

# VOLUNTEER

VOLUME 126 OCTOBER 2011



## CELEBRATING CFS CADETS PAVING THE WAY FOR OUR FUTURE

**CFS SMASH RECORDS:**  
*SAPES Games  
victory*

**NEW INITIATIVES  
2011-2012:**  
*Exciting times  
for the CFS*



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### Cover

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## CHIEF OFFICER GREG NETTLETON

Welcome to this edition of Volunteer. You will notice some changes to previous editions and we seek your feedback on the new layout.

In the next few months you will see further and more significant changes occurring that affect CFS across the State. The first change will be the introduction of SACAD which is due to “go live” on 25th October. All regions and groups have been busy providing information, response plans and data to be incorporated into SACAD. Testing of response plans is underway and ROPOs from all regions have been involved. The second change that affects CFS is the introduction of the Next Gen weather forecasting system by the Bureau of Meteorology. Next Gen forecasting is already operational in Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory. Tasmania was switched across earlier this year and South Australia will move to the new

system on 26th October. The move to Next Gen has required minor adjustments to some Fire Ban Districts so that weather forecast districts and Fire Ban Districts now share common boundaries. The new Fire Ban Districts are planned to come into force on 26th October.

Another change is how we communicate information and warnings to the community. Your *Prepare. Act. Survive* team in Community Fire Safety has developed a range of mobile phone apps and tools suitable for use on smart phones. These apps can be downloaded free of charge to members of the community and volunteers. Visitors to the Royal Adelaide Show road tested the apps before they are officially launched during Bushfire Action Week in October. The apps will add another medium to our already comprehensive suite of information and warning capabilities.

In late August CFS hosted a national meeting of all fire agencies from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales,

the Australian Capital Territory, Victoria and Tasmania. Specialist scientific staff from the Bureau of Meteorology and the Bushfires Cooperative Research Centre also attended. The purpose of the meeting was to assess the Australian seasonal bushfire outlook for the 2011-2012 southern fire season. An outcome of the meeting's assessment is the publication of a Fire Note that can be accessed from the Bushfire CRC website. The assessment for South Australia's fire season is above average fire potential for the western part of the West Coast, North East and North West Pastoral districts. For the remainder of the state including the southern settled areas the most likely scenario is for near average levels of fire activity.

This means we can expect a busy fire season in the north of the state with the possibility of several campaign fires. Staff in Regions 4 and 6 have been busy preparing for this season over the past few months and they are planning to strategically locate groups of appliances in their regions to

enable “fly in fly out” crews to be deployed if required.

So the remainder of this year poses a number of challenges for CFS with the introduction of SACAD, Next Gen weather forecasting, the introduction of apps for smart phones and the possibility of a busy fire season in parts of the state that traditionally do not have vast quantities of fuel stretching for kilometre after kilometre. This will be a testing time for the all CFS members, whether they are staff or volunteers. From what I have seen during my visits over the past few months (ranging from outer metropolitan brigades such as Burnside and Happy Valley to remote area brigades like Roxby Downs and Andamooka) I am confident the CFS is ready for the challenge. As we move towards the coming fire season I ask all group and brigade leaders to ensure all operations, no matter how large or small, are tackled professionally and safely. Everyone must get home.



## CFSVA PRESIDENT KEN SCHUTZ

I have been the CFSVA President now for nearly 7 years and during this time we have had our challenges but I don't think any have been as challenging as the period we are now going through.

However the one area we were not successful acquiring more money for was the area of training; so we continued to lobby the Government along with the CFS also putting in a submission. Again we were successful but instead of receiving a couple of million dollars each year we only received a few hundred thousand dollars each year for 4 years. To make matters worse this money was given to the CFS to the detriment of SAFECOM.

Some of you may say “So what, who cares about SAFECOM!”, but the truth is that nearly 50 jobs have now been cut from

SAFECOM and the extra work load now comes back onto CFS and mainly without the extra funding. This will put increased workload onto our already overworked staff and we have lost some very skilled and experienced people out of SAFECOM which we cannot replace.

So now getting back to the challenges for the CFSVA; how do we lobby the government for more money when we know that whatever money we ask for, to go to a certain area will only come from another area within our sector? This situation will not change for some years to

come; even if we have a change of government the money for the next several years has already been committed to a new hospital and a new oval.

The challenge is now how to make what we have work more effectively for us. But be warned - one idea that may come up is to have one fire service; the thought is out there but it is fraught with danger as seen by the CFA in Victoria. Over the next few years we need to think very carefully about what we ask for.



## BOARD CHAIRMAN, SAFECOM DAVID PLACE

SAFECOM is currently reviewing how its services are delivered to the South Australian emergency services sector which, of course, includes the Country Fire Service (CFS).

In developing a new business model for SAFECOM, I have asked Mark Groote, the Manager, Volunteer Strategy and Support (VSS), to help me with some of the strategic reforms necessary to best position the organisation into the future.

One of our priorities is a review of our services to ensure we continue to meet the needs of our volunteers, both from the CFS and SES, along with our legislative requirements.

Taking on board the broad directions and wishes of both

agencies, VSS will in future re-focus its efforts to where it is needed most – volunteer recruitment and retention, particularly in the regional areas of the state.

VSS will also have a name change. In future, it will be known as the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) and will be overseen by a new governance group which includes the CFS Deputy Chief Officer.

These are all important changes that we believe will help deliver some significant outcomes for

the South Australian emergency services sector.

As always, I wish to extend the SAFECOM Boards' thanks for your continuing commitment to the sector.



## MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES KEVIN FOLEY

As many of you would be aware, the State Government held a Community Cabinet on Kangaroo Island in late July. This represented a great opportunity for my Parliamentary colleagues and I to visit a very special part of South Australia which unfortunately is very susceptible to the ongoing threat of bushfire.

During visits to the Group Base in Parndana and the combined CFS/SES joint services facility in Kingscote, along with various other community functions during the weekend, I met with some of the 400 or so volunteers who comprise the very skilled and committed members of the local CFS Group.

I was particularly impressed with their enthusiasm for the CFS and hearing about the implementation plans currently being put in place as part of the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Management Plan.

While there appears to be plenty of enthusiasm among local residents to join one of the island's seven CFS brigades, I am aware

of the difficulties many regional CFS brigades face in attracting new members.

The main issue, of course, is simply that fewer people live in regional South Australia. Indeed, some centres are even seeing their population decline. There is also the issue of the population ageing as younger people move to Adelaide – or other parts of the state – for study or for work.

The other important thing to understand is that the declining number of volunteers is not just an issue facing the CFS. The State Emergency Service (SES) is also affected by this trend as are numerous government agencies, charitable organisations and community groups who rely on

volunteers for the services they deliver.

The challenge, I believe, is for these bodies to make it an attractive option for people to volunteer their time so they can demonstrably see that they are serving their community, gaining some really valuable life skills in such things as leadership, delegation, taking responsibility and teamwork, and getting some satisfaction out of the experience.

Since becoming the Minister for Emergency Services, I have held a number of discussions with Greg Nettleton, David Place and Chris Beattie (SES Chief Officer) on this issue. We all agree that more work needs to be done in attracting and, just as importantly, retaining

volunteers in South Australia's emergency services sector.

The challenge is there for all of us.

On a final note, thank you for your ongoing support of the CFS as we look ahead to the 2011-12 bushfire season.



## SACAD UPDATE

The SACAD project has progressed according to schedule and we remain on track for implementation at the end of October 2011.

### Specific areas of progress

- Testing has continued with a large number of the concerns previously identified by the testing team now resolved by Intergraph (the supplier of the SACAD software).
- Confidence is high that those testing issues that remain outstanding at this time can be resolved by Intergraph in time to allow implementation in SAFECOM on schedule.
- Training has continued on schedule with approximately one half of the Adelaide Fire Comcen staff now having completed their training. Training has also now started for the second half of each Comcen shift and is due to be completed in late September/early October.
- Since the initial problems experienced in the training pilot in early June, the feedback received from staff attending the training has been mainly positive and any areas of concern have been recorded for follow up by the project team. These are being

addressed wherever possible and feedback provided to Comcen staff as to the outcome of their concerns and questions. This process will continue until training is completed.

- Progressive refinement has been occurring on the agency internal (MFS) station, (CFS) brigade and (SES) Unit boundaries and the associated response plans. (Testing also aims to ensure that these are also being 'tested' to ensure that appropriate responses are generated from SACAD). Substantial work remains to be done in this area and in particular the finalisation of the CFS back up brigades and loading and testing of the Road Crash Rescue responses. All of this work is underway and is expected to be completed in next 4-6 weeks.

- Work has commenced on the finalisation of all operational changes associated with SACAD. These will be appropriately communicated via changes to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- The SACAD Production Environment has now been installed and will be thoroughly tested for failover (robustness) and performance capability over the next 6 weeks.
- The final Transition Checklist for SACAD is now nearing completion with a walk through of the transition process to occur shortly. Approximately 1-2 weeks before actual transition a Transition Rehearsal will be conducted that will mimic the real transition as far as is possible. Part of this process will also include the rehearsal of the rollback to the current CAD (BOMS) in



case unforeseen problems occur with SACAD after implementation.

- Work has started on the installation of the SACAD workstations in both Adelaide Fire and the CFS Air Desk.

**01.** SACAD will help improve the communication and response to emergency incidents such as road crash rescues.

**02.** CFS crews will benefit from the installation of SACAD workstations in both Adelaide Fire and the CFS Air Desk.

“Confidence is high that those testing issues that remain outstanding at this time can be resolved.”

## DENR receives additional funding for bushfire management

In June this year, the State Government announced they would allocate \$23.1 million in additional funding over the next four years to help protect the state against the ongoing risk of bushfire.

The funding will allow the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to employ an additional 56 people which includes 13

ongoing and 43 seasonal firefighters as well as ongoing funding of more than \$1 million per year to buy firefighting equipment including appliances and bulk water carriers.

By 2014-15, the State Government will be providing an additional \$7.3 million per year (indexed) for the important long-term program of prescribed burning.

This increased funding to increase prescribed burns on public land follows a key recommendation arising from the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission.

The program will focus on high risk areas including the Mount Lofty Ranges, the Lower Eyre Peninsula, Southern Flinders Ranges, the South East and Kangaroo Island.



## PEERING INTO SPAM BY JANE ABDILLA & JOHN FORSTER



Across most of the state it is volunteers and a small number of paid personnel who provide 24/7/365 emergency service coverage.

Not a day goes by without pagers calling these people to a variety of emergency situations some of which involve sights, sounds and smells that most people will never experience. Some of these experiences may trigger effects which may interfere with the normal enjoyment of life. These effects may be physical – such as difficulty in sleeping, behavioural – like to changes to a person's normal way of doing things, cognitive – which could be an inability to think straight or emotional – as in anxiety.

