

# VOLUNTEER



Government  
of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.





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*All bags can  
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#### Note Pad & Radio Holder:

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

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- Holds 8 drink bottles

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

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*Member of  
the CFS  
since 1983*

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*CFS Heritage Committee chairman Rex Hall (right) with Channel Nine weather presenter Brenton Ragless at the CFS reunion page 14. CFS winter expo in Port Lincoln page 6. Road crash rescue at Blackwood page 27.*

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Front cover image: Taken by Jeff Anderson of a prime mover carrying a B-double semi-trailer that was loaded with wooden pallets and destroyed in a fire on the South Eastern Freeway near the Heysen Tunnels. More details on page 26.

Editorial Team – Managing Editor: Chris Metevelis. Editor: Terry Price. Tel (08) 8212 9849 (CFS Media Line). If you would like to contribute to Volunteer...send your photos and stories to: The Editor, Volunteer Magazine, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001 or email: [publicaffairs@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:publicaffairs@cfs.sa.gov.au). Don't forget to include your name, address, brigade and 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



**I**n July, senior CFS volunteers and staff and the executive from the CFSVA spent four days in the northern Flinders on "Operation Compass". The aim was to discuss and plan our directions for the next 18 to 24 months. Central to discussions was the analysis of the CFS organisation "Health Check" that started in March and involved Regional volunteer and staff members over three months. Clear messages were received from the Health Check. Once endorsed by the Chief Officer's Advisory Council, the proposals will be turned into actions. This is a good example of volunteer leaders influencing our direction and our priorities for the future.

The final report and recommendations of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal

Commission are hot off the press. Many of its recommendations are centred on Victoria. But there are many that have a national application. All will be analysed thoroughly to see if we can improve through their adoption. After the Black Saturday bushfires the Government moved to form the Bushfire Task Force. Through the Bushfire Task Force we have seen new policies introduced including the PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE program and the concept of "Bushfire Safer Precincts" and "Refuges of Last Resort". The Task Force has been a useful forum to engage with other government and non-government agencies on bushfire policy reform. Recently the Emergency Services Minister Michael Wright announced ongoing funding for the PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE program. We welcome this funding. It will allow us to continue this important work in our communities and to reaffirm the excellent work done by our community educators across South Australia.

We all must learn from the Black Saturday Bushfires. South Australia got off very lightly on that day. The toll in Victoria was horrifying and brought pain and tears to us all. We cannot be complacent. Major bushfires are not "once-off" events. Our history is studded with periodic severe bushfires and the risks continue to increase. As a key emergency service and fire safety policy advocate in South

Australia, we must work with our fellow emergency services, government and the public to continuously learn, improve, change and adapt.

It is pleasing to note that the new State Bushfire Coordination Committee has been established in line with amendments to the Fire and Emergency Services Act in late 2009. Nine new Bushfire Management Areas have been approved and work is underway to appoint new Bushfire Management Committees in areas before the fire season.

Finally, it was with great pleasure that Kristin and I attended the CFS Veterans Reunion recently at the Morphettville racecourse function centre, organised by the indefatigable Rex Hall AFSM. Many current and retired volunteers and staff attended a dinner and lunch barbeque the following day. It was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old mates and enjoy the camaraderie and the spirit of CFS. It was a time to reflect on the enormity of the contributions that continue to be made individually and collectively by so many willing and capable volunteers. It was also a time to reflect on the many changes that have resulted in the strength of the CFS we see before us today. Volunteer firefighters represent the peak of citizenry. Once again, I stand, pause and salute every one of you. You are all extraordinary people. We owe you so much. Thank you!

# CFSVA PRESIDENT KEN SCHUTZ



**A** few weeks ago I was emailed a copy of a letter sent to CFS Group Officer Mike Arnold from Senior Sergeant Peter Sims of Waikerie Police. This letter (which can be read in full in this issue of the Volunteer on page 39), praises the work and professionalism of Cadell and Morgan Brigades when attending a recent vehicle accident at Cadell.

While no one joins the CFS for the rewards or thank yous it is pleasing to

see that the time, effort and training of volunteers is sometimes recognised. I am sure that most CFS brigades who have had experience in Road Crash would have acted in a similar professional manner; although the actions by the members of the Cadell and Morgan brigades must have been exemplary.

In the rural areas of South Australia there are many one man police stations and the cooperation between SAPOL and CFS needs to work.

Usually at a vehicle accident in rural SA, the single police officer is busy taking details and talking to witnesses etc, therefore traffic control, road detours, the preservation of the scene and organising equipment that is needed, is left up to the CFS officer in charge and their crew. As well as this many brigades also do the clean up as there is just no one else to do it.

As in the letter from SSIC Sims the attending CFS members took on the role of comforting friends of the deceased person and keeping them from entering the scene and they also comforted the driver of the other vehicle. None of these things are in

the CFS manual as roles that have to be carried out but they just did it.

The perception of the general community is that CFS volunteers cut people out of cars and fight bushfires or house fires. They do not realise all the little things that make CFS a truly professional organisation. Training is not the only thing that makes us good at our job; it is also compassion, care, thoughtfulness, cooperation and commitment. These traits are what made the work of Cadell and Morgan so impressive and perhaps even we as an organisation forget this sometimes.

It's not the shiny white trucks or the latest equipment or the yellow turnout gear, it is how we go about doing our job that really stands out and prompts people such as SSIC Sims to write his letter.

So next time you finish an incident and have a quick debrief back at the station don't only think about how the obvious went, think about how the not quite so obvious parts of the incident went and I think you will find that instead of being a good brigade you could find yourself being part of a great brigade.

# BOARD CHAIRMAN, SAFECOM DAVID PLACE



**T**he SAFECOM Board has just released the Sector's Strategic Plan. The Plan, launched by the Minister in July, details the strategies we will be pursuing together over the next five years to achieve our vision of a safer and more resilient community.

The Plan is structured around our six key focus areas of:

- Leadership
- Prevention and Community Preparedness
- Operational Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery
- Business Excellence

Some of the strategies that are particularly relevant to volunteers include:

- Develop and implement a plan to reduce administrative requirements on volunteers, including standard templates for gathering/distributing information
- Develop a volunteer workforce plan including membership requirements, recruitment, personnel development, support and retention strategies
- Increase collaborative training across the sector
- Ensure that the development and training needs of staff and volunteers are provided

within learning and development frameworks that meet national standards

- Develop a 3-year ICT Plan
- Implement an efficient and effective sector building maintenance system
- Develop a sector strategic asset management plan for buildings, vehicles, appliances, vessels and equipment
- Develop common response standards and performance measures (Emergency Services Delivery Standards Project)
- Extend joint planning for specialised responses to specific risks, including those in remote areas
- Define the sector's role in recovery

Posters detailing the major strategies have been delivered to all brigades. I urge you to download a copy of the plan at [www.safecom.sa.gov.au/site/about\\_us/strategic\\_direction.jsp](http://www.safecom.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/strategic_direction.jsp) to read about all of our strategies or contact Ann De Piaz for a hard copy.

# MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HON. MICHAEL WRIGHT



**T**he next few months leading up to the 2010/11 Fire Danger season look set to be an extremely busy and challenging time. We've recently received the findings of Victoria's Royal Commission into the Black Saturday tragedy, which will inevitably impact on policies and procedures here in South Australia.

We're still in the process of working through these recommendations to look at ways in which we can boost our own resilience to bushfires. We already know our volunteers do a tremendous job with the resources they have, but we're always looking for ways we can help improve operations. Last month, we announced that the Erikson Air Crane will be returning to South Australia this fire danger season, along with another funding boost for aerial fire fighting, which we know is an essential component in helping our volunteers on the ground.

Our volunteers make an enormous and daily contribution towards saving lives, preparing and protecting local communities. This was brought to the fore recently, when people of Penola were left devastated by a mini tornado that ripped through the town centre, uprooting trees, tearing off roofs and destroying homes and businesses. Fortunately, there were no injuries, but we saw more than 60 emergency services volunteers rush to the community's aid, temporarily repairing structures, removing fallen trees and stabilising buildings. We simply could not do without these magnificent individuals who so willingly donate their time and energy towards helping others through a crisis.

We recently celebrated and formally recognised their contribution during National Volunteer Week from the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> of May. Through various events, we extended our genuine thanks and appreciation to the millions of people that volunteer. It is the largest celebration of volunteerism in Australia and is celebrated annually.

In South Australia we're fortunate to have such giving individuals who donate their time and effort so generously to our emergency services. This summer we will have 15,000 CFS volunteers, as well as over 1000 MFS personnel and more than 2000 SES volunteers who'll be ready to protect South Australian communities this bushfire season.

We do not want to see a repeat of the

devastating fires that swept through parts of Victoria, which is why South Australians must begin taking pro-active steps to PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE this fire season.

Now is the time for everyone to begin thinking about preparing their properties to ensure they are bushfire ready, so that they're not risking their own lives, but also their families, neighbours and those of our volunteers this summer.

Last month, the Government announced it would give an extra \$12.9m to continue increasing bushfire awareness and education around the PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE strategy. We want to ensure that every South Australian has the chance to adequately prepare for the danger season.

We'll be holding the State's second Bushfire Action Week later this year, which will be held from Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of October until Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. We'll be using that week to emphasise the need for people to act vigilantly and responsibly this summer.

I'd like to take the opportunity to once again commend the sincere dedication and continual courage shown by all of our volunteers. We simply couldn't do without your contribution to this State and you certainly do us all proud every time you respond to an emergency situation.

We all know that should you be called upon, your commitment to protecting and defending the communities of South Australia will be resolute. On behalf of all South Australians, Thank you.





# CFS WINTER EXPO AT PORT LINCOLN A LIKELY PILOT FOR SA

By: Terry Price

**A** bushfire Winter Expo attended by over 2000 people at Port Lincoln could become a pilot for South Australia.

The event was organised by the Country Fire Service in consultation with the Port Lincoln community following the loss of 15 homes, several sheds and 640 hectares of land to a bushfire on 23 December last year.

CFS Community Education Officer Therese Pedler said the expo held on Port Lincoln's foreshore was aimed at helping people prepare for the next fire danger season.

"The people of Lower Eyre Peninsula have experienced more than their fair share of bushfires in the last decade, and we wanted to provide all residents with the opportunity to access any business or agency that would assist them in becoming bushfire ready," said Ms Pedler.

"The expo was asked for by the community and everyone who contributed on the day was from the community. It was truly a community event."

Ms Pedler said the idea for the expo came from the staff involved in the Recovery Centre established after the 23 December Port Lincoln fire.

Following discussions with the Greater City of Port Lincoln Bushfire Prevention Committee Chairman Neville Starke, an invitation was made to CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and representatives of the Native Vegetation Council to join in discussions on issues arising from the Port Lincoln fire.

Ms Pedler said it became clear that the community wanted the opportunity to access as much information as possible at the one event.

CFS Chief Officer Ferguson in turn committed the CFS to coordinate a fire expo to be held in Port Lincoln.

The overwhelming success of the Port Lincoln Winter Expo has encouraged the CFS to look further at staging similar events in bushfire prone areas in SA.

The Port Lincoln event was supported by local businesses and agencies including the Metropolitan Fire Service, the native Vegetation Council, the Department of Environment and Heritage, SA Ambulance Service, SAPOL, RSPCA, the Eyre Peninsula Natural Resources Management Board, the City of Port Lincoln and the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.

A range of CFS and MFS appliances

were on display with both CFS and MFS personnel on hand to share information with the interested public.

One of the most popular marquees on the foreshore was that staffed by the CFS Community Education team, and hundreds of surveys were filled in by members of the public.

"The success of the day was I think shown by the fact there were very few suggestions as how the day could have been improved," said Ms Pedler.

"Fire prevention is everyone's responsibility, and not just the CFS and MFS.

"Planning your tactics against the threat of a bushfire and understanding your personal circumstances, which includes your family, pets and personal possessions are important, basic steps to take.

"Preparations for a bushfire should not have to wait until the fire danger season when fire prevention measures can be implemented now.

"For this reason it was very pleasing to see so many people from Lower Eyre Peninsula attend the Winter Expo and make use of the information available to them."



# TESTIMONIALS

*"This is an excellent idea for Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula. Bushfire prevention is vitally important in the area and it is an ideal way to get the bushfire messages through to the people of the district"* **Bryan Trigg, Cleve**

*"We are visiting Port Lincoln today and are finding this bushfire expo to be very enlightening. It should help people's attitudes towards bushfire prevention."* **Peter and Chris Bowden, Quorn**

*"I'm an ex-CFS volunteer and firefighter, and am very impressed with the advances in equipment which is on display here today. Bushfires are a big issue in this area and it is great to see this expo so well supported. More of the younger generation need to be taking over from the older blokes in the CFS and this is a good way to get to them."*

**Graham Hurrell, Port Lincoln**

*"I'm impressed with the response from the community today, and their response to ensure they are safe during bushfires. It's brilliant to see the range of displays and support they are getting, particularly for private businesses. We do our best, but people need to look after themselves to stay safe."*

**Joe Tilley, Fire Management Officer for Department of Environment and Heritage**



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1. Therese Pedler and Leonard Letton with essentials. 2. The Community Education Expo team, from left, Peta O'Donohue, Emma Wilson, Therese Pedler, Smokey, Felicity Hopkinson, Natasha Huber, Kylee McNamee. 3. An aerial view of the CFS winter expo site. 4. Region 6 Regional Commander Kevin May, left, with Paul Keys. 5. Brad Porter with the MFS triple Zero fire truck. 6. Face Painter Jo Fox with one of her many customers on the day. 7. Enjoying the Expo, from left, Tumby Bay Group Officer Quentin Russ, Lower Eyre Peninsula Deputy Group Officer Kym Kenny, Therese Pedler, Ella Kenny and Rhonda Russ. 8. Anthony White from Eyre Peninsula Fire and Safety shows Lucas Anderson how to safely and effectively use a household fire extinguisher. 9. The SA Ambulance Service stand was well fitted out on the day. 10. Lincoln Brigade CFS Captain Greg Napier shows former Port Lincoln and Coffin Bay member Graham Hurrell some of the latest CFS equipment. 11. BOM representative Kylie Egan was on the Bureau of Meteorology stand. 12. CFS Coordinator of Community Programs Natasha Huber passes on Bushfire Ready advice to local residents.



