

VOLUNTEER



Government
of South Australia



Volunteers from the Gumeracha Group participated in an evening training session on the hot pad at Brukunga on May 19. It provided the opportunity for some outstanding photographs, taken by Pip McGowan from the CFS Promotions Unit.



WELCOME TO VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

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Front cover image: Taken by Pip McGowan, CFS Promotions Unit, at a Gumeracha Group training session at Brukunga.

Editorial Team – Managing Editor: Chris Metevelis. Editors: Haley Cahalan and Karina Loxton. Tel (08) 8212 9849 (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.



CHIEF OFFICER Euan Ferguson

The attitude of the people in an organisation is a defining part of organisational culture.

So how do you see our attitude? How do you see your own personal attitude?

Recently senior leaders from CFS and CFSVA (volunteer and paid) discussed and reviewed our organisational values. I think values are very important.

As an emergency service we will always need a set of rules, procedures and guidelines, these should be just that: best practice guides. What is just as important is that we define, encourage and reward a set of values that set our organisational attitude. We need to be an organisation that is defined by our values which in turn define our attitude to things.

Since the Wangary fire, CFS has demonstrated an ability to recognise the need for change, adapt our way of doing things or develop new practices, and then put them into action. At the

heart of this is an attitude that is “no blame”, that strives for continuous improvement and adopts a “lessons learned” philosophy.

We need to constantly seek out and reward people who give us examples of innovation, excellence, resourcefulness and creativity. We must encourage and reward (rather than stifle) diversity in our workforce, diversity of thought and ideas and diversity of opinion.

Whilst sometimes the many committees in CFS are a cause for frustration, well managed, they can also stimulate a wide range of views, ideas and solutions.

As I travel around South Australia and see so many new and good things happening (both in CFS and in the community) I am reminded that these characteristics of innovation, resourcefulness and diversity of opinion are very much hallmarks of our society, as well as being values that CFS aspires to.

Not every idea is suitable for CFS. Not every idea will work, or can be afforded, or has its time. But what is precious to us and our organisation is an attitude that anyone in our organisation can have a great idea that just might change the way we do our job.

Our systems of management and decision making must adapt so they encourage diversity of opinion and healthy debate both within CFS and its members; between CFS and other organisations; and between CFS and the communities in which we live and serve.

Life is not so much about what happens to you, but more about what you do about it.

I encourage everyone in CFS to be positive about our future, reward resourcefulness, diversity and innovation, encourage debate and reward balanced risk taking. After all, your individual attitude helps define the attitude of CFS as an organisation.

CFSVA PRESIDENT Ken Schutz

In the past weeks you may have seen a number of media reports where the CFSVA is calling on the Government to better fund the CFS in the areas of capital funding, extra staff, training and equipment.

Some have expressed their surprise and queried why the CFS needs extra funding; none of these issues are new.

Ever since the establishment of the Emergency Services Levy and the Government take-over from local councils, the Volunteers Association has voiced its opinion that the CFS is under-funded.

Initially, the Government underestimated the amount local government had committed to CFS and subsequent governments have not increased the funding to a level that the CFSVA believes is adequate, especially in the above areas.

The current Government will argue that they have increased the level of funding by millions of dollars but the majority of these increases have

been for specific projects e.g. aerial firefighting, or compliance funding such as projects identified from inquiries and OH&S issues.

There are reports that identify the CFS is falling way behind in the area of funding to build stations.

Our staffing levels are the lowest of any fire service in Australia when comparing staff numbers to the number of volunteers they are supporting.

Training is a key area of the CFS and without appropriate training, volunteers cannot do their job to the standard that is expected.

And fundamental equipment in our stations such as computers cannot be funded, while all of the departments in the CFS are moving more towards electronic delivery such as training modules on a disc.

While CFS volunteers are saving the Government millions of dollars by delivering a professional fire fighting and prevention workforce, they are

expecting us to do our voluntary duties with minimal support, inadequate buildings and a lack of equipment.

It would be a shame to have to go through another Black Saturday or Ash Wednesday for the Government to realise the value of our 15,500 CFS volunteers across our state.

On behalf of our members we are meeting with the Minister to raise these issues and to seek his support in resolving them.





[MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES Hon. Michael Wright

What unfolded in Victoria earlier this year was a tragedy beyond comprehension.

The 7th of February 2009 will forever be remembered as one of the darkest days in Australia's history.

The inconceivable loss of human life, the destruction of homes and property and the razing of entire townships remain difficult to fathom.

That Saturday revealed the vicious and unforgiving side to Australia's natural environment. But in the face of tragedy, it also brought to the fore the fighting spirit of Australian people.

I'd like to pay tribute to the hundreds of heroic members of the CFS who rallied together during one of our nation's darkest hours to fight on the frontline.

To risk your own lives in order to save and help others is not only testament to your dedication and courage as firefighters and volunteers but speaks volumes

about your generosity, empathy and humanity.

You have our sincere respect, admiration and above all else, our eternal gratitude.

South Australia is not impervious to a bushfire of this magnitude and the devastation that occurred in Victoria should send a strong, albeit sombre message to residents here, that having a proper Bushfire Action Plan is vital.

People who do not have a Bushfire Action Plan are placing themselves, their family and others at risk.

The State Government is continually working towards enhancing bushfire management practices; one step we took was to form a specialist taskforce, comprising of experts in various fields, to analyse key issues arising from the Victorian bushfires.

The aim of this specialist team is to bring South Australia to a new level of bushfire preparedness, look at key issues emerging from

Victoria's bushfires, and explore immediate, medium and longer term actions required to improve bushfire management practices and strategies in South Australia.

Furthermore, in this year's State Budget we announced a \$150 million investment to upgrade the Government Radio Network.

While the network is regarded by other Governments here and overseas as one of the most effective public safety radio networks in the world – the time has come to upgrade the equipment to the latest, fully digital network to provide much more efficient emergency communications.

The hard work, skill and devotion of our volunteers help make SA a better place to live and work.

Volunteers have a positive and lasting impact on the lives of South Australians every single day, whether it's environmental, cultural, educational or making us healthier and safer and for that we say thank you.

[CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SAFECOM David Place

We all watched in disbelief as the events of Victoria's Black Saturday unfolded.

Then many South Australians watched with pride and admiration as our fire and emergency services, including many of you, rallied to support our counterparts over the border.

With the immediate threat behind us, it's now time for us to reflect on what lessons can be learned to better prepare ourselves and the community if, or more realistically when, we are confronted with a similar event.

The Victorian experience has profoundly changed the emergency management landscape. The fire weather conditions, the unprecedented extreme fire danger ratings, the fire behaviour – they have all set a new frame of reference for fire management authorities.

It has prompted us to re-evaluate how we prepare for and respond to significant and catastrophic events. The Royal Commission and SA's Bushfire Task Force are re-examining

how we deploy our agencies and how we prepare and alert communities at risk.

Bushfire policies, planning and construction standards, building codes, community engagement and education, dissemination of public safety information are all under review.

The CFS is playing a lead role in looking at these issues as part of the Bushfire Task Force. For our part, SAFECOM, also a member of the Task Force, is leading the development of an all hazards telephone-based warning system.

SAFECOM has recently completed a business case to identify funding and operational requirements for the telephone system and associated community education.

Critical to the success of this early warning system is the reliance on accurate, authoritative and timely delivery of information, ensuring the community understands the warning system and how to respond to it, and the need to use multiple platforms to get the messages out.

Every effort is being made to implement the system before the start of the next fire danger season.

Fundamental to any emergency response is the dedication of our legion of volunteers, and the support of employers who allow their staff to down tools when called upon.

One of the most powerful addresses I have heard in recent times about the value of CFS volunteers was by Ashley Wilkins at SAFECOM's Volunteer and Employer Recognition event in Kingston.

Ashley is a self-employed volunteer and an advocate for encouraging his employees to volunteer for the CFS. He espoused the great benefits of being a volunteer and the value of having CFS volunteers on staff. His passion, sincerity and great admiration of volunteers was truly inspiring.

He is a great ambassador for the CFS and a role model for other employers, and it is people like this that help to reaffirm in the minds of the general public that our sector is central to the very fabric of local communities.



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VOLUNTEER - WELCOMES

QUICK RESPONSE

AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS HELP AVERT MAJOR FIRES

By: Rob Sandford, Assistant Chief Officer

The 2008/2009 Fire Danger Season saw some of the most extreme fire risk days, a heatwave, and an unprecedented move by the Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS) to close some schools in South Australia on an extreme fire danger day. A combination of factors including community preparedness, the delivery of key bushfire safety messages and quick responses to contain fires, meant that South Australia was spared a significant fire incident.

Unfortunately our Victorian counterparts were not so fortunate, and many of our CFS volunteers assisted with the firefighting relief efforts throughout that time.

The efforts of those who assisted in Victoria, and those who remained in South Australia to keep the State safe was commendable.

Fire Danger Season 08/09

In late August 2008 the Country Fire Service took part in a national workshop conducted by the Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre and Bureau of Meteorology to look at the Seasonal Bushfire Assessment outlook for SA for the upcoming fire danger season period.

Indications from this workshop showed that near average levels of fire activity were likely for the majority of South Australia (refer map attached).

The North West and North East Pastoral districts were identified for lower than average fire activity due to

a lack of vegetation growth over the previous three years. The areas where indications were for potentially higher levels of activity due to long term rain deficits included Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Murraylands, Riverland, eastern half of Kangaroo Island and the Upper and Lower South East.

Five of the 15 fire ban districts across the State commenced restrictions early due to the continuing drought and low rainfall across the majority of the State. No districts were extended beyond their traditional end dates, as the risk had moderated to allow this to occur.

As in the previous four fire danger seasons, fires were reported as early as late September, with significant fires occurring in October in the west of the State.

Again South Australia had a spate of sustained hot weather in late January and early February. During this period significant fire weather occurred, with several fire events across the State, notably the Gawler River fire on Saturday, February 7.

The heatwave of January/February 2009 included nine consecutive days above 35°C, dropping to 33°C for one day, then an additional three days above 35°C. This included a high of 45.7°C, totalling eight days above 40°C.

While SA received below average rainfall during summer and early autumn, conditions were conducive to the fire season concluding without requiring extension. Overall the State has received average to below average rainfall for the first five months of 2009.



<< Bridgewater fire
March 29, 2009.



^ Bridgewater scrub fire,
March 29, 2009.

<< Kangarilla bushfire,
March 8, 2009.

2008/09 NATIONAL FIRE SEASON OUTLOOK MAP



The demarcations around the junction of NSW, VIC and SA reflect differing uses of the land and irrigation between the different states.

[PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

Volunteer by name, *Volunteer* by nature. With over 15,000 volunteers spread across 423 brigades it is hard to keep up with all the comings and goings and news and views, but this magazine is your voice.

Volunteer is a vehicle for you to share your stories, your achievements, your learnings and profile the good

work of the CFS across the State. It is also a platform to provide you with updates and news from the CFS and across the sector that may be of interest and relevance to you.

While the Public Affairs team does its best to pack each edition with informative and interesting articles, it is your magazine and we need your help to alert us to story ideas.

Whether it's providing basic details of an incident or an event that you attended, or giving us a tip about someone in your brigade that you think has an interesting story to tell or has made a real difference in their community, then we (and others in the CFS) want to hear from you.

Many of you tend not to chase the spotlight and some of you may not

think what you do is newsworthy, but your story may be an interesting read for other volunteers and your peers. A diversity of stories from across the regions adds to the rich tapestry that makes up the CFS, and helps to capture the true breadth of services and depth of your volunteering spirit.

So don't hold back. You can send us photographs or articles, or as

Gawler River fire February 7, 2009.



^ Mylor scrub fire, September 21, 2008.

Fire Events

The CFS responded to a total of 7,013 incidents for the period July 1 2008 to June 30 2009, with another 4,792 support responses. Of these incidents 2,037 were rural-type fires.

The table below provides a summary of the significant fire events across the State for CFS during the 2008/09 Fire Danger Season.

Victorian Bushfire Deployments

While South Australia was fortunate to escape any prolonged fires, Victoria suffered greatly on February 7, which became a major support operation for SA CFS firefighters

who were deployed to assist in the relief effort.

South Australian fire agencies committed more than 800 firefighting personnel to the Victorian bushfires. This comprised members from CFS, MFS, SES, SAFECOM, DEH and ForestrySA. Support included firefighters, incident management teams, logistics support and liaison personnel. Twenty-seven firefighting vehicles from CFS, Forestry SA and DEH were also deployed. This support was maintained for a three and a half week period. Importantly, service coverage was maintained in SA throughout this time.

Injuries

Despite all the necessary precautions, two serious injuries occurred. One was an MFS firefighter who sustained deep burns to his leg. The other was a CFS volunteer from Burra with a head injury caused by a falling tree limb. Both firefighters are still receiving treatment as part of their recovery. MFS, CFS and SAFECOM are also providing ongoing support to their families.

Air Operations

Throughout the fire danger season, the CFS utilised a range of aircraft in support of fire management.

