

VOLUNTEER

VOLUME 127 MARCH 2012



CFS BUSHFIRE SEASON WRAPS UP FROM FIRES TO STORMS ACROSS THE STATE

**GENEROUS
DONATION FOR CFS**
*Smoke sighting
capabilities enhanced*

**THE NEW MEDIUM
URBAN PUMPER**
*Morphett Vale
puts it to the test*

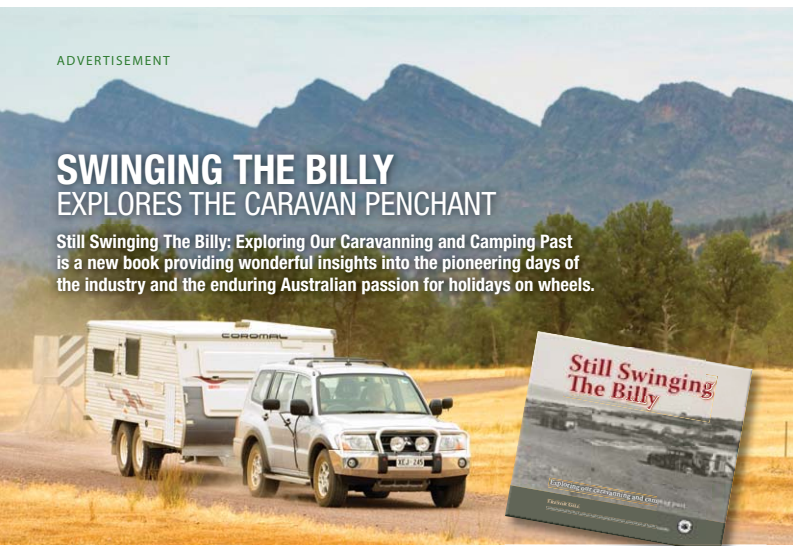


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SWINGING THE BILLY EXPLORES THE CARAVAN PENCHANT

Still Swinging The Billy: Exploring Our Caravanning and Camping Past is a new book providing wonderful insights into the pioneering days of the industry and the enduring Australian passion for holidays on wheels.



Commissioned by the Caravan and Camping Industries Association of SA, the book features fascinating stories and historic photographs of the early designers and manufacturers who paved the way for the six million Australians who today enjoy the caravanning and camping lifestyle.

Author Trevor Gill explores the origins of caravanning from the ancient camelers of Persia, the merchant travellers of the Silk Road spanning 12,000 km from China to the west, the colourful gypsies of England and Europe, the brave settlers who crossed new frontiers in the wild west of America and our own explorers, bushmen and drovers.

The book throws new light on an era when caravan travel and camping became more of a choice than a necessity as Australians discovered the joys of touring after the ordeals of the First World War and the Great Depression.

Some of the earliest caravans were built in South Australia in the 1920s, designs that were humble by today's luxurious standards but which provided basic comforts



against the elements as people explored more distant horizons.

The great boom in caravanning and camping occurred in the 1950s when Holden delivered affordable family cars that allowed people to enjoy their freedom like never before.

In this period, South Australia contributed disproportionately to the development of the industry in Australia given its smaller

population and remoteness from the major markets of the eastern States.

Outstanding design and quality of manufacturing were defining features of South Australian caravans that travelled the nation's roads. Sought after models included Fumess, Roadmaster, Paramount, Broadway, Globetrotter, Hardy, Rowan, King, Harris, Viscount, Carapark, Clipper, and Adventurer as the industry turned from timber to aluminium.

The origins of these vans and their manufacturers are explored in Still Swinging The Billy, as are the earliest caravan parks and camping grounds.

The book also examines our affinity with the itinerant lifestyle, our defining free spirit, our love of the campfire and of sleeping under a blanket of stars.

Trevor Gill has worked in association with the CCIAA to produce a book that has its roots in South Australia and the pioneers who contributed to the industry across the nation. In doing so, it is a key reference document on a national scale for information about our caravanning and camping past.

It is also an enjoyable and inspiring read about great characters, adventurers and achievers. Whether old or new, the book underlines why we continue to love life on wheels.

CCIAA Chief Executive Officer, Stuart Livingstone, said the book would serve as a monument to the industry, particularly in South Australia, and celebrate the achievements of the Association, which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary.

Boxed copies of the book can be ordered through the website www.CaravanAndCampingSA.com.au

01. The great boom in caravanning and camping occurred in the 1950s when Holden delivered affordable family cars.

02. Some of the earliest caravans were built in South Australia in the 1920s.



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Cover
The Happy Valley 34 Pumper with the Adelaide water bombing near the Myponga Reservoir where more than 100 CFS, DFB and Firebrary SA firefighters battled a grass fire on Sunday February 26. The cause of the fire was undetermined. Photo: Senior firefighter Andrew Paterson Happy Valley Brigade

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If you would like to contribute to Volunteer, send your photos and stories to: The Editor, Volunteer Magazine, GPO Box 2408, Adelaide SA 5001 or email: corporatecommunications@csf.com.au. Don't forget to include your name, address, brigade and a contact phone number. Photographs can be supplied digitally, via email or disc, in the largest file size possible or as original prints. Text can be supplied as hard copy or electronically, via email or disc as a Microsoft Word document.

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Protecting People & Property



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CHIEF OFFICER GREG NETTLETON

Another summer fire season has almost gone and many are saying it was a quiet one. Unless of course you are from Region 4!

As predicted, the drought breaking rains last year in the north and west of the State resulted in vast amounts of fuel across the Region. The first fires occurred in early October and from then until early March Region 4 staff and volunteers have been continuously involved in many fire fighting operations. The fires that threatened the towns of Gladstone and Wilmington are a reminder to us that every country community is vulnerable and the risk of fire is not just confined to communities in the Adelaide Hills. Work recently commenced on developing the next five year

CFS strategic plan. This plan will shape our organisation, our decision making and our procurement programs as we face the future challenges that will confront us. The first group to be consulted in the plan's development was the senior volunteer officers representing each region at the Chief Officers Advisory Committee (COAC). To further assist our planning process, I am commissioning audits of CFS structural fire, road crash rescue and hazmat capabilities to ensure we deliver contemporary and appropriate services to our communities and visitors to the State. The audits will be conducted by senior officers from Fire and Rescue NSW and Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. Our rural fire fighting capabilities have been previously audited through the Wangary Colonial process and

Project Phoenix. More recently our processes have been reviewed, and adjusted where necessary, following the release of the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission's interim and final reports and the Keely report into the Perth Hills bushfires that occurred last summer.

CFS has submitted a number of proposals to Government for consideration in the forthcoming State Budget process. Our first priority is support to volunteers through increased training opportunities, greater administrative support at Regional level for Groups and Brigades and a 24/7 operational and administrative central help desk. CFS is also seeking additional funding for many other initiatives including a breathing apparatus replacement program and preparing for CFS headquarters and the State Coordination Centre

to move from Waymouth Street to a facility more suited to CFS requirements. We now have to wait until the State budget is announced to see if our proposals have been successful.

One of the things I enjoy is the recognition by others of the contribution CFS volunteers make to ensure their communities are safe. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Terry Beeston and Sue Mickan on their award of the prestigious Australian Fire Service Medal in the recent Australia Day Honours List.

I look forward to meeting staff and volunteers at various locations and activities as I travel around the State this year. Stay safe and ensure everyone gets home.



BOARD CHAIRMAN, SAFECOM DAVID PLACE

"SAFECOM is getting on with business through supporting those who support their communities".

SAFECOM continues to support the sector in the key areas of delivering safer and resilient communities.