2010 National Emergency Management Volunteers  
Photographic Competition Awards  
National Winner, Secondary Student Category 'The  
heroes of the bush' Tim Eckert, Meningie Area School

## CFS 'HEROES OF THE BUSH' PHOTO WINS NATIONAL COMPETITION

A photograph capturing the spirit of emergency service volunteering, taken by young South Australian Tim Eckert, has been awarded the Secondary School Category National Winner of the 2010 National Emergency Management Volunteers Photographic Competition Awards.

Tim recently accepted his award at a special ceremony at the High Court of Australia in Canberra for his photograph, titled 'The heroes of the bush'.

It encapsulates Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteer firefighters recovering after having fought a 3,000 acre bushfire near Meningie which was shot by Tim just before midnight on New Years Eve last year.

Tim and his family live near Meningie, close to Lake Alexandrina in the State's Upper South East.

It is an area facing bushfire risk and

the photograph captures the essence of community and team work during emergencies.

South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission Chief Executive, David Place, says he took great pride in presenting fellow South Australian Tim with his national award at the ceremony, which also marked the beginning of National Volunteer Week.

"It was fitting that this special event, recognising emergency service volunteering, marked the commencement of National Volunteer Week. Our emergency service volunteers are a vital resource and competitions such as this allow the community to capture, share and recognise the good work they do," he said.

"Tim truly is a deserving winner; his photograph captured the capacity and commitment of the CFS volunteers involved with the incident.

## CFS AND CFA VOLUNTEERS REINFORCE A STRONG BOND



Port Pirie MFS Station Officer and Mintaro CFS volunteer, Pat Hill and Mintaro CFS volunteer, Brett Hill enjoy a wine tasting with Kinglake CFA volunteers on their visit to SA.

The strong bond of a Mintaro CFS family and Kinglake CFA volunteers developed in the aftermath of the catastrophic Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria, has been reinforced during a recent visit to Adelaide by CFA volunteers.

About a month after the bushfires, Mintaro CFS volunteer and Port Pirie MFS Station Officer Pat Hill and his son

Brett, also a Mintaro CFS volunteer, drove their family's 10-bed mobile home to Kinglake to lend it to Kinglake volunteers who needed a roof over their head.

The mobile home became a home for a Kinglake volunteer and her three teenage children for over a year while the family home was rebuilt.

During May this year five Kinglake CFA volunteers arrived in Adelaide. Pat and Brett picked them up from the airport and hosted them in Adelaide, Clare and Mintaro for three days, visiting and thanking locals who had donated goods or lent a hand with the Kinglake assistance.

Kinglake CFA firefighter Di MacLeod said the visitors had enjoyed a wonderful time on their SA visit.

"The Hill family opened up their home and their hearts to us. We have the deepest respect and gratitude for them," Ms MacLeod said.

## AFS MEDAL A FITTING FINALE FOR TRUDY

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer



AFS medal recipient Trudy Whelan at her farewell recently with, from left, A/Chief Officer MFS Mick Smith, SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place, and CFS Chief Executive Officer Euan Ferguson.

The honour of receiving the Australian Fire Services Medal was a fitting achievement for Trudy Whelan just prior to her retirement. Trudy has worked tirelessly and with great dedication for over 30 years to ensure the psychological wellbeing of fire fighters.

Trudy joined the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) in 1978 as an administration officer and worked in a variety of administrative positions, including the accounts section, undertaking human resources management tasks and managing the central and regional administration officers.

During the tragic Ash Wednesday Bushfires of 1983, she answered distressed calls on the bushfire hotline in the communications centre. For the past 22 years until her recent retirement she has been instrumental in managing the delivery of welfare services to the CFS.

Since 1988 Trudy has managed the Stress Prevention and Management Program to help thousands of CFS and SES volunteers and has managed an Employee Assistance Program for career staff, including the role of staff counsellor and has been on almost constant 24 hour call. These programs have included the provision of a wide range of psychological services, including training and education, group debriefings after critical incidents and individual and family counselling. Trudy managed and coordinated an extensive peer support program and has been instrumental in the development of a nationally accredited and recognised Certificate 3 course in community services. Many emergency services volunteers in South Australia have graduated from this course and have been involved in the CFS and SES, working in conjunction with mental health professionals to add to a multilevel service provision.

Trudy has received awards from WorkCover and the Critical Incident Stress Management Foundation and has been constantly approached for information and assistance by other local and interstate agencies that recognise her program as being best practice.



# CHANCE CALL BEGAN CFS ASSOCIATION FOR TONY

news & updates

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer

**T**ony Wege's chance calling to a fire ground back in 1980 began an association with the Country Fire Service which has culminated in being awarded a Queen's Birthday Australian Fire Service Medal.

During cricket practice in the Mid North back in 1980, club members were asked to help fight a fire west of Georgetown, and Tony found himself on the fire ground. Having started that night as a Gladstone Cricket Club member, he found himself on the Gladstone CFS truck, and finished as a member of the Gladstone CFS.

Impressed with the community aspect of it, Tony found he knew plenty of people at the scene which gave him a new appreciation of the community in a disaster.

A member of Nuriootpa CFS and a retired high school teacher, he has been a central figure in local and State CFS operations.

As a contract training consultant he set up the basis of modern-day training, leading the team which wrote many CFS training courses. These days he can visit any station in SA and see the end result of the work he started.

Tony became Deputy Group Officer with Angaston & District Group in 1999, remaining in the role for eight years, and assisting in setting up the Angaston Group Incident Coordination Centre.

At Glen Innes in New South Wales



Tony Wege CFS AFSM. Photo: Courtesy The Leader newspaper.

in 2002 he led the planning team which focused on determining the methodologies for fire attack at five simultaneously burning fires.

Tony says the hardest part of his CFS life has been attending road crashes.

"Major extractions at road crashes definitely take their toll on everyone concerned, and particularly with semi-

trailer crashes they can be extremely difficult," he said.

A training officer and mentor for incident managers, Tony represents the CFS Volunteers Association on the SAFECOM Training and Development Committee.

He was also on the Region 2 Bushfire Prevention Committee.

## TRUE CFS LOVE



Photo: Head in the Clouds Photography.

**C**FS love was truly in the Adelaide Hills air when volunteers Aileen Craig and Marty Biro tied the knot in April.

The newly commissioned Stirling pumper greeted them as they exited Our Lady of the Rosary Church in Stirling.

Aileen and Marty's relationship developed as they met on calls and socially as members of the Stirling CFS.

## NEW CFS SHOW DISPLAY

**T**he South Australian Country Fire Service will be showcasing its new Bushfire Ready **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE** stand at the 2010 Royal Adelaide Show.

Located inside the Jubilee Pavilion, the new mobile stand will focus on all South Australians who live, work, travel or holiday throughout the State's bushfire locations.

There will be interactive tools on display to allow visitors to the stand to assess their individual bushfire risk and identify which Fire Ban District they belong to.

Visitors can type in their address and be shown the location on the State map via a pin (small red mark). To find out the Fire Ban District they belong to all they will have to do is click next to the pin.

With a new bushfire advice and warnings system introduced in South Australia during the last fire danger

season CFS staff and volunteers will be on hand to offer advice on what actions they need to take depending on the predicted fire danger.

It is important that all family members understand the new arrangements so they can make appropriate safety choices during days of high fire risk and during the bushfire.

For the children there will be daily visits by the CFS Fire Safety Ambassador Smokey the Koala, along with plenty of games and activities for children visiting the CFS stand.

Leaflets and brochures will be available on the **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE** message, as will a wide range of **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE** promotional giveaways for both adults and children.

Visitors to the CFS stand will also be able to order copies of brochures and pick up the **PREPARE.ACT.SURVIVE** DVD.



## ROADS BLOCKED AT ONE TREE HILL

Several roads in the One Tree Hill area were blocked to ensure the safety of commuters during a fire on 1 March.

The fire started about 3.30pm on the Gawler to One Tree Hill road, near Medlow Road, with 14 hectares of private land being burnt.

Thirteen appliances, two bulk water carriers, local farm fire units and aircraft attended.

The blocking of nearby roads also kept firefighters safe as they worked on and near the roads during the height of the fire.

## REGIONAL NEWSPAPER GIVES CFS VOLUNTEER NUMBERS A BOOST

By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer



Phil Wapper, Fred Munzer and Andrew Cadd - with Andrew Stewart operating the hose — want you to join your local Country Fire Service brigade. Photo: Nick Perry.

Local CFS Brigades across Yorke Peninsula will have their volunteer numbers boosted if the Yorke Peninsula Country Times (YPCT) has its way.

The widely read weekly dedicated its front page recently to launch its CFS Jump On Board campaign under the heading of We Need You.

The paper said that whether attending a car accident or battling a bushfire, the Country Fire Service was crucial to the wellbeing of every Yorke Peninsula community.

It went on to say:

“Local volunteers give up their time to ensure the safety of others but the bottom line is there just aren’t enough people putting up their hands to join their local CFS brigades.

Many Yorke Peninsula stations are currently lacking members and facing closure if the issue can’t be resolved soon.

So the Yorke Peninsula Country Times is encouraging you to “Jump On Board” and join the ranks of your local brigade before the summer bushfire season comes around again.

YPCT will be featuring articles each week on local CFS stations, its volunteers and how you can get involved.”

## FIRE ON EDGE OF FREELING



Close two hectares of scrub burnt near Freeling.

Almost two hectares of scrub were burnt in a fire on the outskirts of the township of Freeling on 1 March.

The fire started about 2.30pm at the south eastern end of Stockport Road.

Brigades in attendance were Freeling, Kapunda, Roseworthy and Sheaoak Log.

## KAPUNDA FIRE SUSPICIOUS

CFS crews were in attendance at a fire on the Freeling to Kapunda Road, near Schwartz Road, for four hours on 28 February.

The fire began about 10.45am and fire cause investigators placed the matter in the hands of SAPOL.

It burnt 20 hectares of stubble on private property.

Brigades from Kapunda, Freeling, Greenock and Sheaoak Log attended.



# AN EYE IN THE SKY

**By: Gary MacRae, Air Attack Supervisor, Aldgate CFS**

**Where's the head fire? Where's the best place to commit strike teams? What's the fire doing? What assets are under threat?" These questions can be the biggest challenge for Incident Controllers, Regional and State Controllers.**

As incident managers obtaining relevant, timely and accurate intelligence on a fire is essential for the decisions required both on the fire ground and at coordination centres.

This is also supported by investigations of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission which identified the importance of gathering accurate fire intelligence and disseminating it to strategic and tactical incident managers, and for the formation of reliable community warnings.

During March and April this year, CFS Aviation Services conducted a trial sponsored by the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, of an airborne surveillance platform. The trial involved a twin turbine engine aircraft fitted with a high performance electro-optical and infra-red sensor (EOIR) and associated mapping systems.

There were a number of key functions for the successful conduct of the trial and two CFS volunteers undertook critically important roles. Gary MacRae of Aldgate CFS and an accredited Air Attack Supervisor and Air Observer, flew in the aircraft to consider the systems from an airborne operational application perspective. David Bradshaw of Kersbrook CFS and an RAAF aircrewman with experience in airborne tests and evaluation, assisted with the trial planning and evaluation.

"This type of technology has been used by the military for many years and is well proven, but it's the first time it has been available to organisations like the CFS," David said.

The trial's mission was to evaluate how

the CFS can effectively gain bushfire intelligence and pass it on to the people who need to know in a user-friendly format. The system was evaluated against a range of likely fire situations for its strategic and tactical applications.

After having the opportunity to study a controlled burn on Yorke Peninsula with the infra-red sensor, Gary was enthusiastic with the results when reporting to the Manager Aviation Services, David Cant.

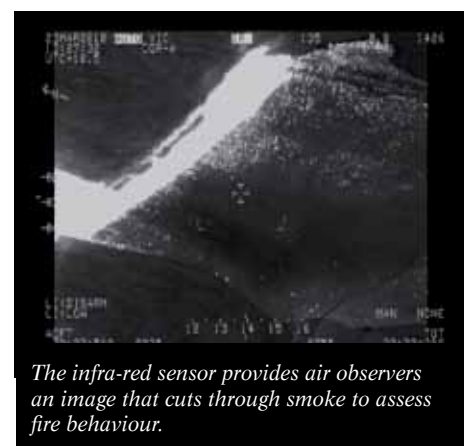
Gary said that using the infra-red was like the smoke wasn't there. "I could clearly see the fire edge, plot it and transmit the information immediately to CFS Headquarters," he said.

The infra-red sensor allows Air Observers to look through smoke and to closely study fire behaviour and make accurate assessments of such things as rate of spread, spotting distances and flame heights. The sensor has a powerful zoom capacity and as a result the platform can operate high above a fire, well clear of bombing aircraft. The zoom also gives an Air Observer the ability to detect fires at far greater distances than what can be seen with the naked eye. During the trial, fires over 100 km away were detected.

Combined with the mapping software, the EOIR can quickly and accurately create maps of the fire edge and other points of interest, and almost instantly relay these to a control centre.

This system also allows operations to be safely and effectively performed at night. Previously only Line-scan equipment had this capability and from a CFS perspective this is a significant improvement in the intelligence available to the Incident Management Team in their action planning cycle.

EOIR integrated with a data link system makes it possible to beam live, full-motion video and still pictures, as well as other



*The infra-red sensor provides air observers an image that cuts through smoke to assess fire behaviour.*

fireground intelligence, into fire control centres, providing fire control managers with a level of strategic situational awareness that has not been possible previously.