These aircraft were generally contracted for an 84 day period, with a number being extended to cover the prolonged fire season and risk:

- 7 x fixed wing fire bombers
- 2 x medium rotary wing Helitak bombers
- 1 x heavy rotary wing Helitak bomber (Aircrane)
- 3 x fixed wing surveillance aircraft
- 1 x rotary wing surveillance helicopter.

The CFS also utilised the rescue helicopter service for surveillance activities.

Date	Location	Type	Size	Cause
30/7/08	Paskeville	Hay Processing Plant	\$15 million	Suspicious
29/10/08	Penong x 2	Scrub	17,000 ha (combined)	Lightning
30/10/08	Danggali x 3	Scrub	9,000 ha (combined)	Lightning
2/12/08	Naracoorte	Grass	200 ha	Vehicle exhaust
17/12/08	Wirrabara	Grass	350 ha	Suspicious
5/1/09	Cobdogla	Grass/scrub	60 ha	Undetermined
13/1/09	Pt Lincoln / Proper Bay	Grass/scrub	250ha	Yet to be confirmed
26/1/09	Onkaparinga Hills	Grass/scrub	24 ha	Yet to be confirmed
7/2/09	Gawler River	Grass/scrub	90 ha	Electrical cabling
21/3/09	Bibaringa (One Tree Hill)	Grass/scrub	50 ha	Electric fence
29/3/09	Engelbrecht Reserve	Scrub	5 ha	Human activity

we know you are all busy, you can simply have a quick chat with us on the CFS Media Line on 8212 9849 or email the team a few dot points via publicaffairs@safecom.sa.gov.au – and we will do the rest.

And don't forget to use the media line to provide the Public Affairs team with timely information about incidents as they happen and

provide notice of upcoming events so that we can keep the work of CFS volunteers in the public eye through the media.

We are also hoping to visit the regions over the coming months so that we can see and hear some of the stories for ourselves, and put the names of the many CFS personnel we do business with to

faces in the crowd. In fact in May the Public Affairs team attended the CFS Staff Day, and in June, Chris Metevelis, the CFS Senior Public Affairs Officer, presented to the CFS Planning Officer course at Brukunga and attended the Region 2 Group Officers' meeting.

Please enjoy this edition of *Volunteer*, and remember – *Volunteer*

by name, *Volunteer* by nature – and we look forward to seeing more stories from you, the volunteers, in future editions.

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



VICTORIAN ROYAL COMMISSION

EXPLORES BLACK SATURDAY BUSHFIRES

By: Mick Ayre, Manager Strategic Services

The findings of the Royal Commission into the tragic Victorian bushfires on 7 February 2009, will have profound consequences for South Australia.

The Commission was constituted by the Victorian Government, with a wide-ranging brief that included:

- Inquiring into the causes and circumstances of the bushfires
- The preparation and planning by governments, emergency services, the community and households for bushfire, including legislation, policies, resources and strategies for the prevention, management and communication of bushfire threats
- All aspects of the response to the bushfires.

It will then provide recommendations for government, emergency services and the community on:

- The preparation and planning for future bushfire threats
- Land use planning and management
- Fireproofing of buildings

- Emergency responses to bushfire
- Public communication and community advice systems and strategies
- Training, resourcing and infrastructure needs for the future.

The Royal Commission must present its interim report to the Victorian Government by 17 August 2009, with the final report due by July 2010.

The outcomes from the Commission will impact not just on Victoria, but on the whole of south east Australia, including South Australia, for which there are significant similarities in the level of bushfire risk, bushfire mitigation legislation and commonality in many of the structures of bushfire management agencies.

The Royal Commission has been conducting its work through a process of visiting impacted towns and settlements, speaking directly with individual survivors, and

through the more formal mechanism of hearings where the commissioners are hearing evidence and receiving submissions from organisations and individuals related to the terms of reference of the Royal Commission.

The South Australian Government has recognised the potential implications for South Australia and has established a Bushfire Task Force, chaired by the CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson.

The Bushfire Task Force comprises senior representatives of government agencies with a role in the planning for and/or suppression of bushfire, with terms of reference that facilitate the early identification of issues arising from the Royal Commission that have relevance to South Australia. The Bushfire Task Force reports to the Minister for Emergency Services and the State Emergency Management Committee bi-monthly.

The SA CFS is involved in a number of aspects related to the Royal Commission, including researching and giving opinion to AFAC working parties considering existing policy matters or investigating new systems for improvement. For example, CFS staff have been engaged in the debate on the 'Prepare to Stay and Defend or Go Early' policy, public safety information and warning messages delivery policy and the construction of fire protection bunkers.

The Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson appeared before the Royal Commission in early June to present information on the CFS bushfire information and warning message system and its application in South Australia, for the consideration of the Royal Commission.

The Royal Commission hearings are streamed live on its website. Go to: www.royalcommission.vic.gov.au/Public-Hearings and click on live streaming.



^ The Royal Commission is chaired by the Hon. Bernard Teague AO, supported by Commissioners Susan Pascoe AM and Ron McLeod AM.



^ An analysis is taking place of the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria.

<< The findings of Royal Commission into the Victorian bushfires will have profound consequences for South Australia.



STATE OPERATIONS BRIGADE OFFERS SUPPORT

By: Nicholas de Rozario, SOSB volunteer

NEWS & UPDATES

Ever wondered who the voices behind the Bushfire Information Hotline belong to? Well many of them are from a dedicated group of volunteers from the CFS State Operations and Support Brigade (SOSB).

The SOSB was established in 2006 and provides services to the SA Country Fire Service Headquarters, CFS Regions and ultimately the community of South Australia.

Over the past two fire danger seasons the SOSB has been primarily focused on staffing the CFS Bushfire Hotline when the State Coordination Centre and Intelligence Cell is activated during major bushfires or other emergency incidents.

This service plays a vital role in providing current information to the South Australian community at times when life or property may be at risk. Other activities the brigade has been involved in

include support to the Incident Management Team (IMT) at incidents including managing staging areas, base camps and providing ground support for water bombing aircraft.

Members of the SOSB were involved in the 2007 Kangaroo Island and 2008 Port Lincoln fires and more recently, provided logistics support at the Alexandra Base Camp during the 2009 Victorian bushfires.

The brigade's focus, however, is not limited to communications, logistics and catering. The SOSB is developing additional capacity to assist with active fire fighting operations. This function will be particularly useful in large scale, campaign fire incidents where initial response resources have been exhausted and a rotation of crews is required.

There is also the possibility of the SOSB contributing resources where several fires may be impacting at

one time, stretching local resources and requiring additional assistance from the broader CFS community.

The majority of brigade members are trained in Basic Firefighting 1. Some members have attained competency in additional areas including the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIIMS), IMT, Mapping Support, First Aid and Aviation Ground Support. Brigade members are continually undergoing training and development to ensure their skills are current.

The brigade is currently in the process of acquiring a Hino Type 34 appliance from the CFS state spares fleet. A recommissioned unit from a brigade which has been provided with a new appliance will allow members to conduct weekly training, participate in Department of Environment and Heritage (DEH) prescribed burns and assist in major incidents when required.

The SOSB has a long-term plan to boost its membership and widen its service provision, hoping to attain a flexible membership through targeting individuals in the metropolitan area. The SOSB strongly encourages existing and former CFS members who have moved into the metropolitan area through work or other commitments to join the brigade. The skills and experiences these ex-country CFS members can contribute to the brigade are highly valued. New members from within the metropolitan area are also encouraged to apply.

We look forward to meeting more members of the CFS community through training, field days and at incidents.

For further information on the CFS State Operations Support Brigade contact Captain Gary Casey by email garycasey@yahoo.com.au

FORMER IMT PROJECT LEADER TAKES ON NEW AVIATION ROLE

By: David Cant, Manager Aviation Services

David Pearce has been appointed the new Country Fire Service Aviation Planning Officer.

David previously worked at the CFS State Training Centre, within the Command, Leadership and Incident Management project.

He has had a long involvement with aviation within the CFS and I can remember him being an air observer leader (as they were called then) with the CFS when it was using Dehavilland Beavers for fire bombing.

David's tasks within Aviation Services will be considerable, in that he will develop a doctrine for Aviation Services, not only in line with CFS

systems, but also compatible with developments nationwide.

This will involve operation planning and procedure development that is relevant and useful to both specialist air crew and everyday CFS volunteers and staff alike.

David will also coordinate the training and development requirements for CFS aviation service delivery and will forge stronger partnerships with fellow fire agencies to share opportunities for joint training in this very costly area of operations.

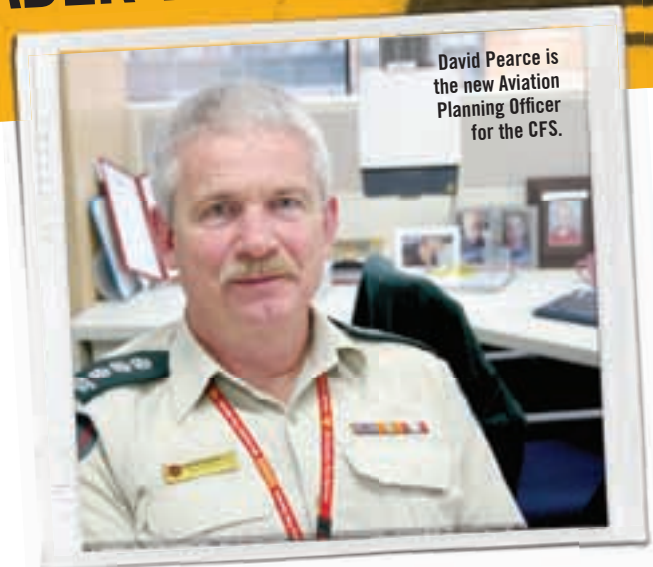
Succession planning for air crew both airborne and ground-

based will also be a focus of this position.

David brings with him enthusiasm and energy that will be a welcome start to a new phase in the

development of Aviation Services within CFS.

David started at CFS headquarters in Waymouth Street on June 22. Congratulations and welcome David.



David Pearce is the new Aviation Planning Officer for the CFS.



WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE CONFERENCE - RENO, NEVADA, USA

By: Rob Sandford, Assistant Chief Officer

NEWS & UPDATES



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VOLUNTEER - NEWS & UPDATES

I recently attended the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) Wildland Urban Interface Conference in Reno, Nevada, USA, in my capacity as the Assistant Chief Officer, accompanied by Regional Officer, David Pearce, as representatives of the Country Fire Service (CFS).

During our two and a half weeks in the United States we also visited several fire departments and participated in a 'Strike Team Leaders Course', 'Unified Command Course' and 'Mutual Aid Course'.

Overall, when compared with all the agencies we visited and the people from various fire agencies we spoke with and systems of work witnessed, the CFS is delivering world's best practice in all areas of our business.

We were surprised with the extent of Eucalypts (particularly Blue Gums) across all areas visited and the associated fire problems.

Everyone at the conference and within the agencies we visited,

showed significant interest in the events of Black Saturday, with many expressing their sadness at the loss of life, and were shocked and amazed at the speed and ferocity of these fires.

The issues of the urban/rural interface are universal issues, where people live in or are adjacent to bushfire prone areas. All agencies expressed concern on how to protect life, followed by property and the best ways to achieve this. Without a doubt, the principles of property owners being responsible for preparing their properties was a fundamental issue (knowing the risks they face and the mitigation they must undertake for these risks), including establishing and maintaining a defensible space around a property.

The debate regarding the merit of Australia's "Prepare, stay and defend" or "leave early" policy is continuing across a number of areas

within the United States, weighing up the benefit of this approach versus the current policy of mass evacuations. The challenge for the US authorities is in gaining the support of the legislators to provide the power and means for an Australian-style policy to be adopted and implemented. The agencies in the US are also watching with interest the outcomes of the Royal Commission in Victoria and the potential outcomes for a national policy in the future.

Agency Visits

Reno Fire Department

We met with Captain Sandy Munns, Reno Fire Department, Nevada (Sandy is a long-serving career firefighter; he is also a senior Nationally Accredited instructor in leadership, fire behaviour and operations management, all at national level).

Should SA agencies pursue specific fire behaviour training, it is worth giving consideration to

engaging Sandy Munns to assist with this. Sandy has a wealth of knowledge, qualifications and practical experience in the area of fire behaviour.

Whilst Reno Fire Department provides a traditional urban fire service, they also have a significant area of wildland urban interface, where over the years they have experienced fires and losses of community assets including houses.

The interface issues in surrounding areas are similar to what we have in Australia, where people want to live in the bush without compromising the natural values or views.

The fire department is working with the council to develop a fuel management program. One of the big issues to overcome is funding for this type of program as the fire department doesn't have the resources and council is more focused on utilising its resources for other projects.

Beverly Hills interface area.





Reno Fire Department Captain Sandy Munns with a "Brush Truck" appliance, standard for Nevada/California.



Orange County Fire Authority training facility.

The fire department does have a strategy for community education, which includes home owners establishing and maintaining defensible space and working with neighbours. However, when a fire occurs, the main emphasis is on evacuations.

