy through winter, clearing prickly acacia and long grasses and making the area around the home more accessible for fire trucks.

The CFS Women's Bushfire Fighting Workshop was a good grounding for Mrs Foord, who learnt a lot about fire preparation and from women who survived the Wangary fire.

"I think in the end I came to realise you almost need to have three to four plans, what you will do if the kids are home, husband is home etcetera, because nothing really happens as you plan it," she said.



▲ Kaelie Foord is encouraging women living in a town fringe to do a women's firefighting course.

The family had decided early on that they would stay, and had practised the tasks required that would help to save their home and keep them safe inside.

Their work outside and inside of the home paid off, as structural losses were minimal.

The land was scorched to bare earth, but that is a small price to pay, they say.

As with any fire the Foord family has taken many lessons from their experience.

From now, they are planning to install sprinklers along the sides of the house and shed and a fire pump will go in at the swimming pool.

"You can not afford to be complacent about this. Use the winter season to do the groundwork and don't think it's never going to happen to you, because it may not be a matter of if, but when," Mrs Foord said.

"Everyone should be aware, women on the edge of town on acreage should do the women's bushfire course and pass this information on to the rest of the family (including children) so that they know on the day.

"Children need to be aware for if they are ever home alone."

Mrs Foord praised the CFS volunteers for their work both on the day but also in the days following.

And the story is similar nearby at the property of Renate and Gerd Jackner, whose home was saved thanks to 20 rotary sprinklers.

In 2006 the Jackners bought a 6.5 horse power petrol fire pump unit with an electric starter and installed pipes under the gutter with 20 rotary sprinklers along the roof.

A 6,000 gallon rainwater tank is connected with the pump.

"We thought it may have been a waste of time and money, but if something ever happened it meant we were ready," Mr Jackner said.

"We knew we couldn't rely on tap water, so we had a tank and our own firefighting pump, which would be strong with enough pressure for all 20 rotary sprinklers to work in one hit.

"The pump was in a house with a solar panel on the roof and every month I would start the pump unit and check it was working.

"I believe every person in fire danger areas should have this equipment before they are given permission to build on a property. Plus, they should be required to clear a fire break."

Mr Jackner says it cost him no more than \$2,000 to implement the bushfire protection measures that saved his home from the Proper Bay fire.

Across the road, resident Paul O'Brien is also reaping the benefits of his bushfire preparation work.

Mr O'Brien implemented a number of measures across his 14 hectare scrubland property on the outskirts of town, in response to Country Fire Service messages about having a working bushfire action plan.

While he is the first to admit the protection measures he introduced were not the most expensive or state-of-the art, he said it showed the simple measures any home owner could adopt to save their homes.

Fuel reduction and fire breaks were Mr O'Brien's main priority, with work including removing dead wood from the ground and rolling flat the grassy areas.

"I was never under the delusion that I could stop a fire from hitting my property, but I hoped I could slow it so that I could manage it," he said.

It was this preparation, along with sprinklers on the day, that saved his home from being destroyed in the fire.

NEW CFS BUILDING FIRE SAFETY OFFICER

The CFS welcomes its latest member of the family, Pat Ryan.

Pat joins the ranks of CFS in the role of Building Fire Safety Officer taking over from Max McAlister who resigned in December.

Born in Chatham in Kent, Pat joined the Kent Fire Service where he served for 13 years.

He is also a qualified carpenter

and joiner and has post graduate qualifications in business management and fire engineering.

Pat has maintained a significant professional connection with the emergency services in South Australia in his previous role as State Manager with First 5 Minutes, a fire and emergency training organisation.

Pat says: "I am very excited at the prospect of working in the South Australian Country Fire Service and look forward to the challenges ahead."

Pat commenced work with the CFS on 23 March 2009 and is based in the CFS Building Fire Safety Unit in the CFS regional office at Mount Barker.



STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT BUSHFIRE SAFETY

By: Therese Pedler and Haley Cahalan

Students at Lock Area School have been learning about bushfire safety with the Country Fire Service this year.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler and Regional Prevention Officer John Probert were invited to the school in the aftermath of some incidents in the area.

Prior to the visit a Community Fire Safe session had been held with some of the women in October.

Within a couple of weeks some of the women were impacted by a bushfire that started by lightning.

A local resident was also involved in a serious vehicle accident around the same time.

The school bus driver began to notice that in the aftermath of these incidents students were making comments about bushfires such as "I would just get out and run" or "I would get in the car when it got too bad to stay".

As a result, he liaised with the

school principal and CFS Community Education department to arrange for a school visit from the CFS.

Therese and John divided their sessions into different age groups throughout the day.

Puppets were used to discuss with Reception to Year 3 students the difference between good fires and bad fires.

Personal Protection Equipment was used with Year 4 to 6 students where they 'dressed up' to talk about the dangers of radiant heat and how best to protect yourself.

Year 7 to 8 students used science to explain bushfire behaviour, while the senior school students were urged to act as young adults and help the adults at home to become Bushfire Ready.

All students were given a Bushfire Action Plan and encouraged to write their name on it for ownership and take it home to work on with the adults at their home.

Lock Area School students eagerly learning about bushfire safety.



Enjoying learning about bushfire safety around the home.

Students dress up in PPE to understand how to protect themselves from radiant heat.



All students were given a Bushfire Action Plan as a homework task to work on with adults in their home.



THE FIRE PILOTS WHO HOVER AT 500 PACES

By: Chris Pepper
Story and photo courtesy
of the *Sunday Mail* 18/1/09

AERIAL

The Erickson Aircrane pilots on standby at Brukunga.

At any given moment, they will be within 500 paces of a weapon relied on to save countless lives in South Australia.

They are four people who spend their days playing table tennis and watching MTV in a building tucked away in the scrub of the Adelaide Hills - waiting.

Day after day, they sit and wait for the message they hope they'll never receive. But they know that when they do, life is in their hands.

For Adelaide's AirCrane pilots Don Anderson and Bill Ruehl that wait came to an abrupt end on Tuesday when a flurry of pager messages hit the duty pilots at their base in Brukunga. (Among the other pilots, John Walker was off duty and Vivi Barlogianni was assisting the ground effort).

A bushfire was raging out of control and heading towards Port Lincoln,

and the state's multi-million-dollar asset was needed to fight it.

Flying 600m above ground in temperatures well above 40°C, the scale of the mission soon became shockingly clear.

"We could see the fire about 45 minutes before we got there," Captain Anderson said. "Smoke was just pouring out. It was pretty spectacular."

With Capt Anderson's assistance, Capt Ruehl gently guided the AirCrane towards a lake at a quarry, and started taking on board water.

During the day they sucked up more than 100,000 litres, passing back and forth over the flames 22 times.

Their actions supported the CFS, MFS and Department for Environment and Heritage teams on the ground, and the other water bombing pilots,

in helping to prevent a major disaster from engulfing the West Coast town.

Capt Anderson, 51, from Missouri, US, who has flown fire fighting missions in America, Canada, Alaska and Italy, remains reluctant to take credit.

"We're just one small slice of the pie," he said.

"I think mother nature was our greatest asset in this (Port Lincoln) fire.

"The winds abated, slowed down, and there was a wind shift and a temperature change. If we didn't have all those factors then I think it would have been a lot more devastating for sure."

The pilots work shifts of three weeks on, three weeks off. They also take turns on duty: three rostered on together, one on leave.

Two engineers and a fuel tanker driver also come with the

government contract, provided by Helicorp of Adelaide and subcontracted by US firm Erickson Air-Crane, Inc.

"We're kinda like family - we're mates," Capt Anderson said.

When off duty, they are free to explore locally in a rental car.

"I've been to Hahndorf and the Barossa Valley ... and I like it," Capt Walker, also from the US, said. "I find (Australians) very kind, very cordial and very helpful.

When not touring, it's a diet of TV, ping pong, reading the internet to keep them occupied while waiting for call to air.

The team eat and drink together in Brukunga's mess hall and sleep in bunks, meaning they are never further than a sprint from their aircraft.



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VOLUNTEER - AERIAL

The Aircrane, which will be stationed in SA during the next five fire danger seasons, is one of five in Australia, costs about \$12,000 an hour to run and is based on 1950s technology, but it can fly with the best of them.

"It's an excellent, excellent machine," said Capt Waker.

"It will do anything any helicopter can do."

Air conditioning however, is not included.

"It's a sweatbox," said Capt Anderson, referring to the cockpit's huge bubble windows.

"The worst part is when landing for fuel. We're sitting in the sun and it becomes a greenhouse."

Although fire fighting helicopters dominate news footage, the

crew are keen to emphasise that the firefighters on the ground are the ones who deserve more recognition.