On one mission, the Regional Duty Officer, who was receiving a live video stream of the operation, requested that we show the fire and a local town on the screen to improve his perspective of where the fire was. The aircraft was quickly and easily repositioned to accommodate this, upon which he made positive remarks about the value of the image he was viewing and how it significantly improved his situational awareness.

Another valuable point Gary made was how the system enabled him to watch out for the safety of fire fighters on the ground.

In terms of the overall response to any threatening fire, this platform system will bring positive outcomes during for incident predictions and community warnings than current systems in operation.

Gary said this type of fire gathering intelligence could revolutionise the way strategic planners and incident controllers go about their work. "It could provide information that is not possible with our current systems," he said.

CFS presented its findings on the system to the AFAC Wildfire Aviation Technical Group.



*This twin-turbo aircraft was fitted with an infra red sensor during an aerial fire detecting surveillance trial.*

# NATIONAL PARKS PASSES FOR CFS VOLUNTEERS

**The CFSVA still has many free passes to National Parks available for CFS Volunteers.**

The intent of the CFS Volunteer Parks Pass is to recognise the direct relationship between the CFS and our National Parks.

These are annual passes and they are still current until March 31 next year.

The passes are administered by the CFS Volunteers Association. The following eligibility criteria apply:

- Members will need to apply on the correct form (mail, fax or email. No telephone applications will be accepted)
- Six months minimum service as registered on TAS.
- Not available to cadet members of the brigades

- Active membership of their respective brigades.

The pass allows free entry to a range of National Parks for one car plus passengers where vehicle entry fees are applied. The cardholder must be present in the car.

The pass is numbered and will require that the vehicle registration number is clearly written on one side. The pass needs to be clearly visible on the vehicle dashboard.

So if you would like to take advantage of this offer, go to the CFSVA website and download the application form. To do this, simply click on the heading "CFS Volunteer National Parks Pass" on the right hand side of the page. This will take you to more information about the pass and to a link to the application form.

Please note, some Parks are considered to be "commercial operations", and free entry will not be available. However discount concessions to these Parks have been made available under this scheme.

**The CFSVA hopes that volunteers will make use of these passes and that they are seen as a small reward for the work done on National Parks. The Association will write to each Parks Pass holder towards the end of the 12 months to ascertain a satisfaction rating, and to also measure how many times the pass was used.**

The Association thanks the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for making these passes available to CFS Volunteers.

## 25KPH LIMIT PAST FLASHING LIGHTS

**The Association has been informed that legislation to amend the speed limit past emergencies to 25 kph is now being drafted.**

This is in line with a promise made by the State Government before the March election.

We hope that this new speed limit will be in place by the end of the year.

The push to have the speed limit reduced from 40 kph to 25 kph was supported by all the unions and associations who represent members from emergency services organisations.

This safety initiative will bring the speed limit past emergencies in line

with other speed limits such as that past school crossings, school buses and road works. This will allow for consistency and increased safety for our people working at incidents on the roads.

It is worth noting that emergency services in other Australian states are pushing to have the speed limits past emergencies reduced from the posted limit, but are not meeting with much success.

Our Government is to be congratulated in supporting the concerns of all emergency workers on our roads.

## CFS WATCHES

**The Association has new stocks of CFS watches available for purchase by volunteers. These watches are in both male and female styles and sell for \$140 each inc GST. They can be engraved on the back.**

If you would like to purchase a watch contact Wendy at the state office on 8244 6500.



*CFS watches now available from the CFSVA*



# NEW LEGAL SERVICE FOR CFS VOLUNTEER



tindallgaskbentley  
friends in law



**CFSVA members can now benefit from a free legal service. Leading Adelaide law firm Tindall Gask Bentley (TGB) has launched a scheme to provide several of its lawyers for up to 20-minute consultations on any legal issue including business and property, wills and estates and family law matters.**

The service will come as an addition to the first hour of legal advice on any issue relating to a member's CFS volunteering already provided by the CFSVA.

This is a telephone service, so volunteers from all over the State will be able to easily access the legal advice.

TGB began the new service on July 21. Appointments are scheduled every half hour on Wednesdays. However urgent advice can be arranged. The scheme

is designed to deliver only preliminary advice.

CFSVA Executive Director, Wendy Shirley said she was delighted that TGB had met a challenge to "value-add" to CFSVA membership.

"We get calls from members all the time to find out what they should do in one regard or another," she said. "But sometimes these issues were outside the scope of legal coverage the Association provided. And now, these members will be able to come in and get some free preliminary advice from a range of lawyers."

TGB Managing Partner, Morry Bailes said he was thrilled that TGB, with nearly 50 lawyers, was now able to offer the service. He added that it would come with no strings attached.

"Advice might, in many cases, be the only thing they need, and they can go away and resolve whatever it is they need to resolve," he explained. "If the advice is that they need to engage someone, there

is no obligation to come to our firm with their problem."

"But, obviously, if they want to be our client, we would like to act for them, given the existing relationship that we at TGB have with the CFSVA."

Ms Shirley said that she expected members to make strong use of the new service. She said that as many as 10 consultations could take place per day, and that the value of the legal service might, over a year, be as high as \$250,000.

The Association will co-ordinate the scheme. Members will need to call Wendy Shirley to make appointments to see one of the TGB lawyers.

Among the lawyers available for consultation will be Rod Foster Jones (business and property), Dina Paspaliaris (family law), Donna Bengel (wills and estates), Wendy Barry (family law), Julie Height (business and property), Mark Gowans (commercial dispute resolution), Giles Kahl (business and property), Rob Warhurst (wills and estates) and Angela Burford (wills and estates).

## NOTICE OF CFSVA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

to be held at  
Transport Training Centre  
17 Wirriga St, Regency Park  
Tuesday October 12 2010, 10am  
Elections will be held for the following positions:

President,  
Vice Presidents (2)  
Executive Positions (3)  
CFSVA representative on State OHS Committee

- 9.1.1 Nominations shall be received four weeks prior to the Association AGM, in writing and shall include the nominator, the seconder, acceptance by the nominee and a short resume of the nominee
- 9.1.2 All nominations, including resumes, shall be circulated to branch delegates at least two weeks prior to the AGM
- 14.1 The Executive shall consist of the President, the Senior Vice President and the Junior Vice-President, the Executive Officer and three other members of the Committee. The Executive is to conduct the business of the Association between meetings of the Committee, at which meetings they are to appraise the Committee of decisions taken and to make recommendations for consideration of the Committee

The AGM will be followed by a General meeting. Please forward any agenda items to state office by Monday September 27 2010

All members welcome Lunch provided  
Please RSVP on [wendy.shirley@cfsva.org.au](mailto:wendy.shirley@cfsva.org.au) or fax 8244 6400

Wendy Shirley  
CFSVA Executive Director  
August 24 2010

## 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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*From left, Gordon Jenkie from Mannum, Ian Jenkins from Lucindale, Dennis Page AFSM formerly from Forestry SA Mount Gambier, Bob David from Mount Gambier, Rex Hall AFSM from Naracoorte, Malcolm Unger from Mount Shank, Trevor Mitchell from Port MacDonnell and Terry Halford from Dublin.*



# OLD FRIENDS REUNITED AT HERITAGE EVENT



*Founding member of the Happy Valley Brigade Dud Nicolle with Channel Nine personality Brenton Ragless.*

**T**he CFS Heritage Committee which recently held an inaugural reunion of past and present members of South Australia's former Emergency Fire Service (EFS) and the Country Fire Service (CFS) has vowed to make it a regular event.

The reunion dinner and barbeque lunch the next day brought together close to 300 people.

Committee president Rex Hall AFSM said many months of planning for this event had paid off as an outstanding success.

"Everyone had a great time, with quite a few who had not seen their old mates for

many years which made it a very special weekend," Mr Hall said.

"This was made possible through the efforts of our reunion committee and the generous support of many sponsors who recognised the significance of this reunion and were prepared to back it up."

Mr Hall said he hoped that it would benefit both former fire fighters and others who are current members of the CFS.

"It's important to look back and acknowledge the commitment of our past volunteer fire fighters and in doing so, we hope to inspire future generations of young volunteers."



*Some of the guests at the CFS Heritage reunion from left, Murray Sherwill, Kristin and Euan Ferguson, Anne Macarthur and Rita Sherwill.*

The evening reunion at the Morphettville racecourse function centre, featured CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, Deputy Chief Andrew Lawson, Channel Nine weather presenter Brenton Ragless and Parliamentary Secretary Bernard Finnigan, as speakers

The success of the reunion has now prompted the Heritage Committee to make it a regular event every five years.

"There was a lot of support by many who attended over the weekend to conduct another one and as a consequence, we have pledged to do so in another five years," Mr Hall said.



# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM (VERSP)

By: Toni Richardson, Volunteer Management Consultant, VSS



*Some of the employers who received certificates of appreciation for supporting their staff who volunteer in emergency services.*

**T**he Volunteer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) is a SAFECOM Board initiative designed to acknowledge the valuable role that emergency service volunteers play in our community, and to also acknowledge the support of their employers (including self employed volunteers).

VERSP events are held about four times each year to coincide with the SAFECOM Board site visits. This year we have held VERSPs at Aldinga Beach, Wallaroo and Ceduna with a future VERSP planned for Kangaroo Island.

To complement these VERSP events, the

Volunteer Strategy and Support branch is trialling the concept of mini VERSPs. These mini VERSPs are a similar format to the VERSPs but on a smaller scale. A BBQ is held at a brigade or unit and is sometimes single service, or may involve all three emergency service organisations. Certificates of appreciation are presented to those employers, nominated by their employees (volunteers) as providing genuine support for their role in the emergency services.

Employers (including self employed volunteers) are often forgotten when recognising people for their contribution

to the emergency services. Without their support, it would be very difficult, and sometimes impossible, to provide rapid emergency response coverage for our community. This is particularly so during the daytime and during extended or protracted incidents or the deployment of intra and interstate Strike Teams.

So far this year we have held four mini VERSPs in Meningie (CFS), Port Augusta (CFS, SES and MFS), Monash (CFS) and Jamestown (CFS). If you would like to host a mini VERSP at your brigade, please contact your local Volunteer Support Officer or contact the Volunteer Strategy and Support branch.

## MENTORING FOR SUCCESSION

By: Toni Richardson, Volunteer Management Consultant, VSS

**T**he Volunteer Strategy and Support branch was successful in receiving a grant from the Federal Government's National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund to trial a mentoring program for volunteers. The aim of this program was to address the need for succession planning within the emergency services.

It was decided to trial a pilot program in the Riverland where we invited both CFS and SES volunteers in the region to participate. An initial training session was held in Berri, with a follow up session in Renmark.

The initial training session focussed

on the ways the future leaders of the emergency services could engage with the more experienced leaders in non-operational areas such as leadership and management. Participants were provided with information about what mentoring is, as well as strategies on how to set goals and to communicate effectively. Mentors (people who were willing to share their knowledge and experiences) were matched up with Mentees (the volunteers that wanted some assistance with achieving their goals) and the mentoring process began.

The follow up session looked at how

the mentoring process was going, any barriers people may have had, any successes people may have had, and ways to improve the program so we are able to make it available to all volunteers around the state. The participants were enthusiastic and provided some great ideas which we intend to use when we come back and visit the Riverland in a few months time.

If individuals, brigades, groups or regions are interested in starting up a mentoring program, please feel free to get in touch with your local VSO or Toni Richardson from the VSS Branch on 8463 4101.

# PORTFOLIO OF PROJECTS

Over the past months the CFS Foundation Board has considered the many projects that require funding in line with our objectives. Initially funds will be raised to meet their projects however we know that you will understand that the work of the Board is just beginning.

## CFS Volunteer Support

Relief and assistance for injured volunteers and their families to continue through their greatest times of need.

## Immediate Need

Working with CFS management to support CFS volunteers and their families in ways similar to the help which was offered last year to Burra fire fighter Ian Kleinig.



Burra CFS volunteer fire fighter Ian Kleinig who is grateful of the CFS Foundation's support

*"I was fighting bushfires in Victoria and after a near fatal accident woke up in the Royal Melbourne Hospital with my family at my bedside. The CFS Foundation responded quickly, arranged and paid for my family to be with me.*

*The Foundation also supported my family with emergency funds so that day to day bills could be paid and for my wife to visit and support me through my initial rehabilitation.*

*The 'Chief' Euan Ferguson even sat by my bedside many times while I was at the Royal Adelaide and Hampstead. Knowing that your boss has such a personal concern for you as well as supporting your family through a very difficult time certainly goes a long way in the healing process.*

*I will remain forever grateful".*

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank Ian and his family for allowing us to tell just a little of his story. Ian has returned to his workplace and continues to improve day by day.

## Permanent Incapacity

To assist in life needs by providing specialised equipment to support, communication, home and transport modification and vocational retraining.

## CFS Volunteer Fund

Financial assistance to families of volunteers who are severely injured or killed whilst performing their duties, will be developed through a corpus to be held in trust.

## Upgrading of Technology

Working with the CFS in improving and enhancing technology so CFS volunteers can continue to operate, continually improving safety.

## Fellowship and Leadership Grants

The establishment of both fellowships and leadership grants for CFS volunteers. These may be used to undertake a specialised training course, education programs or to attend national and international conferences for continual improvement of CFS volunteers.

## Permanent Memorial

A permanent memorial will be developed to provide a place of solitude and reflection and a place to permanently recognise CFS volunteers who we have lost in the line of duty.

These projects require policies to be developed and sufficient funds to be raised to support this work. Initially a Workplace Giving Campaign is being developed. There are many individuals who we know watch CFS volunteers down tools, head to their brigades and attend car accidents and fires for the benefit of their community. To many, CFS volunteers are the community's local heroes. We are seeking the support of the community to demonstrate their admiration for your work and donate to the objectives of the CFS Foundation.