East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) Oakland

(east bay of San Francisco, California)
We met with the following officers - John Swanson Assistant Fire Chief EBRPD; Brad Gallup Fire Captain, EBRPD; Enrique (Ric) Orduna Inspector Oakland Fire Department.

We were taken on a tour of the urban interface areas and some of the following issues were noted:

- The fire district manages 90,000 acres of park
- 3,000 acres of Eucalypts (Blue Gums), some in plantation stands, but many areas are self sown. Previous management practices

have been to fell the trees and leave untreated which then results in many forest areas having multiple stem root boles with the associated vegetation density and fuel loadings

- Discussion on prescribed burning and how to manage gums and associated fire problems
- Significant interface issues for the parks department
- Parks not prepared to undertake prescribed burning in gums because of perceived re-shooting issues and lack of confidence to control fire behaviour on a larger scale
- CFS offered advice on how this could be achieved, including options for managing gums and associated fuel loads
- Opportunity for CFS/SA agencies to maintain relationship with EBRPD and provide advice/expertise in conducting controlled burns in varying conditions.

Orange County Fire Authority (south-east outskirts of Los Angeles, California)

The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is a regional fire service agency that serves 22 cities in Orange County and all unincorporated areas.

The OCFA protects over 1,380,000 residents from its 62 fire stations located throughout Orange County. OCFA Reserve Firefighters work from 20 stations throughout Orange County.

All funding comes direct from the community, not through the County, therefore the fire authority does not have to compete with police, public works, libraries, etc for funds.

The OCFA has an annual budget of \$440m, half of it is spent on wages.

Los Angeles Fire Department (California)

The Los Angeles Fire Department's (LAFD) 3,586 uniformed personnel

protect life, property and the environment through their direct involvement in fire prevention, firefighting, emergency medical care, technical rescue, hazardous materials mitigation, disaster response, public education and community service.

Last year alone, LAFD responded 753,428 times. Points of interest included:

- Interface issues, including Beverly Hills, Hollywood Hills and Belair
- Many areas of significant interface risk, including stands of Eucalypts (Blue Gums)
- Many similar areas to Adelaide Hills
- They utilise fleet of 6 x medium Helitaks, including fire bombing with these at night, use night sun and predetermined helipads (helispots) for filling with pressurised hydrants and do not hover-fill.



Eucalypts in East Bay Regional Park District.



'NO REGRETS', SAYS BURRA FIREFIGHTER

By: Nan Berrett, The Northern Argus

It was an overwhelming homecoming for Burra firefighter Ian Kleinig, who on May 8, was reunited with mates after spending two months recovering from an injury while fighting the Victorian bushfires.

A valued member of the brigade, Mr Kleinig, 39, was struck by a large tree limb while working on the containment of the Murrindindi complex of fires, near Alexandra, about 60 kilometres north-east of Melbourne, in February.

Mr Kleinig's injury was serious and his family was told the first 36 hours following the injury was a critical time for Mr Kleinig, who had suffered severe head trauma.

He woke up after a week at Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre, where he spent time rehabilitating.

Mr Kleinig cannot remember the circumstances of the accident.

"But I was told what had happened – apparently I was backing up one of

the other fellas and we were about to put out a fire in a tree," he said.

"I turned to the truck to put my hand up and ask for water and another tree fell behind me and hit me on top of the head, and that knocked me out – I was wearing my helmet."

Overwhelming support for the Kleinig family from all levels of the CFS, the community, friends and family as well as those first on the scene of the accident and medical and nursing support have all contributed to Mr Kleinig's recovery.

"I have had such support from everyone – it has been quite humbling," he said.

Mr Kleinig said he did not regret volunteering to help the Victorian firefighting efforts.

"Part of the CFS' motto is helping communities.

"And I don't regret being in the CFS or being a firefighter and will still try and do it again – although not straight away," he said.

"I feel for the Victorians because it was such a horrible ordeal and I am sure a lot of them are worse off than I am," he said.

Local CFS Group Officer Andy Thomas said it was great to have Mr Kleinig back.

"And there are a lot of chores we can get him to do," he said.

"Ian has been a great worker for our CFS in Burra and we have missed him when he was away."

* See page 32 for Ian's thank you letter.



Group Officer Andy Thomas, CFSVA Executive Officer Wendy Shirley, Ian Kleinig and CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson.

SA FIREFIGHTER PROVIDES A HOME TO KINGLAKE

By: Nicole Ely

Port Pirie firefighter Pat Hill journeyed hundreds of kilometres on March 24 to provide a home for a Victorian firefighter who was left homeless by the Black Saturday bushfires.

Pat is a Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteer at Mintaro, and also a Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighter based at nearby Port Pirie.

The father of seven decided to donate his family's large, nine-berth mobile home to a Victorian firefighter's family, and drove it from Mintaro to Kinglake with his son, Brett.

Pat, an Ash Wednesday veteran, says he was very moved by the scenes of grief, loss and destruction during Victoria's bushfires and felt he needed to do something meaningful.

"I fought during Ash Wednesday and watched as an uncontrollable

fire raged towards my own community," he said.

"Mintaro was spared by a sudden wind change, but a friend lost his home.

"The Victorian tragedy brought back old feelings of helplessness, and I felt a strong urge to do something to help the affected communities interstate."

The mobile home has bedding for 10 people and can legally carry nine passengers on the road. It was donated to the firefighting community in Kinglake, with the Kinglake firefighting community to decide which firefighter the home will go to.

Pat's family spent the lead up readying the mobile home and was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Mintaro and surrounding communities, including hotels and other businesses.

Even the diesel fuel for the journey was donated by the Caltex service station at Clare.

Pat was flooded with donations of tools for rebuilding, books, regional wine and homely gifts to stock in the mobile home. These gifts were distributed to people in Kinglake.

He also received support from local schools and churches through his role as a Christian pastoral support worker with the Clare Valley Christian Outreach.

The journey, entitled 'Pirie to Kinglake' also had the backing of the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF).

✓ L to R: MFS District Officer and Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation President Greg Crossman, CFS volunteer and MFS firefighter Pat Hill, MFS Commander David Kemp, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Pat Hill's son Brett who joined him on the journey to Kinglake.



CFS FIREFIGHTER IS ALSO SA'S TOP COP

By: Haley Cahalan

Dalkeith Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteer Andrew 'Spud' Murphy has been awarded the coveted South Australian Police Officer of the Year Award for 2009. Spud was presented the award at an official function held at Rundle Mall in Adelaide.

Spud was recognised for his exemplary efforts with SAPOL in 2008 and for his selfless contribution to the community and inspiration to his colleagues over the past 30 years of service with the police. His working partnerships with organisations including the CFS and Neighbourhood Watch were also recognised.

Like any volunteer, it hasn't always been easy juggling a demanding career with volunteering for the CFS, but Spud wouldn't have it any other way.

"It's a nice break from police work actually," he said.

"With a CFS job you go out there and put the wet stuff on the red stuff and go home.

"My normal work as a police officer involves so much paperwork after an incident, so it's nice to have the different response capacity with the CFS."

Spud joined the CFS in 1978/1979 after his policing duties saw him develop a rapport with the local Smithfield CFS brigade.

When he realised that his house at Munno Para was protected by the CFS, not the Metropolitan Fire Service as previously thought, he decided it was time to give something back to his community.

Throughout Spud's time with the SA Police and CFS he has attempted to improve partnerships between the two organisations.

"District Group Officer Gerry Thompson, John Price and I ran



Andrew Murphy with Gerald Thomson (Dalkeith CFS), Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Roger Trezona.

bushfire awareness courses for patrol teams in Elizabeth, Salisbury and Gawler," he said.

"We educated police in the chain of command within the CFS, safety on the fire ground and things like that, it was very successful."

Spud is a life member of the CFS and the Dalkeith CFS brigade, and a few years ago won the Firefighter of

the Year Award at Dalkeith. But it's the opportunity to help the community that remains his biggest reward.

Spud's wife, Lauretta, and daughters Natasha, Bernadette and Jessica were all present at the SA Police Officer of the Year Awards ceremony, along with Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and representatives of the CFS.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE - OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

By: Sonia Post, Region 2 Regional Prevention Officer

It's just another normal day and I'm doing the things that I usually do when the alert tone on my pager goes off. A sudden hit of adrenalin kicks in and the heart rate increases.

I wonder what we are being called to - it's a fairly nasty day for a fire. I take the pager out of the pouch, push the button to read the message and realise it's a fire, and we need to get to it fast.

I quickly gather up the essentials, grab the car keys and run out the door to the car. All the while my mind is starting to tick over with what the scenario could be, how bad it is and more importantly, how big it could get.

I think in my head what I need to do when I get to the station, what will I do if everyone doesn't turn up, who else needs to be responded. And suddenly, BANG!

Where did that other car come from?

This is what happened to a CFS volunteer recently when, while

responding to a pager message in their private vehicle, failed to wear a seat belt, failed to give way at a give way sign and was involved in a collision with another vehicle.

Adrenaline and tunnel vision create a sense of urgency and are hazards associated with receiving and responding to incident calls.

Volunteers should be aware of these effects so that the next time a pager message is received and there is a rush of adrenaline while responding to the station as quickly as possible - to keep it under control.

For these reasons, the Country Fire Service has developed and implemented Operational Management Guidelines (OMGs) 48, Receiving and Responding to Incident Calls.

Volunteers are encouraged to take the time to carefully read and understand these guidelines, for their own safety.

How to respond to the fire station upon dispatch ...

- Respond to the station by foot or vehicle, obeying all road traffic laws:
 - Speed limits
 - Traffic signs and signals
 - Traffic controllers who may be working on the roadway
- Pass other traffic only when safe to do so and where indicated by lines
- Watch out for pedestrians
- Be aware of other personnel travelling by car or foot to the station
- Give way to emergency vehicles
- On arrival, park in a safe place and clear of emergency vehicle access doors
- Enter the station in a controlled and orderly manner.

VSS PROVIDES VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

By: Mark Groote, Manager Volunteer Strategy and Support

VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT

It was 4.30 pm on a cold June afternoon and I was standing on the main street of Naracoorte, talking with Margaret Ludwig (Volunteer Support Officer for Region 5).

Opposite me was the Naracoorte station ... the door was up, the first truck was out, and volunteers, as if appearing from nowhere, were turning up. Just a few minutes earlier, a pager call had gone out – a fire at the showground which responded two trucks and 10 volunteers.

For most people reading this, the

cold afternoon in Naracoorte is no different to mornings, afternoons and evenings in many parts of the State. But for many others, it's a great example of the dedication and passion of CFS volunteers.

The Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch is here to provide support to volunteers.

Over the past three months, we have been working across all the CFS regions assisting with recruitment, providing training in workplace dignity, undertaking health checks

and helping to organise and run cadet camps.

In late May we also organised a very successful recognition evening at the Kingston Brigade, for the selfless contribution made by volunteers and their employers (including self-employed volunteers) [see separate story page 29].

The branch has also been developing an agreement with the CFS which outlines the broad range of services it will provide to volunteers across all regions – covering areas

such as youth programs, reward and recognition strategies, people management training and advice to brigades and groups.

Over the next three months, VSOs will be out and about talking to brigades and groups to find out what specific support and assistance you want – but you don't need to wait for them to ask you! If you have a query, want to give your opinion, or can suggest some activities for your brigade or group, please contact your local VSO.

VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT

THE TRENDS BEHIND VOLUNTEER RETENTION

By: Adaire Palmer, Volunteer Management Consultant

A survey is underway to gain a greater understanding of trends surrounding volunteers who leave the Country Fire Service (CFS) over time.

SAFECOM is surveying volunteers who have left the CFS since 2004. The program, being conducted by the Volunteer Strategy and Support (VSS) branch, is the only systematic exit survey program carried out in the Australian volunteer-based fire and emergency services at this time, demonstrating that SAFECOM is leading the way in best practice.

The Bushfire Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) came on board in 2007/2008 to analyse data that had been collected from volunteers who had resigned between December 2005 and December 2007. It found that the average length of service was 10 years for men, and 5.5 for women.

Four clusters of reasons for volunteers resigning were identified:

- Work/family commitments: 51% nominated these as contributing reasons for resigning
- Moved away from the district: 38% selected this as a contributing factor
- Age/health related concerns: 28% listed these as reasons for leaving.
- Dissatisfaction with CFS volunteering: 25% reported this as their reason for parting with the service.

The Bushfire CRC has proposed a number of possible response options, as listed below. It should be noted that to implement any of these options will require resources.

Competing demands between volunteering and work/family commitments:

This is an issue particularly for volunteers aged 35 to 44 years. For some, the nature of their work/family commitments

will be such that nothing can be done to ease the situation because of the intrinsic nature of firefighter response. However, for others there may be benefits from taking steps to review time demands on volunteers with a view to reducing these.

Moving away from the district: This is a particular issue for younger volunteers, aged 18-34 years, presumably because of education, employment and housing issues. There is not likely to be anything that the CFS can do to change the relocation situation. However, there may be things that could be done to a) increase the likelihood of the volunteer transferring to a new brigade; or b) increase the opportunity for a volunteer to maintain a meaningful link with the agency.