Who is there, outside that person's family, to care? Who has the training to prepare them for what may happen when they find strange things happening to them? Who supports them when they are exposed to these sights, sounds and smells? The answer is the joint CFS/SES Stress Prevention and Management Team (SPAM) of which our Emergency Services Peer Supports are an integral part. The SPAM team comprises a welfare coordinator, mental health professionals and peer supports.

The qualification for being a peer is to have been there yourself, having experienced what it is like to be faced with traumatic incidents and to hold a Certificate III in Community Services (Community Services Work) which is a nationally recognized qualification. Training is provided by mental health professionals and experienced peers and is ongoing.



Within their SPAM role, peers hold no rank but respond to incidents as members of their service brigade, group, unit or region.

**01.** Current peers and some Mental Health Professionals (both CFS and SES).

### What then do peers actually do?

- All the time at whatever the emergency service activity, be it training, meetings or responses, they watch and listen for signs of stress among their colleagues and check maybe just by asking "How are you going?"
- Provide one-to-one assistance as a good constructive listener.
- Assist the mental health professional in a SPAM team intervention.

The SPAM team also provides Pre-Incident Training (PITs) where the peer and mental health professional provide an insight into preparing for potential incidents which may impact on members. If your Brigade or Group would like to organize one of these sessions, please contact the coordinator, Jane Abdilla on 0400 903 120.

### Does the process work?

In the twenty or so years that this process has been used in CFS (and latterly SES), the number of stress related claims for medical costs and medical expenses has been very small when compared with the general population. Brigades and Units

continue to request the service to provide SPAM interventions to the volunteers.

### Are peers worthwhile?

Jane Abdilla the coordinator of the program says "The peer support team has a vital role in the delivery of the SPAM services as they are very familiar with the frontline operations and are volunteers themselves."

The Stress Prevention and Management Services are:

- Confidential
- Professional
- For all CFS/SES members and their immediate families.

The services also provide a limited number of individual and family counselling sessions to those who need it.

To access the service please contact your respective Regional Duty Officer or call Adelaide Fire on 8412 9007 and ask for the CFS SPAM on-call coordinator to be paged to call you.

*Thanks to John Forster (longest serving peer) for the content of this article.*

“All the time at whatever the emergency service activity, they watch and listen for signs of stress among their colleagues.”





01.

## HAMLEY BRIDGE STATION OFFICIAL OPENING

The new Hamley Bridge CFS station was officially opened in July by the Chief Officer. The new station on Light Street includes extra room for appliances, more modern facilities, an operations area and

an appliance bay. The brigade has now operated from three different stations since it was formed in 1942.

Also in attendance were the Group Officer Chris Cowan and Brigade Captain Fred Holtman.

Mr Fred Holtman, Hamley Bridge Brigade Captain said that the brigade is very pleased with the new state of the art station and that it is a far cry from the brigade's original station all those years ago.

01. From left, Hamley Bridge Group Officer Chris Cowan, Brigade Captain Fred Holtman and CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with CFS Cadets and Brigade members at the opening of their new station.

## Bushfire CRC Research "ASH" Project

The Bushfire CRC is conducting a research project on the combined effects of fatigue, heat and smoke (Awake, Smokey, Hot, ASH) on firefighters' performance and safety when on the fire-ground. Whilst a number of studies have been undertaken looking at the effects of these elements individually on firefighters, this study is aimed at combining these to identify the collective effect.

The ASH Project which is a collaborative activity and is partnered with the University of South Australia's Centre for Sleep Research and Deakin University's Centre for Exercise and Sports Sciences and will involve up to 200 volunteers from Victoria, Tasmania, ACT & South Australia.

The CFS has agreed to partner the Bushfire CRC and support the project by hosting research sessions through 2011-13 to conduct trials of

4 day bushfire simulations at Brukunga in a controlled environment using small groups (maximum 5, not the same participants each time).

CFS is seeking Volunteers to take part in this research, capturing the performance (mental and physical) and sleep of volunteers across consecutive shifts (72h). Participants will be required to 'live' in a simulated environment at the CFS

Training College in Brukunga for four nights.

If you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please contact Sarah Jay or Sally Ferguson at the University of South Australia sarah.jay@unisa.edu.au or sally.ferguson@unisa.edu.au 8302 1780 OR 0459 224 009

## ESTABLISHING BUSHFIRE SAFER PLACES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

BY RICHARD WALD

Derived from the outcomes of the Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission Report (2010) recommendations calling, for among other things, "a range of options available in the face of fire, including community refuges, bushfire shelters and evacuations", the CFS has developed a hierarchy of Bushfire Safer Places that have been established across South Australia.

As can be seen from the fact sheets listed on the CFS website there are three levels of Bushfire Safer Places. Each level is based on the relative safety from the threat of bushfire that can be provided and is determined through measuring vegetation and topography to calculate bushfire attack levels in terms of radiant heat.

The three levels of Bushfire Safer Places are:

- Bushfire Safer Settlements
- Bushfire Safer Precincts
- Last Resort Refuges

A Bushfire Safer Settlement is considered to be able to provide the highest level of relative safety from bushfire and is represented by the inner metropolitan suburbs of Adelaide.

A Bushfire Safer Precinct is also considered to be a place to stay in or relocate to if a property owner's plan is to leave their home on a bad fire weather day. Bushfire Safer Precincts have been established in the central areas of large rural towns and cities and maps are available which depict where they will be.

“Despite providing a place of relative safety, a last resort refuge does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there.”



a Last Resort Refuge. Over 270 sites were identified and visited for assessment as Last Resort Refuges and 143 townships were surveyed to establish Bushfire Safer Precincts.

A full list of Bushfire Safer Places are available on the CFS website in preparation for the upcoming fire season.

In the establishing of these sites thanks must go to local councils and CFS officers in the Building Fire Safety Unit, Community Education and Regional offices for their assistance. Further thanks should also be given to the field assessment teams consisting of Iain Crawford, Wally Cook, Peter Venning and Matt MacGillivray, all CFS volunteers, who spent many hours on the road and in the field gathering the necessary data to establish these sites.

A Last Resort Refuge is an open space or building used as a place of last resort for people to access and remain in during the passage of a bushfire. It should be understood that despite providing a place of relative safety, a Last Resort Refuge does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there and should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans cannot be activated or have failed.

Establishing these sites across South Australia required consultation with over 50 local

councils to determine sites that could be considered suitable. Once identified, a field survey was carried out of each proposed site to determine its suitability through assessing the topography, vegetation and its separation distance from any vegetation of threat that would effect fire behaviour.

Through this data collection it was then possible to determine where a Bushfire Safer Precinct could be established within a township or if an open space such as a sporting oval was suitable for



## CFS VOLUNTEERS SMASH RECORDS AT THE SAPES GAMES

Dedication, endurance and speed were all on show by CFS volunteers at this year's South Australian Police and Emergency Services (SAPES) Games. CFS staff along with a total of 41 CFS volunteers competed in the 2011 Games with some record breaking results.

**B**rothers' trio Andrew, John and Daniel Jackson from Athelstone CFS Brigade showed their athleticism taking gold, silver and bronze medals respectively in the male stair sprint as well as the male firefighter full gear categories. Andrew even broke the existing stair sprint record completing the event in an astonishing 1:21:56.

A big congratulations goes to all contenders, in particular, the following medal recipients:

### Gold Medal winners

- Monique Blason x 3 (Cross Country 6km female 30 – 39, Mountain Bike Female 30-39 + 40-49 - XC2F, Orienteering)
- Dirk Gardner x 2 (Stair Race Stair Sprint Male 40-49, Firefighter Full Gear 40-49)
- Kain Gardner x 4 (Cycling, Criterium, Hill Climb and Road

Race male 30-39, Mountain Bike Male 30-39 - XC1M)

- Andrew Jackson x 10 (Indoor Rowing 2000m Individual Male 18-29, Stair Race Stair Sprint Male 18-29, Stair Race Firefighter Full Gear 18-29, Stair Race Overall, Track and Field 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m and 1500m Male 18-29, 110m Hurdles)
- Daniel Jackson and John Jackson (Rowing Indoor, 1000m teams)
- Sam Sanderson (Cross Country 12km Male 40 - 49)
- Aaron Schiek x 2 (Stair Race Stair Sprint Male 30-39, Firefighter Full Gear 30-39)
- Garry Talbot (Shooting Clay Target - Trap Double Barrel B Grade).



### Silver Medal winners

- Stuart Boehm (Angling – longest snapper)
- Andrew Jackson and Carlo Mignone (Rowing Indoor, 1000m teams)
- Andrew Jackson x 2 (Track and Field Triple Jump, Long Jump)
- Daniel Jackson x 4 (Track and Field 400m, 800m and 1500m male 18-29, Shot Put)
- John Jackson x 4 (Indoor Rowing 2000m Individual Male 18-29, Stair Race Stair Sprint Male 18-29, Stair Race Firefighter Full Gear 18-29, Stair Race Overall)
- Garry Talbot x 2 (Shooting Clay Target – Skeet Singles B Grade and Trap Pointscore B Grade)
- Karen Wishart x 2 (Cross Country 6km Female 40 – 49 and Mountain Bike Female 30-39 + 40-49 - XC2F).

### Bronze Medal winners

- Daniel Jackson x 5 (Stair Race Stair Sprint Male 18-29, Stair Race Firefighter Full Gear 18-29, Stair Race Overall, Track and Field 100m and 200m Male 18-29)
- John Jackson x 4 (Track and Field 110m Hurdles, Triple Jump, Shot Put and Long Jump)

- Garry Talbot (Shooting Clay Target - Trap Double Rise B Grade)
- Marianne Talbot (Shooting Clay Target - Trap Pointscore B Grade)
- Leroy Uren (Angling – longest whiting)
- Karen Wishart (Orienteering).

SAPES Games coordinator Mal Watts will be seeking your participation in next year's Games so pencil in Sat 28 April to Friday 11 May, 2012 and keep up that training. The SAPES Games are a fantastic event which encourages fitness, wellbeing, camaraderie and inter-agency liaison. The Games are also a great chance to meet new people and most of all they are FUN! No matter what your fitness level, as long as you are part of the Emergency Services you can participate.

It is also important to note that the SAPES Games are an approved activity for which the CFS provides injury cover (if injury occurs during registered event participation). If you have any enquiries regarding the Games, contact Mal Watts on 8463 4294.

**01.** Athelstone CFS Brigade member Andrew Jackson demonstrates his high jump skills during the SAPES Games. Photo courtesy Adam Romanowski and SAPOL Photographic Section.

**02.** SAPES Games Coordinator Mal Watts rewards Andrew Jackson with a trophy for his efforts in this year's event.

## ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW SUCCESS

The Royal Adelaide Show was a great success and the CFS would like to thank everyone who took part in representing the CFS at the show.