# HELP NEEDED

The Foundation needs help from a few volunteers so that we can achieve our goals. This might suit volunteers who have recently retired or are easing off from active fire fighting but wish to continue making a contribution to the CFS.

Two sub-committees of the Foundation Board are being established to focus on essential tasks. One will address fundraising matters and the other will manage major events.

## Fundraising committee

The role of the Fundraising Committee will be to work with the Executive Officer on a wide range of fundraising activities. The Executive Officer has experience in setting up and managing fundraising programs but needs help with various administrative tasks from sealing envelopes to computer data entry. The workload would vary through the year.

On average it is expected that 1 or 2 days each month would be needed. And during a campaign this could treble for a couple of months.

## Event management committee

This committee would be responsible for planning and managing a major event designed to introduce the Foundation to potential supporters and to build awareness of the Foundation among CFS volunteers and the general public. The workload of this committee will depend on the nature and size of each event. No more than four major events are planned for each year so the workload should be fairly evenly spread over the year.

Because most Foundation activities will be within Adelaide it would be easier for Committee members to be within reasonable travelling distance.

To discuss how to get involved in one of these Committees, contact Foundation Chairman Vince Monterola on 8339 1311 or 0447 331 300, or Executive Officer Elizabeth Davis on 8332 3137 or 0419 583 512.

# MARKETING AND PROMOTION

At this time, promotional materials are being developed. These include a poster which will be provided to each brigade. We hope that you enjoy the many faces of the CFS volunteer. At this time the Executive Officer, Elizabeth Davis is undertaking a communication campaign through all regions to gain an insight into the individual regions and also to discuss the work of the CFS Foundation.

During September we look forward to the launch of the CFS Foundation website. With the help and support of CDAA, this electronic communication tool will greatly assist the Foundation to communicate with CFS volunteers, our stakeholders, sponsors and donors in a timely and cost effective manner.

We acknowledge and thank CDAA for their sponsorship and support.

[solardepot.com.au](http://solardepot.com.au)

A small  
thankyou for  
one very big  
sacrifice.



Living and operating in regional SA, we're highly aware of the incredible personal sacrifice our CFS volunteers make for our community.

Helping to ensure they and their families are supported, should they come to harm, is the very least we can do.

Proudly supporting the CFS Foundation

Solar Hot Water | Grid-Connect Photovoltaic | Solar Cube Stand-Alone Power



# FROM THE CHAIR

By: Vince Monterola, AM, Chair, CFS Foundation



Board chairman  
Vince Monterola AM, chairman.



New Board member  
Christine Locher.



New Board member  
Rob Snowdon.

**We are very pleased to welcome two new Directors to the Foundation Board. Christine Locher and Rob Snowdon are both highly successful leaders in South Australia's business community. The exceptional talent they each bring to the Board will complement the skills and experience of the current Directors.**

Following 20 years in human resource consulting Christine Locher, an industry leader in her field, founded Australian owned Locher & Associates Pty Ltd in 2001. Since this time the company has attained Quality accreditation to AS/NZS ISO 9001:2000 standard and enjoys the enviable reputation of

servicing many leading private and public sector organisations. With national and international associations through its parent company, the Rubicor Group, Locher provides leading edge temporary and permanent recruitment and organisational development solutions.

Rob Snowdon is the General Manager of Construction & Maintenance Services for ETSA, who was elected to the Foundation Board in July 2010. Rob has more than 30 years' senior management experience in the construction, executive development, finance and sporting industries. He is currently responsible for managing and growing

electrical infrastructure, construction and maintenance services for external customers in the competitive market.

Christine lives in a CFS area while Rob's statewide responsibilities includes hundreds of staff located in towns in every CFS region. Both have seen CFS and volunteers at close quarters.

In discussion with Christine and Rob before their appointments, I was most impressed by the genuine admiration they each expressed about the dedication and work ethic of CFS volunteers. There is no doubt that this is a prime reason why they readily accepted the invitation to join the Board by supporting the work of the CFS Foundation.

## COMMUNITY HELP NEEDED

There are many different ways members of the community can help us. Would you like to support the work of the CFS Foundation? Initially we are looking for active volunteers to help with a major fundraising event at Balaklava in mid 2011. Please give Elizabeth Davis a call for a chat. **Contact:** Elizabeth Davis, Executive Officer • Phone: 0419 583 512 • Email: edavis@emdfconsultancy.com.au • Website: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about\\_us/cfs\\_foundation.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/cfs_foundation.jsp)



### YOUR HELP REQUIRED TODAY

I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the CFS Foundation

Dr/Mr/Miss/Mrs/Ms: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

With a gift ☐ My cheque is enclosed (payable to the CFS Foundation) Or ☐ Please debit my Credit Card

☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$200 Or \$\_\_\_\_\_ (your choice) Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please send me information on leaving a bequest in my Will to the CFS Foundation

☐ Please send me information on how I can donate through the Regular Giving Program.

Return to CFS Foundation, GPO Box 2468, Adelaide SA 5001. Your gift is **tax deductible** and a receipt will be sent to you.



# COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUPS

By: Mary Morris

**W**hat would you do if there was a bushfire heading toward your home? Residents in Gumeracha are learning how to be Bushfire Ready, with the development of a series of Community Fire Safe Groups in the area, through the Country Fire Service (CFS).

Community Fire Safe Groups are aimed at assisting residents living in high bushfire risk areas, by forming community action groups that develop plans and community strategies to reduce the bushfire threat and increase the community's preparedness.

The groups may consist of just a few families living in the same street or within an area that faces a common bushfire threat, and with the assistance of a CFS

Community Education Officer they learn about fire behaviour and bushfire preparedness.

The Gumeracha group began when Paula Tose, from Checker Hill Road, saw Penny Kazla, Community Education Officer, present a Bushfire Awareness Session at the local Neighbourhood Watch meeting. With support from the CFS, it prompted her to organise and host a number of meetings with her neighbours to discuss and gain information about their personal Bushfire Survival Plans.

"I feel really empowered now to know what to do in the event of a fire in our area," Paula said.

"This program is brilliant and as a bonus, I have met some of my new neighbours! I think the Community Fire Safe Program was delivered so well - Penny is a wonderful presenter who made the information understandable and relevant to our local situation."

The last meeting for the group was held at the Kersbrook CFS Station, where local Captain, Graham Rehn showed the group around the station.

For more information about how to start up a Community Fire Safe Group in your area, or to find out how to become Bushfire Ready, visit the CFS website at [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and click on to Education and Community Programs.

## WOMEN LEARN ESSENTIAL BUSHFIRE SURVIVAL SKILLS

**H**undreds of women in bushfire risk areas of South Australia are becoming equipped with vital bushfire safety skills, as part of a series of two-day 'Firey Women' workshops being run across the State.

Demand for the workshops has surpassed the expectations of Country Fire Service (CFS), and in response, an additional series of evening workshop sessions will be held in Mount Barker this month.

The workshops provide women with the opportunity to learn new skills to protect their families and livelihoods, in a safe, non-threatening setting.

Fiona Dunstan, Manager Community Education and Public Warnings, says the workshops provide information as well as the opportunity for some 'practical' sessions.

"We have had many hundreds of women attend the Firey Women

Workshops across South Australia, and feedback from those who have attended has been excellent," she said.

"The workshops are an important adjunct to other community education initiatives delivered by the Country Fire Service."

Topics include:

- Preparing yourself emotionally
- Understanding the new bushfire warnings and danger ratings
- Deciding when to 'leave early' or 'stay and defend'
- Preparing a Bushfire Survival Plan
- Identifying hazards around the home
- Operating pumps and fire fighting equipment
- Bushfire behaviour
- Preventing injury

The workshops assist women to become Bushfire Ready, and follow a successful pilot program offered on Eyre Peninsula in 2008. The program has

been funded by the CFS and the Attorney General's Department and is delivered in partnership with Rural Solutions SA.

The two-day workshop was spread over four Monday evening sessions, in April and May at CFS Region 1 Headquarters in Mount Barker.



Some of the 17 participants of the Firey Women course at Trinity Haven, north of Port Lincoln.



# BASIC BUSHFIRE SKILLS FOR WOMEN

**R**ecently the CFS Community Education Unit conducted one of its two-day *Basic Bushfire Skills for Women Workshops* at Eudunda.

The workshops are based on lessons learned from the Wangary Fire near Port Lincoln, a fire that happened in relatively open cropping country and covers a wide range of topics designed to help people be better informed and prepared in the event of a bushfire.

Some of the topics covered included: understanding bushfire behavior; deciding when to 'leave early' or 'actively stay and defend'; preparing a bushfire survival plan; identifying hazards around the home; and operating pumps and fire fighting equipment.

The eight Eudunda workshop participants were unanimous that it was an extremely worthwhile exercise and **time well spent** and were disappointed that more people hadn't attended. The women believe that anyone who lives or travels in rural areas in the summer should learn about bushfire survival skills such as how to protect yourself from radiant heat and what to keep in your bushfire survival kit.

Having a well thought out and practiced plan of what you will do in the event of a fire will make you less likely to panic and make unsafe decisions. Knowing what sort of places are safer is important too so that you don't put yourself in even



Jeff Ayres and Rod Cunningham, CFS Community Education Officers with course participants Jackie Meldrum of Lewiston and Linda Pfitzner, Mary Morris, Marilyn Pfeiffer, Toni Brown and Aileen Johnston, all of the Eudunda/Robertstown area.

more danger. For example, driving off in the car when the fire was approaching resulted in most of the deaths in the Wangary fire.

Running the workshops well before the fire season has also given participants plenty of time to fine tune their plans and do hazard reduction around their properties.

The Eudunda workshop women

challenge comments they have heard that "it wouldn't happen here" or "I haven't got time" or "it takes too long".

They encourage other rural and urban fringe women to take the time to learn how best to survive in the event of a bushfire and if there is a course offered near you, take part. You can also contact the CFS to get a course happening in your area.

## QUOTES FROM FIERY WOMEN TRAINING COURSE

*"I feel now is the time to act. I mustn't wait!"*

*"The source highlighted the need to prepare your house should you be unable to leave. These are life saving strategies"*

*"Start preparing the night before rather than that morning"*

*"Education is the only way we can save lives. This course is excellent and a must for all"*

*"I did this course because even though I live in Adelaide I am in Port Lincoln a lot alone with my grandchildren and wanted to be more fire safety aware if there was a bushfire"*

*"I feel more empowered, more aware about fire safety and the importance of a fire plan and what steps to take if necessary. Learnt heaps more about bushfire safety - around the home and in the home. I feel I will be better prepared from now on"*

*"This program should be made available to all women in risk areas."*

*"As I had already attended the pilot program I was able to observe the other participant's knowledge and confidence grow. As they learned each section of the program they became aware of the need for a Fire Plan. Before the course it seemed daunting, probably still does, but now they have the tools & knowledge to achieve a good plan and to make well-informed decisions."*

*"I now realise that there is much to do so that we are better prepared. I now have the tools and information so I can make our survival kit and plan and know how to implement them in the event of a fire."*



# DRY FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT PROVEN ITS WORTH

**By: Toni Richardson, Volunteer Management Consultant, VSS**

**D**ry fighting equipment developed in the State's South East continues to prove its worth in combating fires in native vegetation, and saving increased deployment of tankers and personnel.

The equipment was initially developed to help contain fires in the Ngarkat Conservation Park, allowing firefighters to very quickly construct a mineral earth break approximately five metres wide with one pass around a fire.

Once deployed, the Skidder coupled with the A Frame can construct a line up to 12 kilometres hourly.

With much of the conservation park difficult to access traditional methods of constructing fire lines are too slow, and there is the added problem of water not being readily available.

Originally developed to be in Ngarkat, the equipment was used at the Bookmark fire in Region 3 in December 2006, and has been deployed to fires in both the Naracoorte and Lacepede Groups.

It can be used in conjunction with both tankers and quick response vehicles, or with aircraft.

Based at Keith, the equipment is on a

float ready to go at a moment's notice on days of Total Fire Bans.

Tatiara Dry Fire Fighting Scrub Committee member Jason Kleinig said the dry fire fighting project began in 1999 when local CFS crews couldn't get access to a suitable tractor to use in a large scrub fire near Naracoorte.

"Local people involved with land clearance in the 1950s used a similar idea for fire breaks, and with the Naracoorte fire a landowner had approval to place a fire break around a 1400 hectare block of scrub or carry out a controlled burn in a section of it," said Jason.

"Another landowner lent a tractor which was suitably prepared to use in scrub and not damage it. The Tatiara CFS Group constructed an A Frame to use behind the tractor and the whole project worked very well."

Over the next two years an A-frame was made to cut six metres wide, and a Chamberlain 4280 100hp Tractor was purchased and fitted with forestry tyres and suitable plating to prevent damage from the scrub.

This machine was used at a few fires in the Group area, and it was evident

that more HP and Traction would be an advantage.

"With support from CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, we were able to buy a second hand Log Skidder from Tasmania," said Jason.

"This machine is 175hp and plated up to use in scrub, is 4x4 with 30.5 x 32 forestry tyres, has a scrub rake/dozer blade on the front, and a large Jib crane on the rear to load the A-frame onto a Tandem Wheel trailer and move the A-frame from job to job."

This plant has now been used on approximately 700 kilometres of fire edge, and while crews are still learning more about its capabilities, it is proving to be a very useful way to handle scrub fire.

The Log Skidder has been used on Stringy Bark type scrub approximately 10 metres high and in cleaning up fallen logs at grass fires.

The Dry Fire Fighting Committee is now working on a project to provide a vehicle that can carry fuel, water and supplies, and also act as a service vehicle for this plant.

These tractors have GPS/GRN Radio/VHF radio/UHF CB Radio fitted.