Recent major accomplishments for the sector have included implementing specific communication strategies and systems to improve community safety. These include the development of a social media collation webpage www.alert.sa.gov.au, continued state level involvement in implementing the location based solution for the Emergency Alert telephone warning system in preparation for the 2012-2013 Fire Danger Season, implementation of a computer aided dispatch system (SACAD) for allocating and dispatching resources to incidents and the establishment of the State Emergency Information Call Centre Capability (SEICCC).

As we head towards the closing end of another bushfire season, I want to share with you the many and varied things that we are doing at SAFECOM to support the sector, particularly volunteers.

Firstly, as many of you would be aware we have a new Minister for Emergency Services. Hon. Jennifer Rankine MP, who has taken a very keen interest in the Emergency Services Sector. This has been demonstrated through her formal attendance at the SAFECOM Board and her informal visits to the 'coalface' with volunteers.

The E-emergency Connect program is a group of related projects that has been set up to deliver a number of improvements and innovations in the delivery of emergency services for volunteers providing emergency services across South Australia.

A volunteer web portal will provide centralised email and calendaring, accessed through a single log-on to the new systems, as well as a single point of entry to a range of systems, services and documentation.

The delivery of an online learning system will reduce the time to complete induction training and establish the sector's online platform for additional recertification courses.

Training will be able to be done by volunteers at their own convenience - at home, work, station, brigade or unit, and

the system will include a web conferencing facility.

As some of you may be aware, the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) has gone through a number of changes recently. The main focus of the VSB is recruitment, with all staff playing a key role providing best practice volunteer management. Although recruitment is the main focus, VSB will continue to manage the police check process, provide advice on membership issues, deliver non-operational training and provide assistance to the establishment of cadet programs. All VSB staff are located in Adelaide and will be contacting Brigades shortly to let them know about the services provided and how to access them.

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



CFSVA PRESIDENT ROGER FLAVELL

This being my first Volunteer message since taking over from Ken Schulz in mid October, I would like to thank Ken for the time and effort he put in to the presidency of the Association, and say well done to his wife Tracy and their family for supporting Ken.

support the people who give their time freely to help others in emergencies. Volunteers need processes and systems that minimize the time spent in achieving the appropriate outcomes, whether dealing with an emergency or the endless administration or other responsibilities constantly appear.

CFS is becoming entangled in an increasing number of bureaucratic decisions through attempts by Government to reduce expenditure by centralising various agencies. While this may seem a good idea from a governance perspective, it results in influence from people who lack an understanding of the needs

and responsibilities of emergency volunteers on the frontline.

There seems to be an increasing frequency where the CFSVA and RVMC's are spending time and energy to make a situation practicable to work for volunteers on the frontline. Consultation is not just about telling our people what they will do, but is also about listening and understanding the issues, and accepting that volunteers have knowledge on how best to protect their local communities. It is only then that systems which are fit for purpose can be put in place.

The Association is in the process of reviewing the CFS Volunteer Charter but we need a

process for it to be recognised by all government departments that have any degree of influence on CFS and its volunteers. Most of us signed up to help our family and friends in the community in times of emergency. It was not to spend our valuable time adhering to the demands of government bureaucrats.

Great work has been done by Volunteers and management to limit the damage of fires across the state this season. Some indeed could have been much worse. Hopefully we can get through the next few months without a major incident.

Keep up the good work.



MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HON. JENNIFER RANKINE

This summer, CFS volunteers have responded to a number of major incidents, particularly in the northern parts of South Australia, including the Woolundunga bushfire in early January.

hundreds of kilometres away. Such is the intense emotion that bushfires generate in Australia.

As the fire raged, I visited Wilmington and the Command Centre at Port Augusta and was extremely impressed with the skill, energy and professionalism shown by CFS personnel and volunteers.

The tragedy of bushfires is forever etched in the collective minds of South Australians – particularly those who experienced the Ash Wednesday fires – our State's worst natural disaster.

On February 16, I attended the 29th memorial service of Ash

Wednesday, which was held at the Mount Lofty Tower Brigade.

The service was in memory of CFS volunteer firefighters who have died in service. I hope all South Australians took time to reflect on the fallen volunteers who made the ultimate sacrifice.

I also thought about the emotions that would have run through the minds of the 130,000 firefighters, defence force personnel, relief workers and support crews, who battled the Ash Wednesday fires across three states.

We must continue to learn from past events and prepare our communities and volunteers,

to ensure these deaths were not in vain.

This year, more than 30 new firefighting appliances will be made available, six new sheds will be opening – near Arno Bay and Streaky Bay – and upgrades at 10 stations will be completed.

The camaraderie that develops amongst volunteers is one of the great strengths of the CFS and that is why I plan to take every opportunity to visit brigades and meet volunteers.

NEWS & UPDATES

HIGH-TECH SUPPORT FOR TOWER BRIGADE

The Country Fire Service (CFS) received a generous donation in December from Australia's largest defence and security company – BAE Systems.



The gift came in the form of a set of location finder laser binoculars which was presented to the Mount Lofty Tower Brigade and can precisely locate fires from smoke sightings.

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton said this high-tech equipment can measure the distance of a smoke plume and simultaneously determine its exact location on a map displayed on a Tablet PC.

"The Laser Rangefinder binoculars will enhance the capabilities and accuracy of smoke sightings from the Mount Lofty Tower" Mr Nettleton said. "This will not replace any existing methods of fire detection or responses but will be a welcomed addition to existing CFS resources."

The Director of BAE Systems Land and Integrated Systems at Mawson Lakes, Kim Scott, said he was pleased to be supporting the CFS mission to protect life, property and environmental assets.

"The Tablet PC provides accurate location, address and digital map reference information to fire sightings up to 25 kilometres," he said.

"This system will increase the speed and quality of information provided by the tower to responding brigades.

It also demonstrates BAE Systems' ability to apply sensor, connectivity and information technologies to the security sector. "The equipment was supplemented with special training for members of the CFS Mount Lofty Ops Brigade.



[Mount Lofty Tower Brigade link]

Left, CFS volunteer Ralph Ollerenshaw tests the new high tech binoculars as Barry Rowland looks on. Picture: Mark Brake courtesy of The Advertiser

Fees and Charges

Regulated fees and charges for the CFS have now been in place for over six months and since its introduction last July, there has been over 800 unwanted false alarms (UFAs) across the regions.

The graph below reflects the number of unwanted false Alarms for the period July 2011 to January 2012.

- The most common causes of UFAs to date have been:
- Alarm System Suspected Malfunctions;
 - Detector Suspected Malfunctions; and
 - Cooking Fumes.

It is important for firefighters to remember that for the Fees and Charges Team to charge clients accurately



Above, Over 800 unwanted false alarms have been recorded across all regions, since July 2011.

and in a timely manner, fire reports should reflect the correct situation found, to form the basis of our charging criteria and to reflect SOP2.1.

To assist firefighters in determining the correct situation found for UFAs, the Fees and Charges Team have developed a pocket size reference card which will be

available through your Regional Headquarters shortly.

Business Officer Melissa Lodge is currently working on Annual Monitoring Fees for which invoices will be generated and issued in the very near future.

The Fire Alarms Officer (Kevin Churchward) has been working with clients within each region who have been

experiencing difficulties with their Fire Alarm Systems.

Kevin has been providing information and keeping clients informed of options available to them to reduce UFAs.

Discussions and site visits will continue to occur so that the Fees and Charges Team can facilitate improvements and effectively achieve a reduction in the number of UFAs as a result of poorly installed and maintained fire alarm systems or avoidable activation of alarms as a result of human behaviour.

For any issues that arise in relation to UFAs please direct inquiries in the first instance to your Regional Headquarters who will in turn contact the Fees and Charges Team.