The emphasis on this years CFS show stand was that the CFS is 'More than a Bushfire Service'. Obviously bushfire is a huge part of what we do, but we also do so much more such as structure fires, road crash rescues and during severe weather events which members of the public may not realise. To demonstrate this we had a large display on the back of the Community Education trailer showing what we do, there was also a 'did you know' section to inform the public.

As well as educating the public about who we are and what we do, the show provided the perfect chance for us to launch the new i-Phone app which the public could see and use through a large touch screen computer. In celebration of the new app we ran a competition where one lucky member of the public won an iPad. Members of the public had to fill in a few questions about what they have learnt about the CFS in order to get a chance to be entered into a prize draw to win an iPad.

This brought people in and also meant that they had to read and take notice of the display stand in order to take part in the competition. To those who offered their time to help promote the CFS and the important services we provide to the community thank you and we hope to see you again next year!

**01.** CFS Chief Officer with Smokey at this year's Royal Adelaide Show.

**02.** The CFS display at the Royal Adelaide Show.



## Pride of Australia

Several CFS volunteers were nominated for Pride of Australia medals this year. This program which is run by Advertiser Newspapers is now in its seventh year and acknowledges remarkable and extraordinary contributions of any member of the community.

The awards comprise ten categories - Outstanding Bravery, Courage, Heroism, Community Spirit, Child of Courage, Young Leader, Care and Compassion, Inspiration, Environment, and Fair Go. Nominations were made by friends, colleagues or relatives over a six week nomination period.

### Nominees are:

Tony and Leonie Lange  
Sandy Taylor  
Ray  
Neil Kennedy  
Tom Walsh  
Geoffrey Braddock  
Geoff Smith  
Kenneth James Little  
Robert Possingham  
Malcolm Roach  
Matt Bonser  
Leah Pippas  
Jeff Anderson  
James Clements

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated but special congratulations goes to Tony and Leonie Lange who were Pride of Australia finalists in the Heroism category. The pair went on to compete in the national competition for the chance to win a pride of Australia medal. Well done Tony and Leonie and to all of our CFS nominees!



## FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CFS BY MELISSA LODGE



reducing the number of UFAs. Further information relating to the new fees and charges has also been incorporated on the CFS website in order to alleviate any concerns clients or volunteers may have.

In order to have the maximum impact in the reduction of UFAs and achieve the State Government's revenue targets, the Fees and Charges team require your assistance by submitting your fire reports in a timely manner and if possible in accordance with SOP 2.1.

If you are experiencing any issues in relation to repeated UFAs please contact your Regional Office in the first instance and they will pass on the details to Kevin Churchward who will work with the premise owner, fire safety contractor and the brigade to reduce UFAs. Any issues in relation to the Fees and Charges themselves can be directed to Melissa Lodge (charges@cfs.sa.gov.au) who will endeavour to assist you.

In September 2010, the State Government announced their initiative to introduce service fees and charges for the CFS. As a result of this decision, the CFS commenced charging from 1 July 2011 for the connection and monitoring of fire alarms, attendance at unwanted false activations (UFAs) and the provision of some building fire safety services.

The introduction of these fees and charges means the CFS will effectively address the need to:

- Improve the utilisation of resources within the CFS structure
- Ration the demand for services provided
- Recover costs where appropriate
- Align service fees and charges with those charged by the SA Metropolitan Fire Service; and
- Reduce the number of UFAs as a result of poorly installed and maintained fire

alarm systems or avoidable activation of alarms from human behaviour.

Phil McDonough, Compliance Officer has been given the responsibility of administering the new fees and charges. Together with Melissa Lodge (Business Services Officer) and Kevin Churchward (Fire Alarms Officer), the aim is to reduce UFAs and professionally manage Fire Alarms monitored by the CFS.

The Building Fire Safety Services that are now charged are for the provision of Commercial Reports in connection with construction

and compliance to fire safety standards.

It is important to note that as of 1 July 2011 Brigades are unable to charge a premise direct for an UFA as this is being done centrally through the Fees and Charges Team. As a result of this change please know that \$100.00 will be allocated at the Group level for each alarm activation that brigades attended in the 2009/10 financial year. It is also important that Brigades understand that the cause of the alarm activation (Situation Found/ Incident Type) will determine if a charge is applicable. The correct investigation of the cause of the alarm activation will ensure that clients are charged correctly. A full list of charge criteria is available on the CFS website.

To date, all existing CFS clients have been advised of the changes via letter and provided with information to assist in their understanding of the reasons for the State Government's initiative and how they can assist us in



“The cause of the alarm activation will determine if a charge is applicable.

## CFS TEAM ENTER ULTIMATE ENDURANCE RACE

“The event proved a great opportunity to use skills taught through CFS training and demonstrate our resilience.

A team of staff and volunteers recently entered one of Australia's ultimate endurance races the Mountain Designs Geoquest adventure race in Numbucca Heads, NSW. The race is held over a non-stop 48hr period and involves navigating over 100km through remote and rugged terrain on foot, on mountain bike and in kayak over different legs.

A CFS team of four entered the non-stop 48hr adventure race and to complete the race you must finish with the number of team members you start with. Disciplines of trekking, mountain biking, sea kayaking and roping were part of the race and teammates must stay together for the whole race and attempt all legs of the course. The race put the team's ability to navigate, work as a team and overcome challenges to the test, all of which are core attributes of a CFS firefighter.

### The CFS team:

**Karen Wishart** - Firefighter at Williamstown

**Monique Blason** - Operations Support at Gumeracha

**Andy Warner** - Region 2 Operations Planning Officer

**Brenton Hastie** - Region 1 Operations Planning Officer

“As a team we had been moving at a steady pace all weekend having chosen not to sleep” said Brenton. “We collected



some checkpoints that other teams had written off as being too hard. We were able to work closely with the SA Ambulance team at one point when we were trying to find a difficult check point in a creek bed in the middle of the forest. It was great to have two South Australian emergency service teams link up.

“The event proved a great opportunity to use skills taught through CFS training and demonstrate our resilience

including the extreme weather, fatigue and unexpected adversity. Events that really tested us included having a bike reduced to one gear within the first couple of hours and having our raft suffered a puncture half way through a river crossing”.

The CFS covered the costs associated with the entry fee and food. Sponsorship was granted on the bases of it promoting health and fitness and a positive image of the CFS. The race was

held in terrible weather conditions and continuous rain caused the withdrawal of many teams and resulted in the race being called off due to major flooding. However the CFS team still did extremely well are to be congratulated for their efforts.

01. Some of the kayaks that were used during the Mountain Designs Geoquest adventure race in NSW.



## CFS FIRE ALARMS OFFICER BY KEVIN CHURCHWARD

As a result of the State Government's initiative for the CFS to introduce fees and charges for fire alarms, the CFS identified the need to directly administer alarms in the CFS area of responsibility. It was because of this that I commenced with the CFS in February 2011 as the Alarms Officer to manage the alarms we monitor and to provide support to the Business Support Officer (Melissa Lodge) for fees and charges.



In addition to this, my position also includes:

- Managing the CFS fixed fire alarm monitoring process
- Providing support to the CFS Building Fire Safety Unit with testing and commissioning of fire detection systems
- Providing project and policy development for fire alarm monitoring management
- Acting as a point of contact for volunteers on technical information and support; and
- Assisting in the delivery of training on fire alarms at a brigade level.

Since my commencement in February the CFS has purchased 2 x fully operational Ampac fire alarm panels to assist with training to Brigades who have completed the PUA-FIR206B Check Installed Fire Safety Systems course. These panels can be used for Brigade training nights for follow up training.



Fact sheets to assist with AIRS report writing and completing the SACFS attendance log books, as well as reference sheets on how to operate the fire panel in your area, are now available in the Members Only section of the CFS website.

Brigades should re-familiarise themselves with SOP 4.5 Automatic/Monitored Fire Alarms which will greatly assist us all in investigating Unwanted False Activations (UFA) and fees and charges.

If you are experiencing repeated UFA or would like support or training on the fire alarms in your area then please contact your Regional Office in the first instance and they will pass your details on.

**01.** Smoke alarms need to be checked regularly to prevent false activations that could result in unnecessary fees and charges.



## AFSM Honours

Congratulations to Leigh MILLER (pictured left) and Jeffrey CLARK (Lyndoch) both worthy recipients of the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

Jeff joined the Emergency Fire Service back in 1973 as a cadet with Smithfield brigade. He later moved through the ranks and became Brigade Captain

before moving to the Region 2 Operations Support brigade where he now currently serves. Jeff played an important part in the use of thermal imaging in the region to identify hotspots during campaign fires.

Leigh, who is the Manager of Prevention Services, has been a staff member with the CFS since 1986. He took the lead and was a key driver

in preparing the CFS when the "Prepare, Act, Survive" campaign was brought in as a national initiative. Leigh has maintained a focus on ensuring CFS delivers the necessary community safety preparedness/prevention requirements and ensuring the legislation supports the new direction for bushfire mitigation.

Congratulations to you both.

## EXPEDITION COMPASS BY LISA GREIG

Expedition Compass was a huge success with 12 Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and proxy members and three staff from across the six CFS regions in attendance. This event was the first planning weekend held by the CFS Youth Advisory Council.

Formed in November 2010, the CFS YAC have been had at work establishing themselves as a committee and getting to know the current issues regarding young people both in the CFS and in their communities.

Expedition Compass was held from the 12 - 15th of May at Willow Springs Shearers Quarters, Flinders Ranges. The camp was planned to allow the representatives to meet with their proxies as well as establish important documents such as the YAC Action Plan for 2011 - 2013. This camp also provided the attendees with skills they need to influence decisions and become leaders of tomorrow, whether in their brigades or in their life outside of the CFS.

We were lucky enough to have the company of John Hutchins, Regional Commander (Region 2) and Andrew Lawson, Deputy Chief Officer (who is a member of the YAC). CFS Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton also visited to show his support for the YAC. The young volunteers



were extremely grateful to be surrounded with such supportive staff members who provided guidance and advice on a number of issues.

While the majority of the time was spent hard at work, there was also some time for team building as well as developing skills such as leadership, conflict resolution and problem solving. Participants also completed Skytrek - a 4WD course which gave them some time out to have fun and reflect on discussions from previous days.

It was empowering to see a group of young people committed to the CFS and passionate about the business the agency is involved in. The young people who attended were a fantastic representation of the type of volunteers we have in our agency who have the skills and confidence to be future leaders.

Please ensure that you contact these young people if you have any issues regarding youth in the CFS or would like more information about the work

the YAC are currently involved in.

Contact details can be found on the CFS Member's Only website or you can email [yac@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:yac@cfs.sa.gov.au) and your enquiry will be directed to the appropriate person.