# NEW BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By: Leigh Miller, CFS Prevention Services Manager



**The Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 was amended in November 2009 introducing a 2-tiered bushfire management planning structure to replace the pre-existing 3-tiered bushfire prevention planning structure.**

The State Bushfire Co-ordination Committee (SBCC) is now responsible for bushfire management planning in South Australia. Its membership was gazetted on the 20th of May and the Committee had its first meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

The SBCC has divided the State into 9 Bushfire Management Areas which was recently proclaimed by the Governor. The SBCC has also agreed on membership of the associated Bushfire Management Committees (BMCs), and

will be writing to all member agencies seeking nominations to commence the establishment of BMCs before the next Fire Danger Season.

## Local knowledge input

Under the new bushfire management arrangements, local input will be gathered through a series of programmed community meetings using the bushfire risk assessment process trialled on Kangaroo Island. This process is much more comprehensive than any used in the past and uses a mix of local knowledge and GIS data for the definition of bushfire risk and development of work plans to manage that risk.

## Bushfire Management Plans

A State Bushfire Management Plan is currently being drafted for adoption by the SBCC. This plan will set the principles, policies and standards for bushfire management in the State. The BMCs will prepare Bushfire Management Area Plans setting out a scheme for bushfire management consistent with the State Plan. The preparation of the subordinate plans is subject to transition provisions under the Act and in the first instance BMCs

will adopt the relevant Regional Bushfire Prevention Plans until a new Plan is written.

## The role of Local Government

Questions have been raised regarding the role of local council District Bushfire Prevention Committees as they are no longer referred to in the Act. The CFS position is that the need for a District Bushfire Prevention Committees is to be considered on a council by council basis. Such committees could be established under the *Local Government Act* if necessary.

The lack of reference to District Bushfire Prevention Committees in the Act however does not relieve local government of responsibility for bushfire management. Bushfire management is a shared responsibility for all levels of Government and the community. Local councils retain the responsibility for managing bushfire risk on their land, the responsibility for issuing hazard reduction notices, and permits to burn during a fire danger season where they have authorised permit officers.

If you have any questions regarding this new process contact your CFS Regional Prevention Officer.

## Cadets

# ANZAC YOUTH VIGIL

By: Lisa Greig, Youth Development Officer, VSS

**On Saturday 24 April 2010 the youngest members of the Country Fire Service (CFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES) took part in the eleventh ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil at the South Australian State War Memorial on North Terrace.**

Thirteen young people from the Williamstown, Weetulla/Nalyappa, Two Wells, Gumeracha, Eudunda, Kapunda and Brentwood CFS brigades and Edinburgh, Maitland and Port Lincoln Units joined members of various youth local volunteer organisations to brave the cold and wet conditions and recognise the legacy of ANZAC.

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

This year young people from 13 different youth groups including CFS and SES cadets took part in performing various duties in the ceremony and throughout the night for the 12 hours leading up to the Dawn Service before they handed over to the Defence Force Catafalque Party at 6.00 am on Sunday morning who in turn 'held ground' during the Dawn Service and the ANZAC Day March.

The icy wind and rain couldn't dampen the spirits of the cadets who attended the State Vigil, many of whom stood wearing family medals, and few of whom got any sleep.

The young people were exceptional representatives for the formal ANZAC Eve ceremonies including laying tributes to the fallen, meeting the State Governor's His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, educating touring dignitaries on the symbolism of the monuments, standing guard, and delivering eloquent speeches to the assembled guests.



*CFS cadets who took part in this year's Anzac Youth Vigil at the State War Memorial.*

Congratulations to all the cadets who represented the Country Fire Service and the State Emergency Services at the ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil and thank you to the cadet leaders for their support and enthusiasm, and for making it possible for CFS and SES cadets to be involved in this important event.





# NEW PORT LINCOLN EMERGENCY SERVICES PRECINCT

The Country Fire Service (CFS) in Port Lincoln has now moved to a new permanent base which was officially opened by the Minister for Emergency Services, Michael Wright in August.

The new facility is part of a \$9.2 million combined emergency services precinct.

The precinct, which is bounded by St Andrews Terrace, Stevenson Street and Matthew Place, also accommodates facilities for the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and the State Emergency Service (SES).

More than 200 people attended the official opening on August 15.

"Nowhere else in South Australia will you find these three emergency service organisations co-located in quite the same way," Mr Wright said.

"This has significant benefits for everybody living on Eyre Peninsula, for people who holiday here each summer and for those who travel through the region, allowing us to provide a service unequalled in rural South Australia," Mr Wright said.

Working together from the one precinct enables the CFS, MFS and SES to better manage their response to a major incident.

"Whether it is a bushfire, a large industrial fire, a bad road crash, major storm damage or a boating accident, we will be able to deliver a more coordinated response through improved information management and better physical and resource management," Mr Wright said.

The precinct can be used as a Level 3 Incident Management Centre and can also be used by other State Government agencies – such as Primary Industries and Resources SA (PIRSA) – to coordinate its response to such things as a locust plague.

The state-of-the-art facility also has a 30-metre tower for improved radio communications, lighting for night-time



SES Acting Chief Officer Matt Maywald and CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson unveil a plaque at the opening of the new emergency services precinct in Port Lincoln



The new emergency services precinct at Port Lincoln.

training in the road crash rescue area, larger and improved operational command areas and vertical rescue training facilities.

Following the opening by the Minister, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson and the SES Acting Chief Officer Matt Maywald formally commissioned the joint CFS/SES facility.

MFS Chief Officer Grant Lupton also formally commissioned the MFS facility.



CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson at the opening of the new emergency services precinct in Port Lincoln.



# STURT CFS CADETS TAKE PART IN SES TRAINING

By: Sara Pulford

**W**hen Sturt CFS Group Cadets joined the Sturt SES Unit for a little cross service training early this year, little did they know what they were letting themselves in for.

Having demonstrated the use of a Stokes litter, the appropriate knots and correct lifting techniques, the SES trainers offered the cadets an unusual way to prove that they had been listening attentively.

Once securely knotted into the Stokes litter the "victim" was handed a tumbler of water and told not to spill it. The rest of their team turned the litter upside down and then on its head!

Needless to say, despite getting a bit wet, great fun was had by all and a lesson in team work was well learnt.

## Sturt Group Cadet Coordinator

Sara Pulford (Coromandel Valley Brigade)

**SES volunteers** Alan Mundy, Matt Burnett, Peter Miller & Shane Barnes.

## Cadet supervisors

Jim Pulford, Bec Wilson & Rick Philp (all Coromandel Valley Brigade)

The CFS Sturt Cadets meet on Wednesday evenings for two hours from 6.30pm.



Sturt CFS cadets observe a rescue training exercise.



Over 40 CFS cadets from several brigades including Morgan, Swan Reach, Naracoorte and Allandale East attended a two day workshop at Keith recently.

# COLD BUT REWARDING COMBINED CADET CAMP

**A**n extremely cold, but very rewarding Regional CFS Cadet camp was held at Keith from 21-23 May.

Over 40 cadets from Regions 3 and 5 attended the two days of training to gain hands on fire fighting skills as well as team work and leadership skills.

The 20 cadet leaders and coordinators also found it a valuable opportunity to network with others and plan extra joint training sessions.

Cadet units were broken into six mixed teams earning points towards a reward. Points could be obtained through exercising acquired skills, leadership,

teamwork and good behaviour, via activities such as map reading, GPS use, rope and knot tying, a maze activity, archery and an appliance fire hose drill. Region 3 representation was from as far as Morgan, Swan Reach, Cambrai, Palmer, Pinnaroo, Tailem Bend, Mannum and Glossop.

Region 5 representation came from Naracoorte, Tilley Swamp, Laffer, Port MacDonnell and Allandale East.

Two cadets from Enfield SES also attended, along with their leader Lyn Little, who was the Instructor for the "Ropes, Knots and Lines" training.

# EUDUNDA CFS CADETS RECOGNISED



Back: Angus Murray, James Riley, Corey Voight, Matthew Iles, Kyle Murray, Alex Severin, Liam Wegener and Ryan Harvalik. Front: Dylan Higgins, Danielle Jones, Brendan Riley.

**T**he Anzac Day vigil at the Adelaide War Memorial did not go unrewarded for three Eudunda CFS cadets who recently received commendations from CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson.

Danielle Jones, Angus Murray and Matthew Iles were among 30 South Australian CFS cadets who kept vigil over the Anzac Memorial prior to the Catafalque Party on the eve of the services.

They were awarded with certificates and T-shirts from the CFS.

At the Tuesday night training in Eudunda, youth trainer Lee Iles said it was hoped these young people will step up into seniors ranks.

The cadets do basic fire training, go out in the trucks for practice, and they all said it was great fun. Lee said that anyone over 11 years of age can become a cadet and that the training is free.

They can go into the senior ranks when they are 16.





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*Rose Squire, Natahnia Ambados and Miriam Buxton  
at work on a doorways2construction project.*

# ALL GIRLS CONSTRUCTION COURSE A WIN-WIN FOR ALL

By: Terry Price

**A** week-long construction industry training course for women held at the CFS State Training Centre at Brukunga has turned into a win-win situation for all involved.

**doorways2construction™** is a VET in Schools initiative of the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) and Department of Education and Children's Services (DECS).

Now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, it started with five schools as a pilot program with 50 enrolments, and today has almost 700 enrolments and 43 schools, delivering a national Cert I in General Construction (CPC08) at Year 11 with the option to continue at Cert III level in Year 12.

Earlier this year, program administrators decided that girls had long been under-represented in the industry and asked Pasadena High School to host the first all-girls course. Each program gains on-job experience by being involved in a community project, with previous

involvement from councils, Housing SA and Rotary clubs.

The CFS was approached to be the venue for the course after **doorways2construction™** has completed projects for the CFS since 2006.

Program Manager, of Construction **Skills doorways2construction** Stevie Birnie, said it was a win-win situation for both, the CFS needing the expertise and labour and the program requiring live-site experience.

"Given the girls' program was somewhat unique we asked carpenter/builder Rose Squire to be their mentor and throw a high level of professional building experience over the project," Steve said.

Rose is regarded as a veteran champion of women in the construction industry, having worked 32 years as a carpenter. She also runs home maintenance courses at the WEA and appears regularly on ABC radio with handyman and

handywoman tips.

Rose has also built many homes but when it came to building her own home she involved an exclusive workforce of women.

"The CFS volunteered the possibility of the construction of two porch/verandas needed to protect weather-side doorways which were notoriously slippery and dangerous.

"The CITB brokered the program, Pasadena High School released a teacher/trainer and Rose volunteered her time while the CFS provided materials."

The result was a five-day residential program that was hugely successful and will lead to a second week later in the year to complete a third veranda covering a disabled access ramp and some paving.

"The girls very quickly worked as a team, they were highly cooperative. Interestingly this is not always observed in our all-male programs where they become highly competitive," Steve said.

## SUCCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND BEYOND

**T**he Schools and Beyond program has proved its merits in the case of 18-year-old Birdwood CFS volunteer James Ferguson.

While still a student less than 12 months ago, James acquired his BFF1 certificate through his participation in the Schools and Beyond program.

Since completing that week at the Brukunga State Training Centre he

joined the Birdwood Brigade and has now completed his Undertake Road Accident Rescue (URAR) course.

He is preparing to complete other courses in the near future.

James' rapid progress can be attributed to the exposure he received from the Schools and Beyond program and his experience at the State Training Centre.



*James Ferguson during his Undertake Road Accident Rescue (URAR) course at the STC at Brukunga.*



*The smoke alarm alerted a family of six who were sleeping as a fire began to burn under an oven in this Morphett Vale home.*

# SMOKE ALARM SAVES SIX LIVES

**By: Matt Bonser, Lieutenant Morphett Vale CFS**

**A** Morphett Vale family is lucky to be alive after a smoke alarm alerted them to a fire in their kitchen in August.

Four adults and two children were asleep as their house filled with smoke just before 1am. The family quickly moved outside and called emergency services.

CFS and MFS crews responded to the incident and found a house full of smoke with no obvious source of the fire.

Investigations revealed the fire had been smouldering for several hours under the oven on a timber cupboard. Sections of the burning cupboard had begun breaking away and falling into the cupboard below, igniting a pile of plastic bags.

Had it not been for the activation of a smoke alarm, this incident could have ended in tragedy.

Incident Controller Matt Bonser said the importance of having a correctly fitted and working smoke alarm cannot be overstated in this incident which saved six lives.

"Smoke alarms should be tested every month, with batteries replaced at least every twelve months," he said.

"A 240 volt smoke alarm is the best option for all homes".

## PRIME MOVER DESTROYED NEAR CRAFTERS



*The prime mover well alight on the South Eastern Freeway. Photo by Jeff Anderson.*



**A** prime mover carrying a B-double semi-trailer laden with empty wooden pallets was destroyed in a fire on the South Eastern Freeway, 200 metres south of the Heysen Tunnels near Leawood Gardens, on Thursday, 25 March.

About \$250,000 damage was caused in the blaze which saw traffic temporarily stopped on the freeway.

The incident was attended by Burnside, Stirling, Piccadilly and Aldgate brigades along with the MFS.



# GPS TRAINING AT CHARLESTON CONSERVATION PARK

**By: Paul Thurkle, Lieutenant, Goolwa Brigade**

**G**oolwa brigade members and Mundoo Group officers recently had a fun Sunday out when they attended GPS training at Charleston Conservation Park.

The course, "Navigate in Urban and Rural Environments", encapsulated not only essential navigation and orienteering techniques, but also the main functions of the standard CFS GPS unit, the Garmin GPS 76.

The day was preceded by two Monday night training sessions about the GPS units and plotting tracks using grid references and basic orienteering tools.

These tracks were then followed on the ground a few weeks later in the conservation park. All members were impressed at how they had managed to follow a course through scrub with not many visual clues to go by, just compasses and maps which were getting wetter and wetter as the day went on!

Despite being a cold and wet day, the bush was a beautiful place to spend a Sunday, although the local wildlife may not have been so happy to have their space invaded by lots of noisy bushwalkers wearing hi-vis jackets! Several kangaroos were spotted, though not for long.