Age/health/fitness concerns: This is a particular issue for older volunteers (55+ years). Again, there is little that can be done to address the inevitability of ageing and its related

health problems, apart from perhaps providing information to members on lifestyle, health and fitness. However, there may be ways in which older volunteers can be encouraged to remain associated with their brigade for longer so that their knowledge and experience can be utilised. Mentoring roles for older volunteers could, perhaps, be formalised. The aim of such initiatives would be to provide more opportunities for older volunteers to feel that they can contribute meaningfully to the work of their brigade in roles other than active operational firefighting.

Dissatisfaction with the CFS

volunteer role: This was an issue that seems to span age groups and gender. The intervention likely to have the greatest payoff is to improve the leadership skills of career staff who manage volunteers, and to improve the leadership skills of volunteers who lead/manage other volunteers.



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CFSVA DINNER INVITATION FOR SOUTH EAST

A special dinner meeting will be held in Naracoorte on October 24 for members of the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association and their partners.

The dinner, hosted by the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (SA Division) and the SE Branch of the CFSVA, will start at 6.30 pm and will feature guest speaker Detective Superintendent Des Bray from the Crime Gang Task Force.

Detective Supt. Bray will speak about 'Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs' and the potential effect that their intrusion could have on services such as medical, police, fire, CFS, SES and ambulance staff.

This is a special night, particularly for those who are part of emergency response teams.

A list of accommodation facilities available in Naracoorte for those attending from out of

town can be found at <http://www.naracoortelucindale.sa.gov.au/site>.

For more information contact:

- Barry Presgrave (AIES) on 0412 066 657 or email b.presgrave@optusnet.com.au
- Rex Hall (CFSVA) on 0417 081 560 or email gadang@rbm.com.au
- Peter Little (AIES) on 0438 620 252 or email pjlnte@bigpond.com

NARACOORTE TO HOST EVENTS IN OCTOBER

A couple of events have been arranged to coincide with the CFSVA SE Branch dinner in Naracoorte on Saturday October 24.

A CFS Heritage Committee meeting is being held in Naracoorte at 2.30 pm that day.

On the Sunday a Fire Expo is being held at the Naracoorte Show Grounds from 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Included in the program of events is:

- A display of heritage fire appliances

- Smokey Bear
 - Community Education
 - Farm Fire Units
 - Forestry hose lay
 - DEH information about property, house and land protection laws and legislation
 - CFS Cadets display
 - Fire safety trade display.
- There will be this and much more, including entertainment and catering.

For more information or to book accommodation contact Rex Hall early, as accommodation is limited, phone 0417 081 560.

MAKING PLANNING EASIER

New wall planners have been distributed to all Country Fire Service brigades and groups across the State.

They are a financial year calendar, showing each day and highlighting such events as school and public holidays.

The wall planners also feature photos of volunteers who participated in the 2008 DVD 'CFS Volunteers 24 - 7 - 365'.

The wall planners were sent through to each group administrative coordinator.

Any brigades that have not yet received their copy should contact the group or call Wendy at the CFSVA State Office on 8244 6500.

The CFSVA hopes that brigades and groups find the wall planners useful.

Emergency Services Dinner
Saturday 24 October 2009
Venue: Naracoorte Bowling Club,
Smith St, Naracoorte, SA
Time: 6.30 pm for 7 pm start
Cost: \$30 per head (meal only)
RSVP: Thursday, 1 October

LUCINDALE VOLUNTEERS DONATE TO VICTORIA

Volunteers from the Lucindale Country Fire Service Group have donated \$110 to Country Fire Authority volunteers affected by the Black Saturday fires.

The volunteers collected money at the field days held at Lucindale recently, and presented the donation to South East Branch President of the SA CFS Volunteers Association, Rex Hall.



Lucindale Group Officer Ian Janke presents the donation to South East CFSVA Branch President Rex Hall.

HAVE YOUR SAY AT CFSVA

The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association branch and state annual general meetings are fast approaching. Starting in August, the dates set so far are:

- State Management Committee – Tuesday, 13 October at Transport Training Centre, 17 Worriga St, Regency Park, from 10 am. All welcome
- Yorke Peninsula Branch – Tuesday, 25 August at Minlaton
- Northern Branch – Tuesday, 15 September at the Gladstone RSL
- Mount Lofty Branch – Tuesday, 8 September at Region 1 headquarters
- Riverland Branch – Friday, 28 August, Chaffey Group Base, Berri, 7.30 pm
- Murraylands Branch – Sunday, 6 September, at Unity College, Murray Bridge, 7 pm
- Pastoral Branch – held at the Pastoral Conference Centre, Prominent Hill.

So come along to your branch meeting to have your say.

PORT PIRIE THANKS ITS VOLUNTEERS

By: Haley Cahalan

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

Community members and visitors to Port Pirie couldn't miss the tribute to CFS volunteers during Volunteer Week, with oversized banners located in the centre of the town.

Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) banners were displayed outside the silos in Port Pirie to celebrate

National Volunteer Week from May 11 to 17.

The hanging of the banners was an initiative of the Community Volunteer Working Group in Port Pirie and involved all volunteer organisations displaying their banners in the prominent location, directly opposite a major intersection and fast food outlets.

The CFS banner displayed in Port Pirie to thank volunteers during National Volunteer Week.



APPRECIATION CERTIFICATES FOR ROXBY DOWNS VOLUNTEERS

Two Roxby Downs Country Fire Service volunteers were honoured with Premier's Certificates of Appreciation at a ceremony in Whyalla.

The awards were presented by the Minister for Volunteers Tom Koutsantonis as part of a regional visit by State Cabinet.

"These awards are a gesture of South Australians' appreciation of the great work volunteers do," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"Volunteers help make life in regional South Australia brighter and more enjoyable for everyone, especially in tough times."

Kane Honner was recognised for his contribution not just to the CFS but also the State Emergency Service and SA Ambulance Service.

Leigh Witchard was honoured for his leadership and dedication to the CFS, SES and SAAS.

About 600,000 South Australians volunteer their time, many of them in regional SA.

"The capacity of volunteers is limitless," Mr Koutsantonis said.

"They kindly give their time to help people in need, do their bit in emergencies and contribute to our culture and heritage through conservation, sport and recreation.

"Volunteering keeps our regional towns strong and fosters community spirit."

Mr Koutsantonis said Kane and Leigh were among the thousands of volunteers across the State who are making a difference to people's lives.

"These people have made an outstanding contribution and, without them, our communities wouldn't be as prosperous or united," he said.

"Their efforts make a real difference.

"South Australians are thankful for their hard work and commitment to making this State great."

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



◆ Crew Bag: Extra Large

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

\$67⁰⁰

All bags can have the Brigade name stencilled.



◆ Pager Pouch:

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

\$12⁰⁰

\$50⁰⁰



◆ Vest Holder:

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

◆ Note Pad & Radio Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas



\$21⁰⁰

◆ Knapsack Bag:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas

Proban Dust and Face Mask: ◆

\$15⁰⁰



\$50⁰⁰

◆ Drink Bottle Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 8 drink bottles

\$50⁰⁰

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VOLUNTEER - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

THANKS FOR YOUR EFFORTS TOWARDS THE VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

More than one thousand people from the State's emergency services who helped during Victoria's devastating bushfires were honoured at an official ceremony at Adelaide Oval.

Premier Mike Rann paid tribute to the hundreds of volunteers who generously gave their time and skills to help the thousands of Victorians who were struck by one of Australia's greatest natural disasters.

"I'm so proud of those who volunteered in such traumatic circumstances," Mr Rann said.

"What they heard, saw and felt will never be forgotten.

"We're forever indebted to them for their willingness to reach out to our fellow Australians in a crisis."

Victoria suffered a series of catastrophic bushfires on Saturday February 7, which killed 173 people.

Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright said the firefighters had put their own safety at risk to help others.

"Today's event gives us the chance to express our enormous gratitude to the 800 firefighters and support staff from the CFS and MFS who provided much-needed assistance to their Victorian counterparts as they struggled to battle blazes that razed entire townships," he said.

"We are fortunate to have such selfless individuals in our emergency services and they

deserve the greatest praise for their contribution."

The Minister for Volunteers Tom Koutsantonis said community groups and individuals had also volunteered their time and effort to help Victorians in their time of need.

"The Port Lincoln Rotary Club donated 50 bales of hay to affected rural areas and established a team to replace damaged fencing; the Lyndoch Bakery donated the proceeds from their sweet muffins to the Uniting Church Appeal and Gawler resident Geoff Whatley organised a group of elderly pensioners to pack and deliver 120 boxes of donated goods to bushfire victims.

"These are just a few examples of South Australians doing whatever they could to help out. All of these volunteers deserve our thanks too."

The Red Cross Victorian Bushfire Appeal has raised more than \$130 million.

In addition to lending significant support, the Government also donated \$1 million to the Appeal and offered the services of the aerial fire fighting air crane.

Since the bushfires, the Government has also shared information with all other states and territories about the arsonist monitoring program 'Operation Nomad', to help limit future arson attacks.



^ Neil Toperwien and Janet Kelly enjoying the hospitality.



<< John Ammes from Freeling CFS with Shaun Hughes and Jan Arnott from Region 2 Communications.

Photos courtesy Janet Kelly and Sonia Post.

CFS CREW BAG



Sick of looking for your CFS overalls?

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

Large Crew Bag: \$50

Extra Large Crew Bag: \$55

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



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www.candycanvas.com.au

<< Brad Wilson (Roseworthy) and Tom Jenkin (Mallala) ham it up at Adelaide Oval.

✓ From left, Jack Kleinig, CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, Annie and Ian Kleinig (Burra CFS) with Premier Mike Rann.

Photos courtesy Janet Kelly and Sonia Post.



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VOLUNTEER - NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

STIRLING NORTH CFS CADETS TOUR MFS STATION

By: Peter Shalley, Stirling North Cadet Coordinator

Stirling North Country Fire Service cadets visited the Port Augusta Metropolitan Fire Service recently.

The volunteer firefighters were treated to a station tour and display of gas prop training by the MFS crews.

Station Officer Darren McNamee said the region was keen to support future firefighters and encouraged the cadets to work at their skills and always remember the importance of working in a safe manner.

Cadets and leaders listen to Station Officer Darren McNamee who explains the layout of one of the MFS appliances.



CADETS BOND OVER CAMP EXPERIENCE

By: Christian Roach, Jervois Cadet Coordinator

The annual Region 3 cadet camp was held at Narnu Farm on Hindmarsh Island recently.

Cadets from Mannum, Meningie, Pinnaroo, Palmer, Jervois and Taillem Bend brigades attended.

The cadets enjoyed various activities, including star gazing on the first night which helped them bond together.

Region 3 Commander Richard Coombe also visited the camp and presented a short talk on Friday night.

Greenhills Adventure Park was the setting for Saturday's events, where the cadets were tasked with a series of activities.

The day was filled with laughter and excitement as they raced on

go-karts, climbed the 12-metre rock wall, slid down water slides and took part in many other challenges and activities around the park.

The cadets were kept busy on the Sunday with activities including an orienteering course using compasses, which finished with using these skills for a treasure hunt to find rewards (lollies and chocolates) for their efforts.

Thanks goes to the Regional Cadet Committee, cadet coordinators, assistants and VSO David Baker who helped with planning, coordination and logistics for the weekend.

Special thanks also goes to Deb Hills from the Taillem Bend Brigade for her well-executed catering service.

Region 3 cadet camp participants.



STATE'S BEST COMPETE AT CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: Christian Roach, Jervois Cadet Coordinator

Six CFS cadets have received praise for their efforts competing in the 2009 Australian National Fire Cadet Championships which was held recently.

Where teams from the other states were drawn from individual brigades and trained together for months, the South Australian team was unique in that it was made up of the best applicants from across the State, who met each other for the first time on the flight to Penrith, Sydney.

The SA team performed well in the competitions and were given praise from judges and other teams on their skill, dedication and teamwork.

The six cadets who competed were Quentin Cant, Shykirra Harris, Amy



▲ CFS representatives who flew to Sydney for the National Fire Cadet Championships. From left, Damon Smith, Jim Pulford, Vanessa Bywaters, David Probert; (centre) Matthew Stratfold, June Young, David Bryant; (front) Quentin Cant, Shykirra Harris and Amy Hueppauff.

Hueppauff, David Probert, Damon Smith and Matthew Stratfold.

The adults who generously gave their time to train, support and supervise the cadets were David Bryant, Vanessa Bywaters, Jim Pulford and June Young.

YOUTH GROUP FORMED TO GUIDE FUTURE GENERATIONS

By: Christian Roach, Jervois Cadet Coordinator

ACFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is in the process of giving young volunteers a voice in the decision-making processes of the organisation.

The council was an initiative of the CFS Youth Summit, with applications sought from attendees to join a working party to create the YAC.