NEWS & UPDATES

CFS VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR STRESS STUDY RESEARCH

Volunteers can take part on any of the following dates:

- 11–15 April 2012
- 9–13 May 2012
- 30 May – 3 June 2012
- 11–15 July 2012
- 12–16 September, 2012
- 10–14 October, 2012

Researchers are taking part in a national study to explore how environmental stressors such as heat, smoke and lack of sleep contribute to performance and safety when on the fire ground, are CFS volunteers.

They are keen for them to take part in a fire-ground 'simulation' capturing the performance of tasks (mental, including reaction time and memory and physical, including hose rolling, raking and hose dragging and repositioning) and sleep of volunteers across consecutive shifts.

Sleep and wake information will be collected before, during and after the simulation experience.

Participants will be required to 'live' in a simulated environment at the CFS STC in Brukung for four nights.

All participants are encouraged to consider a medical check before participating.

If you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please contact

Sally Ferguson at the Central Queensland University: sally.ferguson@cqu.edu.au (08) 8378 4508 or 0407 799 204. This research is being funded by the Bushfire CRC and

conducted by researchers at Central Queensland University, Deakin University and the CSIRO. The CFS fully supports this research.



Participants will be required to 'live' in a simulated environment at the CFS STC in Brukung for four nights.

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EMERGENCY SERVICES AWARD RECIPIENTS

CFS staff and volunteers were among the 26 people from various emergency services agencies in South Australia to be awarded either a Certificate of Merit or an SA Emergency Services Medal, by the Emergency Services Minister, the Hon. Jennifer Rankine recently.



Those who were acknowledged from the CFS at a special presentation were:

Ian Teakle who has served 25 years with the Middleton Brigade before adding another 19 years' service with the Monbulk Brigade where he still is today. During his time with the CFS he has been Deputy Group Officer and Training Coordinator for the Wattle Range Group. Ian has been the driving force behind the remake of the CFS Running Grass Fire Simulator – formally known as Mad Rabbit – and has spent a significant amount of time in the creation of operating training and procedures.

Ken Schutz who until recently had been president of the CFS Volunteers Association for seven years and before that, the vice

president for three. He has worked tirelessly to advocate on behalf of the interests of the 13,500 CFS volunteers across the state and has held the operational positions of Group Officer and Deputy Group Officer of the Mallee CFS Group. Ken was previously Captain of the Pinnaroo Brigade.

Fiona Dunstan in her role as CFS Manager of Community Education and Public Warnings, has been the driving force behind many initiatives to improve community engagement and inter-agency cooperation. In particular, she has worked hard to develop programs that target those groups who are particularly vulnerable to the threat of bushfires.

Grant Fensom has accrued almost 20 years' of service

with the Port MacDonnell CFS Brigade and was the Brigade Captain for a 10 year period up until last year. He has held a number of roles with Port MacDonnell while making a considerable contribution to the training of CFS personnel over the years. Grant is also a Trainer Assessor in areas including Basic Fire Fighting 1, Suppress Wildfire, Plantation Fire fighting, Tactical Command and Leadership and is currently the Cadet Coordinator for the Port MacDonnell Brigade.

Corey Frazer has been part of a multi-agency team who have developed, designed, produced and are now delivering a standard training package at the nationally accredited level. In June 2011, the team completed the unit 'Undertake

Road Accident Rescue' and have since been recognised for the quality of their leadership and their devotion to training throughout the development of this multi-agency training package.

Congratulations to all of the CFS award recipients.

Above. Some of the CFS representatives who attended the Emergency Services Medal presentation in December. From left, Strategic Services Director Ann De Piaz, Assistant Chief Officer Rob Sandford, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, award recipients, Corey-Jay Frazer, Fiona Dunstan, Grant Fensom, Ken Schutz, Ian Teakle and Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.



Serena Eales settles into her new role as CFS State Training Officer - Learning and Development

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROLE FOR SERENA

The CFS State Training Centre has welcomed its most recent addition to the training team with Serena Eales gaining the position of State Training Officer - Learning & Development.

Prior to joining the CFS as a staff member two years ago,

Serena brings to the role 11 years' experience in assessment and managing RTO compliance in the UK.

Serena's new role includes managing the Recognition Process to ensure relevant training and qualifications gained by all members are

acknowledged and assessed to aid their CFS role.

Serena will assist to maintain and manage staff professional development. She will also be working closely with the SES to give support within the same area of recognition along with RTO compliance.

For information regarding recognition and staff development please contact Serena at the CFS State Training Centre by email at eales.seren@cfs.sa.gov.au.

Child protection in the emergency services

The SAFECOM Child Protection Policy has been signed off by the Chief Officers from the Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and State Emergency Service (SES) as well as the Chief Executive from SA Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM).

This policy ensures that the Fire and Emergency

Services sector is committed to providing an environment where children are protected from harm or abuse and are treated with dignity and respect.

This policy is a sector-wide policy and applies to all members (staff and volunteers) in the emergency services sector.

To complement this policy the CFS also have a Child

Protection and Child Safe Environments Policy and Procedure. This document outlines what is required of cadet leaders and

volunteers involved in cadet training. It also outlines the responsibilities of a Brigade members and how they can make their brigade a child safe environment.

The CFS policy and procedure is available on the

Members Only section of the CFS website and can also be found in the Cadet Program Resource Folder.

Child Protection and Child Safe Environment training can also be provided to your group or Brigade. To arrange training please contact the Volunteer Services Branch on 08 8463 4102.

CFS NOW LINKED TO 'STATE OF THE ART' SACAD

BY GARY BAU



On December 1, 2011 at precisely 2.30 am, the first CFS appliances were dispatched using the state of the art South Australian Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) system.

This moment marked the culmination of nearly five years' of work by CFS volunteers and staff, MFS, SES, SAPOL and SAAS.

A team of around 40 people took part in the 'go live' night to make sure the actual transition ran as smoothly as the 'dress rehearsal' in the previous week.

The people who constructed SACAD including the mapping, response plans, interfaces, the IT, the trainers, testers, call-takers and dispatchers were all there on levels 3 and 5 of SAMFS in Wakefield Street, Adelaide.

Many emergency service organisations were also

represented including CFS, MFS, SES, Justice Public Safety, SAAS, SAPOL and the supplier of SACAD, Intergraph Public Safety.

From the CFS perspective it was the fruition of many years of hard work by volunteers and staff establishing brigade response areas, emergency response zones, back up beats, appliances call signs and entering and estimated 5 million pieces of data.

The SAFECOM SACAD team was led by Project Manager Andrew Hoyle, SACAD Business Analyst Bo Gacic, Systems Administrator Andrew Fielder, SACAD Test Analyst Brett Fox and with the assistance of Steve Moir from MFS, Colin Goodrich from SES and Gary Bau from CFS.

The CFS had an extensive consultation process with its staff and volunteers by conducting many road shows across South Australia in all CFS

Regions and worked for nearly 2 years with the CFS SACAD Business Reference Group which consisted of a volunteer and a staff member from each CFS region.

The challenges for the CFS since the transition has been reviewing mapping, response plans, appliance call signs and back up beats to enable refinements to be entered into SACAD.

The time taken to dispatch appliances from the 000 call to the response pager message has been significantly reduced and all CFS brigades now have response plans in SACAD. The actual location of incidents can be displayed in CRIMSON and the CFS website.

Above left. SACAD Project team members from left, Colin Goodrich, Steve Moir, Gary Bau and Andrew Hoyle.

The new Spatial Server is here!