Later the members jumped in their



*Goolwa Brigade members and Mundoo Group officers during GPS training at Charleston Conservation Park. Photo by Paul Thurkle.*

group cars and followed another, longer course, practising some newly learned skills along the way. Skills learned included estimating distance to a point, working out the current location from fixed landmarks on the map and how to put all this information into practice on the fireground.

All attendees had fun and were pleased

with the time spent and agreed the new skills would be very useful in practice.

Many thanks to Robin Geytenbeek, Bob Kearney, Geoff Capper, Daniel Austin and Matt Davis for delivering this training in their own time with only the lure of sandwiches, cake and appreciation of their efforts to make it all worthwhile!

## RESCUE INVOLVED PLUMBER'S VAN

**By: Jeff Anderson**

**A** two-vehicle collision on Main Road at Blackwood on 25 March was attended by CFS crews from Blackwood and Eden Hills.

A male was trapped in the van, and

cutting gear was used to extricate the person.

The plumber's van was fully loaded, including oxygen and acetylene cylinders which fire crews had to safely unload.



*Crews working inside the upturned van. Photo by Jeff Anderson.*

## DOUBLE FATALITY ON FREEWAY



*The scene of a two person fatal car accident. Photo by Jeff Anderson.*

**T**he South Eastern Freeway near the Nairne overpass was closed on 24 April following a double fatality motor vehicle accident.

The freeway was closed to city-bound traffic for almost five hours while SAPOL Major Crash investigations were carried out.

Mt Barker CFS attended the scene.

# ONE TREE HILL CELEBRATES HALF A CENTURY

**By: Bevis Dixon, Life member One Tree Hill CFS Brigade**



*One Tree Hill CFS Brigade Captains with the Honour Board, from left, Peter Watson, Trevor Norris, Vince Cozzitorto, Andrew Mount, David Cockburn (current Captain), Roger Brown, Lance Walter.*

**O**ne Tree Hill CFS Brigade has celebrated the 50th year of the Brigade with a very successful event held in the fire station.

After months of planning, about 150 guests attended the event on 15 May. Attendees included many past brigade members who rekindled old memories as they viewed a comprehensive display of photographs showing the development of the brigade over 50 years.

The brigade was formed in 1960 following a public meeting to discuss fire protection in the district.

The first appliance was a 1944 Ford V8 truck housed in a ramshackle wooden shed that passed for a fire station. Two special guests were Rex Hall and Lance Walter who were present at the public meeting in 1960 and became founding members of the brigade.

Brigade Captain David Cockburn opened the formalities by welcoming everybody, before introducing the guest speakers, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson, Mayor of Playford and former One Tree Hill CFS member Martin Linsell, and Region 2 Commander John Hutchins.

The ceremonies included the presentation of a 50 year commemorative plaque, presentation of brigade life membership awards to Roger Brown, Linda Cozzitorto and Dawn Leonard, unveiling of the brigade honour board and the release of a brigade history book entitled 'From Khaki to Yellow – a history of the One Tree Hill Country Fire Service 1960 to 2010' written by life member Bevis Dixon.

No birthday is complete without a cake and following the formalities a huge birthday cake was cut up for all to enjoy along with a tempting spread for afternoon tea.

## BOOK RELEASED TO COINCIDE WITH 50TH

**F**ifty years ago in 1960 a public meeting of One Tree Hill residents decided to form the One Tree Hill Emergency Fire Service.

The history of the One Tree Hill CFS has now been told in a book released by the brigade at their 50th anniversary celebrations in May.

The book was written by One Tree Hill CFS Life Member Bevis Dixon who used brigade records along with his personal collection of photos, newspaper cuttings and his personal experiences accumulated during 37 years of service. The book title is "From Khaki to Yellow

– 50 years of emergency service – a history of the One Tree Hill Country Fire Service 1960-2010".

Bevis started writing the history initially for his own interest, and then realised that others may be interested in learning about the brigade's history. The 80-page book has many clearly annotated photographs in black and white and colour showing the brigade's vehicles and members over 50 years.

Copies of the book are available for a small charge (proceeds to OTHCFS) by contacting Bevis Dixon on **82840210** or [bevisdixon@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bevisdixon@optusnet.com.au)

## CURRAMULKA STATION OPENS

**By: Stewart Germaine**

**O**n Sunday April 18, CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson officially opened the new Curramulka fire station.

Approximately 100 CFS volunteers, as well as the general public, attended the function which has come about after more than 10 years of planning. Also in attendance were Southern Yorke Group Officer Peter Germaine, Region 2 Commander John Hutchins and District Council of Yorke Peninsula Mayor Ray Agnew.

A brief history of events prior to the CFS brigade was given by previous captains Rex Watters and Rob Tonkin.

Euan Ferguson marked the occasion by opening the new station's roller door and handing a plaque to Brigade Captain, Neville Watters.

Thanks must also go to previous Captain Ray Phillips and the previous Group Officer Greg Butler for their unwavering efforts which began many years to get a new station.

Euan also presented service medals at the function to long-serving members from the Southern Yorke Group.

### 40 Years

Malcolm Grundy  
Graham Murdoch  
Rob Tonkin

### 30 Years

Rodney Button  
Bronte Detmar  
Keith Nankivell  
Howard Ramsay  
Robert Rigoni  
Neville Watters

### 20 Years

Greg Bray  
Peter Bywaters  
Allan Cross  
Stephen Fooks  
Peter Germaine  
Michael Haylock  
Scott Helmore  
Daryl Jones  
Theo Kolla  
Neil Lehmann  
Fraser McEvoy  
Janice McEvoy  
Ivan McMahon  
Ray Phillips  
Jutta Rigoni  
Les Starr

### 10 Years

Jamie Baker  
Andy Bennett  
Lewis Bennett  
James Bullock  
David Butfield  
Leah Bywaters  
Rosemary Bywaters  
Vanessa Bywaters  
Wendy Dalling  
Mark Filmer  
William Franke  
Brendan Grundy  
Steve Kolla  
Lee Phillips  
Shannon Phillips  
Rudy Pieck  
Craig Pillar  
Jo Pillar  
Adam Polkinghorne  
Kenn Rogers  
Elsie Sauerwald  
Bill Sauerwald  
David Short  
Seth Thompson  
John Warren  
Lin Warren  
Gavin Watters



*Members of the CFS Curramulka Brigade at the opening of their new station.*



*Tim Reynolds from Jervois CFS explains the workings of the new type 34 appliance to Reservists Soldiers from the 9th Brigades' Ready Response Force.*

# EXERCISE RHINO SURGE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN SA

**By: Marty Taylor, Regional Operations Planning Officer, CFS Region 3**

**The first multi-agency exercise of its kind to be held in South Australia was conducted at Murray Bridge in May.**

Exercise Rhino Surge was a multi agency exercise involving 150 Reservist Soldiers from the 9th Brigades' Ready Response Force (RRF), volunteers from a wide range of State Emergency Service Units (SES) and Country Fire Service (CFS) Jervois and Region 3 Operations Brigade.

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) were represented by crews from Station 20 and Police (SAPOL) by Sergeant Eddie McLean, Training Officer from Murray Bridge.

The primary motivation for this exercise was to showcase each agency in order to learn more about each others' capabilities and how they could work together in a time of emergency or disaster.



*Attendees at the first multi-agency exercise of its kind to be held in South Australia were pictured during the event at Murray Bridge.*

## SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEERING



*Kym Allen and Ryan Hansen with some of the students attending the Murraylands Career Expo.*

**The Murraylands Career Expo was held at the Murray Bridge Race Course on 20 May.**

Murray Bridge Volunteers Kym Allen and Ryan Hansen discussed the benefits of volunteering, and the "value it can add to your CV" with interested secondary school students.

Approximately 1200 students from as far afield as Birdwood, East Murray and Coomandook attended.

Kym described the day as a wonderful opportunity for the CFS to engage with youth from across the region.

The "show and tell" was conducted at the Murray Bridge Showgrounds. Each agency had a static display of their specialised equipment and manpower; the RRF in a round robin visited each display learning about how the emergency services go about their business.

Neil Nason of the Region 3 Operations Support Brigade walked and talked the soldiers through the role of the IMT Pod.

Tim Reynolds from Jervois CFS explained with great pride the varied and important role his Brigade plays within Region 3 as custodians of the Hook Truck and the ever growing number of pods they transport.

Tim held his audience spellbound as he gave a detailed explanation of the new type 34 appliance. The soldiers were very impressed not only with the specialised equipment available to the CFS but more so in the amount of training that a volunteer is required to undertake and the commitment needed. Well done to both Neil and Tim.

The following day, the RRF and SES were set the task of search and rescue from a flood event in the Saunders Creek and Marne Gorge area. Casualties in need of help had to be carried out on foot and in the case of finding a body the search teams had been taught by SAPOL how to preserve evidence at the scene.



## TRACY MOVES ON

**After seven years as Regional Administration Officer with the CFS at Murray Bridge Tracy Mitchell is moving on.**

She has moved to a similar role, only full-time, with the SES East Region, also based at Murray Bridge.

Tracy is pictured with Region 3 Volunteer Support Officer David Baker.

## RECOGNITION FOR MENINGIE VOLUNTEER EMPLOYERS



*Region 3 Commander Richard Coombe, second from left, with CFS volunteer employers at Meningie.*

**Meningie CFS volunteers recognised their employers at a presentation evening on 13 May.**

Brigade Captain Adam Hurle said it was appropriate that they recognised their employers during National Volunteers Week.

After a hearty BBQ meal of locally killed meat, Regional Commander Richard Coombe spoke on the important role that the employers of volunteers and self employed volunteers play in the provision of emergency services within the local community.

Commander Coombe presented those employers and self employed volunteers present with a framed certificate, and thanked them for their support.

# MEET OUR ROAD CRASH RESCUE “ANGELS”

By: Richard Mitchell

**T**he Murraylands has a new weapon in the fight to cut the road toll - three fully trained “angels”.

Rebecca Pudney, Heidi Scarlett and Karen Zerk from the Lamerook Country Fire Service (CFS), have just completed their road accident rescue (RAR) training course prompting brigade captain Donald Spratt to dub them the “Lamerook Rescue Angels.”

Lamerook CFS lieutenant and group training officer Rebecca Pudney said she found the course interesting and physically hard after the trio had to cut up 12 cars over the three days.

“A crash scene is very hard to manage physically and mentally, especially if there is more than one car involved, so I want to make sure that I support my fellow CFS members and ensure we have enough crew to respond,” she said.

Rebecca has been a CFS member since

2001, and both Heidi and Karen since 1996.

Also taking the course, held in March, were CFS members from the Pinnaroo, Coonalpyn, Tailem Bend, Murray Bridge and Dalkeith brigades. Mr Spratt said the Lamerook Brigade currently had the highest number of females, six, trained in RAR in region three, which covers the Mallee, Riverland and Murraylands area.

“We were so impressed with the three Lamerook participants that they and our other female RAR members will be receiving their own special T-shirts with their names on the front and “Lamerook Rescue Angels” on the back,” he said.

He said the three Lamerook women had received their accreditation and the respect from their peers that goes with the achievement.

The RAR training course involved learning to respond to a vehicle accident,

managing the crash scene, systematic extraction including what to do if the vehicle was on its roof, side and unstable, use of jaws of life, spreaders, rams and reciprocating saw.

*Article courtesy Murray Valley Standard*



*Ready to roll: Lamerook Country Fire Service road crash ‘angels’ Heidi Scarlett, Karen Zerk and Rebecca Pudney.*

# MORGAN BRIGADE DRIVER TRAINING

By: David Lindner

**R**ecently people may have noticed a couple of different CFS trucks driving around town during the day. The two trucks were being used to deliver the CFS Defensive Driver Training course. This is a one-day course which incorporated a number of disciplines and has nationally accredited components.

The course started off with an overview of some important road rules, most of which were a very good refresher for some of us as it is quite some time since we first got our driver's licence. We looked at scenarios of what we as an emergency service are allowed to do in an

emergency situation when approaching stop signs, traffic lights or a ferry queue. Every situation that we encountered had to have a decision process that put everyone's safety first. This is where the defensive driving part was highly emphasised. Issues included: when do you use sirens, when to turn them off, recognising fatigue and dealing with it, keeping a four-second clearance from the vehicle in front of you, understanding braking distances and reaction times.

Did you know that when travelling 100 kph you are covering 28 metres per

second? So if it takes two seconds to react, you are 56 metres closer to what you are about to hit without reducing any speed.

During the afternoon, we had some fun getting to know our vehicle's capabilities. South of Morgan we were taught some 4-wheel driving techniques. It was amazing where these trucks fully loaded can go and where they should not go.

We also learnt how to stop on steep slopes and smooth rolling starts on the same slope, going forwards or backwards, up or down the hill.

# RAY HAS BECOME THIS YEAR'S FACE OF COURAGE

**O**ne Meningie resident and Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteer is set to visit every home in the Murraylands, Riverland, South Coast, Barossa Valley and Kangaroo Island during the next six weeks.

Coorong CFS deputy group officer Ray Squires is the face of the 2010 White Pages, which will be delivered to doorsteps around the region.

Each year a local from the region is chosen as the face for the White Pages for their contribution to the community.

White Pages group manager Jane Blackley said Mr Squires was chosen for this year's edition as he exemplified what it meant to be a courageous Australian, the theme for 2010.

“Australians are known for their compassion and willingness to put their hand up to help when it's needed most,” she said.

Mr Squires has given 47 years of service with the CFS and has earned Australia's highest fire service honour, the Australian Fire Service Medal in 2006.

Beginning his CFS service with the Goolwa Brigade at the age of 15, Mr Squires has volunteered for strike teams when available and has attended many fires, including the devastating Sydney fires and Kangaroo Island fires.

Mr Squires said he saw the White Pages recognition as a thank you to all CFS volunteers. “As a member of the Coorong CFS Group, and like many other fire

fighters across the country, I feel I have a commitment to my community to lend a hand in times of need,” he said.