"We were very impressed with the CFS," Capt Anderson said, also praising the communications teams and the state's other air attack pilots.

"They deserve a lot more credit than we do."

OTHER TEAM MEMBERS:

Captain Bill Ruehl - Age : 40
Home town: Courtenay, British Columbia (Canada)
Standby Pilot: Andy Fidock
Grew up in Hamley Bridge (SA) and currently based in Canada with Erickson Aircrane
Crew Chief Ted Cassidy
Home town: Queenstown (New Zealand)
Support Mechanics:
Scott Garrett and Mike Fossen (USA)
Fuel truck driver: Gordon Brooks
(Eskdale, Victoria)

Captain Don Anderson | Pilot and SK-64 training captain | Age: 51 | Home town: St Louis, Missouri (USA)



Tongue in cheek, veteran US pilot Don Anderson said driving a car on the left-hand side of the road is harder than flying a helicopter.

"Flying to Port Lincoln and fighting the fire was not as terrifying as driving home afterwards," he said.

The fire fighting helicopter veteran was bitten by the flying bug at an early age.

"When I was in high school I was into motorcycles and cars, and

then trucks, then airplanes, then helicopters," he said.

"It's a unique way to make a living, that's for sure."

Captain Anderson has flown missions in the US, Canada, Alaska and Italy.

"There's a high degree of job satisfaction," he said.

"What's the old saying? Many hours of boredom and tedium, interspersed with a few moments of sheer terror."

He likened Tuesday's Port Lincoln inferno to bushfires he has fought in America.

Captain Anderson, who is engaged, said he was beyond homesickness and was used to the regular flights between Australia and the US.

Acclimatisation is an issue, with temperatures in St Louis hovering around 10°C.

"One of the hardest parts of my job is the commute," he said.

Captain in Training Vivi Barlogianni | Age: 42 | Gold Coast, Queensland

Instead of dreaming of becoming a pilot, Greek-born Ms Barlogianni's ambition was to fight sexism.

"When I was aged between 10 and 15 in Greece, I knew I was not allowed to enter the air force because I was a girl.

"I thought, 'That sucks, why not?' Years later, a friend owned a helicopter and I got the chance to go up and that was it."

She has had her pilot's licence for 10 years.

"It's not an easy machine to learn to fly. It challenges you immensely," she said.

In Greece, she flew helicopter water bombing missions during the devastating 2007 bushfires that claimed 74 lives. She said it was impossible not to be moved by the loss of human life.

"It was one of the worst fires we've seen," she said.

"I don't like to think there might be people down there because it would

distract us. In the aftermath, when you think about it, we're human, it affects us like anybody."

Ms Barlogianni, who works in Greece every northern summer, is half of a flying partnership - husband Glenn is a crew chief for Air-Crane.

"I have been married for four years," she said. "These last few months was the first time I'd spent more than three weeks with Glenn at home together."



Captain John Walker | Age: 53 | Home town: Gold Hill, Oregon (USA)

Memories of the devastating bushfires in Willunga last March remain etched in Captain Walker's mind.

"That will stick out for ever. Some firefighters got burned over," he said, recounting his memories of his first tour in South Australia.

"A lot of fires would get big if the Aircrane was not here."

During his 22-year flying career, Captain Walker also has flown helicopters for logging and construction.

His wife and three children, aged 18, 21 and 23, are used to him being a long way from home.

"I've been doing this for a long time," he said.

"We work through three weeks away, three weeks at home.

"Most of the people who are out here... are single, or have wives who are very self sufficient."

Capt Walker said flying was his greatest passion.

"I'd have a tough time finding

something I enjoyed as much as this," he said.

"It's fun, you get to help, you drive big machines. It's a good, fun job."

He said his greatest respect lay with the firefighters on the ground.

"A helicopter will never put a fire out. People on the ground do that," he said.

"And they have the nastiest, hardest, roughest job by far. All we do is help them."



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VOLUNTEER - AERIAL

FRIENDSHIP, FUN AND FOCUS FOR REGION 2 CADETS

By: Michaela Davis
Roseworthy CFS
Cadet Captain

On Saturday morning March 7, about 90 cadets and 27 adult leaders descended upon the State Training Centre at Brukunga to begin the Region 2 Cadet Camp for 2009.

Almost every Group within Region 2 was represented.

After sleeping arrangements were organised, the cadets were divided into six Strike Teams (Alpha through to Foxtrot), each team elected their Strike Team Leader and they had three adult leaders assigned to them.

The first day was mostly preoccupied with familiarisation of the Training Centre, a presentation by the Erickson Aircrane helicopter pilot and a close inspection of the aircraft.

The cadets also took part in several hose drills which rounded out the day just before dinner.

After dinner the cadets were briefed about the State Cadet Committee and were invited to put forward their suggestions to make improvements for the future.

On Sunday morning after breakfast, the cadets took part in more hose drills including the five-man step-up procedure.

Later in the morning three Strike Teams took a short stroll up to the

Brukunga CFS station, where they were shown its facilities including the new 34 appliance with a demonstration of its capabilities such as its pump and foam throw.

The day concluded with a parade and presentation at Brukunga at around mid-afternoon.

The special presentation marked the last cadet camp for one of the adult leaders, Sue Wallbanks, who has been the Cadet Coordinator for the Wakefield Plains Group.

Sue is retiring to spend more time with her daughter and husband.

The presentation acknowledged Sue's hard work over many years for making the cadet camp such a huge success.

Others who were thanked included the Manager of Training Facilities at the State Training Centre and David Baker, R3 VSO from SAFECOM's Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch.

Also the Cadet Coordinators and Supervisors, the assistant camp leader Vanessa Bywaters and First Aider Janet Kelly, were also acknowledged for their work.

The kitchen staff at the Brukunga Training Centre, the Erickson Aircrane crew and Brukunga CFS captain Wayne Bowman, also gained special accolades from very satisfied cadets.

>> Practical exercise of a straight stream attack.



Cadets pumping from an appliance truck.

CFS Region 2
cadets visit the
Brukunga Brigade.



2009 AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITY AWARDS

Do you have a project that has improved safety in your community?

The Australian Safer Community Awards in recognition of such achievements is being sponsored by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department in conjunction with states and territories, with SAFECOM administering the program for SA.

The Awards recognise outstanding achievements and innovation in emergency management.

Applications are sought from organisations and individuals for projects that promote community

safety in the context of emergency management including risk assessment, research, education and training, information and knowledge management, and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Entries for the awards must relate to:

- projects that commenced in 2008 or 2009, or
 - existing projects with significant outcomes since January 2008, or
 - existing projects with significant enhancements since January 2008.
- Any organisation or individual can enter. If you're aware of a good project you can also nominate the organisation

or individual for an award.

Awards are judged on two levels – State winners will receive an award and certificate at a special ceremony. State winners become finalists for the National Awards with national winners sponsored to attend a ceremony in Parliament House.

Previous CFS projects recognised include a pilot workshop on bushfire training for women, developed on Eyre Peninsula after the Wangary fire and the development of new residents' kits for people who have moved into the Mt Pleasant region. For more details visit the website



at www.ema.gov.au (Go to 'News' and 'Awards'). The closing date for applications is 3 July 2009.

Inquiries and nominations to Julie Frittum on 8204 9376 or frittum.julie@safecom.sa.gov.au

CFS SAGRN PAGING UPDATES

By: Gary Bau, CFS Communications Coordinator

With the recent change to the SAGRN paging service provider there has been some alterations to the following paging connections:

- The CFS paging indial number remains the same 1300 720 335 – you will need the 6 digit pager address number
- The website to send pager

messages remains unchanged http://www.linkq.com.au/mod-LinkQ_Direct-viewpage-pageid-32.html – you will need to enter the 6 digit pager address number

- CFS members can use the following email address to send pager messages: SACFS@sagrn-paging.com.au
- All Airsource software installed

on PC's and using dial up lines is still in place and working

- Fire Station Interface units and the Alpha units can still access the SAGRN paging service.

These services should be used for administrative purposes only and brigade responses should be radioed or phoned into Adelaide Fire using 000 and asking for "fire".

All SAGRN paging access points are monitored and traceable so users are advised to use appropriate language at all times as all messages can be viewed by the public and the media.

Any problems with these services should be reported to the SAGRN Helpdesk 1300 130 495.

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BASIC FIREFIGHTING 1 COURSES AT CFS STATE TRAINING CENTRE

By: Robin Geytenbeek (Rural State Training Officer) and Michael Mathew (Manager, Rural Firefighting Training)

✓ Volunteer firefighters who completed the BFF1 course in February this year.