BY SUSAN BARRIE AND NICK CUNDELL

Spatial information has always played an integral role in CFS operations, from the map books we're all familiar with to the Global Positioning Systems or 'GPS' units in planes and phones. It is used to dispatch appliances to incidents, locate resources, develop Bushfire Safer Places and determine activities like VERSP and Education.

In order to improve and expand the services available to the CFS we have begun the process of updating our spatial services, starting with centralising our Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The Consultancy firm AREIDA was engaged in 2011 to update the 'CFS GIS Roadmap'. This led to the purchase of the first stage of a 'Spatial Server'



that has enabled us to begin centralising and enhancing our pre-existing spatial information. We will better understand what information we have out there and what we'll need to collect and analyse to help volunteers and staff do the best job they can.

In terms of what we'll be able to offer in future the

possibilities are limitless. In the immediate future we are looking to enhance support to current projects including Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC), Bushfire Management Planning, South Australian Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD), Air Operations, Fire Investigation and Fire Alarms,

just to name a few.

Stay tuned for future exciting developments!

World GIS Day November 16, 2011

The CFS contribution to World GIS day, a world wide educational event that allows GIS users, vendors, educators and students to showcase applications of GIS, was a celebration at State HQ where the baking prowess of Susan Barrie and Nicholas Cundell was on display

World GIS Day 2012 will be held on November 14 this year.

Inset. From left, Susan Barrie, Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and Nick Cundell with the World GIS Day cake.

DEFENSIVE FIRE SUPPRESSION TRIAL COURSE

BY JUSTIN WOOLFORD, REGION 6 TRAINING OFFICER AND COREY DUNN, SENIOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



The CFS Lower Eyre Group has played host to the first volunteer course of Defensive Fire Suppression.

The course is based around the nationally accredited unit of 'Respond to Isolated/Remote Structure Fire' and was developed to fill missing skills taught in the previous Level 3 course. The target audience for this course is for non Compressed Air Breathing Apparatus (CABA) brigades, and non CABA-trained firefighters.

The course content focuses on practical skill sets, with response, hose drills and live LPG fire, which accounts for around half of the content. The theory sessions covered building construction and an introduction to structure fire behaviour, along with updated information on flammable gases, flammable liquids, electricity and vehicle fires.

The feedback from trainees was very positive and has assisted with validating the content and refining the presentations.

Vanilla Brigade Captain, Ross Pope said the training had supplemented the previous Level 3 course.

"This has provided a great update, especially on the topics of electricity and solar panel," he said.

"The LPG exercise was also more defensive-based."

Yeelanna firefighter Randall Wilksch who also completed the training said it gave him a new perspective in defensive fire responses.

"I have gained an improved awareness for these types of situations," he said.

The pilot course was facilitated by State and Regional training officers, with support from Region 6 staff and Cummins CFS Brigade. Thanks also to the Cummins A&H Society for the use of the local showgrounds at Cummins, which were used for the practical sessions.

The plan is to run a course in each CFS Region this financial year, in order to train a volunteer instructor pool that will assist State and Regional Training Officers.

Above. CFS crew members, from left, Benita Schmucker, Rohan Rock and Kym Eagle, operate a pump during their training.



NEWS & UPDATES

Volunteer Services Branch (VSB)

As some of you may be aware there have been a number of changes within the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB), SAFECOM.

VSB are able to assist you with the following:

- Help prepare your brigade for recruitment
- Provide advice and non-operational training in areas such as understanding your team, dealing with inappropriate behaviour and cadet leader training
- Process and provide advice on police checks
- Keep you up to date on available grants and assist in the application process
- Provide advice on areas such as membership and administration
- Officer assistance to brigades wishing to start cadet programs
- Provide the Volunteer Services Branch Promotional Trailer to brigades for use at recruitment drives, field days or other events.

To ensure that you continue to receive the support and services you require, the Branch can be contacted through one number: 1300 364 587 (local call costs apply)

The Branch can also be contacted by email on vsb@sapecom.sa.gov.au.

We look forward to continue working with you all.

AUSTRALASIAN FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

BY BRIAN HOLECEK, CFS STATE OPERATIONS PLANNING OFFICER



The 2011 Australasian Firefighter Championships was held at Port Macquarie in New South Wales in October.

These championships are designed to hone the skills of firefighters and are based on current firefighting practices with an emphasis on training scenarios encountered in today's fire and emergency response, as this has been its long tradition.

As fire engines and equipment are upgraded and modernised, new events are adopted and others deleted. Staged over a two-year period, the event consists of regional weekend championships held in some states in one year and culminate in the Australasian Championships on the alternate year.

Two personnel represented CFS for the 2011 Australasian Firefighter Championships as official judges - Mike Arnold AFSM Group Officer,

Mid Murray Group who has been involved in these Championships for many years - and Brian Holecek, State Operations Planning Officer.

Over the hotly contested weekend, competitors from 28 Australian and New Zealand teams participated.

The 12 events in these championships are based on real situations that firefighters may face daily, such as extinguishing fires in multi-storey buildings or using pumps to draw water from a dam.

As part of the Championships an official dinner was held on the Saturday night where approximately 480 participants and family members attended.

During the dinner Mike Arnold was recognised for his

service on the committee.

Mike has enjoyed a long history with the Fire Service and recently was recognised for his 50 years' service in South Australia. He is also one of three current members from the original Australasian Firefighters Championship Committee that was formed in 2002 and was tasked with designing the Australian Fire Service Medal. Mike stepped down from the committee after the Championship.

Congratulations Mike!

Above. CFS Group Officer Mike Arnold AFSM, left, with the President of the NSW Fire and Rescue Championships Association, Greg Fredericks

MUSEUM PLANS FOR RESTORED FIRE TRUCKS

NEWS & UPDATES



The Naracoorte-based volunteer organisation that is dedicated to restoring and preserving historic fire fighting vehicles and equipment, has moved a step closer to establishing a permanent base.



SA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM Inc

36 MacDonnell Street (PO Box 1222), Naracoorte SA 5271

Committee," has been temporarily based at the Naracoorte Showgrounds since 2006.

SAVFFM chairman Rex Hall said he was pleased that the State Committee and the National Trust has endorsed a proposal to relocate to the Sheep's Back Museum in the heart of Naracoorte which also houses a Tourist Information Centre.

"The National Trust has given our committee approval to develop a suitable building that will blend in with the heritage nature of the existing museum which was once an old flour mill dating back to the 1870s,"

Mr Hall said.

"This project is estimated to cost around \$250,000 which we

hope to raise through our fundraising efforts and government grants."

Mr Hall said the next step in the process will be to develop a business plan to be presented to the National Trust that will lead to the transfer of appropriate land.

"This building will be big enough to house 12 heritage fire fighting vehicles and memorabilia, including uniforms, service medals and other historic items," Mr Hall said.

"We're very excited about this project which will serve as a lasting legacy for all volunteers who have been part of South Australia's fire service for the benefit of future generations."

The SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum at Naracoorte is expected to be completed by mid 2013.



[SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum link]

Above. From left, in the foreground, Sheep's Back Museum and National Trust Naracoorte president Derek Blackwell, SAVFFM chairman Rex Hall and Working Party members Alan Hall, Barry Clark, Roger Bennett and Graeme McPhee.

VOLUNTEER EMPLOYER RECOGNITION IN ROXBY DOWNS



The SAFECOM Board travelled north to Roxby Downs for the most recent Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) event.

The event was an opportunity to recognise emergency service volunteers from Roxby Downs, Andamooka and Woomera, as well as the role that their families and employers play in supporting the emergency services.

The VERSP event was held at the Roxby Downs Club, which was very accommodating to the 83 people that attended.

State Emergency Service Chief Officer, Chris Beattie was the MC for the night and Mark Sutton from the Outback Communities Authority was the guest speaker.