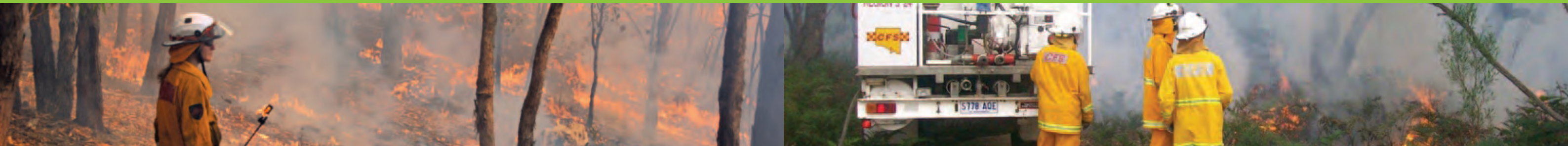
**01.** Members of the CFS YAC  
L-R Back: Luke Trewartha, Lisa West, Jason Donnon, Kirstie McGarrity, Daniel Phillips, Andrew Lawson, Greg Nettleton, Ruth Coveney, David Mansueto, Lisa Greig  
L-R Front: Luke Wilden, Nick Ditter, Nicole Kelly, Kerry Gilson.

“The young people who attended were a fantastic representation of the type of volunteers we have in our agency who have the skills and confidence to be future leaders



# PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

## NEW INITIATIVES 2011-2012



### 52 Week Plan

#### What is it?

Each Community Education Officer has developed a 12 month plan for their area, including identifying areas of risk and concern; targeting engagement treatments such as Bushfire Ready and Blitz meetings to conduct, Community Fire Safe groups to create, and other programs such as Firey Women.

#### Why are we doing it?

To ensure we're using our resources most effectively, aren't missing opportunities, and are consistent in our messages across the state.

#### Where is it at?

We've consulted with HQ and regional staff to identify events, etc; are assigning resources to different events and activities; have worked with Corporate Comms and campaign staff to lock in messages; and are using the weekly messages in a couple of regular radio spots around the state. With the addition of other social media platforms (e.g. facebook and twitter), these messages will be more widespread.



### Community Engagement Plans

#### What are they?

A plan outlining: key field days, shows and events; resource and staffing allocations; and strategic key messages for the whole Community Engagement team broken down week by week over the whole year.

#### Why are we doing it?

As part of a risk-based strategic approach to target our resources in the most effective way. To be proactive in the planning of our events and activities, allowing us to better coordinate and promote them.

#### Where is it at?

Community Education Officers have worked with information from: the 52 Week Plan and Community Engagement Strategy, Fire Prevention Officers and district plans, Regional Prevention Officers, and brigades. They have created plans for their areas, and we now have an engagement picture across the whole state.



### Social Media Strategy

#### What is it?

A strategy to use social media (such as Facebook, Twitter, etc) as an additional platform to reach the public, both for emergency services updates and longer term community engagement. The strategy will include: staff and volunteer policy; best platforms to use; resourcing; risk management and record keeping; measurement and evaluation.

#### Why are we doing it?

Social media is a growing source of information for people. We need to be in this space, or others will do it on our behalf without our control. It is also an area with risks and opportunities and must be entered into with an informed and considered approach.

#### Where is it at?

We have engaged a specialist consultant to develop the strategy, have procured twitter and facebook profiles, are configuring the website to integrate interfaces between our CMS and Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and build and deploy CFS blogs. This will be launched by Bushfire Action Week.



### CFS Website Enhancements

#### What is it?

The CFS website and community information microsite will be enhanced by: a revised menu structure and navigation; a shared events calendar; an e-commerce solution for ordering brochures, etc; the implementation of an upgraded email subscription service; a review and rebuild of the members training area (TAS). It will also be configured to interface with our social media outlets.

#### Why are we doing it?

To make it easier for people to find essential information quickly when they visit our site. To better integrate ways in which we push out information and process requests, reducing double-handling and increasing efficiency, accuracy and accessibility.

#### Where is it at?

We have conducted user research and testing to inform the new structure and navigation, and are continuing to implement the changes listed above. The enhancements will be complete by the end of August.



### CFS Mobile Phone Application

#### What are they?

A mobile phone app will be available via free download and from iPhone, Android stores. It will enable people to access information on current Fire Danger Ratings, incidents, and nearby Bushfire Safer Places; and will include a Bushfire Readiness Checklist, Fact Sheet Library and other safety and survival information and actions.

#### Why are we doing it?

Another way for people to easily access our information, responding to the needs and requests of the community. Like the social media strategy, this is not intended as a be all and end all option, but as *another* source of information.

#### Where is it at?

The apps will be available by 1 September.



### QR codes

#### What are they?

QR Codes, or Quick Response Codes, are becoming increasingly popular worldwide. Similar to bar code technology, QR Codes are made up of a pattern of black modules which can be scanned and decoded with your camera phone using QR Code reading applications. Many organisations, as well as individuals, are using QR Codes to advertise products, offer discounts, or to provide additional information and more. We are looking at using these in brochures, posters, and other material.

#### Why are we doing it?

QR codes are becoming more mainstream as a way of quickly directing people to websites or imparting information. We can use this short-cut to easily direct people straight to relevant information on our website, etc.

#### Where is it at?

CFS has dipped a toe in the water with the latest Volunteer Magazine, and the new "Bushfire Safety and Survival" brochure. We are currently looking at the best way to incorporate these in an informed way without alienating audiences unfamiliar with them.



# “KNOW YOUR RISK” FIRE SEASON MEDIA CAMPAIGN

BY NEIL CHARTER – PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER CFS



Delivering effective communications for an often emotive and confronting issue such as bushfire can be challenging. Over the past three years incidents such as Wangary and the Victorian Black Saturday fires have compelled the CFS to assess its methods of communications and ways of assisting communities to prepare for bushfires and their safety.

The Victorian Black Saturday Royal Commission findings and associated research had led to clear recommendations where bushfire safety advertising should head. This has influenced what we believe is a very exciting CFS campaign for 2011/12.

Part of the television and press advertising strategy will be to feature some of our Volunteers. For the CFS this presents a huge opportunity to influence the community's bushfire preparedness.

The importance and respect of volunteers as ambassadors for the CFS and particularly campaign messages has played a significant role in shaping the concept for the 2011/12 campaign media ads.

This year, the CFS advertising campaign will focus on:

- Knowing your risk and
- Having a Bushfire Survival Plan

The campaign will be led by a 30-second “teaser” pre-season TV advertisement that will raise everyone's curiosity about bushfire, to be followed by the next phase, highlighting the risks. This phase of the campaign will demonstrate the speed of fire, smoke and ember attack. In each advertisement the audience will hear the message delivered by a featured volunteer.



Television is just one part of the total campaign and will be supported by radio, press, print materials, outdoor and ambient advertising.

This year's campaign will also see the introduction of a CFS Smart Phone App that can be downloaded free to provide the latest bushfire information as well as CFS Facebook and Twitter sites.

Those travelling will also be targeted at caravan parks, service stations and other touch points, to be made aware of bushfire risk.

This year's CFS Bushfire Ready advertising campaign will be launched in mid-October with simple and factual messaging to be delivered to you from people in your community who are trying to help you through an exciting approach to promoting bushfire preparedness and safety.

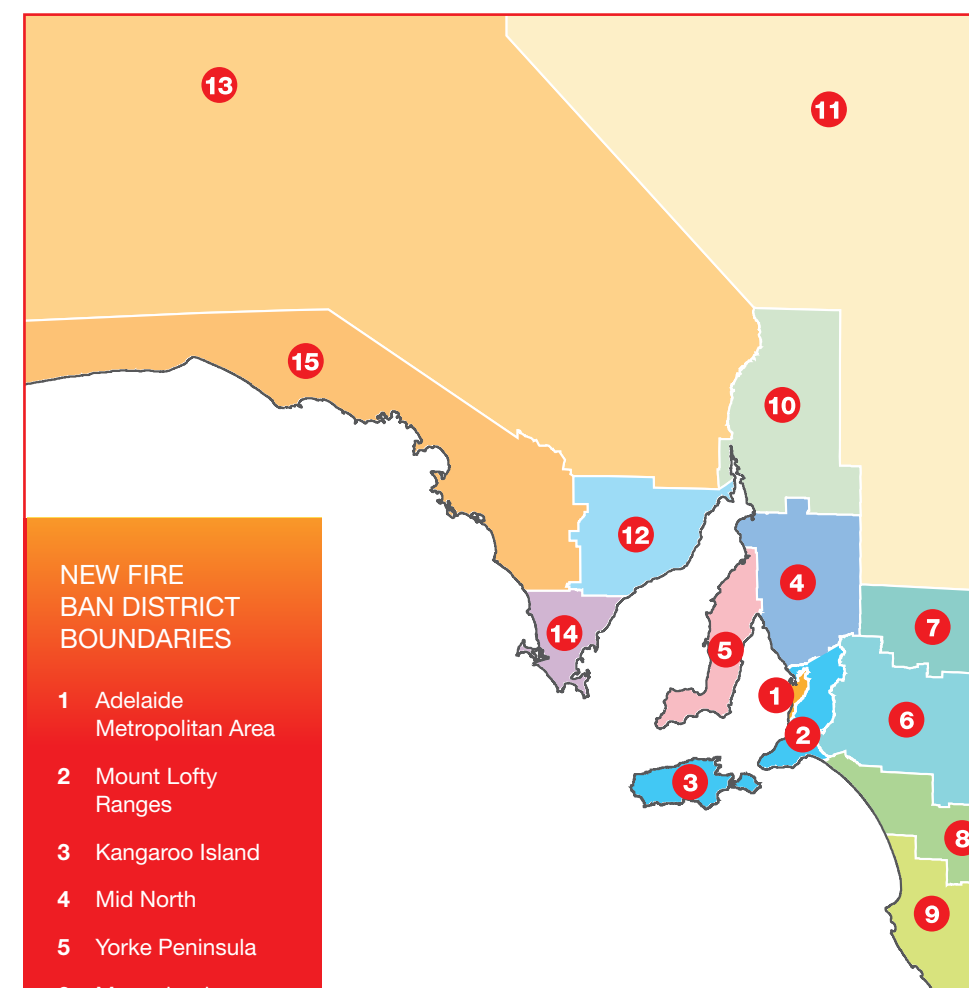
“The bottom line is that bushfire safety advertising needs to be simpler and more direct.”

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO FIRE BAN DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Prior to the 2011/12 Fire Danger Season, South Australia will see some important changes to several of the current Fire Ban Districts.

As volunteers and ambassadors for the CFS, it is important that you familiarise yourself with these changes to be able to provide members of the public with answers to any questions they may have. While the names of all the Fire Ban Districts will remain the same, some boundaries have changed. These are:

- Hambidge and Hincks Conservation Parks will now be in Eastern Eyre Peninsula.
- Gawler Ranges National Park was split between Eastern Eyre and North West Pastoral; it is now completely in West Coast.
- The line dividing West Coast from North West Pastoral has been moved from the 30th parallel to the 31st.
- Murraylands:
  - > Ngarkat Conservation Park has been taken out of the Upper South East is now all in Murraylands.
  - > The western part of Mid-Murray Council is now in Murraylands (part used to be in Mt Lofty).
- Mt Lofty Ranges:
  - > The western part of the Mid Murray Council now in Murraylands.
- Adelaide Metro borders expanded.
- Adelaide Metro (expanded to reflect spread of urban development):
  - > Northern suburbs: boundary extended east to include new developments.
  - > Boundary extended south from Hallett Cove to Maslins Beach.
- Flinders, Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula, Riverland, Lower South East and Lower Eyre Peninsula all remain unchanged.