A well recognised policy of the CFS is to ensure that volunteers new to the service complete their Basic Firefighting 1 (BFF1) course within six months of joining their brigade.

To support Brigades, Groups and Regions in meeting this requirement, the Rural Training team has offered a number of residential BFF1 courses at the State Training Centre (STC), Brukunga.

In the last twelve months, five of these residential courses have hosted almost 100 new recruits to the service, either as new volunteers or as new staff.

Trainees on these courses have comprised of volunteers from all around the State, from as far a field as Port Lincoln, Roxby Downs and Mount Gambier and as close as Mount Barker, Brukunga and State Headquarters.

New SAFECOM Public Affairs employees, ForestrySA employees and Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) employees have also received their basic training requirements through these courses, side by side with volunteers.

The dedicated Rural Firefighting Training team has enabled these courses to be run both in and outside of the fire danger season without risk of being cancelled due to operational activities.

Notably, during the 2007 Kangaroo Island fires, 24 new recruits completed their BFF1 at the STC and after two and a half days of intensive training, were eligible to respond in an operational capacity with their Brigades.

The latest course, held during extreme fire danger conditions from February 6-8 2009, saw 26 new volunteers and staff members successfully complete their basic CFS training requirements.

The residential nature of these courses greatly enhances the ability of new members to build their teamwork skills and confidence in state-of-the-art facilities.



^ Learning to roll a hose.



^ Signalling for water.

The environment at the STC enables trainees to immerse themselves in their firefighting training without outside distractions.

All trainee expenses are covered for these courses, including meals, accommodation and travel reimbursements.

Three more weekend residential Basic Firefighting courses are scheduled to be held in May, August and November 2009.

Nominations for these courses can be made through to your Regional Training Officer via your Brigade and Group Training Coordinators.

The Rural Firefighting Training team can also assist in flexible delivery of the BFF1 course to Groups and Brigades in conjunction with Regional Training Officers and volunteer Trainer-Assessors.

Group and Brigade Training Coordinators can discuss these options with their Regional Training Officers.

It is also important to acknowledge the volunteer trainer/assessors and course assistants who help run the STC and the BFF1 course: Julian Aggiss, James Honner, Pip McGowan, Murray Dolan, Ben Pettman and Ashley Hosking.

The residential Basic Firefighting courses at the STC, Brukunga have been scheduled for 22-24 May, 21-23 August and 20-22 November 2009. Please check the CFS website for the latest training calendar for details. All nominations and queries regarding courses should be made through the chain of command via your Brigade and Group Training Coordinators to the relevant Regional Training Officer.

Photos: Robin Geytenbeek and CFS Promotions Unit.

MEDIA LIAISON OFFICERS PULL ON THE FIREFIGHTING GEAR

By: Melissa Veal and Haley Cahalan, Media Liaison Officers

We recently attended the CFS basic firefighter training at Brukunga Training Centre, as part of our CFS education.

As Media Liaison Officers for the SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM) we look after the media function for the CFS, MFS and SES. This means that we are responsible for speaking to the media and providing them with information about the CFS and what they do.

The basic firefighter training really helped us to understand exactly what the volunteers do – which is a lot! It made us appreciate the level of knowledge they must have and how it is applied in difficult circumstances. The

training also gave us an opportunity to explain that our role is to assist the CFS by getting positive messages about the organisation out into the public – via the media.

Throughout the training weekend we had a go at activities such as ladder climbing, rake hoe work, radio operation and using hoses and pumps. It was great to get out of the office and try some tasks that we would never usually do. Our 'distinctive' lime green PPC also earned us the title of 'Kermits'.

Overall it was a great weekend and we really enjoyed getting to meet some CFS volunteers and see exactly what they do.

<< Firefighters learn on the hot pad at Brukunga.



^ Extinguishing a flame with a fire extinguisher formed part of the BFF1 course.

CFS TRAINING INVESTIGATES 'E' LEARNING OPTIONS

By: Brenton Eden, CFS Manager Training

Do you have a private email address? Would you like to receive training via your internet access?

The CFS Training Department is investigating ways to deliver components of their training courses via the option of 'e' learning, but we need your help.

While we have many volunteers who have registered their email address on the Training Administration System [TAS], to date we have not used your email address as a regular means of correspondence, nor have we investigated how many volunteers would be keen to participate in an 'e' learning trial.

If you would like to receive more information about our proposed move to an 'e' learning environment,

or you would like to become part of a focus group to trial such delivery, please email me and let me know.

Likewise if you are reading this and you have not advised us of your email address, then please send your details to me and I will ensure we enter them on TAS.

I welcome any feedback about ways in which we can better improve our delivery of training across the state.

For those who have viewed the new website, you will notice that we are now using it to deliver up-to-date information about many aspects of our business and I welcome feedback on ways we could enhance the current site.

Please address your replies to: eden.brenton@cfs.sa.gov.au



Media Liaison Officer Melissa Veal learns how to work the hose.



\$1.4 MILLION FOR DISASTER MITIGATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia is set to receive \$1.4 million for fourteen projects to help reduce the impact and risk of natural disasters.

The Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, and the Chief Executive of the Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM), David Place, welcomed the provision, which incorporates Australian and State Government funding, and includes assistance from local government.

"This extra funding will improve the resilience of these fourteen South Australian communities by mitigating the natural disaster risks they face, including flooding, bushfire, sea level rise and storm events," Minister Wright said.

"A number of projects will be undertaken to assist regional

communities such as Wallaroo, Robe, Naracoorte, Mallala, Port Lincoln and Kangaroo Island, as well as some high priority urban projects in Adelaide."

This will include \$70,000 for the construction of a fire watch tower at Winters Hill, near Port Lincoln.

Australian Government funding is being allocated from the \$18.6 million Natural Disaster Mitigation Program, which undertakes a range of measures that contribute to safer, more sustainable communities.

SAFECOM will administer the funding and provide support to the fourteen project teams.

"Should disaster strike, we want to help communities recover more quickly and be able to demonstrate increased resilience during the event," David said.

AFAC 2009 CONFERENCE

This year's Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) and Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Conference will take place on the Gold Coast in September.

The theme of the conference will be 'Meeting Expectations' and will aim to examine the expectations of government, community and industry.

AFAC president Euan Ferguson said there will also be an emphasis on issues facing urban fire fighting and State Emergency Services activities.

"The Annual AFAC/Bushfire CRC Conference continues to be the most important annual event on the emergency services calendar," Euan said.

"The conference will cater to urban

and rural fire, state emergency services, land managers, local, state and federal government, private industry and community groups."

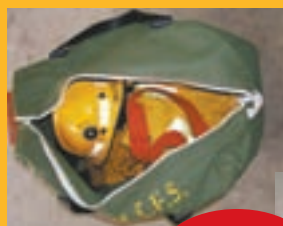
This year's conference will aim to follow the success of last year's in Adelaide which featured over 90 presentations and more than 1,000 delegates attended over three days.

"It is important that everyone associated with emergency services attend the 2009 conference, to take advantage of the huge information exchange and the invaluable networking opportunities afforded by our industry's major annual event," Euan said.

For more information on the AFAC 09 Conference log on to www.afac2009.org.au



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BLAZE WIPES OUT 25HA OF RESERVE

By: Jake Dean, Southern Times Messenger

FIREFIGHTERS are counting themselves lucky after flames tore through the Onkaparinga Gorge on Australia Day, in what was the biggest bushfire to hit the south since the Willunga inferno last year.

Aerial bombers and 200 firefighters took three hours to control the blaze, which burnt 25ha of grass and scrub from about 4pm on Monday, January 26.

The cause is still being investigated but CFS crews say the gorge area is a constant worry during summer.

The maximum temperature at

Noarlunga on Australia Day was 35°C and the winds were light compared to the stronger winds and temperatures in the 40s later in the week.

Mawson CFS group incident controller Ian Taverner said that in the wrong conditions, homes along Chapel Hill Road next to the gorge could be destroyed by fire.

"When a fire gets going and everything is in its favour, you'll be hard pressed to stop it," Ian said.

"If it's heading east or northeast you've got a number of areas where it can impact houses ... it could be quite damaging," he said.

"Look at (Port) Lincoln the other week - that was just bare ground yet the fire tore across it.

"It's not only the gorge, it's anywhere within the Adelaide Hills."

Mawson CFS group officer Peter Venning said the gorge, in the Onkaparinga River National Park, was a "worrying area" because much of the terrain was inaccessible to firefighters and vehicles.

"The conditions the other day to some extent helped us and we managed significant resources and aerial support, which was invaluable," he said.

"It's not unusual for fires of this size in January but it's a timely reminder of the consequences when things go wrong."