Awards were provided to supportive employers and self employed volunteers, with a special award provided to BHP Billiton to acknowledge their support of the emergency

services in South Australia. Whilst at Roxby Downs, the SAFECOM Board took the opportunity to visit the Andamooka Emergency Services Centre and the Roxby Downs CFS Brigade/SES Unit. Both of these site visits and the VERSP event provided valuable opportunities for volunteers to talk to the SAFECOM Board (which includes the Chief

Above: SAFECOM chief executive David Place, left, with VERSP awards recipients and CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton at Roxby Downs.

Officers of the CFS and SES). Company and business award recipients were: Red Desert Cleaning Services, Glenloth Resources, Monadelphous, Roxby Downs Pharmacy, Subway, Northlands Plumbing and Construction, Roxby Downs Blockbuster, BHP Billiton and Andamooka Massage Therapist.

PERTH HILLS FIRE REPORT

The Bushfire CRC's report on last year's Perth Hills bushfires was published in September and was followed by a community meeting at Kelmescott - one of the affected areas - and attended by Bushfire CRC Deputy Chief Executive and Research Director Richard Thornton.

The report was the result of face-to-face interviews with residents of 425 households in the Roleystone-Kelmescott area by Bushfire CRC researchers from the University of Western Australia, with a further 900

responses from residents to a postal survey.

Western Australia's Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) asked the Bushfire CRC to conduct research into what the affected communities knew

about bushfire safety prior to the fires, how they interpreted and responded to fire services messages sent before and during fires and how they understood their role in fire safety.

The Final Report on the February 2011 Fires in Roleystone, Kelmescott and Red Hill Research Project found that many Perth Hills residents recognised a bushfire was possible in their area before the fires but did not see it as a threat to their own lives or properties.

Those who had recognised fire was a direct threat to them - after attending a Bushfire Ready Community Group meeting for example - did more preparation before the fires than others.

Richard Thornton said the findings were similar to those of research conducted after the February 2009 Victorian Black Saturday fires.

The full Perth Hills fires report is available online at: www.bushfirecrc.com/perthhillsfires_report



[Perth Hills Bushfire 2011 Review link]



FIRE DANGER SEASON LAUNCHED IN BELAIR

On Thursday 1st December 2011, the remaining three Fire Ban Districts had come into the Fire Danger Season with the CFS urging all South Australians to be Bushfire Ready over the next five months.

The summer Fire Danger Season Launch was held at Belair National Park with multi agencies and Emergency Services Minister Jennifer Rankine in attendance.

The Fire Danger Season had an early start last year with the North East Pastoral and North West Pastoral Fire Ban Districts commencing the season on October 15, two weeks ahead of the regular start.

The other 13 districts have had

different starts to the Fire Danger Season with Adelaide Metropolitan, Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, being the last of them to commence.

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton said climate predictions indicate potentially above normal levels of fire activity this season.

"We've already had several significant fires in the South Australia's Outback in North East Pastoral District where previous heavy rainfall has resulted in an abundance of vegetation not seen in these areas for many years," Mr Nettleton said.

"This has been consistent with the weather bureau's climate outlook also predicting higher maximum temperatures for January and February 2012 for the southern half of the State, with near average for the northern areas."

Mr Nettleton said the potential for increased levels of fire activity is higher than average.

"The odds of having another mild season similar to last year are against us and so we all need to be prepared for potentially devastating bushfires this summer," Mr Nettleton said.

"Preparing for bushfires should start now by evaluating your risk and knowing what to do when confronted by this threat," Mr Nettleton said.

"Know your risk and make a plan - a Bushfire Survival Plan and practise it."

The CFS has been working closely with SAPOL to target suspicious activities in the state's fire ban districts as part of Operation Nomad.

Above: Other emergency services agencies show their support at the launch of the Fire Danger Season.



“Preparing for bushfires should start now by evaluating your risk and knowing what to do when confronted by this threat.”

NEW WORLD NEW THINKING AT AFAC CONFERENCE

BY RUTH COVENEY AND NICOLE KELLY

Above: The new CFS Type 2 Pumper on display at the 2011 AFAC Conference.

Three Youth Advisory Council (YAC) members Kirstie McGarrity, Nicole Kelly & Ruth Coveney, had the opportunity to attend the 2011 AFAC Bushfire CRC Conference held in Sydney in August 2011.

The theme of the conference "New World, New Thinking" discussed how agencies involved in the Emergency Management Sector must adapt and respond to the changing expectations in community safety moving forward.

After an amazing opening ceremony featuring Justice Crew, we spent three days exploring the changes in innovation and developments in technology, environmental conditions, interoperability (coordination between agencies), the use of



information and social media, and also lessons learnt from recent disasters such as the QLD / NSW / VIC Floods and Christchurch earthquakes.

Some of the conference discussions surrounded the increasing use of Social Media including the use of Facebook during disasters such as Cyclone Yasi, Queensland and Victorian Floods in 2010/2011 to notify the public of hazards.

We were also treated to the annual AFAC tradeshow which showcased the latest in Emergency Management, Rescue and Fire Fighting technology. We were proud to see the new CFS Type 2 Pumper on display at the

entrance to the exhibition.

We would like to thank the CFS and the CFSWA for giving us the opportunity to attend this conference. It was an unforgettable experience where we established many new networks and gained information we feel will be useful for the YAC & young members of CFS moving forward.

Inset: Youth Advisory Council members at the 2011 AFAC Conference from left, Kirstie McGarrity, Nicole Kelly & Ruth Coveney.

NEW KI WEATHER STATION BOOSTS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The CFS in cooperation with Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has launched a new automatic weather station near Parmdana to increase the awareness and resilience of the Kangaroo Island community.



CFS Deputy Group Officer Rob Ellis, left, and Group Officer Terry May during the construction of the new weather station at Parmdana.



Access to weather data from the drier and warmer areas of the island will result in better forecasting.

The local community will be empowered to make appropriate decisions in responding to severe weather/incident conditions. The declaration of Total Fire Ban and Catastrophic days will also

be based on more accurate information.

The new weather station has been supported by the Australian Government through a Natural Disaster Resilience Programme grant, with matching funding provided by the CFS and SAFEOM.

Kangaroo Island CFS Group

Officer Terry May said that the Kangaroo Island community has been outstanding in their commitment and support for this project.

"People have been most generous in committing time to assist with the installation of the weather station and 'digging deep into their pockets' to make

significant financial contributions to this most worthy cause, which raised well over \$16,000," he said.

Information from the Parmdana weather station can be accessed from the BOM website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/sa/observations/saal.shtml>

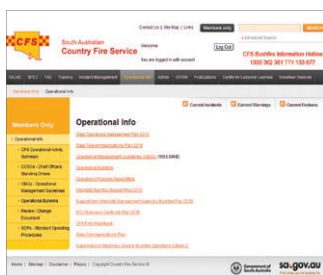
CFS MEMBERS ONLY WEBSITE

BY PETER FREEMAN

Members may be aware of the CFS Member's Only website, available at http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/members_only.jsp

If you've not visited before, register on the members' homepage and you'll get access to your training records, plus Operational and Incident Management information, manuals, newsletters and other member specific information.

Recent additions to this area include information on the SACAD project and the Standards of the Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC) Review.



SFEC REVIEW BY LEANNE ADAMS

The original CFS Standards of Fire Cover (SFC) 1986 was a framework developed to provide efficient allocation of resources to CFS brigades including the allocation of membership numbers, training, equipment and vehicles, based on the level of risk for each brigade.

In 2000 the SFEC was reviewed and new prescriptions provided to brigades.