Applications were of an exceptionally high standard and the CFS is fortunate to have some experienced and passionate volunteers and staff on the working party.

The first meeting was held on May 17, where the working party looked at roles and objectives and gave consideration to what a YAC would look like.

The group is conducting research into best practice and how the YAC could fit into existing CFS structures. It is also examining ideas generated at the youth summit and through ongoing discussions with CFS volunteers and staff of all ages.

The key objectives of the working party are:

- to create a Terms of Reference for the CFS YAC that is informed by research into best practice and links into current CFS processes
- to engage the support of CFS volunteers and staff for the new YAC
- to draft a Strategic Plan to direct the work of the newly formed YAC
- to recruit members to the YAC as per the Terms of Reference and provide them with a detailed handover and ongoing support as required and as appropriate.

One of the key points discussed was the need to keep everyone informed as the working party progresses.

So this will be just the first of many *Volunteer Magazine* articles as the group provides updates on its progress, provides opportunities for input and spreads the word using other communications channels as well.

Watch this space!

CADETS STAND GUARD ON ANZAC EVE

By: Peter Shalley, Stirling North Cadet Coordinator

CFS cadets held their annual ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil with an all-night 'holding ground' at the South Australian State War Memorial.

While for most Australians the ANZAC Day tradition begins at 6 am with attendance at one of the many dawn services held throughout the nation, for these dedicated cadets, their supervisors and supporters, honouring the fallen began 12 hours earlier.

The ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil stems from the military tradition of 'holding ground' where a reconnaissance patrol would find and hold strategic position in preparation for the arrival of their army. This would often involve an all-night vigil, keeping awake on watch, alert that the area of battle is secured against threat.

2009 marked the 10th anniversary of the original ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil held at the South Australian State War Memorial. It included young people from 15 different youth groups – including both CFS and SES cadets – 'holding ground' on the site for the 12 hours leading up to the Dawn Service.

At 6 am, they handed over to the Defence Force Catafalque Party who in turn 'held ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

The youth vigil has become so popular that youth vigils are now held at other sites around the State, as well as the original site of the State National War Memorial on North Terrace. As usual, the Morphett Vale and Blackwood vigils had a very strong CFS cadet presence.

Congratulations to all the cadets who represented the CFS at the vigils, maintaining at all times professionalism, integrity, and enthusiasm; bringing honour to the uniform and taking pride in their work.

Also a very special thank you must go to the cadet leaders at all of the vigils, without whose support and enthusiasm, it would have been impossible for CFS cadets to be involved in these important events.

This year, the ABC's *Behind The News* program attended the vigil, and their report on the cadets can be seen at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/btn/story/s2551604.htm>

CFS cadets at the State War Memorial on North Terrace for the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil.



Blackwood Vigil:

Cadets:

Amy Harris
Andrew Victorsen
Bea Jose
Brooke Smith
Carina Jose
Isaac Eckerman
Jake Size
Jarrod Smith
Jesse Luter
Joel Lewtas
Kane McCann
Keeley Bryan
Liam Hounslow
Luke Helmore
Mathew Maloney
Matthew Stratford
Megan Mitchell
Patrick Higgins

Supervisors:

Chris Smith
Grant Elliott
Janita Bentley
Jim Pulford
Rebecca Wilson
Rick Philp

Morphett Vale Vigil

Cadets:

Abby Darlington
Christina Rees
Connor McGhie
Daniel Hoskin
Daniel King
Georgia Deans
Hayden Beelitz
Jamie Davies

Kelly Sykes
Lachlan Beelitz
Liam Hampton
Luke Chomel
Luke Zupan
Max Coleman
Michael Laundry
Pheobe Ellis
Renee Davies
Ryan Reynolds
Sam McLean
Shane Hoskin
Shane Kelly
Shannon Endersby
Sophie Evans
Taylor Ellis
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Patrick Ward
Ruth Wallace
Simon Skuce
Tim Evans
Troy March

Bradley Benham
Connor Cooling
Doug Hayden
Forrest Norman
Owen Firth
Patrice Robertson
Ryan Morgan
Sarah Donkin
Tegan White
Thomas Pulford

Supervisors:

Dean Norman
Jeff Benham
Jenny Clark
Jon Chirgwin
Kym Hueppauff
Phil White
Sara Pulford

State Vigil

Cadets:

Alisa White
Amy Hueppauff

CFS TRAINING HELPS WITH SACE

Did you know that senior secondary school students who take part in CFS training and volunteer activities can gain credit towards their South Australian Certificate of Education (SACE)?

SACE encourages students to successfully complete secondary education and to attest to their readiness for entry into post-school studies and employment. It also recognises not only in-school delivered teaching, but skills and experience students gain outside their school. This can include BFF1 and volunteer time with the CFS.

How do you gain a Stage 1 SACE Unit?

By choosing Community Studies as a Group 1 and/or Group 2 subject students can gain 1 SACE unit for each subject. Community Studies requires a student to work within the community and this is where CFS volunteer work and training comes in.

Group 1 subjects:

- Lifestyles and the Community
- Work and the Community.

Group 2 subjects:

- Technology and the Community
- The Community and the Environment.

What about a Stage 2 SACE unit?

Students can choose to undertake Community Studies as a Group 1 and/or Group 2 subject as outlined in Stage 1. Even if they have completed one of them in Stage 1 they can repeat them in Stage 2 as long as their work contract is different.

OR

There are Work Education Subjects: Vocational Studies A (2 units) or Vocational Studies B (2 units).

This involves undertaking:

- 30 hours of theory on work and working
- 30 hours of VET modules
- 60 hours of work (your volunteer work would make up this part of the course).

Can this help towards a university entry?

Community Studies does not give you a Tertiary Entrance Ranking (TER) score and therefore will not assist students in gaining a university placement.

However, Vocational Studies can contribute to the calculation of a TER for tertiary selection purposes.

What is required to get SACE recognition?

1. Students can take this information to their school.
2. Arrange to speak with a VET Teacher or SACE Coordinator about the options.
3. If a student chooses this subject then they will be expected to work with their teacher to negotiate, plan, develop and write a contract of work.
4. Students will need to notify their brigade or unit about their subject choice. The Cadet Coordinator

or Training Officer (if you are a firefighter/ops support member) will be required to provide some information about the student's performance and verify their attendance at training.

Who to contact for information?

SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission Youth Programs Officer:

Felicity Hopkinson:

hopkinson.felicity@safecom.sa.gov.au or 8463 4106.

SACE Board of SA:

www.ssabsa.sa.edu.au

SCHOOL: Contact the VET Focus Teacher or SACE Coordinator for information.

Are you in Year 10 this year?

You will need to know about the new SACE, so visit: www.saceboard.sa.edu.au/newsace/

PRACTICAL LEARNING AT BRUKUNGA

By: Tim Maitland,
Manager Training Facilities



Trainees work on the first stages of a retaining wall.

Year 11 school students have been undertaking work-site placements at the Country Fire Service State Training Centre as part of their 'Certificate 1 in Construction' course.

The program is run through 'School and Beyond', which works to build links between schools, students and industry to assist with the transition of young people from school to a career, through structured workplace learning.

Structured workplace learning offers opportunities to young people to gain skills by learning in a real or simulated workplace.

Often a structured workplace learning placement is completed as a requirement of a Vocational Education and Training (VET) course

and the skills that are demonstrated on the placement are assessed and recognised as an achievement of competency for the particular VET qualification.

Six days were completed during March and April by students from Birdwood High School and Heathfield High School, including Peter Lunt who is a volunteer with the Brukunga CFS Brigade.

The students have been working on the demolition of the old lean-tos on the Hot Fire Training Pad and construction of a 60-metre long brick paving path which links the dining room with the Hazmat Training ground and beyond to the proposed Immersive Operator Training Site.

They are also working on the preparation and construction of a retaining wall along the entire eastern side of the Hot Fire Pads.

It is proposed that in the future, students will work on plastering the Breathing Apparatus Recommissioning building, demolition of the first aid lean-to in preparation for the building to be

relocated prior to the construction of the Hazmat/CBR building, and fixing capping stones to the administration car park retaining wall.

There is a possibility that students may also help with decking along the western side of the mess building, construction of a new Hazmat/CBR building and paving the east side of the RCR/HAZMAT/CFB shed.

NT LEARNS FROM SA FIREFIGHTERS

The Country Fire Service (CFS) has conducted its first 'Frontline Leadership Course' for Bushfires Northern Territory (BFNT).

The course was organised by Brenton Eden (CFS) and Katrina Lamb (BFNT) and conducted for 18 senior staff members of Bushfires NT.

Volunteer senior firefighter Geoff Capper and Bob Kearney were the facilitators, with the venue being the Rum Jungle Tavern at Batchelor, 65 kilometres south of Darwin.

All 18 course evaluations lodged by the participants were extremely positive and included comments such as "exceeded expectations", "fantastic presentations", "highly relevant for my work", "great stories relevant to leadership and management" and "thanks for an interesting and fun course".

The success of the course may pave the way for further courses being offered to BFNT volunteers.

STUDENTS GAIN AN EMERGENCY SERVICE EXPERIENCE

✓ 'Emergency Services in Schools Week' participants.
Photo: Owen Glover – State Training Officer.

The Country Fire Service State Training Centre hosted 11 senior school students from the Adelaide Hills and Murraylands for a week-long residential program in May this year.

The aim of the 'Emergency Services in Schools Week' program was to provide the students with vocational information about careers in emergency services and to provide training in nationally-accredited units from the CFS' 'Basic Firefighting 1', 'Navigate in Urban and Rural Environments' and 'Work in a Team' courses.

Careers sessions were delivered by SA Ambulance (SAAS), SA Police (SAPOL), the SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and SAFECOM.

The highlight of the week was on the last day, with the staging of a multi-service emergency exercise, involving the CFS, SAAS, SAPOL and SES.

Students work-shadowed and directly participated in the roles undertaken by each of the services in a mock car crash scenario. The



exercise provided the students opportunities to directly apply the training they had undertaken during the week.

CFS state training officers and staff put in an incredible amount of effort to ensure the program ran successfully.

A very warm 'thank you' is owed to all of the staff and volunteers from each of the services involved. One student summed up the week as "A life-changing experience".

The 'School to Work' program was a fee-for-service program, coordinated through 'School and Beyond incorporated - Adelaide Hills Murraylands' as part of the Federal Government's 'Connect to your Future' program for school leavers.



^ Frontline Leadership participants on the last day of their course.

LESSONS IN CONSERVATION AND WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION

TRAINING

By: Robin Geytenbeek, State Training Officer Rural Firefighting

The Country Fire Service was invited to help deliver the 'Respond to Wildfire' and 'Suppress Wildfire' courses to some of the traditional owners of the Alinytjara Wilurara (AW) and Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands recently.

Invited by the Aboriginal Lands Natural Resource Management Board (ALNRMB) and the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH), the training led to the completion of electives by its participants for the Certificate III and/or Certificate IV in Conservation and Land Management.

It is hoped that by reintroducing traditional burning the opportunity for large summer fires, often started by lightning, will be greatly reduced.

This is an important initiative for the reintroduction of fire to some landscapes, establishing networks for public safety and reconciliation. This was also a timely program with the visit coinciding with Reconciliation Week.

Many thanks to the work preformed by Joe Stelmann, Kerryne Liddle and Steve Clayton (DEH) for including the CFS and coordinating this worthwhile project to create working relationships for the future.



^ Traditional owners of the AW and APY Lands who participated in the 'Respond to Wildfire' and 'Suppress Wildfire' courses.
Photo: Steve Clayton, DEH.

TRAINING TO SUPPRESS WILDFIRE

By: Michael Mathew, CFS State Training Officer

TRAINING

Representatives of the Country Fire Service delivered the 'Suppress Wildfire' course to park ranger staff at Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park in the Northern Territory earlier this year.

Rural state training officers Robin Geytenbeek, Vaughn Elsworth and training project manager Michael Mathew were invited by the National Park staff, following their participation in a Basic Firefighting 1 course held at Burra late last year. The training was conducted prior to the annual 'burning' season in the National Park.

The firefighting team at Uluru is made up of the park rangers themselves, in a similar manner to the South Australian Department of Environment and Heritage and using similar firefighting equipment (firefighting packs on Landcruiser tray-tops and rake-hoes).

Although the National Park has close ties with other NT bushfire services, they are independent in the sense that they are administered as a Federal rather than a Territory-governed and funded agency.

A few variations to the course were needed to make the CFS 'Suppress Wildfire' course suitable for the Red Centre.

It required some adjustment by the state training officers to refer to their fires, conditions and incidents to being "Down South".

The trainees also needed to use a fair bit of imagination during their running of grass fire drills as they turned red dust into red mud along the line of traffic cones indicating the fire's edge.

Nevertheless, the course was well received and the ideas and skills presented and demonstrated will be readily adapted to their environment.



<< Vaughn Elsworth speaks to park ranger staff during the theory sessions.



^ NT park ranger staff during the practical component of the 'Suppress Wildfire' course.



<< Park ranger staff from the NT with SA CFS rural training officers.