*Article courtesy Murray Valley Standard*



*Face of courage: Meningie resident and CFS volunteer Ray Squires as he appears on the region's White pages cover.*



# HALLETT GROUP SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTATION

**By:** Ross Haustorfer,  
Terowie Brigade Captain.

**T**he Hallett CFS Group held their CFS Service Medal Presentation in July at the Terowie Institute Hall.

Three of the four Brigades in the Group were involved with Spalding Brigade having held its presentation earlier on Australia Day.

Hallett, Whyte Yarcowie and Terowie were the remaining Brigades and there were 44 medals presented, equating to 1128 years of service.

In the absence of Chief Officer Euan Ferguson who was overseas at the time, Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson attended to present a 50-year service medal to Bob Fisher of the Terowie Brigade.

At the time Bob had given 53 years to the CFS and the community.

Of the 44 medal recipients, nine of them were to female members with the longest serving being 33 years.



*From left, Regional 4 Regional Planning Officer Bluey Devine, Terowie Brigade Captain Ross Haustorfer, Hallett Group Officer Merv Robinson, 50 year medallist Bob Fisher, and Acting Chief Officer Andrew Lawson during the Hallett Group medal presentation.*

There are 29 senior female members, both operational and operations support, in the Group.

Approximately 120 members and family attended the presentation which was followed by a superb country style supper supplied by the members' wives and partners, female members and cadets from the three Brigades.

A great afternoon was had by all and could not have been achieved without the support of all involved.

# FAREWELL BRINKWORTH 32, WELCOME BRINKWORTH 34



*With Brinkworth 34 are, from left, Phil Pese, Steve Welke, Gregg Elliss, Jake Verran, Bob Green, Phil Verran and Fred Groom.*

**I**t was "Farewell Brinkworth 32" and "Welcome Brinkworth 34" on 23 February, when CFS Infrastructure and Logistics Officer Phil Luxford delivered a spanking brand new truck to this appreciative group of Brinkworth volunteers.

Also in the welcome party was Region 4 Training Officer, Phil Tapscott, who drove from Port Augusta for the occasion.

CFS trucks are replaced, on average, every 20 years but Brinkworth 32 had served the community for an extra two years.

Phil Luxford gave the local boys a 'conducted tour' of the truck's features, which include a lead-filled pipe at the front to assist with balance and traction when carrying a load of water. They were cautioned not to remove it, as putting it back would be a heavy job!

# A MEMORABLE EVENING FOR GULNARE MEMBERS AND FAMILIES

**By:** Phil Tapscott, Region 4 Training officer

**T**he handing over of the keys to Gulnare Brigade's 34 refurbished appliance combined with Service Medal presentations on 26 February marked a memorable evening for local members and their families.

MC and President of the Gulnare CFS Committee Richard Sorell welcomed all to the presentation evening, especially Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson.

John Prest was invited to give a brief history of the Gulnare Brigade. He started with tanks and pumps on stands that were loaded onto the first available truck, through to the appliance they have today.

The Brigade was officially formed in 1948, and there have been four trucks in that time. However the community was proactive long before that.

Much laughter and reminiscing took place during John's well researched talk, before DCO Lawson responded and presented the keys of the refurbished appliance to Brigade Captain Ian Burgess.

Ian thanked the Brigade, Group, Region



*Official handover of Gulnare 34 refurbished appliance from DCO Andrew Lawson to Brigade Captain Ian Burgess and, from left, Sam Lemon, David Thomas, Paul Thomas and John Prest.*

and State for their efforts and support over the years, and particularly for the new appliance.

He said the new appliance and medals being presented that night were as much for the family members behind the scenes as for the individuals receiving them.

DCO Lawson outlined the history and background of the medals before the presentation.

On the night 17 medals were presented, with four apologies, with the medals ranging from 10 years recognition to Alan Davidson's 60 years service.

# ERNABELLA TANKER DELIVERY AND TRAINING

**By:** Scott Haynes  
CFS Training Officer (Rural)

**I**n July, Region Four Training Officer Phil Tapscott completed his preparations for basic firefighting training of Pukutja (Ernabella) Brigade volunteers for the delivery of a 24 Tanker. This involved communicating with a number of personnel across both the region and state and key CFS staff including training managers, the Deputy Chief Officer, the Region 4 coordinator, and the Captain of Pukutja Brigade, Dudley Dagg.

In consultation with the Rural Firefighting Project manager Michael Mathew, Quality Systems Manager Lee Watson and Rural Training Officer Scott Haynes, a modified BFF1 course delivery model was developed for the members of the Pukutja community.

These efforts were supported by two Volunteer Trainer/Assessors – Ken Campbell (Yongala Brigade) and Graeme Austin (Woomera Brigade), who along with RTO Phil Tapscott and STO Scott Haynes delivered the training to the course participants at Pukutja.

The trainer and assessors Tapscott, Haynes and Campbell completed their final preparations at Region 4



*A Pukutja trainee using a portable fire extinguisher.*

Headquarters before heading off on July 27 to their remote location for the Putkutja Brigade training. All equipment and stores for the delivery of a BFF1 course and an initial allocation of PPC were carried in two logistics vehicles, in addition to a CFS 24 tanker (ex Narridy 24) equipped with standard rural stowage.

Trainer Graeme Austin was met en route near Pimba in the second logistics vehicle and the convoy proceeded to Glendambo, a distance of 280kms. After resting and rotating drivers the convoy travelled another 255kms to Coober Pedy



*Pukutja trainees practicing bowling and coupling hoses.*

where non-essential stores (material for an additional BFF1 course on the return journey) and the trailer were dropped off at the CFS station. After rotating drivers again the convoy continued to its overnight stop at Marla, a total driving distance of 830kms and duration of approximately 10 hours (including rest periods).

On the following day, three vehicles and four trainers departed Marla en route to Pukutja (Ernabella) covering a distance of 230kms and 3.5 hours travelling time and arriving at Pukutja at 11.30am.

Over the next two days the training involved familiarisation of the tanker,



*Pukutja Brigade Captain Dudley Dagg receiving the keys to the 24 Tanker from RTO Phil Tapscott.*

practical demonstrations of the pumps, filling the tanker from a hydrant including the use of reticulated water, the use of portable fire extinguishers and a skills maintenance drill.

On the third day, following the training, a goodwill visit took place at the Ernabella Aboriginal School where discussions were held with the school's principal regarding DECS policies in relation to school closures on days of catastrophic fire warnings. It was recommended that these discussions should be followed up with the principal making relevant enquiries to Region 4



*Pukutja trainees operating one of the pillar hydrants to fill their 24 tanker.*

Headquarters as well as seeking advice from DECS.

Teaching staff also enquired about developing a cadet component within the Ernabella Brigade to be supported by the school and the brigade.

A short presentation was made to the school's students about the recent training and emphasised the importance of fire safety and the benefits to their community of having a fire tanker.

## Future tasks and recommendations

- Liaison to occur between RTO Phil Tapscott and STO Owen Glover to deliver appropriate driver training to members of the Pukutja Brigade.
- Ongoing logistics and administration support to be provided to Pukutja Brigade Captain Dudley Dagg. Members with incomplete personal protective clothing, i.e. helmets, boots, goggles and dust masks etc, will need to have these items provided.
- The final units of the BFF1 course to be delivered in forthcoming months, preferably before the commencement of the upcoming fire danger season so that the brigade can safely and effectively respond to fires. The provision of this training needs to be a matter of priority.
- The Pukutja Brigade members to undertake ongoing weekly training and to include school-age students in this training as a cadet group.
- A communications plan will need to be developed to include the provision of appropriate radios and associated equipment with the potential for members of the brigade and community to be indentified and trained as radio operators and communication officers.



# SUCCESSFUL RECRUITMENT EVENING AT KEITH

**By:** Margaret Ludwig, Region 5 Volunteer Support Officer



*Captain Simon Rosenzweig, Mascot Max Fisher, new recruit Graeme Kroehn, BL4 Mark Sherriff and BL2 Paul Fisher check out the Tatiara dryfighting machinery.*



*Todd Battersby completes his police check with Captain Simon Rosenzweig.*

**K**eith CFS Brigade held a successful recruitment evening on 30 April, receiving genuine interest from seven people.

Every Brigade member had agreed to ask at least one person they knew or came across in their daily activities to consider joining the brigade and attend the open night.

This worked extremely well for the Brigade and they are very hopeful of keeping most of the new applicants.

The recruitment banner remained up for the next fortnight.

Brigade members made a big effort to clean up around the station and provided a fire bucket and BBQ tea. All appliances and the Tatiara dry fire fighting gear were placed out the front for inspection purposes.

Keith Brigade training is held each Wednesday night at the station and all interested persons are welcome to visit during this time. Contact the Captain on **0429 429 124** for further information.



*On the job at a hay stack fire near Naracoorte.*

## HAY STACK BLAZE NORTH OF NARACOORTE

**By:** Scott Murray, Regional Training Officer, R5

**A**bout \$25,000 damage resulted from a hay stack fire at Karana Park, north of Naracoorte, on 16 March.

The fire, believed to have started through spontaneous combustion, destroyed 160 hay bales.

CFS crews were called to the fire shortly after 8am and had it contained by mid morning.

Tractors were used to pull apart the hay bales, mineral earth breaks were constructed, and a foam blanket was used to good effect.

Binnun and Frances Brigades continued to monitor the scene throughout the day.

# FIRE FIGHTING BOOST FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

**A** number of small communities in the Grant district have benefitted from funding which will allocate fire pumps to sit with water storage tanks already provided.

Funding of \$60,000 has been obtained from the Bushfire Mitigation Project, with \$20,000 allocated each from the Grant District Council, State Government and Federal Government.

Six 45,000 litre fire tanks have been provided at Donovans, Kongorong, Nene Valley, Carpenters Rocks, Blackfellows Caves and Mil Lel. A new bore and pump were provided for Carpenters Rocks and Allendale East.

Firefighter pumps were also purchased for the six water tanks at Donovans, Kongorong, Nene Valley, Carpenters Rocks, Blackfellows Caves and Mil Lel.

The six quick fill pumps are attached to tanks to ensure CFS crews can access high volumes of water during fire emergencies.

The District Council of Grant has said it will explore additional funding streams to further boost firefighting equipment across the district.

Council Fire Prevention Officer Ken Stratton said council wanted to install emergency power at Tarpeena and purchase a number of mobile generators to protect communities that lost power during bushfires.

"We are hoping to be successful with that application," Mr Stratton said.

He said council had also been busy undertaking a string of other fire prevention activities across the district, including the upgrade of the fire track at Carpenter Rocks.

*Photo and story by Business Support Officer Karen Barnes*



*Port MacDonnell Group Officer Garry Talbot, Blackfellows Caves Captain Kail Williams, Council Prevention Officer Ken Stratton, and Donovans Captain Roger Babolka.*

# CUP DAY FUNDRAISER FOR FIRE SERVICES

**By: Margaret Ludwig, Region 5 Volunteer Support Officer**

**The annual Mount Gambier Gold Cup race meeting was a fundraising winner for fire services in the region.**

The Ladies Committee hold a charity luncheon each year and after the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria decided this year's event would benefit fire services.

With Mount Gambier situated just 10 kilometres from the Victoria – South Australia border it is dependent on three major fire services.

With MFS and sometimes the CFS handling fire calls in the city itself, the CFS (sometimes MFS), CFA, Forestry and industry brigades handle rural responses.

The CFS and CFA worked closely together due to the proximity of, similar land use and volunteers who may work one side of the border but live on the other.

A joint presentation from both CFS and CFA delivered a strong volunteer and

fire safety theme to the day which was attended by 140 extremely well dressed ladies.

The respective mascots took the opportunity to encourage the purchase of raffle tickets and participation in extinguisher and fire blanket training.

The proceeds from the day will be divided evenly between the two local groups, Dartmoor CFA and Mount Gambier CFS.

## POSITIVE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE



Jen Marsh.

**Jen Marsh has recently been appointed to the Regional Prevention Officer (RPO) at Region 5, taking over from Phil McDonough who has taken up a Compliance Officer role in CFS Headquarters.**

After relocating to Naracoorte from Griffith, NSW in August 2009, Jen was lucky enough to pick up contract work with the CFS, working on various project officer jobs including drafting the "Bushfire Management Committee Training and Resource Manual", and also stepped into the role of Acting RPO while Phil was on leave.

At Griffith, Jen spent over five years working for Griffith City Council in various planning roles (Strategic Planner, Environmental Planner, Town Planner) and for the last 10 months of her employment was employed as a Senior Town Planner, specialising in development assessment.

Jen has a land management background, having studied in both areas of natural resources and urban and regional planning at the University of New England, Armidale.

She is looking forward to continuing to work for the CFS especially in her new role as the RPO in Region 5.



## POSITIVE RESPONSE TO COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE



University of the 3rd Age members at a Port Lincoln Community Fire Safe meeting.

**A**ll attendees at a Community Fire Safe session in Port Lincoln on 1 April had some exposure to the fire in and around Port Lincoln on 23 December last year.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler had been advised the group would be from the University of the 3rd Age, and have an average age of 97.

However as the picture shows, on arrival she was indeed fooled.

Not all members of the group agreed with the word 'catastrophic' or the need to relocate early.

"Some questions were challenging, discussions involved some healthy debate, but in the end all feedback was overwhelmingly positive and supportive," said Therese.

## UNITING CARE WESLEY FUND EMERGENCY PREPARATION SESSIONS



One of the Uniting Care Wesley session participants uses contents from the My Survival Kit.

**U**niting Care Wesley has funded three sessions focussing on "all hazards" emergency preparation for Eyre Peninsula.

They were facilitated by CFS Region 6 Community Education Officer Therese Pedler and concentrated on becoming Bushfire Ready.

Other local providers had input with a focus on Women's Health and Children with Disabilities.