Chapel Hill Road resident Sue Trott said she had seen three major bushfires since she moved to Blewitt Springs 12 years ago and the current fuel load in the gorge was a "real concern".

"My neighbour and I keep a tractor with a full water tank ready to go at all times and I bring another one from my son's property whenever there is a fire," she said.

"We know we can fight our own fire but it is always a concern."

HAPPY 70TH HAPPY VALLEY

By: Andrew van Ek

In the summer of 1939 the small township of Happy Valley in Adelaide's foothills was left devastated by a bushfire that left a trail of damage which spread as far as Strathalbyn.

This event united the Happy Valley community and on the 28th of February of that year a fire brigade was established.

Seventy years later to the day, past and present members of the Happy Valley Brigade celebrated the milestone during a dinner at the Flagstaff Hill Golf Club, where they reflected on the brigade's history.

This event also provided a unique opportunity to unite all of the captains who had served the brigade, with the exception of its first captain, Dick Candy, who was unable to attend due to ill health.

Founding member Dudd Nicolle who

cut the 70th anniversary cake also put out a challenge for the brigade to find the original fire truck which is apparently somewhere in the Strathalbyn area.

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson who presented service awards to Happy Valley brigade members described the event as a fantastic milestone.

"It must be with a lot of pride that founding members such as Dudd and past officers and members tonight join with the young, trained and committed current members to celebrate the spirit of service to the community," Euan said.

"As we have seen recently on display by support forces to Victoria, Happy Valley CFS members are committed, professional, well trained and well led."



CFS Chief Officer >>
Euan Ferguson
congratulates Happy
Valley Brigade captain
Lee Filz.

<< Founding Happy Valley
Brigade member Dudd Nicolle
celebrates the milestone.



<< Happy Valley Brigade
captains from left (and
in order of tenure) Lee
Filz, Sam Thornton,
Mike Watts, Graeme
Fleetwood, Duncan
McFetridge, David
Bradley and Howard
Ellis (the Brigade's first
captain, Dick Candy was
unable to attend).

BOMBERS TO THE RESCUE

By: The Mount Barker Courier

A fire swept through railway tracks near Nairne early in February.

Two water bombers dropped two loads on the blaze that burnt about 3ha of grass on railway and private land between Hogan and Lesley roads.

Nairne, Littlehampton, Mt Barker and Brukunga brigades sent six appliances and 25 firefighters to the scene just after 1.30pm.

Many of them stayed until 4pm to blackout the area.

A CFS spokesman said brigades in the Mt Barker district enjoyed a relatively quiet weekend, despite the heat.

An electricity transformer is believed to have sparked a fire at Shady Grove Road near Littlehampton on Saturday night that burnt about 250sqm of grassland.

Firefighters attend a grass
fire at Nairne accidentally
started by workmen.
Photo: Ashley Hosking.



STRATHALBYN SCRUB BLAZE

A fire in Strathalbyn went through 15 hectares of scrub and land on February 18. The fire started at about 7.30pm and 19 CFS appliances carrying 79 firefighters

attended the scene. The fire was confined to an area bounded by Gemmell, Tarrawatta and Wistow-Strathalbyn roads. Fire Cause Investigators were examining the cause.

WAITPINGA BUSHLAND BURNS

By: Victor Harbor Times

Eight hectares of national park bushland in the Waitpinga region were scorched on February 19.

The blaze started at 3.20pm and was contained quickly by 60 firefighters on the ground from the

CFS and National Parks. Fire Cause Investigators believe the fire to be the work of arsonists. A number of fire helicopters and planes, including South Australian sky crane 'Flynn' also attended the scene.



Statewide > REGION

2

MOUNT LOFTY RANGES
YORKE PENINSULA & LOWER NORTH

LONG NIGHT FOR CFS VOLUNTEERS

By: The Yorke Peninsula Country Times

Northern Yorke Peninsula (NYP) CFS Group Officer David Bussenschutt described Wednesday night (28 January, 2009) as "mass chaos", saying the CFS had to call on Yorke Valley Group, as well as Balaklava and Port Wakefield appliances, to cope with the many fires caused by lightning.

"We were called to 12 jobs in total, two of which were to clear fallen trees from roads," he said.

"A tree down on Kadina-Agery Road was the first sign of trouble, and while the Bute crew was attending to that, they saw a fire on Lime Kiln Road (between Bute and Paskeville)."

While fire crews battled the Lime

Kiln blaze, the CFS received a report of another fire, at Copper Hill, near Cunliffe, which Cunliffe and Kadina appliances responded to.

Blazes at Kanaka and Alford also gave the CFS headaches, as did fires near Moonta for the MFS.

Port Clinton, Balgowan, Port Victoria and Weetulta appliances offered assistance from the Yorke Valley Group, though a fire was reported a kilometre from the Weetulta CFS shed once its crew had left, forcing some appliances to return.

Local police and landholders assisted with a number of the fires and thankfully none grew out of control.

GO Bussenschutt says final clean up took place at about 2am on Thursday, with the CFS assisting the

SES with road clearing, before crews were finally able to return home.

He went on to say that if it were not for patchy, yet heavy downpours of rain accompanying the storm, the situation could have been much worse.

"We believe the rain helped greatly in stopping a lot of the smaller fires," he said.

Yorke Valley CFS Group Officer Andrew Cadd said his appliances simply could not find a number of reported fires, in areas where it had been raining.

"We think the rain put out at least a couple of fires we were called to, which allowed us to offer the Maitland SES assistance clearing the roads of fallen trees," he said.

HOUSE FIRE AT MIDDLE BEACH

By: The Yorke Peninsula Country Times

Two Wells, Mallala and Virginia brigades responded to a house fire at Middle Beach on 15 February, 2009.

It occurred at 772 Esplanade, and caused about \$150,000 damage to the property.

The cause was undetermined but was not believed to be suspicious.

Fire destroyed a home at Middle Beach in February.



Firefighters clean up after the fire.



GAWLER RIVER BLAZE THREATENS HOMES

By: The Bunyip newspaper

Homes were threatened by a fire at Gawler River on February 7, which burnt 108 hectares of farmland and scrub.

The flames came within metres of homes, with residents forced to shelter indoors or leave the area.

The bushfire started on the corner of Gawler River and Wilkinson roads at Gawler River at about 11.30am and moved in a south-easterly direction to Gawler River, before crossing and burning towards Riverbanks Road.

Roseworthy Country Fire Service brigade captain Peter Ashcroft who was the sector commander said strong winds and 40-degree heat hampered firefighting efforts.

He said earthworks along the Northern Expressway prevented the fire from spreading to surrounding townships.

"At the peak of the fire Angle Vale, Kudla and Hillier were under threat. If the fire was not contained when it was, it is more likely these areas will have been impacted by the fire,

along with further communities of Evanston Gardens and possibly the Hills face zone to the south east," he said.

"The potential was there for losses of property or life."

Capt. Ashcroft said the fire was contained with a combination of hard work and luck.

About 30 appliances and more than 150 firefighters fought the flames for more than an hour before it was contained.



^ Firefighters at the Gawler River scrub fire.

MORE THAN 130 YEARS BETWEEN THEM

By: The Bunyip newspaper

The Shea-Oak Log CFS held its Christmas party in December and Group Officer Peter Kemp was on hand to present Service Awards to volunteers.

Members to receive awards were: Heather Murchie (10 years) and

Gordon Leske (10 and 15 years), Michael Alderslade (10 and 15 years), Grant Jericho (10 and 15 years), Max Leske (CFS Life Membership and 35 years), Peter Heinjus (10 and 15 years) and Robert Zilm (CFS Life Membership and 25 years).

SPORTS STORE GOES UP IN FLAMES

A fire at the Minlaton Sports Shop resulted in \$250,000 damage on 17 February, 2009.

Firefighters from Yorketown, Minlaton, Brentwood, Port Vincent,

Stansbury and Warooka, plus the Ardrossan BA trailer, fought the fire.

The fire is believed to have started from a split system air conditioner.

Fire tore through the Minlaton Sports Shop in February.



IMPROVED FIREFIGHTING FOR GREENOCK CFS

By: Barossa Valley Leader

The Greenock CFS was strengthened with the delivery of a new Isuzu Dual Cab 34 appliance in December.

The appliance will allow Greenock CFS to continue to provide quality emergency service to Greenock, as well as assisting other CFS brigades when requested.

GRASS FIRE AT ARMAGH

By: The Northern Argus

A slasher was blamed for starting a grass fire at Armagh on Friday, January 2, which burnt about 80 hectares of stubble and grazing land.

No stock or property was damaged by the fire.

Seven CFS units attended, including all Horrocks Group vehicles and crews from Blyth, Farrell Flat, Auburn and Manoora plus two quick response units, which contained and quickly extinguished the blaze.