The changes came about due to the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) implementing their Next Generation Forecast and Warning System (also known as “Graphical Forecast Editor”, or GFE) which will enable them to record more accurate weather information than before (in 6km grids). As part of this implementation BOM reviewed their Forecast Districts.

As traditionally BOM Forecast Districts have aligned with CFS Fire Ban Districts, consultation was had between the CFS, BOM and various stakeholders to make the decision to move some district borders to retain this alignment. All but two will

align with the Forecast Districts (BOM combines Adelaide Metro and Mount Lofty Ranges into one Forecast District – we need to keep the two as distinct Fire Ban Districts).

Most of the changes impact the Department for Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) or uninhabited land, except for Adelaide Metro which has been expanded to reflect the spread of urban development.

The new Districts will be gazetted under section 78 of the Fire and Emergency Services Act.

More information and detailed maps will be available on the CFS website.



## ORIGIN CONTINUES ITS SUPPORT FOR THE SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION

Earlier this month, Origin Energy, Australia's largest energy retailer, signed on as a sponsor of the South Australian Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) for its fourth consecutive year.



At a presentation event held at the Oakbank/ Balhannah Country Fire Service (CFS) brigade in Balhannah, Regional Manager for Origin LPG South Australia, Mark Sneddon presented a cheque for \$5,000 to Executive Director of the CFSVA, Wendy Shirley.

"We have over 80 employees within Origin's South Australia LPG network, so supporting the local community that supports our business is important to us", said Mr Sneddon.

The CFSVA, which is based in Adelaide, represents the interests and welfare of over 15,000 Country Fire Service volunteers across South Australia.

Ms Shirley said, "Origin has been a strong supporter of the CFSVA for a number of years, and it is great that this will



continue in 2011. The much needed funds will assist the CFSVA to support our members by sponsoring future CFSVA Volunteer Forums around the state."

Chris Tanner, Acting Captain of the Oakbank/ Balhannah brigade said,

"It is fantastic that Origin is getting behind the CFSVA as they play an important role in the future development of CFS brigades throughout the state."

Origin provides a LPG cylinder exchange delivery service (drop-off and pick-up service) and a tanker fill service for customers with larger LPG needs. In addition, the local community also has the support of Origin LPG Authorised Dealer network.

For more information call 133 LPG or visit [www.originlpg.com.au](http://www.originlpg.com.au)



**\$150 each** inc GST

These beautiful watches feature the CFS Star, and come in both male and female styles. They make great gifts for CFS Volunteers and can be engraved on the back.



**\$20 each** (\$5 off!)

These cuddly bears are our most popular item. Stock up today while these bears are selling for this special price.

01. (L to R): Origin SA State Sales Manager Simon Gooley, Lenswood Gas gas fitter Steve Pollard, Lenswood Gas representative Roger Flavell, Executive Director CFSVA Wendy Shirley, Origin Regional Manager SA, NT and WA Marc Sneddon, Origin Senior Account Manager Paul Bazeley, and Acting Captain Oakbank/ Balhannah CFS Chris Tanner. Image courtesy of Origin.

## REGION 2 CADET CAMP

BY NEIL CHARTER – PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER CFS



On the weekend of 20-22 May the Region 2 Cadet committee hosted the Region 2 cadet camp in the Tothill Ranges. The camp was attended by 70 cadets and 25 leaders from Kapunda, Hamley Bridge, Mt Torrens, Eudunda, Greenock, Roseworthy, Yorketown and Weetulla brigades.



Cadets engaged in activities including orienteering, team building, stork the lantern, rounding up sheep and laser skirmish. Many new friends were made and old friendships renewed. On Saturday night we enjoyed a delicious roast tea with special guests regional commander John Hutchins and his wife Jenni.

The weekend was a great experience for these young people who will soon be serving our communities. Special thanks go to the Region 2 staff for their support and also to Wendy for all of her hard work organising the event.



“The weekend was a great experience for these young people who will soon be serving our communities.”



# MORGAN CFS CADETS

BY KAREN JOHNSTON, ASSISTANT CADET LEADER, MORGAN CFS

About five years ago the Morgan Brigade decided to run cadet training separately from seniors training and since then it has grown to be a successful part of our brigade. Some of our past cadets are now a part of our senior brigade as well as ex cadet Kirstie McGarrity now a member of the new Youth Advisory Committee. Well done Kirstie.

Each fortnight the cadets don their PPE and board the appliances in readiness for another action packed training night with their Cadet Leaders Gordon Johnston and Nathan Marks (and sometimes myself!). Training sessions have included Hose Drills, Hands on Extinguisher Training, GPS and Map Reading, Burnoffs and Burnover Drills. The cadets make good use of the different areas on offer in our town. Some training locations have been at the riverfront, the local primary school, local go-kart track and using various hydrants around town. They have also been lucky enough to have the use of local rural properties for burnoff exercises. Thanks Dave and Wonga!

This year Morgan was privileged to have four cadets participate in the Anzac Eve Youth Vigil in Adelaide. Nicholas Seton, Brandon Joseph, Haylee Campbell and Ashleigh Johnston proudly represented CFS with Nicholas being a part of the Wreath Laying Ceremony and Ashleigh reading the "Ataturk Statement" during the official ceremony. Congratulations to all Region 3 cadets who took part in this significant event.

Our current group of cadets (with girls outnumbering boys!) is very enthusiastic and willing to learn and eagerly await each Tuesday fortnight for their next training session.



01.



02.

“Our current group of cadets, with girls outnumbering boys, is very enthusiastic and willing to learn.”

01. Members of the Morgan CFS Brigade supervising Cadets during a training exercise.

02. CFS Cadets who took part in the Morgan Brigade training event.

03. A simulated burn off exercise is demonstrated during the CFS Cadet training in Region 3.



## New National Police Check Forms

In July a new National Police Check consent form was introduced. This form has been developed after discussions with volunteers and regional staff who have sought clarification of the 100 points of identification requirements.

Requirements from the Crimtrac agency, which undertakes the police checks, and the Spent Convictions Act 2009 that recently came into force meant that our information sheet and forms needed to be updated.

Key features of the new forms include:

- One form for all agencies
- Only members of SAFECOM, CFS and SES are able to be authorised Officers. (Police Officers and JPs are no longer able to witness documents)
- The ID section has changed to make it clearer for people to understand the 100 points
- Photocopies of ID will now be required (these will be destroyed after three months), but these do not have to be certified copies

New versions of the National Police Check form are available on the CFS members only website (under Volunteer Support > Forms) and have been distributed to all Groups and Brigades as part of the Annual Returns process.

VSS will not be accepting old forms after 1 October 2011.

If you have any questions or queries about National Police Checks, please contact VSS on 8463 4102.

### DID YOU KNOW?

In 2010-11, the Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch (VSS) has processed 1549 National Police Checks, and of these 65% were done within three working days, and a further 17% were done between 4-10 working days.

## VERSP- RIVERLAND

Two Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support events (VERSP) were held in May acknowledging 50 members of the local community.



The events were held to recognise as many volunteers, self employed volunteers and employers of volunteers as possible. The VERSP recognises the role of emergency service volunteers and the employers that support them. Additionally, it provides the SAFECOM Board an opportunity to meet with volunteers to hear about local issues.

A morning tea was held at Waikerie CFS Brigade where 11 employers and self employed volunteers were recognised for their contribution to the emergency services.

The VERSP dinner was held at the Lutheran Peace Hall in Loxton, where SES and CFS volunteers, retained fire-fighters and their employers enjoyed a smorgasbord of treats courtesy of the St Peters Loxton Lutheran Catering Committee. Speeches were given by Mr David Place, CEO of SAFECOM, District Council of Loxton and Waikerie Mayor Leon Stasinowsky and Loxton SES Unit Manager Daniel Schulz. The Chief Officers from the CFS and SES and Acting Chief Officer from the MFS presented 39 certificates to supportive employers.

Over 100 volunteers and their employers attended the two events, highlighting the very strong emergency services network in the Riverland.

### Certificate recipients were:

Waikerie Building Services, Lance Edmund Pech, Glen Hansford Sole Trader, Phillip Braunack, R.J. Pope, Gillainey Orchards, Century Orchards Pty Ltd, District Council of Loxton Waikerie, Manuele Engineers, Harold W Cottage Orchard, NAS Insurance Brokers, Dave Allan Maintenance Services, Plane Wood, Berri Tool Sharpening, Landmark Loxton, Flight Motors Pty Ltd, Agrie-Exchange, Schulz Repair and Sales, Jubilee Park Vineyards, Renmark Club Inc, Pat Portolesi, J & C Milne Welding, Big River Renovations, ELGAS Ltd, Renmark Irrigation Trust, Loxton Smash Repairs, SA Water, Central Irrigation Trust, Hand Built Homes, Loxton High School, Angoves Wines, Coles Supermarket Berri, Big River Foodland Supermarket, Riverland Tinting and Larry Signs, Roofing Solutions, Riverland Cabinet Makers, GM Arnold and Son, Sheridan Schubert, Cadell Training Centre, B&PG Falcinella, Department for Correctional Services, Waikerie High School, Warrawee Lodge, Think Water, SA Police, Waikerie Bakery, Waikerie Foodland.

## Position Descriptions for CFS Volunteers

The Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch (VSS) have been working on Position Descriptions (PDs) for volunteer positions within the CFS. A reference group was established with representatives from the CFS, the CFSVA and SAFECOM HR. The PDs were approved for use by COAC in April and approved by the Chief Officer on 17 June 2011.

The benefits of PDs include:

- A clear definition of the tasks and responsibilities of a role in a group or brigade, and the skills required to undertake that role.
- The identification of positions/roles within groups or brigades that are

needed that can be addressed by targeted recruitment.

- Accountability to the roles that volunteers are elected into.

The PDs have been based on the Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2005 but some additional ones have been developed at the request of volunteers, such as Finance Officer positions.

The PDs will form part of the updated Volunteer and Administration Manual, but are currently available from the CFS Members Only website under 'Volunteer Support' 'Resources'. Alternatively, you can contact your Regional Office or Volunteer Support Officer (VSO).

# 55 VOLUNTEERS HONoured

01.



55 volunteers were recently honoured in Region 1 at a presentation celebrating 45 years of service. The National Medal presentation by the Chief Officer took place at Echunga Community Hall.

Australian National Medals are awarded for fifteen years of service to recognise the dedication and commitment of individuals to the emergency services. A clasp is then given for every ten years service there after.