Between 10 and 20 people attended each session.

## NEW SUBDIVISION RESIDENTS LOOK AT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

**R**esidents planning to live in a new housing subdivision north of Port Lincoln are showing a high level of interest in bushfire preparation and prevention.

The residents of Shearwater Drive where many new homes are being built are showing particular interest in the location of their homes, design, vegetation placement and seeking advice as to other bushfire risk preventative measures.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler has now held four meetings involving residents from this area, including two Community Fire Safe sessions.

Five separate telephone trees have been established.

At the latest of these meetings the host homeowner invited a guest speaker from a local business that supplied home sprinkler systems and general fire fighting equipment.

The installation and cost of home sprinkler systems and portable fire fighting equipment options were also discussed.

## GOOD ATTENDANCE AT FIREY WOMEN WORKSHOP

**T**wenty women have attended a Firey Women Workshop held on 27-28 March at Trinity Haven, located between Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay.

The attendees either did a live-in/sleep arrangement or returned home overnight.

The women were from Wudinna, Yeelanna, Cummins, Tulka, Port Lincoln and Adelaide.

Community Education Officer Therese Pedler said family groups included Hayley Anderson, her daughter Rebecca Anderson, her mother-in-law Jill

Anderson, and her mother from Adelaide Andrea Johns.

Hayley feels very strongly that all members of the family need to be Bushfire Ready as they will often be home with the children while Hayley and her husband are away from the property at work.

The Firey Women program was conducted on lower Eyre Peninsula two years ago with overwhelming success, and in turn workshops were delivered in all other CFS regions this year.



Attendees at the Trinity Haven workshop.



Shearwater Drive residents learn more about fire fighting equipment options.

# KAIL'S TWIST OF FATE A WINNER FOR CFS

**By: Terry Price, Media Liaison Officer**

**I**f a few years ago someone had said to new Blackfellows Caves CFS Brigade Captain Kail Williams she would be leading a team of almost 40 fire fighters she would have told them they were balmy.

However here we are in 2010 and she is largely responsible for an exciting new future for the Lower South East Brigade which continues to flourish.

Today's involvement in the CFS all goes back to her experience with an out of control burn-off in the Carpenter Rocks area in 2004.

"Someone close to me had lit the burn-off which got out of control and was very nearly responsible for not just burning out a lot of scrub country, but it almost went through the Rocks Tavern," said Kail.

"Witnessing at close range the exceptional work done by the local CFS that day, and more so the manner in which they went about their volunteer work, certainly enticed my interest in the service.

"My brother-in-law Heath Telfer was a member of the CFA in Victoria and I soon made enquiries about joining up."

Having completed courses from initial basic fire fighting to breathing apparatus and pine plantation fire fighting Kail knows the importance of training, and encourages her Brigade members to follow suit.

The nature of bushfires in the

Blackfellows Caves area ranges from scrub, grasslands, bush, pine trees and most importantly, forests.

Her initial thoughts on joining the CFS were that she might find it a 'bit blokey', however she has been pleasantly surprised and continues to be delighted with the number of females either in her brigade or showing an interest in joining.

"Actually I've found everyone to be very supportive right from the moment I joined up, and having respect from the men has never been a problem," she said.

"Former Captain Laurie Upham has helped me along the way and I've also appreciated the support given me by Deputy Group Officer with Port Macdonnell and District Marianne Talbot.

"And our successful recruitment drive has been greatly helped by Community Education officer Vicki Hann."

Kail's partner Jason Smith is also a CFS volunteer, as are her mother and father Leonie and Tony O'Meara.

And youngest son Tristan, 12, is already showing an interest in becoming a CFS Cadet.

Heath Telfer is these days a committed member of her brigade, and along with Kail was part of the South Australian CFS team seconded to assist in the Black Saturday bushfires in Victoria last year.

"Seeing the result of such a disaster on so many people was an experience one could never forget, and it was an honour

to be part of the South Australia CFS team which assisted in some way," she said.

The 15 or so new recruits in recent times will ensure there will always be enough members to go to any incident at short notice, particularly as many of them live close by the CFS facility.

Part of the growing CFS membership comes from fellowship, with regular barbecues and gatherings responsible for social interaction and sharing of CFS experiences.

Ilene Blacksnell does her part with a constant supply of home made scones, cream and jam.

Another recent morale building exercise was the making of a safety and awareness community promotion for local television.

At 15 Kail took her first test flight in an aeroplane, and obtained her pilot's licence even before she had a motor vehicle licence.

As a result she has a special interest in the bushfire aerial bombers and appreciates the difference they have made to controlling the fire ground at an early stage.

Recently moving into Mount Gambier, she enjoys the short drive down to Blackfellows Caves and the satisfaction on arrival of seeing good roll-ups at Sunday training sessions as they make preparations for the next fire danger season.



## WINNER

This month's winning photo was taken by Rick Munro on a hot summer's night about 25km north of Tintinara. Rick will be contacted by the Volunteer magazine team to choose a \$50 voucher.



CFS members break for lunch provided by the Salvation Army during a training exercise at Bolivar in June. Photo: David Lamplough.



Haystack fire off Gomersal Rd Tanunda in April. Photo: Tim Hage, Angaston Brigade



12-month old Joshua Davis is keen to follow dad's footsteps by joining the Waikerie CFS one day. Photo: Adam Davis, Waikerie CFS Brigade.



A day in the life of CFS volunteers. Photos; Rebecca (Bec) Kirvan.

## TO ENTER

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 where 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](mailto:publicaffairs@safecom.sa.gov.au)  
 When emailing photos please do not reduce the size. Sometimes Outlook asks if you want to keep the original size or send smaller. If the file size is reduced, the quality can be compromised and therefore the photo may not be published in a large size.  
 The winner receives a \$50 gift voucher of their choice.

# ROGER FARRER MAGAREY

**By:** Don Venus, Brigade Captain, Coromandel Valley CFS Brigade, who delivered the Eulogy at Roger's funeral service



*Roger Magarey at the 50th anniversary of the Coromandel Valley Brigade in 1989.*

**R**oger Magarey, Coromandel Valley Brigade Life Member, SA Country Fire Service Life Member, ex - Brigade Captain and ex - Happy Valley CFS Group Group Officer.

You don't receive those accolades or fill those leadership roles unless you are a special type of person.

And Roger was certainly that.

He joined the Coromandel Valley Firefighting Group in his teens and saw the establishment of the EFS or Emergency Fire Service, and then the CFS or Country Fire Service. In 1957 he was made a fire control officer with the old Meadows District Council and was captain of our brigade from the early 70's through to 1982. When the Happy

Valley Council was formed in 1983 he was elected to the position of CFS Group Officer by the constituent brigades of Coro, Happy Valley, Clarendon, Kangarilla and Meadows, a position he held until his retirement from the CFS.

Our brigade owned a four wheel drive command type vehicle and Roger, being captain, housed it at his place. After our main fire siren had sounded to call firefighters to the fire station down by the Sturt Creek to man the appliances for an incident, it was always a relief to see Roger emerging from Magarey Road onto Main road and head off to the incident with lights and siren going so that he could guide the appliances to the incident in the most timely way.

Roger had a gifted ability of being able to read bushfire behaviour, predict its path and guide brigades to combat it in the most efficient and safe way. He was a leader who tended to stay calm in most circumstances on the fire-ground. The old saying of cool, calm and collected, I think, summed him up, most of the time anyway.

Everyone who shared the fire-ground with Roger over the years became a better firefighter because of it. He may be gone, but the knowledge he imparted to us, the experiences we shared together and the dangers we faced and overcame together, will live on. In our brigade, he has always had our utmost respect and without doubt is one of our best leaders and friends and held in the highest regard by everyone both past and present. We have enjoyed his reminiscing with us at our AGM's. There are many funny and sometimes embarrassing stories and experiences to talk about, but these are probably better left to another place and time.

Roger, for your decades of volunteer service to your neighbours, community and the state of South Australia, we say, very humbly, thank you.

To Anne and all the family please accept our sincere sympathy.

# RHONDA JEAN BUTLER

**By:** Daughters-in-law Deanne and Sally Butler



**R**honda was a wonderful woman who spent her life helping others. She was married to Ross for 50 years and spent many hours helping him with his CFS duties.

Rhonda and Ross started their married life on the Eyre Peninsula where they lived on a property at Mangalo. During this time they had three children so the days were very busy with household and farm duties. They later moved to Mt Desperate which is where they remained until they moved to Bordertown in 1979.

In 1974 Ross was involved in a serious accident and without Rhonda's love and support he would not have been able to continue with his commitment to the CFS. Ross held many positions including Deputy Group Officer which required him to attend many incidents. During this time Rhonda spent endless hours listening to the radio or lending a helping hand to any member who needed it.

The following notice was written by the Tatiara CFS Group and shows the high regard Rhonda was held in:

A special, kind, gentle and respected lady, always caring about other people. Our gratitude for your endless hours of listening to the radio, if a member needed a hand was always there. Thank you for watching out for us.

You will be sadly missed by members of Tatiara CFS.

Rhonda passed away on 16 April, 2010 after a short illness. She was the devoted and much loved wife of Ross, loved and loving mother of Colin and Sally, Andrew and Deanne, Karen and Mark and adored Nanna of Sam and Jake, Adam and Dylan.

The most kind and gentle person who is loved and will be missed by her family and all who knew her.

In God's care.

**PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.**





## CFS COLLISION RESCUE

**O**n Saturday 19 June, 2010, emergency crews were called to respond to a vehicle collision at Cadell Valley Road, Cadell. The collision was a head-on impact between a motorcycle rider and a vehicle.

Police responded to the location from Waikerie. On arrival police were met by the Cadell and Morgan Country Fire Service brigades who had already closed the section of roadway and were directing traffic.

Police were briefed by the attending CFS officers, who advised a synopsis of what they had done prior to police arrival, and what duties they had allocated to their fire fighters at this time. Observing that police were solo, they also offered further assistance at the scene.

Attending SA Ambulance Service officers briefed police on injuries to the parties involved and confirmed that the motorcycle rider, a 21 year old male, was deceased. Police observed that CFS members were 'guarding' the collision scene and ascertained that the deceased and the vehicles had remained untouched since the male was declared as deceased.

CFS members had also been able to keep a number of the deceased's friends, from entering the scene and had made them comfortable a short distance away. This group included the girlfriend of the deceased male and about seven friends, all of whom had been camping nearby.

CFS members had also comforted the other driver (an elderly male) and his wife and arranged comfortable seating for them also near the scene, where they were kept in constant care by CFS and Ambulance service members.

At police request, CFS members covered the vehicles and the deceased with tarps to preserve the scene from rain: this was done, quickly and efficiently and with minimal disturbance to the scene.

CFS members assisted with lighting, guarding the scene, traffic control and even moving vehicles as requested during the examination by the Major Crash Investigation Section, who attended and took over the investigation. During the investigation they also assisted police with shielding the deceased from view as required.

CFS stayed in attendance for an extraordinary time, assisting police until the scene was cleared and the road opened. During this time the CFS were professional and efficient in all their duties.

The friends of the deceased male, the other driver and passenger involved and witnesses to the scene all expressed their appreciation of the CFS and their dealings with them during this incident.

The attending police officer was impressed, and greatly appreciated the response and efforts by the members of the Cadell and Morgan Brigades, all of whom made it seem that nothing was too much trouble or an imposition in any way.

The professionalism and efficiency displayed by these attending CFS members was of no surprise to police in the local area. Local police, (Waikerie, Morgan, Blanchetown and Swan Reach) have been involved with these brigades on a regular basis at previous incidents, including fires, missing person searches, vehicle accidents and storm damage incidents and each time they have represented themselves and the CFS well.

For their assistance in this matter, and for their commitment to the local community, again I wish to convey our appreciation to these Brigades and their members.

**Peter Sims,**  
Senior Sergeant First Class  
Officer in Charge  
WAIKERIE Police

## LANDSLIDE RESCUE

**T**he CFS and SES came to our rescue 10 days ago (July 4). I had been working hard on preparing for bushfires on our property but never thought we would have a landslide.

A combination of a hill behind the house being soaked after weeks of rain and a burst pipe from the water tank on top of this, led to a severe landslide down onto the back of our house. The people who had joined two sections of plastic pipe delivering water from our big tank higher up had used concrete for the join 17 years ago. The concrete finally burst. My husband called the SES because although we could understand we could do nothing about the tank at 2 o'clock in the morning we were not sure that the amphitheatre now created above the house was safe.

The assessing officer from the SES called in both services and about 12 men came and sandbagged our doors, water outlets and air vents as well as digging out a few tonnes of mud. Volunteers worked from the early hours of the morning until it was time for them to go to work.

We are both extremely grateful for the support of both services in our time of need. We felt really badly about calling for help at such an awful hour of the morning. The thing that impressed me the most was the happy banter between the two services as they worked together.

A young SES volunteer from SA Water said that he had recently arrived from Queensland and had joined the SES to make friends. I thought this was a wonderful aspect of organised volunteering.

This letter is a simple way of thanking you and your emergency teams for helping us at this difficult time.

We will never forget it.

With fond regards,

Sue Vardon AO, Teringie.

## GRATITUDE TO CFS VOLUNTEERS

**L**ifeline Wallaroo would like to extend its gratitude to the Country Fire Service volunteers for their efficient work in mopping out and sandbagging our shop after the heavy rain on Sunday, March 7.

Well done to these valuable members of our community.

Lifeline Retail, Wallaroo

## BIRDWOOD HOUSE FIRE

**T**o the wonderful, kind, dedicated CFS people,

Thank you so very much for the care and effort shown to us at our recent home fire.

We know you did everything in your power to save our home and we deeply

appreciate that from each and everyone of you.

Birdwood is very lucky to have such a skilled, dedicated group of volunteers.

Our deepest thank you.

**Kellie-jo, Todd, Mississippi (dog) and Georgia (cat) Jenkins, Birdwood.**

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