^ Firefighters work briskly at the scene of the grass fire at Armagh.

FIREFIGHTERS ENJOY TRAINING DAY

Forty Region 2 Brigades participated in a field day late last year.

Hosted by the Angaston Group, volunteer firefighters undertook various training exercises with SA Ambulance.

The exercises included gas prop, map reading, pumping and draughting, helicopter landing site preparation, rural drills, HAZMAT drills and an SES land search.

It was an enjoyable day and beneficial for the volunteers who took part.

Facing the fire at the Region 2 field day. Photo: Ashley Hosking



✓ Volunteers rally together during the field day. Photo: Ashley Hosking



WAYNE TO RECEIVE MEDAL HONOUR

By: Murray Valley Standard, 29/01/2009

Country Fire Service Swanport Group Officer Wayne Thorley will receive the

Australian Fire Service Medal after being named in the official Australia Day Honours list.

Awarded by the Governor-General in recognition of distinguished service in the Australian Fire Service, Mr Thorley said the award was humbling.

"I feel a bit embarrassed because I don't know how to react to these things," he said.

"It doesn't happen all the time."

Mr Thorley has been a member of the Jervois Brigade since 1983, where he has served in leadership roles, set up fundraising activities that enabled the station to expand in size, and was the branch president of the Murraylands Volunteer Fire Brigade Association for four years.

He has also served as vice president of the South Australia CFS Volunteers Association since 2004.

During this time he helped change legislation that enabled volunteer firefighters to have an influence on decision making.

Mr Thorley said he was most proud of the latter achievement.

"It's a very special thing because

^ An AFSM for CFS Jervois Brigade member and Swanport Group Officer Wayne Thorley.

not every country group gets that opportunity," he said.

"It ensures the volunteers are consulted all the way through."

CFS A RELIGION TO PILGRIM

By: Rob McLean, Riverland Weekly 24/12/08

Gilbert Pilgrim's devotion to the Country Fire Service and local rowing has seen him named Renmark Paringa Council's Citizen of the Year.

The Paringa man has been a member of his local CFS since 1979 and the Renmark Rowing Club since 1951.

He is a life member of both organisations.

Like most long serving volunteers, Gilbert has no intentions of slowing down just yet, particularly with the CFS.

"I will keep going until they can get more volunteers and I still really enjoy it," Gilbert said.

Gilbert has really enjoyed his time with the Renmark Rowing Club, including attendance at four Australian masters titles and the

world masters in Brisbane.

"From when I started in 1951, there's another three of the original crew who are still involved," he said.

"We now have a Vietnam veterans crew, which is a highlight.

"I'm going to keep rowing for as long as I can."



>>
Gilbert Pilgrim –
Renmark Paringa
Council's Citizen of
the Year.

STIRLING NORTH CFS CADET OF THE YEAR

The Stirling North CFS Brigade cadets had their inaugural Cadet of the Year presentation at the Ryan Mitchell swimming centre in Port Augusta on Thursday, 11 December 2008.

This award is presented to the cadet with the highest score of points allocated by the cadet leaders every week, on the basis of effort and behaviour.

The award is titled "The Robert Strongman Award for the Stirling North CFS Cadet of the Year" and has been sponsored by the Strongman family.

Robert Strongman has been involved with the Stirling North CFS since 1975, holding the position of Captain and then Group Officer for many years.

Robert was also involved in the development of the Cadet Brigade in

1999 and has held a keen interest in their well being ever since.

The award is a perpetual shield (supplied by the Strongman family), an account with Community CPS Australia Ltd for \$250 and a trophy (Community CPS Australia Ltd have sponsored this) as well as Cadet of the Month - a \$50 account per month and a certificate from the brigade.

The recipient, in a very close race, of the 'The Robert Strongman Award for the Stirling North CFS Cadet of the Year' for 2008, was Sophie Stephens.

Sophie is one of four female cadets in the brigade and has shown a great attitude towards developing her skills and being an integral part of a team throughout the year.

Congratulations Sophie from all the cadet leaders.



Robert Strongman presents Sophie Stephens with her award.

ROXBY WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Roxby Downs Country Fire Service Brigade has welcomed both regulars and newcomers to 2009 activities.

Brigade captain Brett Atkins said the group was keen to hear from anyone interested in joining the brigade.

"We are looking forward to another year," Brett said.

"Hopefully numbers stay the same, or pick up."

Training started again on Thursday, 12 February for the new year and Mr Atkins said any members wishing to join are welcome.

"For anyone wishing to join they can come along and be a part of it," Brett said.

"For the old members, training has restarted, so come along and get back into it."

The brigade is also running a cadet program for children from the ages of 11 to 16.

"They start out as a cadet, then once they are 16 they can become a senior firefighter with parental permission," Brett said.

"Anyone over the age of 18 can join as an adult firefighter."

STIRLING NORTH GAINS VOLUNTEERS

Six new members have joined Stirling North Country Fire Service brigade in recent months.

Brigade officer Bob Kirby said the increase in active members was a positive sign.

"It's always good to spread the workload, otherwise you burn your people out," he said.

Mr Kirby said new volunteers were

always needed and it was good to gain younger people.

"They (younger generations) are essential to such volunteer organisations," he said.

"Otherwise the whole organisation gets a year older every year."

Shannen Ellis, 16, is one of the brigade's new members.

He was previously a CFS cadet and said it was both rewarding and fun.

IAN KLEINIG - MAKING EXCELLENT PROGRESS

Burra CFS firefighter, Ian Kleinig, suffered a serious injury during his deployment to Victoria when he was hit by a falling tree and suffered severe concussion.

He was later transferred from the Royal Melbourne Hospital to the RAH in Adelaide.

His condition was listed as serious upon his return but he has been making good progress every day.

Ian is now at the RAH Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre where he is undergoing intensive physiotherapy but is in positive spirits from the many cards and expressions of support from CFS members.

He has had visits from Burra Brigade Group and Region 4 members

and from a small number of people who were with him when the accident occurred, and Premier Mike Rann has rung Ian to pass on his best wishes.

Chief Officer Euan Ferguson who has also visited Ian said he was positive and keen to get back to playing footy with his two boys.

The Chief Officer reassured him that there were about 15,800 CFS members (and many, many others) who were thinking about him.

A special thank-you was also conveyed to Peter Ferris, Chris Taylor, Chris Martin, Malim Watts, Trudy Whelan, Jill Scott and to DSE's Glenys Matthews and the many others for the care that they afforded Ian's family.

"It's exciting and I've learnt a lot since being here," he said.

Port Augusta Mayor Joy Baluch has called for more young volunteers in all areas of the community.

"We are a population that is ageing, and we need those younger people to put their hands up and say that they will help their community," she said.

She was concerned about where the

next generation of volunteers would come from.

"The older men and women have always kept organisations afloat, but younger people are needed to continue the groups," she said.

The Victorian bushfires had highlighted the need for volunteers.

"The running of the country would cease if all volunteers decided to stop working," she said.

AWARDS NIGHT AT PORT MACDONNELL

By: Phil Richards, Millicent CFS



^ Port MacDonnell Brigade life members from left, Max Carrison, Garry Talbot, Trevor Coutts, John Holland and Terry Smith. Photo courtesy Grant Fensom.



<< Kate Talbot with the inaugural Brigade Member of the Year award. Photo courtesy Grant Fensom.

The Port MacDonnell Country Fire Service Brigade held an awards evening at Periwinkles in Port MacDonnell for its volunteers and their partners recently.

Chevrons were awarded to volunteers for two, four, six, eight and 10 years of service.

Long Service Awards were also presented to Grant Fensom – 15 years, Ted Habner – 20 years, Max Carrison, Glen Leggett and Dennis Merrett – 25 years, John Holland and Garry Talbot – 30 years.

An inaugural award for Brigade Member of the Year for outstanding contributions to the brigade in areas such as training, call-out attendances, CFS values and overall enthusiasm was awarded to 21-year-old Kate Talbot.

Trevor Coutts was inducted as a Life Member of the Country Fire Service at a Brigade get together held to present the award between Christmas and New Year.

All current life members within the Pt MacDonnell Brigade were able to attend this function along with many brigade members.

Mr Coutts' long history within the fire service dates back to 1977 when he was one of the original members of the Pt MacDonnell Brigade.

He has held many positions over the years including: Vice President, Second Lieutenant and Third Lieutenant.

While at this function he was also awarded his 30 Years' Service Certificate and chevron.

FIREFIGHTER HONOURS GREAT SOLDIERS

By: Phil Richards, Millicent CFS

The Naracoorte Brigade has thrown its support behind member Shane Smith who has published a book he has been researching for the past six years.