AIIMS STRIKE TRAINING

By: Corey Dunn, State Training Officer

Sixteen Country Fire Service and Department for Environment and Heritage personnel completed the first of a number of pilot 'AIIMS Strike Team Leader' and 'Sector Commander' courses at the State Training Centre, Brukunga, recently.

The two-day course was designed to replace previous Strike Team Leader and Sector Commander 'Workshops' which had become outdated.

The new course combines the two roles as operationally there are many times when Strike Team Leaders are asked to undertake the role of a Sector Commander.

The new course covers the following topics:

- Roles and responsibilities of Strike Team and Task Force Leaders
- Management of Strike Teams and Task Forces
- Administration – T-Cards, documentation, logging and briefings
- Roles and responsibilities of Sector Commanders
- Managing Sector Operations.

The course follows a similar format to the 'Tactical Command and Leadership' course, where trainees apply their knowledge and skills in a number of assessed and non-assessed Tactical Decision Tutorials

aimed at both the Strike Team Leader and Sector Commander levels.

Trainees who successfully complete the course will receive national accreditation in Conduct Briefings and Debriefings (PUAOPE004B) and Manage a Multi-team Response (PUAOPE005B) modules.

Prerequisites for the 'AIIMS Strike Team Leader' and 'Sector Commander' course are 'Tactical Command and Leadership', 'Map Reading' and 'AIIMS'.

To take part in the course, potential participants must be nominated by Groups and approved by Regions as potential personnel who will undertake the role of an endorsed Strike Team Leader or Sector Commander.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TRIAL

By: Lee Watson, Command Leadership and Incident Management (CLIM) Task Group

A great deal of work has taken place in the past 18 months to develop Information Technology (IT) support resources for Incident Management Teams.

A Country Fire Service (CFS) Incident Management IT Cache comprising three separate kits has been established, based on feedback resulting from the 2007 Kangaroo Island fires and with the support of SAFECOM Information Management Services.

Some of the key IT resources that make up the cache include 18 networked laptop computers, fax machines and printers, along with a Wireless Next G router allowing for independent connectivity.

In addition, CFS regions across the State have identified 22 Group Coordination Centres that may be used as Level 3 Incident Management facilities, and these have now had local area IT network capabilities installed in them.

Operational and IT personnel from CFS, SAFECOM, DEH and technical personnel from government IT service providers spent the day at

Gumeracha on May 12 trialling the Incident Management IT Cache.

The purpose of the trial was to test the systems and identify issues of concern and to assist with the documentation of set up and the development of user procedures.

The trial resulted in a number of minor issues being identified and resolved.

All Level 3 Incident Management facilities across the State will be visited and tested to ensure their operational readiness prior to the 2009/10 Fire Danger Season.

It is also intended that during these visits, additional permanent resources such as network laser printers will be installed.

Apart from the intended operational use for the various CFS Incident Management IT Cache kits, it is hoped that these will also be used around the State for training activities and operational activities including field days.

Details about how these resources can be accessed will be determined in the near future.



Part of the Incident Management IT Cache.

Testing the IT Cache at the Gumeracha Group Coordination Centre.



SAFE BEHAVIOUR AND DECISION-MAKING

By: Mark Thomason, Manager Operational Improvement

An important research project within the Bushfire CRC has examined safe behaviour and decision-making.

Initial research identified that firefighting, despite heavy reliance on fire prediction, hazard models, fire control and suppression technologies, is ultimately a human activity. It requires individual firefighters to form risk assessments and initiate courses of action therefore requires that individuals be aware of, and give adequate attention to, the safety implications of any decisions they might implement.

Previous research suggests that human decision-making ability deteriorates in rapidly changing and relatively unpredictable situations such as a bushfire. It is unclear, however, precisely what factors cause such a decline in decision-making ability, particularly with regard to threats to safety.

Research undertaken by a La Trobe University team in collaboration with firefighting agencies, aims to increase the understanding of the human factors affecting decision-making that could compromise safety on the fireground.

Human factors including the effects of physical and mental stress, group pressures at crew and agency level, and the firefighter's own thought processes were important aspects of the research.

A summary of the major findings from this research recently released identified the following issues:

- Underestimating fire activity
- Importance of anticipatory thinking
- Relatively few mentions of safety watchouts (further support for adopting LACES acronym)
- Reported high levels of mental overload
- Failure to modify plans
- Confusion over command roles and implementation

- Inconsistent quality of handover briefings
- Trust versus mistrust of people personally known
- In-group and out-group bias
- Frustration with being tasked with menial jobs or "hurry up and wait" effect.

A series of workshops have been held to communicate findings to fire agencies and seek guidance to determine where these could be improved upon.

Within the CFS a number of programs have been developed and implemented addressing these findings. It should be noted that some of the actions of CFS have arose from debriefs or previous findings.

The CFS conducts several courses such as 'Suppress Wildfire', 'Tactical Command and Leadership', 'Strike Team Leader' and 'Sector Commander' training which discusses fire behaviour, LACES, dynamic risk assessment and briefings.

In addition, the Command and Leadership Task Group is reviewing After Action Review and Debrief processes and developing processes to capture and analyse human factors and how change can be made to the CFS systems of work.

Fireground command issues such as strategies, development of tactics and aspects of directive control and independent action are also being taught in 'Front-Line Leadership' and 'Sector Commanders' course. Other courses currently being developed including 'Operations' and 'Incident Controllers' courses will also expand on these principles. Many of the issues have previously been brought to the attention of the Centre for Lessons Learned.

The CFS will continue to work on the findings from this project and promote the Safety First Culture.

For more information email the Manager Operational Improvement at thomason.mark@cfs.sa.gov.au

TRAINEES GAIN INCIDENT MANAGEMENT KNOWLEDGE

By: Lee Watson, Command Leadership and Incident Management (CLIM) Task Group

A second AIMS Logistics Officer Course was recently conducted at the State Training Centre.

It was facilitated by trainers from the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service, for 16 trainees from the CFS, SES and SAMFS.

Trainees were provided with information about the seven units within the Logistics Section and how they relate to other units or their functional roles as part of an Incident Management Team.

Various exercises were also conducted as part of the course, as well as a visit to the CFS State Coordination Centre.

Trainees also gained a greater appreciation of logistics related issues that may occur within each of the trainees' different agencies and how they may impact on a multi-agency response.

The Queensland-based trainers also provided insights into the logistical challenges associated with other emergencies such as cyclones.

Feedback received from trainees indicated they all obtained a far



▲ 'AIMS Logistics Officer' course participants at the State Coordination Centre.

greater understanding about the leadership and management role of a logistics officer and the many

issues relating to the successful implementation of the logistical units.

All participants agreed that

they were now better equipped to contribute as a key member of an Incident Management Team.

NEW CFS BUILDING FIRE SAFETY UNIT

By: Leigh Miller,
CFS Manager
Prevention Services



There have been changes to the way in which the Country Fire Service manages development applications for building and bushfire safety.

These changes resulted from a review of processes in response to changes under the *Development Act 1993* and the impact of increased workloads for the CFS Development Assessment Unit (DAU).

During the review period, Max McAlister retired (to sunny Queensland) from the CFS Built Environment Fire Safety Unit (BEFSU) and it was agreed that CFS BEFSU responsibilities would be incorporated as part of the review.

The CFS DAU provides direction and advice to local government and developers on bushfire safety for new development in bushfire prone areas of the State and the CFS BEFSU provides direction and advice on commercial and industrial building fire safety in CFS areas.

The review recommended an amalgamation of both units to a single entity and for it to be renamed as the Building Fire Safety Unit with responsibility for both building and bushfire safety. A number of benefits for both community safety and for CFS will be delivered through this amalgamation.

At the time of writing, the CFS was going through the process of changing to the new structure; currently Terry Hassam is acting as the manager of the unit, Pat Ryan has been appointed as the senior building fire safety officer, Des Packer and Trevor Finney continue their roles as development assessment officers, and last (but definitely not least!) Gill Tiede and Nicky Darter undertake the administrative support roles.

^ Representatives on the CFS Building Fire Safety Unit, from left, Terry Hassam, Des Packer, Trevor Finney, Pat Ryan, Nicky Darter and Gill Tiede.

A second building fire safety officer position was advertised in late May.

The new CFS Building Fire Safety Unit is located in the CFS Region 1 Headquarters at 75 Gawler Street, Mount Barker, and can be contacted on 08 8391 6077 or by email at buildingfiresafetyunit@cfs.sa.gov.au

STUDENTS LEARN HOW TO BE BUSHFIRE READY

By: Vikki Hann and Haley Cahalan

Year 7 students from Naracoorte North Primary School have been learning about how to become 'Bushfire Ready'.

Country Fire Service Region 5 Community Education Officer Vikki Hann and volunteers from the Naracoorte CFS brigade visited the school recently to speak to two groups of Year 7 students.

Teacher Elizabeth Teate gave each student a 'Preparing for Bushfires' booklet and asked them to complete their personal bushfire action plans.

Every student took part in the task and learnt about how to prepare in the event of a bushfire.

"It is pleasing to know there are now houses with bushfire action plans that previously didn't have one," Ms Teate said.

The students put a great deal of time and effort into completing the tasks and an equal amount of time into making some creative thank you notes for the CFS (see page 33).



^ Students share their bushfire action plans, with CFS Region 5 Community Education Officer Vikki Hann.

VOLUNTEERS SPREAD BUSHFIRE SAFETY TO COMMUNITIES

By: Natasha Huber
and Haley Cahalan

The Country Fire Service is training volunteers to better educate their communities about bushfire awareness.

The work is part of an Emergency Management Australia (EMA) grant awarded to the CFS Community Education Unit to establish the Volunteers in Community Education (VOICE) pilot program.

The program aims to develop the capacity of volunteers to provide a high quality bushfire education and awareness program to the community of South Australia.

VOICE training was delivered in June to 23 volunteers representing Regions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6. Positions were highly sought after, and all participants brought a range of skills and experience, from administration officers to brigade captains.

A community education project officer has been appointed, and significant research has been

conducted into the delivery of programs interstate, ensuring communication of ideas with other fire agencies that have explored similar projects.

A project reference group has been established, and a project officer appointed to write the curriculum and assist with developing the resources.

Community Education staff Fiona Dunstan, Natasha Huber and Jeff Ayres are responsible for the delivery of the VOICE project.

Community Education and Public Warnings Manager Fiona Dunstan said the VOICE program would assist in educating the community on important bushfire safety messages.

"This is a new and exciting pilot program that will train our CFS volunteers to help create a bushfire ready community through the delivery of clear safety and awareness messages," she said.

AUSTRALIA POST SUPPORTING THE CFS

By: Joel Schirmer, CFS Business Manager

The Country Fire Service has received a \$26,000 donation from the State's Australia Post staff.

Staff at Australia Post conduct a fundraising campaign each year and

nominate community organisations as the recipients.

The CFS, along with Beyond Blue and the Red Cross, were the recipients chosen for this year.

Australia Post employee and

>> Australia Post staff hand over a cheque to CFS volunteer Scott Taylor.



Coromandel Valley CFS volunteer Scott Taylor, along with CFS Manager Operations Services Rob Sandford and Business Manager Joel Schirmer were on hand to receive the cheque at a function at the General Post Office.

The CFS has forwarded the donation to the CFS Foundation where the funds will be used to purchase an additional thermal imaging camera for the CFS.

ELECTRICAL FAULT CAUSES \$200,000 DAMAGE

The Morphett Vale and Seaford Country Fire Service brigades and MFS crews responded to a fire at an Autism SA respite care facility in Onkaparinga Hills just before 1 am on Monday, May 25.

Upon arrival CFS firefighters found a well-involved fire in the roof area of the building in Unley Court.

The crew focused its attention on the likelihood of occupants with

CFS and MFS crews conducting a primary search of the building in high heat and poor visibility.

Initial reports were that two people were inside the house, however after an extensive search and further investigations it was revealed they had left earlier in the evening.

The building was used as a respite centre for families with autistic children, however extensive damage caused

>> The fire caused the ceiling to collapse.



by the fire meant that it will now be unavailable for a considerable period.

The fire, which was attributed to an electrical fault in the ceiling, caused about \$200,000 damage.

CFS crews remained on the scene for several hours and returned the following day to assist with salvage and overhauling operations.

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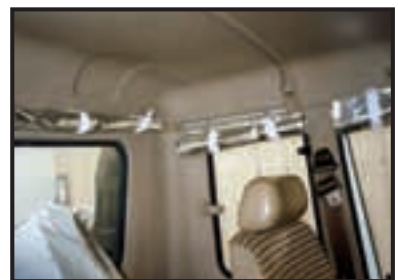
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CFS SAVES WATERLOO CORNER HOME

By: Haley Cahalan

Four Country Fire Service appliances worked to extinguish a fire in a besser brick shed at Symes Road, Waterloo Corner, on April 28.

Crews managed to save a home and

another large shed on the residential property. The damage bill was estimated at more than \$100,000 which included possessions within the shed that were being stored during renovations to the home.