### Third clasp for 45 years of service:

Name	Brigade
Robert McDougall	Cherryville
Malcolm Morgan	Ironbank
Peter Simpson	Strathalbyn

### Second clasp for 35 years of service:

Name	Brigade
Peter Bonython	Summertown
Malcolm Morgan	Ironbank
James Drummond	Woodside

### First clasp for 25 years of service:

Name	Brigade
Ian Bailey	Piccadilly
John Uniacke	Piccadilly
Raymond Jackson	Brukunga
David Skey	Brukunga
Peter Walker	Brukunga
Brian Tugwell	Mt Barker
Craig Thomas	Aldgate
Kevin Macinuas	Ironbank
Dessmond Riessin	Ironbank





# LYNDOCH PUMP TRAILER (LPT) — WAY TO GO GLYN!

BY SHANE EMMS

Since joining the Lyndoch CFS Brigade Glyn Schirmer has always shown great dedication with any task he sets his mind too and the determination to finish what ever he starts (over 500 hours for this project) is remarkable. He is a real achiever and this is proof when he designed, developed and built the ‘Lyndoch Pump Trailer’ after encountering problems on the fire ground which most of us take for granted as this is the way it is meant to be, but not Glyn.



After experiencing considerable non productive time at incidents waiting for water and with the knowledge that a BWC was to be delivered to the Barossa Group, a pump trailer to complement the BWC13 and release appliances from draughting or pumping tasks was proposed by Glyn Schirmer. This proposal was developed and subsequently approved firstly by the Lyndoch Brigade, then the Barossa Group and finally by Region 2. With the support of Region 2 a second-hand 6x4 trailer was supplied and a number of surplus items were also obtained by Andy Warner. The majority of the project was funded by the Lyndoch Brigade from brigade generated funds. A metal fabricator Air Diffusion Agencies donated all of the custom made

internal and external panels for the LPT in addition to custom made metal storage boxes. The LPT initial scope included:

- Independent operation by two persons
- 2 x engine driven portable high volume low pressure pumps of approx 1000 litres/ min capacity
- Ability to bottom or top fill two appliances or FFU's simultaneously
- Floating foot valve to access clean water with removable floats to access tanks and FCD's
- A 5000 litre FCD to complement the 7500litre FCD on the BWC enabling the BWC to drop its entire 12500litre load. This enables the BWC to carry rather than distribute water

- A standpipe to access low flow mains water by continuous filling of FCD's
- A 30metre 25mm layflat hose and branch for crew protection
- A generator and lighting to allow night operation and charging of radio batteries
- Water and food to sustain two persons for one shift
- A shelter attached to the trailer and chairs for two persons

Also included are:

- A portable VHF radio and charger for fireground communications
- A GPS to accurately locate the LPT
- Reflective roadside banner to direct appliances to water
- Reflective "WATER" cones to mark access route

- Tally board to identify volume of water delivered to appliances
- Spare parts for key items
- A First Aid kit

Development continues as the 'Lyndoch Pump Trailer' (LPT) will also be used during flooding. A "fishtail" pickup is being developed to access water approx 25mm deep. Well Done Glyn! Lyndoch Brigade is very proud of your efforts and proud to have you as a member!

**Above.** The Lyndoch Pump Trailer developed by Lyndoch CFS Brigade member Glyn Schirmer for a quick and effective response on the fire ground.

# NATIONAL MEDALS AND SERVICE AWARDS

CFS executive officers, representatives of the CFS Volunteers Association and local dignitaries gathered in Gawler to acknowledge the service commitments of volunteers in CFS Region Two. CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton presented the awards. Fourteen long-serving members of the CFS received a National Medal or Clasp in addition to two others who'll be acknowledged with a CFS Service Award. The National Medal recognises long and diligent service by members of organisations that help communities during a crisis. A special appreciation award was also presented to Jeff Ayres who retired from the CFS after serving as a Region 2 Community Education Officer.

**CFS service awards**  
Lance Walter, 60 years, One Tree Hill (Para Group)  
Robert Williams, 50 years, Mt Templeton (Wakefield Plains Group)

Name	National Medals and Clasp	Brigade
James Mitchell	2nd Clasp	Angaston
John Hutchins	National Medal	Tanunda
Michael Sandford	2nd Clasp	Tea Tree Gully
Peter Pentland	1st Clasp	Virginia
Geraldine Pentland	National Medal	Virginia
David Williams	National Medal	Virginia
Steven Gooden	National Medal and 1st Clasp	Saddleworth
Peter Baeker	National Medal	Kadina
Ian Watson	National Medal	Concordia
David Bradshaw	National Medal	Kersbrook
Lisa Bryant	National Medal	Dublin
Peter Jarman	National Medal	Roseworthy
Peter Inkster	National Medal	Region 2 Operations
Andrew Hallam	National Medal	Region 2 Operations

# Saddleworth Celebrates 200 years of Service

Saddleworth CFS recently held their Service medal and certificate presentation. Presentations were made by Andrew Allchurch, CFS Gilbert Group Officer and David Williams, Saddleworth Brigade Captain.

- Service medals were awarded to:
- David Miller, 10 years service
  - Sandy Wells, 10 years service
  - Leslie and Axel Larsen, 10 years service
  - Adrian Nourse, 20 years service
  - Steve Gooden, 20 years service
  - Andrew Paterson, 20 years service
  - Andrew Wurst, 30 years service
  - Peter Schulz, 30 years service
  - David Williams, 40 years service



Service medals were presented to members of the Saddleworth CFS Brigade. Photo courtesy of the Northern Argus.



## 'MYPO' BRIGADE AWARDS

BY STEVE HEIN, MYPOLONGA BRIGADE CAPTAIN

Country Fire Service volunteers from the Mypolonga Brigade were presented with medals at their recent AGM acknowledging the combined service of over 130 years to the community as firefighters.

**M**r Don Patten has been a very active volunteer at Tailm Bend, Murray Bridge and Mypolonga Brigades as well as holding many positions within the Mobilong/Swanport Group, Region 3 and State throughout his fire fighting career of 42 years. Don has served in almost every position including Brigade Captain and two decades as Group Officer.

He has seen many changes during his years of service to both equipment and structure. Don has also had the opportunity to assist in emergencies and disasters in most parts of S.A. including deployments to Kangaroo Island, NSW and Victoria.

Rodney McMahon was recognised for his 30 years membership of the Mypolonga Brigade, during which time he has had many roles including many years as Brigade Lieutenant. Like the other Brigade members Rodney has also responded to many parts of the State at a minutes' notice.

Steve Hein joined his local Brigade after witnessing a dairy fire across the road from his employment over 20 years ago. After being elected as the Mypo Brigade Admin. Officer he has increased his involvement and has also held many roles within his local Brigade, Group and has assisted in the co-ordination of larger incidents across the State and also responded on a number of occasions interstate.

Michael Fiegert has volunteered to serve not only the local community but most parts of our State during his 20 years as a member of the local Brigade, always assisting the community in time of need.



“The medals are a small token to recognise the commitment that is required 24/7 as a volunteer fire fighter in a small community like ours.

Michael has also held various roles within the Swanport Group over the years when work commitments allowed him the time.

Both Brenton Cain and Geoff Wilson have been members of the Mypo Brigade since a recruitment drive in 1999. Both volunteers have travelled many kilometres to assist others in time of need, Brenton serving as Lieutenant for many years while Geoff was Brigade Captain for a number of years.

“The medals are a small token to recognise the commitment that is required 24/7 as a volunteer fire fighter in a small

community like ours,” Rodney McMahon said. Michael Fiegert added that “the thank you after helping out in a time of need and a sense of achievement is payment enough.”

Don Patten remarked that over the years the sense of camaraderie between volunteers has never ceased to amaze him. As firefighters volunteer by stopping their day to day lives to assist others in an emergency, many strong lifelong friendships have been formed.

“Most Brigades are really struggling for membership and the roles you can be involved in vary so much. There are

many more roles than that of a fire fighters required at every station,” Brenton Cain said. Steve Hein encouraged anyone looking to give something of real value back to their community to contact their local CFS Brigade. Although there are times you'd rather forget - the skills, confidence and mateship that is developed along the way cannot be matched.

**01.** Mypolonga CFS Brigade members who were presented with service medals.

# MINE RESCUE

BY STEPHEN SCARR, ROXBY CFS

**F**rom 30 April to 1 May 2011, a mine rescue competition was held at Roxby Downs.

The CFS was asked to supply a crew and our Urban Rural Pumper for the hot fire pad component of the competition. The CFS also supplied umpires to mark the teams on their performances in the truck fire, car rescue and gas fire.

In all it was a great experience as we were also able to watch other events in the competition in different areas of the mine site. Some of the CFS members who work on site are also members of the volunteer mine rescue team and took part in this competition alongside other employees from all areas of the mine.

**01.** A CFS volunteer during the mine rescue competition at Roxby Downs.

**02.** Spectacular flames on the hot fire pad during the mine rescue competition.



**02.**



## OPERATION WEDGETAIL

BY STEPHEN SCARR, ROXBY CFS



Operation Wedge Tail was conducted at Roxby Downs airport to test the response of the CFS, State Emergency Service (SES), SA Ambulance Service, BHP Billiton Olympic Dam Emergency Team and SAPOL to respond to an aircraft emergency. This exercise happens about every two years and is a requirement for the airport to stay open for commercial planes and is designed to test the response of the local emergency teams.

The CFS' involvement consisted of 12 CFS crew members manning two units from Roxby Downs, another in the forward command centre and two as observers. The aircraft used was an Alliance Fokker 50 which services Roxby all the time.

The exercise was a good learning curve for all involved with a tour of the aircraft after the exercise finished enabling all to see the hazards involved in this type of incident. It also

showed all the emergency exits, how to open them from the outside and the areas to be aware of when near the aircraft. Overall it was a very successful exercise with a great deal learned by all.

**01.** The multi agency crew including CFS who took part in the Operation Wedge Tail at Roxby Downs Airport.

**02.** Part of the Operation Wedge Tail exercise at Roxby Downs.



## Commander appointed

Bluey Devine has been appointed to the position of Regional Commander - Region 4 and commenced in the role as of Monday 25 July 2011.

The CFS welcomes Bluey to this role and looks forward to his ongoing contribution within Region 4 and the CFS overall.

## RESERVE FORCES DAY

[ REGION 5 ]



Emergency Services from the South East marched with local members of Australia Reserve Forces in Mt Gambier. A rainy morning did not deter a combined group of CFS, SES and MFS from marching along with the CFS Regional Commander, SES A/Regional Commander and MFS Regional Manager. The march was reviewed by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR Governor of South Australia. Wreaths were laid at the memorial gardens for all those reservists who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in serving their country.



**01.** From left, Region 5 Commander Brett Merritt, SES Commander Trevor Arnold and MFS Regional Manager South East, George Rodis who took part in the Australian Reserve Forces march in Mount Gambier. Photo courtesy of Kylie Merrit.