Shane, a brigade member for more than 23 years, has written a 426-page book called *'The Fighting Cavemen'*, which is an historical record of all the men and women from the Naracoorte District who served in World War I.

Shane has always had a keen interest in Australian military history.

His desire to become a soldier was denied when he lost most of his right arm in an industrial accident.

He has instead given excellent service to his community through his involvement with the SA Country Fire Service.

He has performed many roles with Naracoorte Brigade, including Cadet Coordinator for a number of years, State Road Crash Rescue Instructor, a Lieutenant and Training Officer.

Very little happens at Naracoorte without Shane finding the time to be involved with it.

Shane said his book is a link back to the war that made Australia what it is today.

"It is a lasting memorial to the 75 men who made the ultimate sacrifice," he said.

"My intention is to tell the truth and honour these great men.

"Many had not even set foot outside their local area and then all of a sudden they are rushed off to war."

The main focus of the book is the service record section which has the record of every person sent from the Naracoorte district that details their service history, wounds, any leave they were granted, appointments to rank positions, commendations, and either their return to Australia or the information about their death and burial.

Photos of most of them have been included.



^ Author Shane Smith presenting a copy of his book to Joe Davies, vice president of the Naracoorte RSL on Remembrance Day in 2008. Photo courtesy The Naracoorte Herald.

Diaries and letters that are still retained by relatives have been used to illustrate particular moments in the lives of the soldiers.

Shane said it was very easy to become emotional as you read of the difficulties that were encountered and some of the horrors that were endured.

He has presented copies of his book to the Naracoorte Brigade, the Naracoorte RSL and to schools and libraries throughout the South East area.

Limited numbers may still be available for purchase.

Shane is donating all proceeds to the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

CASTERTON AIR OPS DAY

By: Brenton Hastie,
ROPO Region 5

On January 8 staff and volunteers from Region 5 attended a Department of Sustainability and Environment-managed cross-border aviation exercise.

The day featured an array of aircraft including a Victorian and South Australian fixed wing bomber, a medium helicopter together with an Air Attack Supervisor and several observation aircraft.

The highlight of the day was the 18-seater, Sikorsky S61 heavy helicopter, a very impressive sight to see close up and in operation.

All aircraft performed several live

bombing drops in the adjacent pine plantation allowing witnesses to see the operational performance and capability of each aircraft.

The turnaround time for each of the aircraft was also shown giving people the opportunity to assess the benefits of fixed versus rotary aircraft relating to the availability of water.

The day also gave opportunities to build cross-border relationships with both the DSE and CFA and to look at recent investments by DSE and the Victorian State Aircraft Unit for the Casterton airstrip and bombing base.

PRE-SEASON BREAKFAST AT NARACOORTE

The Naracoorte Brigade held its annual pre-fire season breakfast and blessing of the fleet late last year.

The day has become a tradition of a cooked breakfast with all the trimmings for members, group officers and families.

After everyone was full of bacon and eggs, the action adjourned to the edge of the apron where all attention focused on Graham Dickson, lay preacher with the Anglican Diocese of the Murray.

Graham delivered a very thought-provoking service and blessed the vehicles and crews for the coming fire season.

Graham has a very long involvement with firefighting through both CFA and CFS.

He has been a member with Naracoorte Brigade for more than 12 years and enjoys seeking out a new theme for his message to the assembled firefighters each year.

This year's story related the experiences of a NSW RFS captain, his acceptance of Christ and the subsequent effect upon his brigade.

>> Members, family and friends of the Naracoorte Brigade enjoy the annual pre-fire season breakfast. Photo courtesy Jim Reekie of Naracoorte Brigade.

BRENTON HASTIE JOINS REGION 5

G-day. I'm writing to introduce myself to you as the new Regional Operations Planning Officer with Region 5 at Naracoorte.

I come to the SACFS after spending a year with the Victorian DSE as a Fire Management Project Officer.

My previous CFS experiences come from the Hahndorf CFS Brigade where I spent time as a lieutenant, training officer and prevention officer.

The CFS has some real strength over other states in areas of both

aircraft and technology/innovation.

The Tatiara Group for example has some of the best dry fire fighting machinery found anywhere in Australia and it is very exciting to be involved in such an organisation.

My role will concentrate on response planning and operational issues including IMT planning, the Regional Operations Management Plan and assisting Groups with operations and risk assessments.



EVENTS DIARY

May 2 Cadet Committee meeting at Region 5 HQ at 10am.

May 28 Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) event and BBQ at the Kingston Combined Emergency Services facility at 7pm. This is an

opportunity to meet members of the SAFECOM Board who will present certificates to nominated employers.

June 19 – 22 Regional cadet camp at Naracoorte Caves, with abseiling and search and rescue activities at Region 5 Training Centre.



PREPARATION IS THE KEY TO KEEPING YOUR HOUSE SAFE

By: Bonnie Puckridge,
Port Lincoln Times

Careful bushfire preparation including installing a sprinkler system helped save Robin and Christine Morton's home on North Side Hill during the Proper Bay Fire on January 13.

Mr Morton said without the sprinkler system and ensuring there was a cleared area at least 20 metres around his house, he didn't know what would have happened to their home.

Mr Morton has a 21,000-gallon rainwater tank, which supplies water to the 30 sprinklers he installed around his house, patio and shed.

No trees or shrubs grow next to the house, and Mr Morton usually sprays weeds in the summer.

"I keep it all clean, shrubs are out of the question and there's roughly a 20-metre clearance around any buildings," he said.

Mr Morton was devastated to see what was happening in Victoria, and said that was why he didn't like trees around the house.

Mr Morton said his home didn't suffer any damage from the Proper Bay Fire.

This was despite the fire, which surrounded the house, burning just metres away.

It was the clear gravelled area around the buildings and the sprinklers that "definitely saved it," Mr Morton said.

"It took a lot of worry off us in trying to run around with the hose and we didn't have to worry about cinders building up in the gutters."

When building the home about five years ago, Mr Morton thought about the measures needed to ensure safety if a bushfire occurred.

"When I designed the house I wanted a bullnose verandah so

leaves and debris didn't build up."

Mr Morton said the fascia was flush with the brick wall of the house so it minimised the chance of cinders getting into the ceiling.

"If you can reduce the fuel load directly around your house it's a big advantage."

Mr Morton said after seeing the destruction of the Tulka and Wangary fires he knew he wanted to prepare the house.

Shortly after, Mr Morton looked into pipes and pumps and systems, and almost four years later he has a high pressure and volume sprinkler system, that cost about \$12,000.

He said he chose an "elaborate" tank but agreed it was an investment which helped save his house.

"If you're in the country you have to set up some sort of system."

FIRE FIGHT FOUR HOUSES RAZED, MORE SAVED IN PROPER BAY BLAZE

By: Port Lincoln Times

A fire burnt through 252 hectares of land, destroyed four houses and a host of other buildings and property in January.

The fire saw a number of volunteer firefighters and other crews from across Eyre Peninsula and the rest of the State converge on Port Lincoln to prevent the blaze from destroying more property.

Sheds, boats and cars were also burnt in the fire, which early on had an estimated clean up bill in the millions of dollars.

The fire started at about noon on Tuesday, 13 January, on a property west of the rubbish dump on the south side of Western Approach Road.

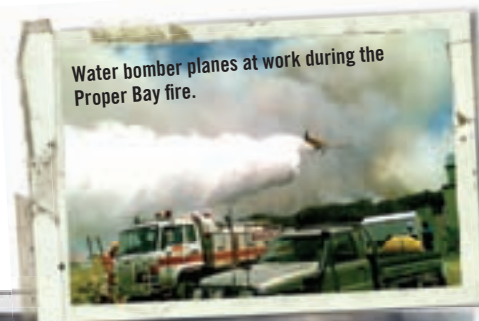
More than 250 firefighters and 25 appliances worked to control the fire in extreme weather conditions of low humidity, strong winds and high temperatures.

By January 14, the fire had burnt 252 hectares from Western Approach Road east to the water and south toward North Side Hill.

West Coast police chief inspector Brad Flaherty said the main concern for police had been that the fire would cross Western Approach Road into the main residential area so police started advising people in the Lincoln Gardens area to evacuate on Tuesday



▲ The fire looms over Port Lincoln.



Water bomber planes at work during the Proper Bay fire.



The Proper Bay fire was fuelled by strong winds and hot temperatures.

afternoon and a support centre was set up at Port Lincoln High School.

Port Lincoln Hospital had extra staff on duty on Tuesday night in anticipation of any injuries but Chief Inspector Flaherty said there were no serious injuries.