Currently there is another review of SFEC underway which will result in SFEC 2012 and will include prescription policies plus revised brigade and group prescriptions. It is a comprehensive review and due to the size and complexity of the project a series of SFEC papers is being developed to

break down and analyse each component of SFEC.

Reference groups as well as relevant committees and individuals have been involved in the development process of SFEC papers and are provided with drafts for comment and input. Papers are then provided to Regional Volunteer Management Committees (RVMCs) for formal input and endorsement before endorsement by the Chief Officer's Advisory Council (COAC), in addition a large number of brigades participated in the SFEC surveys which provided valuable input and direction into policy development.

The SFEC papers that are ready for consultation are available in the Members Only area of the CFS website for volunteers to access. If you have questions, comments or feedback on any of the SFEC papers you can email the project team directly on adams.leanne@cfs.sa.gov.au or call 8431 3200 or pass comments via the chain of command to your Group Officer.

A series of 'SFEC Roadshows' will be conducted during March and April 2012 in each Region. RVMCs will be invited to participate in the SFEC Roadshows. Other interested CFS volunteer leaders and other volunteers are also welcome to

attend. Contact your Region for details about the Roadshow.

Commencing July 2012 brigade prescriptions will be developed by the SFEC project team in conjunction with regions. Prescriptions will include proposed capabilities, equipment, training and vehicles for each brigade based on the prescription policies in SFEC 2012. Brigades will have the opportunity to discuss their prescription and assist with developing a plan to address any gaps.

For more information about the SFEC project or to view SFEC papers go to the Members Only area of the CFS website <http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au>

BUSHFIRE SAFER PLACES PROJECT

BY RICHARD WALD

In 2010 the CFS instigated a programme of establishing Bushfire Safer Places throughout South Australia to assist people in developing their Bushfire Survival Plans.



The establishment of these sites has been an ongoing program which has seen consultation with local governments in association with CFS Regions to identify likely sites. These have all been visited and assessed in the field for compliance with CFS requirements before being

published on the CFS website. The assessment process is based on measuring the vegetation surrounding each site to determine whether suitable separation distances can be achieved that will reduce the effects of radiant heat.

Consultation was undertaken with 52 local governments which identified over 450 sites to be assessed. The mammoth task of visiting and assessing each site has now been completed and there are over 270 sites compliant to CFS requirements published on the CFS website. These include Last Resort Refuges, Bushfire Safer Precincts and the newly completed Bushfire Safer Settlement area within inner metropolitan Adelaide. This list will continue to be updated

as new sites are identified and assessed.

In achieving the current status of establishing Bushfire Safer Places many thanks must go to all of the field assessors who gave their time to liaise with each of the councils and to visit and assess each of the various sites across the state.

The field assessors involved included Geoff Ayres, Chris Bastian, Matt MacGillivray, Peter Venning, Wally Cook, Iain Crawford and a special thanks goes to Doug and Shirley Munn.

As a result of their efforts as well as that of Susan Barrie (CFS GIS Officer) the Bushfire Safer Places project team was awarded by the CFS as the 'Best Functional Team Focus on Customer Service Delivery for 2011'.



Left: Field Assessor Doug Munn who is part of the Bushfire Safer Places project team awarded by the CFS as the 'Best Functional Team Focus on Customer Service Delivery for 2011'.

RECOGNITION SERVICES WITHIN CFS

BY SERENA EALES

Did you know that the CFS offers all members, a recognition pathway for all nationally accredited training and service level units/courses delivered by the CFS?



In addition, relevant qualifications and training gained from elsewhere can also be formally acknowledged on your training record.

These additions may assist in progression towards the Cert II/III/IV & Diploma in Public Safety.

What types of recognition are offered?

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL): RPL is a review of a person's existing skill, knowledge and experience that enables them to bypass the

learning process and go directly to the assessment process.

Assessment methods can include:

- Observation of practical tasks
- Third party reports
- Working documents such as reports, logs made
- Discussion/questioning (could be audio taped)

Credit Transfer

The CFS acknowledges relevant Nationally Accredited units gained from other institutions via 'Credit Transfer'

on production of a certified Statement of Attainment.

Recognition of Current Competency

Refresher assessments are required for some units to ensure current competency. For example, the wearing of breathing apparatus and Senior First Aid.

When is recognition not offered?

Recognition of Prior Learning is limited to those courses

offered by the CFS. These courses are dependent on operational needs and do not include assistance to gain units outside SFEO prescription for brigades, i.e. for the purpose of gaining qualifications within the Public Safety Package. Advice will be provided however on progress made towards these qualifications.

How do I go about pursuing recognition?

If you feel you have qualifications relevant to the role you hold or have skills relevant to courses offered by the CFS, please contact your Regional Training Officer who will be able to advise you of the next steps.

For general recognition queries, please contact Serena Eales, State Training Officer – Learning & Development at the CFS State Training Centre. eales.serena@cfs.sa.gov.au

Above: State Training Officer Serena Eales helping CFS members gain recognition for previous training.

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◆ Knapsack Bag:

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◆ Drink Bottle Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas
- Holds 8 drink bottles

\$50⁰⁰

◆ Note Pad & Radio Holder:

- 12oz Heavy Duty Canvas

\$50⁰⁰

◆ Proban Dust and Face Mask:

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TOUR DOWN UNDER 2012 BY NICK PATRICK



For many, the Tour Down Under is becoming one of those "must-do" events of Summer. Having evolved into one of the world's elite cycling races, it now attracts many of the world's best riders... and with it comes hordes of spectators.

Once again, we set up camp in Adelaide, Clare, Stirling, Victor Harbor, Tanunda and Willunga and we met thousands of members of the public (and quite a few volunteers popped in to say 'hi' as well). The weather was spectacular and, with a couple of scorches thrown in, made for some excellent conversations with many who wouldn't normally consider the risks of travelling through high bushfire risk areas. It was great to hear stories from people with bushfire experience – not only locals but many from interstate and even overseas – and to get our message out to those who hadn't heard it before. This is certainly a great event and a wonderful opportunity for the CFS to increase awareness

amongst members of the public. We look forward to meeting thousands more at next year's race... now, if only we can convince the organisers to put us within view of the circuit!



Community Education Officer Penny Kozla enjoying the Tour Down Under whilst getting out CFS messages to the public.

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW SUCCESS BY NATASHA HUBER

The SA Country Fire Service's theme at the 2011 Royal Adelaide Show was 'More than a Bushfire Service' which focussed on all dedicated volunteers delivering professional fire and rescue services to outer metropolitan, regional and rural communities of South Australia.



A storyboard was created to showcase and inform the community about the many emergency activities that are responded to 24/7 by CFS volunteers. Throughout the Show we had many visitors seeking bushfire safety information

and we were pleased to provide this to our city dwellers however the interest from country visitors of how to become Bushfire Ready was more encouraging. To engage with the community further the new CFS iPhone app was launched

and giving the public an opportunity to see and use this through a large touch screen computer. To celebrate the new app a competition was run where one lucky member of the public won an iPad. Members of the public were asked to answer a few questions about what they had learnt about the CFS for a chance to enter the competition. This encouraged people to read the storyboard and ask questions about the CFS. Jennifer from Salisbury was thrilled to be the winner and her daughter was pleasantly surprised with an early Christmas present. Smokey, the CFS Mascot also made guest appearances throughout the Show,

entertaining the young and old. When he wasn't available community members had the chance to get their individual or family photo taken with Smokey's "cut-out cardboard cousin". This year the CFS will not be attending the Royal Adelaide Show, however watch this space with a new and exciting event planned for the future. The 2011 Royal Adelaide Show was a great success, a big thank you to everyone who took part to make this a fantastic event. Inset: Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson and with CFS mascot Smokey

THE TRAINING JUST KICKED IN BY ROD CUNNINGHAM

New Year's Eve, a flare, coastal scrub and an approaching bushfire were the first "new-year" challenges faced by Roxanne Strapps while staying in a shack at Corny Point.