<< This besser brick shed was completely destroyed by fire.

The Erickson Air Crane in the background drops water on the fireground.

AIR SUPPORT HELPS CONTROL BIBARINGA FIRE

By: Haley Cahalan

While many South Australians were enjoying the burning of rubber at the Clipsal 500 track on March 21, CFS crews were battling a grass fire at Bibaringa which was confined to 50 hectares of land.

The fire was fought by air and land crews, with 140 Country Fire Service (CFS) firefighters, 28 vehicles and significant air support, including the Erickson Air Crane 'Flynn'.

The fire burnt in very steep terrain, between One Tree Hill and Gawler and moved rapidly through ridge tops.

There was still some fire activity in the north and south sectors of the fire ground after the blaze was contained, but it did not expand.

The fire, which originated along an electrical fence line, took about four hours to contain.

AUBURN CELEBRATES 70 YEARS' SERVICE

By: Judy Searley

The Auburn CFS has provided emergency fire services to the local community for the past 70 years.

To celebrate the milestone, the Country Fire Service brigade held an open afternoon at the station on May 16.

The brigade also celebrated the fifth anniversary of the opening of the new station.

CFS Region 2 Commander John Hutchins presented Brigade Captain Joe Cassidy with a plaque recognising the 70-year achievement.

There were static displays highlighting the brigade's history, with anecdotes from past members.

News items from the Northern Argus and Flinders News showed incidents over time and fundraising activities, including the story of the 'lost sheep'.

The brigade once had a flock of sheep that was loaned out to members of the public to graze in their paddocks with its proceeds channelled into CFS funds. At one point three of the sheep went missing and their disappearance to this day still remains a mystery, but the brigade is anxious to hear from anyone who can shed some light.

Captain Joe Cassidy showed a presentation of photos of the old and new station, current and previous

brigade members and captains, incidents the brigade had attended, as well as team building exercises and brigade vehicles over the years.

It is planned that the presentation, which is still being developed, will be available for purchase on DVD.

Members continue their research into the brigade and its history and would appreciate anyone with records of the brigade's history or memorabilia to help them with this task.

The Auburn CFS Brigade thanks those who have already contributed to compiling the history of the brigade; Kay and Don Lambert,

Hedley Barber, Colin Fiedler and Doug Kench.

Current brigade members who researched records at the History Society in the Clare Town Hall are also thanked. They found press clippings dating back to the start of Auburn's recognised fire service in 1939.

Thanks also go to those who attended on the day and helped with the preparation for the event.

If you have information that could be of use in compiling the history of the Auburn CFS Brigade, please contact Judy on 0400 290 687 or visit the station on a Tuesday night from 7 pm.

NEW APPLIANCE FOR MENINGIE

By: Haley Cahalan

This year's Australia Day was not only a day to celebrate national pride, but it became an opportunity for the Meningie CFS to celebrate the commissioning of its new 34P fire truck.

Region 3 Commander Richard Coombe handed the keys to Brigade Captain Adam Hurle at the Meningie

Australia Day and Fun Run awards ceremony on January 26.

The day concluded with Meningie CFS members inviting the community and Life Members to inspect the new vehicle.

The new 34P replaces a 14-year-old truck that will be refurbished and sent to another brigade.



Region 3 Commander Richard Coombe hands Meningie Brigade Captain Adam Hurle keys to a new 34P.

PROMOTING CFS 'LIFE SKILLS' AND LEARNING

By: David Baker

The Country Fire Service was promoted at the annual Murraylands Careers Expo at the Murray Bridge TAFE campus.

Volunteers from the Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend brigades spent the day informing several thousand students, school leavers and young people who are seeking employment, of the benefits of joining the CFS.

They also highlighted that the completion of the CFS BFF 1 course allows students to claim two SACE units at Stage 1.

Another message for the attendees was that employers respect the skills

and experiences gained by being members of the CFS and value the effort emergency service volunteers put into their communities.

Many CFS volunteers are proud to add to their resume the qualifications, skills and experience gained through volunteering when seeking employment or advancement in their chosen career.

The day was a success, with the overall message being that employers want staff with 'life skills', and volunteering with the CFS offers an ideal opportunity to learn these skills.



Tailem Bend CFS volunteer Deb Hill talks to a visitor at the Careers Expo.

SALT CREEK CLEANS UP DIESEL SPILL

By: Mandell Tiver

The Salt Creek Country Fire Service (CFS) was called out to a diesel spill recently.

A truck driver who stopped for the night in the town, discovered the next morning that his fuel tanks were empty from a leak.

A large quantity of diesel was lost at a location opposite the replica oil rig in the Coorong.

The Salt Creek CFS cordoned off the area from the public.

The CFS contacted the local council and a clean up took place, removing 25 tonnes of the contaminated soil.

✓ Murray Bridge CFS volunteers Adrian Hazel and Kym Allen speak with students at the Careers Expo.



ANDAMOOKA MOVES EMERGENCY WATER WITH BW7

By: Andy Thomas

The keys to the BW7 are handed over by Region 4 Regional Commander Mick Obst to Andamooka Brigade Captain Anne Legg.



A Pastoral BW7 (7,000 litre bulk water carrier) was recently delivered to Andamooka.

The appliance was delivered by Crystal Brook volunteer Trevor Gregg, with the keys officially handed over by Region 4 Regional Commander Mick Obst to Andamooka Brigade Captain Anne Legg.

The push for the BW7 began about five years ago by then captain Nigel 'Digger' Campbell, after the second of four school fires in Andamooka.

Current captain Anne Legg continued the campaign since taking over the role.

Andamooka is a unique town in that there is no mains water and

until recently, all water was carted in by trucks from Roxby Downs, 30 kilometres away.

There is now a pipeline from Roxby Downs to a header tank at Andamooka, but all water still needs to be carted to the town's residents and businesses for emergency services purposes.

The new BW7 now complements the new fire station at Andamooka, which was only completed last year.

The BW7 is a valuable asset for the pastoral areas and will mainly be used by Andamooka and nearby brigades in Roxby Downs, Woomera and Glendambo.

✓ Aaron Hinttala drives the CFS appliance, with Steve Taylor and Kenny.



A GEM OF A FESTIVAL

By: Suzie Hawthorne

The Coober Pedy Opal Festival was held in April and the Country Fire Service (CFS) took the opportunity to promote its brigade by joining in the annual street parade.

Volunteers from the Emergency Response Team at the Oz Prominent

Hill mine helped at the festival, and joined in the parade with CFS volunteers.

The parade wound its way from the bottom of the main street to the Oxiana Oval, sharing the Easter fun with chocolates and refreshing sprays of water.

NEW ACCOMMODATION FOR ROXBY EMERGENCY VEHICLES

By: Suzie Hawthorne

Roxby Downs has a new storage shed for the Country Fire Service (CFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) appliances and units.

The existing Roxby Downs station/unit had become an occupational health and safety concern, with an increase in the number of vehicles and trailers in recent years.

The shed now holds two 4x4 Navaras as well as two trailers.

The shed, jointly funded by the CFS and SES, is a good outcome for the two emergency response agencies.

The Roxby Downs CFS and SES have jointly funded this shed for their emergency response vehicles.



WORK INITIATIVE RESTORES FIRE TRUCK

By: Chris Metevelis

The CFS Heritage Committee took possession of an old fire truck that was restored through the efforts of a dedicated group of unemployed workers as part of a job creation initiative.

CFS Heritage Committee Chairman Rex Hall AFSM said the project to restore a Dodge fire truck, began late last year with the help of the CFS Volunteers Association.

"This truck required a lot of work to restore it to showroom condition," he said.

The Ex Military Rehabilitation Centre (XMRC) at Edinburgh and community employment agency Jobs Statewide Inc combined their resources to tackle the project.

"A total of eight unemployed people were tasked to restore the fire truck and its ancillary equipment which involved metal work, spray painting and panel beating," Rex said.

"Seven of those who worked on this project have since gained full and part-time employment with one person still in full time training."

A presentation to mark the completion of the project and acknowledge the work of its participants took place at Edinburgh.

The restored vehicle is now housed in the CFS Heritage Committee Museum at Naracoorte.



^ Manager of the restoration project Brooke Mills and Country Fire Service Heritage Committee Chairman Rex Hall AFSM are both delighted with the restoration of the CFS Dodge fire truck.

SAFECOM HITS THE ROAD

By: Marg Ludwig, Volunteer Support Officer, CFS Region 5

SAFECOM Board members hit the road at the end of May to hold their meeting in the South East at Kingston.

The board members welcomed employers and volunteers from the Kingston SES unit and the CFS groups of Lacedepe, Robe and Lucindale and a 'meet and greet' barbecue was held at the Kingston Group Control Centre.

SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place gave a briefing on SAFECOM and encouraged those who attended the barbecue to recognise the valuable contributions employers make to their community and to public safety by employing CFS volunteers and allowing them to respond to emergencies at short notice.

He said this was a socially responsible approach and assured employers that they were appreciated and valued.

More than 100 people were on-hand to congratulate the 17 employers nominated to receive the 'Employer Recognition Award', acknowledging their support for allowing employees to participate in emergency services activities.

A chilly evening by the seaside was enjoyed by all as board members mingled with employers, volunteers and staff from both services.

Among the employers was Ashley Wilkin, proprietor of Zacher Engineering.

Ashley has operated his own business for many years and has encouraged his workers to volunteer for the fire service.



^ Trevor Bennier of Lucindale, with the employer he nominated for the 'Employer Recognition Award' Ashley Wilkin of Zacher Engineering, and SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place.

Ashley spoke about the value of employing volunteers and the advantages to both his business and the community.

The wonderful Lions Club members from Lucindale were also congratulated and thanked for their efforts to provide the meal.

LUCKY ESCAPE FOR TRUCK ROLL DRIVER

By: Nicole Ely and Phil McDonough

A semi trailer rolled over on the Riddoch Highway near Struan, 25 kilometres south of Naracoorte recently.

The driver was extremely lucky to escape without injury, as the cab of the truck was crushed in the accident.

The semi trailer was carting a load of potatoes when the vehicle rolled off the highway.

The Country Fire Service (CFS) was called in to assist SA Police to deal with the crash.

Brigades from Naracoorte and Joanna responded.

Conditions were cold, with the temperature hovering around 9°C at the time.

The truck driver managed to free himself out of the wreck before

>> CFS and police examine the wreckage of the semi's cab after it rolled off the Riddoch Highway.



the CFS and SA Police arrived. SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) paramedics attended to the driver.

Crews dealt with a fuel leak and isolated the batteries of the truck.

CFS RESPONSE AVERTS TOWNSHIP EVACUATION

By: George Kozminski, Regional Prevention Officer, Region 6



A fire caused extensive damage to the Wudinna roadhouse.

The Wudinna roadhouse was destroyed by fire overnight on Tuesday, May 26.

The Wudinna, Warramboob and Minnipa Country Fire Service brigades responded to the fire on the Eyre Highway, at 2.20 am.

Crews arrived to find the roadhouse well involved prompting firefighters into a defensive mode to protect other nearby property.

At one stage the evacuation of the township was being considered but the quick work of the CFS crews contained the fire and stopped it from spreading to LPG tanks.

Fire Cause Investigators traced the cause back to an electrical switchboard in the rear office of the roadhouse.

The damage caused by the fire was estimated at \$500,000.



Ungarra Primary School students with their Bushfire Action Plans.

STUDENTS LEARN BUSHFIRE SAFETY

Local Community Prevention Officer John Probert visited Ungarra Primary School on Eyre Peninsula earlier this year to talk about bushfire safety.

John conducted a presentation to the classes and an inspection of the school.

He used puppets and did role

plays and let the students try on fire fighting clothing.

The students also completed Bushfire Action Plans which they were encouraged to share with their families.

About 25 students participated in John's visit and were left with a better understanding of how to respond in the event of a bushfire.

COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUP

A group of women from Lipson on Eyre Peninsula have taken a proactive approach to becoming 'Bushfire Ready'.

The women have formed a Community Fire Safe group and held

a community education seminar with CFS Community Education Officer Therese Pedler in March.

The seminar was attended by about 15 people which led to a further three meetings.

Community Fire Safe members discussing their Bushfire Action Plans.



RIDING TO BUSHFIRE READINESS

By: Therese Pedler and Haley Cahalan

The Port Lincoln Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) is well rehearsed in preparation for a bushfire.

Country Fire Service community prevention officers Therese Pedler and John Probert have been working with the association for about a year on bushfire safety.

During this period they have conducted property inspections and have made suggestions to make the RDA better prepared, with all of their recommendations being followed through.

Recently two planned 'dress rehearsals' were conducted without RDA clients present, running through different scenarios.



Members of the Riding for the Disabled Association after one of the Bushfire Ready dress rehearsals.

The first scenario was a fire starting on the roadside on a staff training day with the horses being released and retrieved successfully.

The second scenario involved clients being present (role-played by staff) in a situation similar to this year's Proper Bay fire.

The CFS received excellent feedback and the RDA is now progressing towards being 'Bushfire Ready'.