## MAJOR INCIDENTS



### Padthaway Tragedy

Crews from Padthaway, Willalooka, Lochaber and Naracoorte were confronted with a terrible scene at the multiple fatalities that occurred just north of the Padthaway Township in mid June. Tragically 4 members of the same family lost their lives in this incident. Ironically occupants of both vehicles were from the same local community of Keith and were related. Crews carried out their role professionally in strained circumstances and provided support to those injured in the professional manner to which we have become accustomed of the CFS.



### Spate of Structure Fires in the South East

A number of Groups across the South East are experiencing a rise in structure fires that they are attending. Crews from Robe attended an early morning incident at the Robe Hotel where a fire had started in the kitchen and was not able to be extinguished by the staff on hand. The fire was controlled within a short time but not before the couple of occupants at the hotel were evacuated and considerable damage was done. This has kept the kitchen out of action for some time.



### A timely reminder...

A reminder of the importance of smoke detectors was highlighted with the attendance of the Moorak, Yahl and Compton Brigades at a House Fire at OB Flat in early July. Thankfully an operating smoke detector woke the two young occupants to a fire in the roof. With the early warning they were not only able to safely get out of the house but they also managed to remove a number of valuable musical instruments.

## Staff Movements

### Retirement of Regional Administrative Officer

Jill Bennett has announced her retirement from the Country Fire Service. After 8 years of service to the volunteers of the South East she will finish up in the office in early November. Jill has been an important part of the team over her years with the CFS. Jill has also provided a service to volunteers across the state in her role of processing all of the National Medal applications for a number of years now. Jill you will be missed by all in Region 5. Good luck in your retirement.

### New Staff Member Arrives

In mid July Jason Druwitt commenced in the office as Regional Operations Planning Officer. Jason came to us from the Region 2 office at Willaston. He had been relieving as the ROPO there from his substantive position as the Volunteer Support Officer. Jason has already become an integral part of the Region 5 team. Welcome aboard.

[ REGION 6 ]

## Tulka Map Book a life saver

BY GREG NAPIER, LINCOLN CAPTAIN

Over the last two seasons Lincoln brigade have with much assistance from Xenia Ottens, Rg6 staff, Therese Pedler, "Community Fire Safe" (often in their own time) created a "map" book of the township of Tulka.

Tulka has no mains supply and firefighting water is difficult to access quickly in the event of a structure fire or similar. In consultation with the members of the Tulka community and assisted by Therese a very large proportion of the township has allowed CFS access to their yards to "map" each tank, noting volume,

access etc. They have allowed us to use their rainwater in the event of an emergency.

With Xenias help and Therese's local knowledge each resident has been catalogued stating contact numbers, who is likely to be in residence and when Etc. This has been catalogued into a map book, again with the help of regional staff. Each season any changes to the community are noted and adjustments made to the map book.

Therese Pedler Region 6 Community Education Officer added that Greg Napier, Lincoln Brigade Captain



was the one with the initial "scathingly brilliant idea". "Greg is the very happy end user who gives many many hours of his time freely to lead an amazing brigade. Although Xenia and I contributed to this valuable resource being compiled, it would be of

absolutely no use without the support, commitment and professionalism of the volunteers within the CFS."

**01.** From left, Lincoln Brigade Captain Greg Napier, Region 6 Community Education Officer Therese Pedler and Xenia Ottens, with their Tulka township map book.



# OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Region Six have been busy again attending events throughout the community. Most recently the Cowell brigade paid a visit to Cowell play group where children got the chance to see a fire truck and even squirt water from the fire hose.

First Lieutenant June Young and fire fighter Andrew Story were on hand to talk to the children about what fire fighters do and the importance of fire safety. The children did not go home empty handed and received a goodie bag with stickers, pencils and information about home fire safety.

Therese Pedler, Community Education Officer for the region has visited a number of events promoting the work of the CFS and giving fire safety advice. Events attended include National Families Week which was staged on the Port Lincoln Foreshore.

The event was coordinated by Uniting Care Wesley and provided a great opportunity to interact with people of all ages.

Therese also attended Family Day Care for Special Needs children. The fun day was held at the Port Lincoln Gymnastics Club. The children loved meeting special guest SMOKEY and each got a bag of "goodies" to take home to their parents and care givers. They were encouraged to talk to their parents and carers about being Bushfire Ready.



01.



02.

“The children did not go home empty handed and received a goodie bag with stickers, pencils and information about home fire safety.”



03. Smokey meeting new friends in Cowell.

02. The Cowell CFS Brigade visit to the local playgroup was welcomed especially amongst the young fans of Smokey.

03. Mums and children getting involved in fire safety initiatives at the Cowell playgroup.



# CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE



The CFS Corporate Communications Unit (CCU) are working to finalise several initiatives in preparation for the upcoming Fire Danger season. Below are a few projects the team have recently worked on:

## Communicating the update to fire ban districts to the public

Each Community Education Officer has developed a 12 month plan for their area, including identifying areas of risk and concern; targeting engagement treatments such as Bushfire Ready and Blitz meetings to conduct, Community Fire Safe groups to create, and other programs such as Firey Women.

## Outback Bushfire Awareness



With exceptional vegetation growth in the far north and north-west outback regions the 2011/12 bushfire season presents a significant threat. Unusually high fuel loads create a potential threat to travellers, tourists, mining settlements, outback communities, freight and public transport services and business operators if ignition occurs.

Region 4 is the focus of a dedicated campaign to increase public awareness of the risk, what they need to do in the event of fire as well as where they can go for further information about bushfire safety. Bushfire awareness will be promoted through print materials, radio Community Service Announcements if available and any publications in circulation within Region 4.

## Media Training



The CCU is working with Training Coordinator Lee Watson to organise sessions for the CFS' annual Bushfire Safety for Media training. This training is a two hour theory based course provided to journalists and camera crews who may find themselves at a CFS incident as part of their role.

The course provides the media with an understanding of fire behaviour and how to stay safe on the fire-ground. The media are very important to the CFS as they help to promote the fantastic work of volunteers and assist in effectively relaying critical safety and survival information to the public. Providing them with this training also gives them an understanding of the demands on the CFS and promotes how we can work together to ensure the best outcomes for all.

## Publications

### BROCHURE

The CCU has produced a brochure to promote that the CFS is 'more than a bushfire service' which was also the theme for this year's Royal Adelaide Show. While the name CFS is almost synonymous with bushfire response, the public aren't always aware that our volleys respond to a raft of incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The brochure lists the other types of incidents that the CFS responds to and provides a general overview of the organisation and how to become a volunteer.

The new brochure can be downloaded from the CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) and copies have also been sent to each regional headquarters. Additional brochures can be purchased through region/brigade budgets for events, etc. Just contact a member of the CCU on 8212 9849 to coordinate the printing.

### VOLUNTEER MAGAZINE

As always, the team continues to work on Volunteer Magazine, introducing a new and improved layout for the magazine this edition. Do you like it? As always we are always interested to hear your feedback on the magazine. Feel free to email us your thoughts at [corporatecomms@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:corporatecomms@cfs.sa.gov.au).



## WHO'S WHO IN THE



## ANDREW PATTEN



### Title:

Regional Prevention Officer

### Role in the CFS:

Conduct Community Education activities to assist the Community to become "Bushfire Ready".

### Location:

CFS Region 3 Headquarters located in Sunny Murray Bridge (the fun end of the freeway)

### A typical working day involves:

- Coming to work around 9ish, have smoko around 10ish, have lunch around 12ish go home around 5ish.
- Once every 4 weeks, I assume the role of Regional Duty Officer/Regional Co-ordinator (or what ever we are calling it this week).
- Performing the role of Executive for the Murray Mallee Bushfire Management Committee.
- Providing assistance to Fire Prevention Officers employed in each of the 8 different Local Councils that are located throughout CFS Region 3.
- Along with the Regional Community Education Officer we co-ordinate and participate in community education activities throughout the Region.
- Entertainment Agent for Smokey the Koala, I manage its appearances throughout Region 3.
- Providing light humour and entertainment to the rest of the gang who work within CFS Region 3.
- Answering general enquires from the public about bushfire management, particularly during the fire danger season.

## THERESE PEDLER



### Title:

Community Education Officer Region 6

### Location:

Many and varied – I get invited into peoples homes, car sheds, footy clubrooms, Town Halls, yacht clubs, aircraft hangers, sporting car clubrooms, community health centres, wineries and shearing sheds to do Community Fire Safe Group meetings. I also get invited to schools and kindies, homes for "at risk youth" and many other Community Groups, shelters from domestic violence, Riding for the Disabled and Family Day Care. I have also been invited to participate in events like a Teddy Bears Picnic and "No Smoke Day". If I am not "out and about" I am usually either at home at Tulka or in the Region 6 HQ in Port Lincoln. Sometimes I can even be found giving a radio interview or lurking around disguised as SMOKEY!!!

### A typical working day involves:

A typical working day involves: Getting two children to school, any of the events listed above, general admin and emails, afterschool chauffeuring of children to sax or drum lessons or band practice or hockey or soccer or basketball or football finished with preparing dinner, homework, washing clothes and dishes and getting the children to sleep.

## PENNY KAZLA



### Title:

Community Education Officer

### Role in the CFS:

Conduct Community Education activities to assist the Community to become "Bushfire Ready".

### Location:

Just recently moved into Region 2 from Region 1

### A typical working day involves:

I work part time, over a 7 day roster and conduct public education meetings and facilitate Community Fire Safe Groups to assist residents in bushfire prone areas to become "Bushfire Ready". When not "in these meetings", I am organising them, in consultation with our key stakeholders – i.e. lots of emails, phone calls, mail outs and planning!





## THE CFS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY LISA WEST



The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) is a group of young CFS members who are passionate about the organisation and where it is heading in the future.

01. From left, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson with YAC members Lisa West, Ruth Coveney, Nicole Kelly, Daniel Phillips, Kirstie McGarrity, Nick Ditter, Kerry Gilson, David Mansueto

The YAC had its first meeting in November last year and since then have created an action plan and are focusing on several projects including looking at mentoring programs and retention of members (among other things!).

The YAC is hosting the Region 2 Youth Forum on Saturday 24

September 2011 at Region 2 Headquarters. Young Region 2 members have been invited to attend this day to participate in a variety of activities including leadership activities, CRIIMSON training and looking at different vehicles and equipment available throughout the organisation and staging area.

This day will not only provide the members a chance to be exposed to these different aspects of running an incident but will also give them an opportunity to discuss issues they feel affect the youth of the organisation, with the YAC.

You can find out more about the YAC on the CFS website:

[http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about\\_us/youth\\_advisory\\_council.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/about_us/youth_advisory_council.jsp)

Watch this space for some other project outcomes in the very near future!