Roxanne was one of 22 southern Yorke Peninsula women who recently attended a two-day "Firey Women's" workshop in the local hall at Corny Point. "The course helped me make the decision to leave early," Roxanne said. "I quickly assessed the wind and fire behaviour, we had three young children and friends in the shack. The water pump was unreliable and the shack was surrounded by pine trees and fuel," she said. "The training just kicked in. I made the decision, got them in

the cars and we left. We didn't wait to see what would happen. I was thinking of safe places and we went to a farmhouse five kilometres away. We knew they had a solid brick house, plenty of water and a farm fire unit". Many of the participants were from remote farms. With homes dotted in coastal scrub and no nearby "safer places" the course was aimed at empowering women and developing the skills to ensure their family survive a bushfire. The workshop was run by CFS Community Education staff and covered a range of topics including house and property preparation, fire danger ratings and preparing a "Bushfire Survival Plan". Vanessa Murdoch, one of the participants said the workshop was "excellent, it's helped empower so many mums".



[CFS Firey Women CFS link]

01. "This is how it's done nanna!" Young Zac gives his nanna, Marie Pedley, some helpful advice at the Corny Point Firey Women's Workshop. 02. Vanessa Murdoch practices shielding from radiant heat during the Firey Women workshop.

FIREY WOMEN PROGRAM HIGHLY COMMENDED

The Country Fire Service (CFS) has gained national recognition through the Australian Safer Communities Awards for its Firey Women education workshop.



The program won the State Award and was Highly Commended in the National Awards in December 2011. The workshop targets women in rural communities and was developed after the 2005 Wangary bushfires on Eyre Peninsula. "During these

kinds of significant incidents, it's common for men to be out fighting fires while women are left at home with children to defend their homes" according to CFS Community Education Manager Fiona Dunstan. "We were concerned that these women without adequate training or knowledge of bushfire safety were more likely to leave their homes with their children at the last minute, putting them all at great risk," Mrs Dunstan said. The workshops are now run across the state and teach practical skills such as operating pumps and fire fighting equipment, explain bushfire

warnings and fire danger ratings, and help women to prepare emotionally for bushfires, including deciding when to leave early or stay and defend. "Being recognised through the Australian Safer Communities Awards is a credit to all the CFS Community Education staff who have worked hard over many years to deliver this workshop through regional South Australia." Left: CFS Community Education Manager Fiona Dunstan accepts her award from the Attorney General Robert McClelland.

Sadly a lot of volunteers' families aren't prepared for bushfires. They assume that because they have an expert in the house they'll be safe. But chances are, you'll be on a truck fighting the fires when they need to act at home... Does your family have a written and practiced Bushfire Survival Plan for when you're away? Download a template today from the CFS website.

WITH AGE COMES WISDOM!

BY PENNY KAZLA
COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER, REGION 2



Penny Kazla with some of the residents from the 'Day Activity Centre', at Mt Pleasant.

What would you do if there was a bushfire coming toward your home? You know your gutters are full of leaves. Even if the fire is a long way off, driving just five minutes down the road to a "Safer Place" is not an option - you no longer drive. In fact, just getting up out of your chair is hard work.

This is one of the questions I posed to a group of retired residents around Mt Pleasant recently, as part of a round of talks I have been doing in Gumeracha and Mt Pleasant.

I spoke to them in the "Day Activity Centre", which provides a social place to meet for those living independently in the community. Once a week, a bus

comes and collects the residents from their homes, to bring them in to the centre. For some, that is their only transport and their only contact with others.

Most of them don't "get on the net" or have a mobile phone and some struggle to "read fine print". They do however have age and with that, experience and wisdom!

From the statistics out of Victoria in 2009, we know these retired people are at risk in a bushfire, so it is essential that they consider beforehand what they may do. Understanding the severity of the Fire Danger Ratings is a good start - relocation before a fire even starts is the safest option for most - but this requires some planning too!

Understanding the dangers of "leaving late" is vitally important and we strongly recommend they have a Bushfire Survival Plan for this reason. Thinking the issues through before a bushfire threatens, means they are more likely to make good decisions on the day.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT THE CARAVAN AND CAMPING SHOW

BY AMY RIEBE

The CFS Community Education Unit attended the caravan and camping outdoor adventure show in February which is now one of the largest events of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

Community Education officers targeted groups who are potentially vulnerable to bushfires, such as travellers, caravan enthusiasts and campers.

Travellers can often be unfamiliar with their surroundings and removed from communication networks which might otherwise alert them to bushfire danger.

The CFS information tent was set up at this event and provided an excellent opportunity to offer advice and guidance to thousands of people about reducing the danger of bushfires on the road.



Everybody is familiar with the ever increasing popularity of caravan travel amongst the

group known as grey nomads. Families and individuals also visited the trade fair during

the week and everybody who stopped by was informed about campfire safety strategies.

It's now hoped that all of the travellers, campers and caravan enthusiasts who spoke to us will take steps to ensure they remain alert of their surroundings and develop a 'Holiday Bushfire Survival Plan'.

Left: The CFS Community Education Unit tent at the Caravan and Camping Show.

SOCIAL MEDIA OFFERS INSTANT ENGAGEMENT WITH CFS

BY FELICITY HOPKINSON

Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires of 2009 reinforced to all fire agencies around Australia that we simply can't be everywhere and save everyone, but need people to educate more people to be able to save themselves. To do this, they need accurate information before, during and after an incident.



With an early start to the season, it wasn't long before major incidents up North allowed us to test our new information source and it was a great success.

We've been able to post incident updates, and also answer questions from people, and spark debate. We've also been involved in nationwide Twitter forums (one multi-agency chat with farmers across Australia generated over 85 tweets in the space of 8 minutes!) and have been able to share weekly bushfire safety messages and tips.

Some comments have included "What a wonderful way to use Facebook. Yours is a great page, CFS. Thanks for everything you do" and "just keep putting it out there. The updates you are providing are fan bloody tastic. Keep up the awesome work CFS!".

A dedicated team of Social Media on-call staff monitor the pages, respond and post to keep the community up-to-date.

Fiona Dunstan, Manager of Community Education and Public Warnings, said thousands of people read CFS Twitter and Facebook during major incidents.

"We have thousands of people reading our posts, including state and national media," she said. "There's a lot of pressure on us to make sure what we're posting is accurate, timely and appropriate. We depend a lot on the quality of information from the fireground."



But social media hasn't just been a way to push information out to the community, it's also been a great way to get feedback from the community. Whenever there are CFS crews working to protect their local area, the local communities are grateful



through social media, they're able to let us know how they feel, and can pass on messages of thanks.

Here are just some of the HUNDREDS of messages of support we've received through our Facebook page so far this season:

ONE TREE HILL FIRE

3/12/2011: Good luck guys ... We can hear and see you doing you brave and hard work from our home... Thankyou



GLADSTONE FIRE 29/11/2011: A heartfelt "thank you" to all CFS, SES and emergency services personnel. Selflessly putting themselves out there to protect lives & property. Much respect!



WOOLLUNDUNGA (etc) from 4/1/2011: You are brilliant and brave men and women, you are all doing a great job at fighting the fire you deserve a medal stay safe thinking of you all ...

The social media team would also like to thank the volunteers on the ground who collect and pass incident information up the chain - without them we'd have no updates to post!

Follow @cfsalerts on Twitter or "like" SA Country Fire Service and CFS Updates on Facebook.