One firefighter received minor burns, eight people, including members of the public and firefighters, were treated by ambulance crews for smoke inhalation and five people were taken to hospital for smoke inhalation.

Another CFS volunteer was also injured in a road accident on the way to the fire.

Air support included four fixed wing water bombers, two fixed wing spotter aircraft, a small spotter helicopter and the Erickson Airplane.

TUMBY BAY GROUP OFFICER - CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

By: Chris Metevelis

Quentin Russ is well known throughout the Tumby Bay community and therefore not surprising that community leaders lined up with their commendations to nominate him for this year's Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award.

The CFS Tumby Bay Group Officer who is responsible for a total of nine brigades, is the Regional 6 President at Wudinna and the State Strike Team Management Leader.

CFS Deputy Group Officer at Tumby Bay, Ian Charlton said his fairness and level of commitment to outstanding service is recognised and valued by all the brigade members.

"His concern for the wellbeing of all members in the Brigades is always his number one priority, in relation to maintenance and safety," Ian said.

"His expertise is much sought after because his initiative, ability to calculate risk, consideration for all involved and commitment to each task, holds him in high regard, whatever situation may arise."

Ian said that the CFS was only one of many community services where Quentin willingly donates his time far beyond expectations and the call of duty.

Quentin is also a highly regarded member of the Tumby Bay Football Club and as a retired officer of the Australian Navy, maintains an association with the armed services through the local RSL Club as its president.

As a qualified electrician Quentin has also dedicated many hours to the Tumby Bay Yacht Club for various maintenance projects.



Tumby Bay CFS Group Officer Quentin Russ with his Australia Day Citizen of the Year award.

"Quentin offers his support without hesitation and receives no personal gain," Tumby Bay Yacht Club spokeswoman Linda Trenberth said.

"Without these inputs to small clubs by volunteers like Quentin,

many would not survive," she said.

Quentin was also the recipient of a Ministerial Commendation as part of the 2008 Emergency Services Medal last year and in 2003 was awarded an Australian Fire Service Medal.

FACES IN THE CROWD

BARRY JAGGER - A FULL TIME VOLUNTEER

By: Southern Argus 22/01/09

Barry Jagger of Waitpinga has a great job description now-a-days, 'retired teacher, farmer and full time volunteer', along with his wife Merridy and their children.

A family man with traditional values, greatly respected by his family and peers, Barry is like so many other Australians, rather than slow down in retirement, he now has more time to give to his community, both as a role model and volunteer.

Barry is an active doer of the jobs that many shy away from, like secretary and coordinator, simultaneously, contributing to local organisations, including the Yacht Club and Country Fire Service.

Barry has taken over the role of Chief Training Officer with the Victor Harbor CFS Group which is believed to have delivered the nationally accredited

'Suppress Wildfire' course to more volunteer firefighters than any other CFS Group in South Australia.

Barry currently holds positions with the Victor Harbor CFS including administrative officer, senior nationally accredited training assessor and deliverer, operational support coordinator and cadet coordinator.

With the Waitpinga CFS, he is brigade training officer, lieutenant and reserve brigade captain (duty officer).

When speaking of his City of Victor Harbor Australia Day Citizen of the Year award, Barry said, "I am proudly flattered, surprised and humbled that someone should consider I've done sufficient to deserve the nomination, let alone the award." He then added, "So many people have done heaps more!"



Barry Jagger, City of Victor Harbor Citizen of the Year, retired teacher, farmer and full time community volunteer.



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VOLUNTEER - REGION 6 - FACES IN THE CROWD

PHABULOUS PHOTOS

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.

Or email photos to: publicaffairs@safecom.sa.gov.au

When emailing photos please do not reduce the size. Sometimes Outlook asks if you want to keep original size or send smaller. If the file size is reduced, the quality is affected and therefore the photo may not be able to be published in a large size.

The winner receives a \$50 gift voucher of their choice.

>> This echidna was rescued from the Victorian bushfires by a CFS firefighter.
Photo: David Emes



>> A little ray of sunshine during BFF1 training at Brukung.
Photo: Robin Geytenbeek



Senior firefighter from Happy Valley CFS Shane Whitbread being interviewed by Brenton Ragless at Adelaide Airport.
Photo: Haley Cahalan



THANK YOU CFS

Thank You CFS

On behalf of Bedford, and in particular our Port Lincoln service based at Compass on Coronation Place, my thanks to Regional Commander Mr Kevin May and the CFS team for controlling the bushfire which threatened our Compass sites and the rest of the city.

The swift and decisive action of the emergency services clearly contained what might have become a disaster.

The consequences of not being able to offer our services to people with a disability in the Port Lincoln community due to fire damage or indeed injury, or worse would have been significant without your effective intervention.

Thank you once again for the CFS response to this incident.

Max Dyason
Chief Executive – Bedford.

Supporting Victoria

May I please extend a heartfelt and sincere thank you to the CFS firefighters who assisted the CFA Vic firefighters with the horrendous bushfires.

You are, each and every one of you, the angels in yellow – and I can't even imagine what life would be like in Australia without the wonderful, brave, talented and incredibly generous CFA fireys (and of course their support personnel).

We are, as a nation, in your debt.

Thank you for yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Avalon and Linda Sperring,
Forestville SA.

The efforts of CFS firefighters prevented further damage during the Proper Bay Road fires near Port Lincoln on 13 January 2009.



Tulka praises prompt response

Tulka Progress Association would like to thank CFS volunteers for your immediate response to the Proper Bay fire.

Your caring and concern for others is always appreciated.

Thank you from the Tulka Community.

Kaye Paterson
Secretary - Tulka Progress Association.

Hats off to the CFS

Hats off to all of the CFS in SA for their contribution to the Victorian Fires.

You all do a great job here and interstate.

No job is too small or too big for you all.

Great work.

Pat Wake.

Professionalism and determination praised

I am writing to pass on a BIG "THANK YOU" to all volunteers, but particularly CFS volunteers, for your successful efforts on the day of the Proper Bay Fire.

This is not the first time we have benefited from your dedication, professionalism and selfless determination and we just wanted to let you know that we truly appreciate your efforts.

Some people choose to be part of their community, others for various

reasons choose not to, and then there are some other people, like yourselves, who choose to contribute to not only your own community, but to the community of others.

You choose to make a commitment, to train regularly, to undertake extra duties, to forgo employments and wages, to leave the comfort of your homes and the safety of your families to do your very, very best to protect others from bushfires when sometimes the very people you have gone to protect haven't even begun to protect themselves.

As it turned out, we were not directly impacted by this fire, but had it not been for all your planning, prevention and training and Mother Nature's whim, the outcome could have been a lot more serious.

We only need to look at what has happened in Victoria to know how different things could have been...

For your time, generosity and passion we say a sincere thank you!

Therese Pedler and her family
at Tulka.

<<
A barren landscape in the aftermath of the Victorian bushfires.
Photo: Shane Smith, Naracoorte



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU CFS

THANK YOU CFS

CONTINUED



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU CFS



Euan,
STRATFORD GROUP WISH TO
THANK YOU AND YOUR FIRE SERVICE
FOR THE ASSISTANCE YOUR
VOLUNTEERS GAVE US DURING THE
CHURCHILL - CALLIGNEE FIRES
YOUR VOLUNTEERS MAKING
STRATFORD - PERRY BRIDGE AND
MEERLIEU TANKERS ALLOWED OUR
GROUP PEOPLE A WELL DESERVED
REST.
THANKS AGAIN.
STRATFORD GROUP.
W. J. Smith

Thanks from Stratford Group

"Euan,

Stratford Group wish to thank you and your fire service
for the assistance your volunteers gave us during the
Churchill, Callignee fires.

Your volunteers manning Stratford, Perry Bridge and
Meerlieu tankers allowed our group people a well
deserved rest.

Thanks again, Stratford Group."



Look what your
VANDALS DID TO
OUR TANKER
Ken.

"Look what your vandals
did to our tanker. Ken."
(Ken Baxter)

OBITUARIES

John Molineux, Brigade Captain, Tintinara CFS 6 August 1940 – 4 May 2008

Sydney 'John' Molineux joined the CFS in November 1971 as a founding member of the Tarlee CFS. In 1980 he moved to Culburra and transferred to Tintinara CFS where he became Captain. During this time he was also a member of Emergency Services at Coonalpyn.

He also served a period of time as Deputy Group Officer and later as Deputy Two Group Officer.

John served the community and beyond being available to assist in

fires, floods and accident rescue. He also flew to Sydney in January 1993 to assist in the fires there and was available to go on strike teams in many areas.

He was awarded a National Medal and later also received the Gold Long Service Award for 35 years of service just days before he lost his battle to cancer.

He passed away on 4 May 2008 which happened to be International Firefighters Day.