## LISA WEST



### Real name + nickname:

Lisa West, Westie

### What brigade do you belong to?

Lincoln

### Why did you join the CFS?

To help people and the community, learn a new skill and meet new people. Volunteering is something I have always done, my dad and I joined our local brigade together so that was something we did together.

### What's your favourite memory with the CFS?

There are too many to choose from, the friendships that are forged when you are on the back of a truck fighting a fire is a strong one and I have now made friends for life because of it. Some of the adventures that I have been on with these friends in and out of the CFS have been amazing.

### What do you do when not firefighting with the CFS?

Among other things hanging out with friends and family, working on improvements to the house with my partner, training other CFS members in OBAOC and other courses and being a rep on the Youth Advisory Council and working closely with the

other members. I am also the Supply Manager at the Pt Lincoln Hospital.

### After a long stint of firefighting, what food and beverages do you crave?

An ice cold Pale Ale or TED's (which ever is in the fridge) when I first get back, then a meal that I have not had to prepare and hopefully that includes a steak.

### What do you like to listen to on the drive home from a job?

The local radio station if I am on my own, otherwise I live with two other brigade members so we often discuss the events of the incident on the way home.

### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

(Not during fire season of course!) Somewhere that I can get away and spend some time with my partner, next on my list of places to visit would be Canada or Tasmania.

01. From left: Tristan Baldock (Lt 1), Lauren Wait (FF), Caitlin Sheils (FF), Ian Kenny (Birds of Tokyo), Mandy Thompson (SFF), Lisa West (me, SFF) at the Tumbay Bay Triple J One Night Stand.

## JUSTIN WOOLFORD



### Real name + nickname:

Justin Woolford (Woolly)

### What is your role in the CFS?

Region 6 Training Officer (Plus the usual regional on-call roles).

### How long have you been with the CFS?

Volunteer since 1995, career staff since 2008.

### What's your favourite memory with the CFS?

Watching the Sydney New Years Eve fireworks from the rooftop of the Novotel at Homebush, whilst on deployment to Sydney in 2001/02.

### What are your favourite and least favourite aspects of your job?

*Favourite aspect* – the people I work with (Region 6 vols & staff).

*Least favourite* – the (many, many) hours away from home.

### After a long stint of on call duties, what food and beverages do you crave?

Usually a home cooked meal (Weber lamb roast, vegies & pepper gravy) & the occasional glass of whiskey.

### What do you like to listen to on the drive home from the office?

My "office" covers the entire region (20% of the state) so the iPod gets a

workout – currently listening to Matchbox 20 & Blink182.

### Apart from the Bushfire Ready DVD what movies/television keeps you entertained?

Masterchef & NCIS, any action movie.

### Besides working for the CFS, what interests you?

I build scale models of tall ships (currently building the Bounty & the Endeavour), going to the gym (or for a run along the beach).

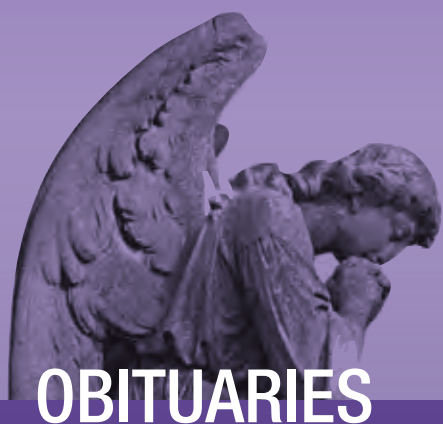
### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

(Not during fire season of course!) Somewhere sunny & remote (no phones or pagers!!) or camping on the beach.

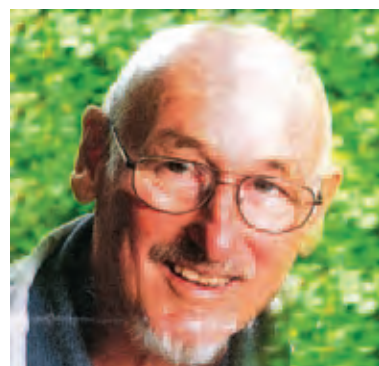
### Where will you be found when you're not working or volunteering for the CFS?

Spending time at the beach with my wife Anna and our Dalmatians, at the gym or catching up on the gardening.





## OBITUARIES



### GRAHAM NORMAN THOMAS

03 MARCH 1938 - 15 APRIL 2011

BY BOB SADLEIR, LT. 2 KANGARILLA BRIGADE

Graham Thomas was a member of the Macclesfield Brigade and spent nine years as Captain. Graham made many valued contributions to the Macclesfield Brigade, being involved with obtaining a brigade owned tanker. Graham realised the necessity to support CFS fire fighting operations within the Macclesfield community and Adelaide Hills.

When the CFS station was being rebuilt during the 1990's, Graham was a very active member. Graham

commanded a CFS appliance while firefighting in New South Wales in 1994, saving many homes in the Blue Mountains.

Graham was well known for his continued support for community activities, with the scouting movement in Echunga and various community groups in Macclesfield.

Graham is survived by his wife Gillian, daughters Vicki and Naomi and son David. Graham will be sadly missed by his family and all the CFS members who knew him.



### JOSEF ANDREW MEZGEC

22 MAY 1966 – 28 JUNE 2011

BY LEANNE ADAMS

On June 28 the CFS, lost a valuable, committed, skilled and knowledgeable member of the service, when Andrew Mezgec passed away.

We also lost a true friend and great mate.

Andrew commenced his service with the CFS at Evanston and then moved to Dalkieth when Evanston and Smithfield joined to make the Dalkieth CFS. He was a member of Dalkieth for 6 months before joining Virginia CFS from 1995 to 2003 with a stint in the middle at Salisbury. At Virginia he was a Senior Firefighter. In 2004 he moved to Edithburgh and joined the Edithburgh brigade where he took on the role of Brigade Captain.

At the time Andrew joined Edithburgh the Brigade was facing challenges with membership and having enough crew to respond to incidents. Andrew put in a significant amount of time and energy into leading his

team to increase training and membership levels. He raised the profile of the Brigade in the community and improved station facilities. His work has helped put the brigade in a good position for the future service to its community.

Andrew loved all things CFS and everything about fire and emergency services. In the past he had also been a member of both St John and the SES. He had a huge collection of fire memorabilia and an extraordinary knowledge of trucks and fire equipment.

As a leader and a mate Andrew was warm and welcoming. He was thoughtful and always ready for a joke and a laugh. He was great to be around and he was a loyal friend.

The CFS colleagues and friends extend their deepest sympathy to Andrew's family and wife, Kathryn.

He is sadly missed. Rest in peace Andrew.



### GEOFFREY BUYRN

BY WENDY SHIRLEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CFSVA

Geoff Buyrn loved the CFS, and it was a tragedy that a CFS accident caused him to spend the final four and a half years of his life in a wheelchair. But Geoff remained positive and didn't complain. He was accepting of his "lot" and just got on with things.

Geoff became a member of the CFS soon after there was a small grass fire around his house at Mount Bryan. As the years went on, his commitment increased and during the latter part of his time in Mount Bryan he was a devoted member of the local CFS brigade. Over the 17 years that he was with the CFS, he was a brigade lieutenant, local trainer, radio operator and drove the local fire truck if needed. He was the brigade secretary, and was passionate about the local cadets for which he was group cadet coordinator.

He was always looking for opportunities to improve his skills. Geoff set up an elective at the Burra Community School for students in years 6 -9, teaching them basic skills in prevention and firefighting.

After the accident, Geoff had to move to Adelaide to ensure he had the level of care he required. However he continued to maintain a keen interest in CFS and the Mt Bryan brigade. He

was greatly missed by the members of the Burra and District Group as his willingness to assist in many ways made other members workloads lighter.

Geoff is survived by his three daughters and four grandchildren, Emilee, Cooper, Charlotte and Peita.

Note from Geoff's daughters:

"We want to publicly acknowledge the contribution made by the amazing girls at Barton House. They have provided a very high level of care, concern and love to Dad and our family. Their efforts enabled us to develop a better relationship with him and allowed him to retain some of his dignity, neither of which could have happened otherwise.

We also want to provide our appreciation for the high level of support we have received over the past 4 ½ years from the CFS community and SAFECOM. It is evident that the CFS is an amazing organisation and they truly look after their volunteers. It is also wonderful to think that the Mount Bryan community has reached out to us even though we are no longer living there."

Marilyn Whitbread, Bridgett Singline and Heidi McInness".



### FABIENNE BAYET

19 OCTOBER 1970 - 9 MAY 2011

Fabienne Bayet, or Fab as she was known to her friends was a passionate author, gardener and firefighter. Sadly, after struggling with depression for many years on 9 May, at the age of 40, Fab took her own life.

Fab joined the CFS in 2003 when she became part of the Mylor brigade and later transferred to the Aldgate brigade in 2006. She had often written about fighting fires and the friendships she had made. She instigated the Aldgate cadet program and reached the rank of Lieutenant in 2009.

Fab was the author of two novels and was working on a third as part of her PhD in Creative Writing at Flinders University. Her first novel Finding Ullagundahi Island

was runner-up in the David Unaipon Award in 2000, while her second novel Watershed was a finalist for the Prize for Indigenous Writing in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards in 2006. In her third novel which she was working on before her untimely death she described some of the experiences she had as a firefighter while at the CFS to show what life was like.

The respect felt by the brigade and the local community was evident at her funeral which was attended by over 200 people. Fab leaves behind two children and will be sadly missed by all who knew her.





## SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE STATE HEADQUARTERS

Level 7, 60 Waymouth St, Adelaide  
Postal address: GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001  
Tel: 08 8463 4200 Fax: 08 8463 4234  
Email: [cfshq@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:cfshq@cfs.sa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)  
CFS Bushfire Information Hotline: 1300 362 361

## REGIONAL OFFICES

### REGION 1

Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island  
75 Gawler St, Mount Barker SA 5251  
T: 08 8391 1866  
F: 08 8391 1877  
E: [cfsr1@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:cfsr1@cfs.sa.gov.au)

### REGION 2

Mount Lofty Ranges,  
Yorke Peninsula and Lower North  
8 Redbanks Rd, Willaston SA 5118  
P: PO Box 1506 Willaston SA 5118  
T: 08 8522 6088  
F: 08 8522 6404  
E: [cfsr2@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:cfsr2@cfs.sa.gov.au)

### REGION 3

Murraylands and Riverland  
10 Second St, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
P: PO Box 1371, Murray Bridge SA 5253  
T: 08 8532 6800  
F: 08 8532 6220  
E: [cfsr3@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:cfsr3@cfs.sa.gov.au)

### REGION 4

Flinders Ranges,  
Mid North and Pastoral Areas  
3 Main St, Port Augusta SA 5700  
P: PO Box 2080,  
Port Augusta SA 5700  
T: 08 8642 2399  
F: 08 8641 0176  
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### VOLUNTEER STRATEGY AND SUPPORT BRANCH VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

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