FACES IN THE CROWD

By: The South Eastern Times

LONG-SERVING CFS MEMBER MOVES ON

After 36 years, Millicent Country Fire Service (CFS) member Jeff Hoskin was farewelled by his fellow members at a function held at the Millicent Brigade Station.

Jeff and his wife Sue are moving to Mount Gambier before embarking on a road trip as a result of Jeff's long service leave from his employer Kimberly-Clark Australia.

Jeff commenced his service with what was then known as the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1972. As a result of EFS using a community siren and having observed other people chasing

fire trucks in their cars in those days, Jeff decided that it would be more worthwhile to join the organisation to help in emergency situations.

Perhaps the most significant event in Jeff's firefighting career was Ash Wednesday. While the majority of the crews were operating out towards Furner, Jeff, along with several other crew, had to attend fires that had started surrounding Mount Muirhead.

Jeff acknowledges that the most rewarding aspect of his time in the fire service has been the opportunity to save people's lives.



^ CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson (left) with Jeff Hoskin who was presented with a Service Award and Life Membership at Millicent CFS, with Region 5 Commander Brett Merritt.

Jeff has been Captain, President, Vice President, Lieutenant, Senior Fire Fighter, Treasurer, Training Officer and Deputy District Supervisor (EFS).

As part of his farewell, Jeff was presented with Life Membership of the Millicent CFS, a recognition

plaque, Service Awards for 30 years and 35 years and an engraved branch from the Millicent Brigade.

His valued service will be missed by the local brigade, whose members have wished him well in his future endeavours.

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.

Alternatively 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.



^ BA Course, STC Brukunga, June 2009.
Photo: CFS Promotions Unit

^ Burnoff at Onkaparinga Hills, April 2009.
Photo: Matt Bonser

^ Lainie Jackson enjoys the view from a CFS fire truck during this year's Royal Flying Doctor Service Wilpena Under the Stars fundraising event.
Photo: Ray Jackson



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VOLUNTEER - FACES IN THE CROWD | PHABULOUS PHOTOS

THANK YOU CFS

'Thanks' from Ian Kleinig

Hello, my name is Ian Kleinig.

I was a volunteer CFS firefighter at the Victorian fires when I was struck on the top of the head (helmet) by a falling tree and knocked out.

I am about to leave hospital some two months later and I have had so many people involved with my accident, hospitalisation and recovery that I would like to thank.

To all of you, thank you.

To the team of firefighters I was working with at the Melbourne fire thank you for being such professional firefighters and for your efforts at the scene.

To Yvette Dowling (Pixie), thank you for what you did for me at the accident and for having to relive the horror the time you came to explain the accident to me and answer the questions I had about the accident.

To Euan Ferguson and all the fantastic CFS staff, thank you for your continued support of me and my family during the term of my injury; from getting my family to Melbourne to be by my side, to the support given to us through the staff at the many hospitals and rehabilitation needed by me, also for the many visits by you all.

I would like all CFS members throughout the state to know that you do not need to have any reservations about how much support you will get from the CFS should an accident happen.

There is nothing else I could have asked for from the CFS organisation.

I thank the CFS for everything it did for me and my family after the accident.

**Ian Kleinig,
Burra - May 2009.**

Chief Officer Euan Ferguson with Ian Kleinig at Burra.



Excellent Effort CFS

Please convey our special thanks and appreciation to all the volunteer members and professional staff of the Country Fire Service who most generously turned out in such large numbers from many brigades throughout the region on March 21 to control and extinguish the grass fire on part of our property in the Bibaringa area near the South Para River.

What an impressive array of CFS resources ... a large number of fire trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles, a fleet of water tankers, two fixed-

wing aircraft, and some three or four helicopters.

Difficult steep gullies with inaccessible terrain and rocky outcrops made the task very demanding for the CFS volunteers, and provided scope for the aircraft and helicopter crews to display their extraordinary supporting firefighting skills and capabilities.

South Australians have a wonderful CFS service.

**Gavin Riggs and family,
Gawler.**



<<
Students at
St James'
Primary
School in
Muswellbrook,
NSW made
this collage
to thank SA's
emergency
services
personnel.

NSW students appreciate SA help

To South Australia's emergency services,

Please accept this collage as a gift which reflects our appreciation for all the good work you do to keep our communities safe.

We honour those who have died in the recent and tragic bushfires.

We give gratitude to the brave

men, women and children who continue to define and give testimony to the strong, enduring and resilient spirit of what it means to be an Australian.

**Shanelle Thomas,
Principal St James'
Primary School,
Muswellbrook, NSW.**



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU CFS

CFS volunteers – among “the best people on earth”

Dear Firefighters,

I am writing to say that I think that what you all do is absolutely AMAZING.

I admire every single one of you so much.

You are all incredibly brave and courageous to risk your lives to save people you have never even met; it is absolutely amazing to think that there are people like you guys/girls out there actually doing something to help people.

You are all definitely some of the best people we have on earth, giving up your time, energy and sometimes lives to protect others.

I wish you all safety and peace and want you to remember that you have a whole community of people that admire your courage.

Thank you for being such an inspiring and admirable lot.

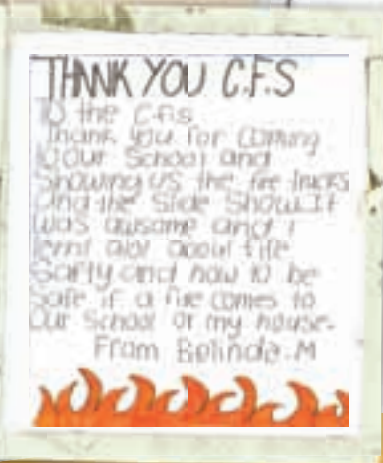
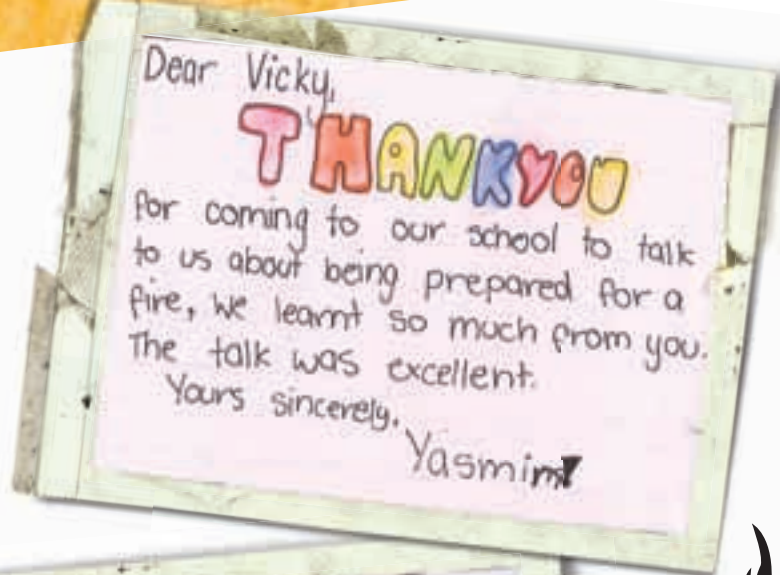
Nicole McKay,

Address withheld.

Naracoorte North Primary School students

Naracoorte North Primary School students enjoyed a visit from Community Education Officer Vikki Hann and members of the Naracoorte Brigade recently.

Their appreciation was conveyed through a series of ‘thank you’ posters.



Police praise Waikerie CFS

Dear Sir,

On Sunday 9th March, a male person contacted Riverland Police alleging he had been abducted from Berri, bashed and had been left on the side of the road, somewhere between Berri and Waikerie.

Riverland Police initiated a search but it was soon realised that additional resources were needed.

The search in the Waikerie area was stepped up and a Star Group Search Coordinator was utilised to coordinate the search.

At 2051 hours the Waikerie Captain (Graeme Ward) attended the Waikerie police station and was given a briefing from myself and the Star Group member in relation to the circumstances of the search and what was required

from CFS to continue the search over a broader area.

Three search areas were given to Captain Ward to be searched by CFS crews. As a result of their efforts, the person was located at 2240 hours by one of the crews.

This highlighted:

- The good communications skills of Captain Ward in passing-on accurate information to his crews.
- The crews undertaking their allocated searches in a thorough manner.

Crews provided regular and accurate sitreps on a multi-agency channel allocated by Police Communications for this incident.

The crew secured the person and the immediate area as a crime scene, and waited for a police patrol to attend.

I have been at Waikerie for over 6 years now, and have always been impressed by the Waikerie crew's professionalism when working with police, whether it be a search, as in this instance, or whether it be on the side of the road at a crash scene.

The Unit is highly regarded by Waikerie and neighbouring police stations for their good work and their commitment to their local community.

I have passed on my appreciation to the Group Captain Mike Arnold, and advised him that I would be communicating my gratitude on to you (CFS Chief Officer, Euan Ferguson).

Regards,
Dave Miller
Sergeant,
Waikerie Police Station.



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VOLUNTEER - THANKYOU CFS

OBITUARIES

Mim Goodwin, Brukunga CFS 13 August 1948 - 4 November 2008

Mim joined the Country Fire Service in March 1985.

She was awarded the National Medal in October 2001, received Life Membership in May 2005 and elected Brigade Captain from 2002 to 2006, marking 23 years of diligent service.

Mim was the first female captain in the group and as a result had a lot to prove, which she did diligently.

She was not only dedicated to the brigade but also the community as a whole.

Mim was always the first to let you know of the funny and serious things

that happened at an incident or in her work or life.

She was admired for her good sense of humour and her stories will be told for many, many years to come. Legends have a habit of doing that.

Mim was a fighter through and through, for the whole of her CFS career, as former and current group officers can testify. Whether it was fires or issues, she was always driven by her beliefs.

Mim had a huge passion for the CFS which was only outweighed by her passion towards the Brukunga CFS and its members. She was sharp, switched on and never missed anything. Her fighting spirit which helped avert the closure of the brigade and created longevity for its members became legendary.

To those who knew her, she was a mentor, leader and a friend and underneath her tough exterior was a person with an unselfish nature, who was always caring and thinking of her brigade members.

The Country Fire Service has lost a valuable volunteer and her brigade and Heysen Group has lost a much loved and respected member.

Our thoughts are with her family, friends and will always be well remembered by everyone who knew her.

Brukunga CFS



In loving memory of
Meredith (Mim) Goodwin
(nee Robinson)
13/08/1948 - 04/11/2008

Joshua Pomery, Port Elliott CFS 25 January 1988 - 13 March 2009

Joshua Edwin Pomery was born in Victor Harbor to Barbara and Allan Pomery (current Port Elliott Captain).

Josh joined the brigade in October 2002 at the age of 12 following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather and great grandfather.

He showed an immediate interest in the brigade, volunteering for any duties or events the brigade organised.

Josh completed his basic firefighter's course at the age of 14 years and was fighting his first major fire at 16, at Mt Bold.

He held the brigade position of equipment officer for two years and enjoyed the camaraderie of the CFS, making many friends during his time with the brigade.

He was a keen, sports-minded person, playing golf at Victor Harbor and football for Port Elliott and later with the Port Elliott/Goolwa Football Club.

Cricket saw him excel as a junior player, winning several awards.

The Port Elliott brigade has created an area in the station in memory of

Josh, with a dart board unit made with a plaque on it.

The Port Elliott CFS honoured Josh at his funeral service with a guard of honour - a final token of camaraderie and friendship.

He may be gone, but our memories of Josh will live on.



Joshua Pomery passed away
on March 13, aged 21.

Rex Wright, Naracoorte Group 23 October 1937 - 13 March 2009

Former Group Officer for the Naracoorte Group, Rex Wright, passed away on 13 March 2009.

Rex joined the Naracoorte District Bushfire Brigade in 1966 while working for the Naracoorte District Council.

As the council mechanic he was always on site and available to respond with the appliance, often with limited crew and only himself as the driver, occasionally collecting others along the way.

Rex became a deputy group captain under Ron Reynolds in 1981 and later served under Group Captain John Jacob.

Rex stepped up to group captain in the late 1980s and continued in this role until October 1993. Ill health led to his resignation from the brigade in 1997.

Rex was always in the right place as the senior mechanic to undertake whatever duties the then Bushfire Brigade might require. A large part of his role was the repair and maintenance of the council-owned appliances within the district.

Rex took on an apprentice mechanic in 1978 and very quickly encouraged him to also join the fire service as the

brigade station was actually part of the council depot and therefore both had ready access to the appliances and the base radio.

Most people who knew Rex would recall his distinctive radio manner. He was always able to make the microphone of the VL5BN base radio key in with a 'creaking' that many tried to imitate but were never able to achieve.

Rex was awarded the National Medal and First Clasp for his service to the Country Fire Service.

The brigade and group formed a guard of honour at the cemetery to farewell their fellow firefighter.

Rex is survived by his wife Elva, four children and several grandchildren.



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REGION 6

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E: admin@cfsva.org.au
W: www.cfsva.org.au

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