Malcolm McDonald, Lieutenant, Port Vincent CFS 1953 – 2008

Steve Cornwall from Port Vincent advises of the sudden passing of Malcolm McDonald, Port Vincent Lieutenant, who passed away recently as a result of a suspected heart attack.

Malcolm, 55, joined the Kimba EFS/CFS in October 1975 where he rose to the rank of Brigade Captain.

Malcolm and his wife Wendy moved to Port Vincent in the late nineties to take over the General Store and transferred to the Port Vincent Brigade.

In 2006 Malcolm was awarded Life Membership of the CFS.

Due to his work and dedication to the CFS, Malcolm will be sadly missed by the whole town.

Kerry Liddell, Forreston CFS 29 June 1946 – 30 November 2008

Ray Brownbill and Andrew Plush have advised of the sad passing of Kerry Liddell of Forreston CFS Brigade.

Kerry passed away on Sunday morning 30 November after a couple of years fighting cancer.

Kerry was still a member of Forreston where he was a founding member and also a life member of the brigade.

Ray recalls that he presented his bar for the National Medal to him at his home back in May.

He was captain on several occasions back in the eighties, and has carried out many roles including training, equipment and logistics in the Brigade.

In the late nineties he became the Gumeracha Group SAVFBA representative through to the early 2000s.

Kerry went on many strike teams, intrastate as well as interstate.

He was a person that enjoyed life and he always had a story or joke to tell, and always had his listeners in fits of laughter.

Ray tells us that Kerry was his neighbour and they enjoyed many chats over a cuppa.

He was a mentor to the newer members of the brigade and also to brigades in our group.

Kerry Liddell will be sadly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie and Kerry's family.

Leon Trevor Klose, Birdwood CFS 12 April 1941 – 5 November 2008

Leon Klose, born on 12 April 1941 at Lobethal, was the eldest of four sons of Reg and Mona Klose who were storekeepers in Birdwood.

His baptism, confirmation, marriage and funeral services were all celebrated in the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Birdwood.

After leaving school, he spent his early adult life working on farms milking cows, at first by hand and then later with a machine.

Later, he worked on a local potato farm followed by driving a milk pick-up truck for AMSCOL at Mount Torrens.

After AMSCOL ceased milk collecting, he was employed by the Highways Department (Birdwood Depot) with his last employment being with his brother Graham as a furniture removalist.

Leon served with distinction with the Birdwood CFS for approximately 20 years. During that time he was presented with the Bronze Long

Service Award. He attended training regularly and was a keen firefighter.

He was particularly active in fund raising projects, such as car parking for the Bay to Birdwood Vintage Car Run and selling raffle tickets. He enjoyed the camaraderie of members and felt proud of being actively involved in the local community.

Leon enjoyed his sport; he liked attending the trots, he played a bit of football and a lot of table tennis, he was a time keeper for the Birdwood Football Club, served on the Board of Management of the Birdwood Park Association and Birdwood Table Tennis Club.

Leon was first diagnosed with lung cancer in 2001 and underwent extensive chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment, but after six years of respite, he was readmitted to hospital in September 2008.

Leon is survived by his wife of 42 years, Shirley, two sons, one daughter and three grandchildren.



Kerry Liddell (right) with his family after an awards presentation last year.



REGISTER NOW FOR THE SAPES GAMES 2009

By: Allan Vilcins, Games Executive Officer

The organising committee of the South Australia Police and Emergency Services (SAPES) Games invites you to compete in the fifth SAPES Games to be held in Adelaide from 1-10 May 2009.

Amongst those eligible to compete in this event are employees of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission with a minimum age requirement of 18 years and volunteers who have been with their agency for at least 12 months.

The theme for this year's event is 'United in Competition' emphasising an opportunity for around 25 emergency service organisations to unite in a fun and competitive environment, regardless of sporting ability or respective roles within each agency.

With the aim of promoting a healthy lifestyle and fostering teamwork and cooperation among friends and colleagues, the SAPES Games encourage participants to unite and 'have a go!'

The SAPES Games will showcase over 40 sports, which will compliment the sports on offer in readiness for the 2009 World Police & Fire Games in Vancouver, Canada.

The South Australia Police and Emergency Services Games organisers wish all competitors a memorable and enjoyable experience.

For more information and to register log on to the SAPES website at www.sapes.com.au



GOVERNMENT APPOINTS BUSHFIRE TASKFORCE

A specialist taskforce, comprising of experts in various fields, has been selected to analyse key issues arising from the Victorian bushfires.

Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright, announced last month the members of the taskforce and the work they will undertake.

"This specialist team will aim to bring South Australia to a new level of bushfire preparedness, analyse key issues arising from Victoria's bushfire, and look into immediate, medium and longer term actions required to improve bushfire management practices and strategies in South

Australia," Minister Wright said.

"The devastating fires that occurred in Victoria will be remembered as one of the darkest days in Australian history. As a Government, it is important we take steps to do all we can to prevent a similar incident occurring here in South Australia.

"South Australia is by no means impervious to a bushfire of the magnitude and the devastation that occurred in Victoria. Climate change and drought are frequently altering the nature, ferocity and duration of bushfires," Minister Wright said.

The taskforce will be headed by CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson and will include the following members:

- Department of Environment and Heritage Chief Executive, Allan Holmes.
- SAFECOM Chief Executive, David Place.
- MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton.
- Cabinet Office Deputy Chief Executive, Tanya Smith.
- State Recovery Office Director, Ronnie Faggotter.
- South Australian Police Assistant Commissioner, Bronwyn Killmier.
- Deputy Chief Executive - Department of Planning and Local Government, John Hanlon.

The taskforce will consult with other agencies and report back to State Cabinet.

SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE STATE HEADQUARTERS

Level 7, 60 Waymouth St, Adelaide
P: GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001
T: 08 8463 4200
F: 08 8463 4234
E: cfshq@cfs.sa.gov.au
W: www.cfs.sa.gov.au
CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361

REGIONAL OFFICES

REGION 1

Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island
75 Gawler St, Mount Barker SA 5251
T: 08 8391 1866
F: 08 8391 1877
E: cfsr1@cfs.sa.gov.au

REGION 2

Mount Lofty Ranges, Yorke Peninsula and
Lower North
8 Redbanks Rd, Willaston SA 5118
P: PO Box 1506 Willaston SA 5118
T: 08 8522 6088
F: 08 8522 6404
E: cfsr2@cfs.sa.gov.au

REGION 3

Murraylands and Riverland
10 Second St, Murray Bridge SA 5253
P: PO Box 1371, Murray Bridge SA 5253
T: 08 8532 6800
F: 08 8532 6220
E: cfsr3@cfs.sa.gov.au

REGION 4

Flinders Ranges, Mid North and Pastoral Areas
3 Main St, Port Augusta SA 5700
P: PO Box 2080, Port Augusta SA 5700
T: 08 8642 2399
F: 08 8641 0176
E: cfsr4@cfs.sa.gov.au

REGION 5

South East
46 Smith St, Naracoorte SA 5271
P: PO Box 8, Naracoorte SA 5271
T: 08 8762 2311
F: 08 8762 1865
E: cfsr5@cfs.sa.gov.au

REGION 6

Eyre Peninsula and West Coast
Level 1, Jobomi House
48 Liverpool St, Port Lincoln SA 5606
P: PO Box 555, Port Lincoln SA 5606
T: 08 8682 4266
F: 08 8682 6569
E: cfsr6@cfs.sa.gov.au

CONTACT DETAILS

STATE TRAINING CENTRE (BRUKUNGA)

6 Pyrites Rd, Brukunga SA 5252
T: 08 8398 9900
F: 08 8388 6997
E: cfsstraining@cfs.sa.gov.au

COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

Suite 3, Transport Training Centre,
17 Wurringa St, Regency Park SA 5010
P: PO Box 2359, Regency Park SA 5942
T: 08 8244 6500
F: 08 8244 6400
E: admin@cfsva.org.au
W: www.cfsva.org.au

VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT BRANCH VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

T: 1300 364 587
E: cfsrecruitment@cfs.sa.gov.au





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Taipan Footwear

- 5080 - Taipan - Elastic Sided fire Boot - RunOut \$ 90.00 ea + G.S.T.
- 5074 - Taipan - Front Zipper (Low Cut) Rural - \$145.00 ea + G.S.T.
- 5072 - Taipan - Front Zipper - Structure fire - \$169.00 ea + G.S.T.
- 5095 - Taipan - Side Zipper - Structure fire - \$170.00 ea + G.S.T.
- 5076 - Taipan - Front Zipper (Waterproof) Boot - \$189.00 ea + G.S.T.



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