STIRLING NORTH CFS CADETS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

On Thursday evening in December, the Stirling North CFS Cadets had their break up for 2011.

Parents, carers, supervisors and helpers came to the CFS station to help the cadets celebrate another successful year of training and activities and to recognise their outstanding behaviour and attitude while taking part.

Robert Strongman was involved in the development of the Stirling North CFS Cadets and now assists with the retention of members through an annual,

perpetual award "The Robert Strongman Award for Cadet of the Year". This award recognises a sustained effort and positive behaviour from the cadets throughout the calendar year. These are characteristics that Robert holds dear.

As well as sponsoring this award and the Honour boards for both the senior and cadet members, Robert hosts cadet

fundraising activities where he fosters community spirit and encourages our young members to be involved in community activities to help develop them to be active participants in the community.

The cadets have also been supported by Community CPS Australia with a monthly award of a \$50 CPS account and an annual award of a \$250 CPS account plus a trophy.

This has helped with both the recruitment and retention of cadets for our program, to a point where we have had to cap the number of cadets this year. This has been a positive for the brigade in one respect and there may possibly be a few vacancies early in 2012, after the program resumes in February.

VICTOR HARBOR REGIONAL CFS CADET CAMP

BY MICHELLE EGEL

On the weekend of October 14-16 2011, Region 1 hosted a Regional CFS Cadet Camp in Victor Harbor at the Salvation Army Encounters Conference Centre.

Approximately 100 cadets & supervisors/leaders from the Mt. Lofty Ranges, Fleurieu Peninsula and Kangaroo Island attended the action packed weekend involving games, CFS activities and working with agencies such as SAPOL, SAAS and SES.

The fun also involved working with DECS and Life Be In It on



Saturday morning and later that evening walking to Granite Island to go on the Penguin Tour at dusk.

The cadets are an important part of the future of CFS and events like this encourages team

work and leadership along with having fun and meeting new friends.

A formal dinner held on the Saturday was attended by dignitaries such as the Mayor of Victor Harbor, Graham Philip, and

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton. Also present were Mt Lofty Branch CFSVA Representative Noel Sibley, Manager Volunteer Services Branch Mark Groot, and Victor Harbor CFS Group Officers Chris Bowey and Robert Mignaneli.

The weekend was a huge success with many tired and weary cadets / supervisors going home on the Sunday afternoon.

A special thank you to all involved: DECS, Life Be In It, SAAS, SAPOL and the local CFS Brigades and SES Units. It was a job well done.

Inset. CFS cadets during a training exercise at Victor Harbor

CFSVA WELCOMES NEW PRESIDENT

BY WENDY SHIRLEY

Long-serving Lenswood-based volunteer firefighter, Mr Roger Flavell was voted in as President of the Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) at the Annual General Meeting held on October 18.



A volunteer for more than 30 years, Mr Flavell has been deputy vice president for the past year and brings to his new role considerable experience in supporting South Australia's 14,000 CFS volunteer firefighters.

"I see the President as being a strong advocate for the views and interests of our volunteers and to ensure they are supported, trained and equipped to provide fire and rescue services to the community," Mr Flavell said.

"In taking on this role I wish to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of outgoing President Mr Ken Schultz, which has spanned more than a decade – seven years of which were in the role as President," he said.

"Ken has played a critical role in a number of successful campaigns, resulting in funding increases designed to improve conditions and benefits for volunteers, as well as ensuring volunteers have an active voice in the CFS consultation processes and greater input into decision-making."

Roger takes over the role at a critical time for CFS members.

Volunteer numbers are dropping and the service needs an increase in funding in a number of areas including training, to ensure we are able to

keep the communities we serve protected.

Government needs to listen to the issues faced by the CFS and those that deliver the fire and rescue services to our metropolitan, regional and rural South Australia.

The lead up to the March 2014 State Election and the message the Association will be sending to politicians will be critical in ensuring we have a strong, well trained and well equipped CFS volunteer membership.

Above left. Roger Flavell voted in as President of the CFSVA with Executive Director Wendy Shirley



CFSVA – Free legal service for CFS Volunteers

Leading South Australian law firm Tindall Gask Bentley offers free preliminary legal advice to members of the CFS Volunteers Association. This includes a free 20 minute phone call to a TGB lawyer for matters relating to the following areas:

INJURIES:

Tindall Gask Bentley is the largest personal injury firm in South Australia, which gives you access to some of the state's most experienced lawyers. If you have been hurt in a motor vehicle accident, injured in a fall, or have a medical negligence matter, you may be entitled to compensation.

WORKCOVER:

We have a passion for helping workers, and have significant experience with compensation claims. If you have been injured on the job, we want to make sure that your rights are honoured.



FAMILY AND DIVORCE: Tindall Gask Bentley is the largest family law firm in South Australia and we pride ourselves on our ability to bring quick resolutions for our clients, in often emotional times. If you are starting a relationship, considering divorce or are already separated, we can help you.

and guidance specific to your individual circumstances. Tindall Gask Bentley handles estate matters efficiently, with respect and understanding.

BUSINESS AND PROPERTY: We can help you with buying and selling, partnerships, liquor licensing, leasing, company

advice, disputes, succession planning and contracts.

COMMERCIAL DISPUTES:

Our team provides you with quick, sound and commercially practical advice, to help you achieve a successful resolution to any commercial dispute.

To access this service, please contact:
Wendy Shirley
Tel: 8244 6500
Mob: 0427 823 656
Email: wendy.shirley@cfsva.org.au

Above. Leading South Australian law firm Tindall Gask Bentley offers free preliminary legal advice to members of the CFS Volunteers Association.





VERSP RECOGNITION IN ECHUNGA

The final Volunteer and Employer Recognition and Support Program (VERSP) for 2011 was held in November at the Echunga Memorial Institute.

VERSP events are held to recognise the contribution local businesses, organisations and self employed volunteers make to ensure the safety of their communities. The VERSP event attracted approximately 230 people and was an opportunity to recognise not only volunteers but also self employed volunteers, employers and families of emergency service volunteers.

Attendees were treated to a gourmet BBQ dinner catered by Adelaide Hills Catering, as well as

presentations from the Minister for Emergency Service Hon Jennifer Rankine, SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place and CFS Volunteers Association President Roger Flavell.

Fifty-six certificates of appreciation were presented to self employed volunteers and employers of emergency service volunteers.

The SAFECOM Board also took the opportunity to visit the Aldgate CFS Brigade and the Mount Barker SES Unit. Both site visits and the VERSP event

provided valuable opportunities for volunteers to meet members of the Board.

There will be three VERSP events held across the State in 2012.

Above. From left, Stephen Drawbridge from Telstra who was nominated by Ben Birbeck, CFS and SES volunteer, CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, SAFECOM Chief Executive David Place, Hon Jennifer Rankine MP, and SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie

CFSVA NEWS



National parks pass extension

Some 760 CFS volunteers are currently enjoying free entry to the State's national parks through a program provided by DENR and administered by the CFSVA.

The current pass was due to expire on March 31 this year, but the Association has asked that it be extended to June 30. So that means that current cardholders (see picture) can continue to use the light green pass until that date.

Applications for the new pass will be announced at the beginning of April, with the

applications appearing on our website at www.cfsva.org.au in the NEWS section on the homepage.

CFS Volunteer Forums coming up

The CFSVA will hold two Volunteer forums this year. These forums are an opportunity for volunteers to raise issues and ask questions directly to a panel which will include the CFS Chief Officer, Mr Greg Nettleton and the CFSVA President Mr Roger Flavell.

The first will be at Freeling for volunteers of the Lower North Branch. The date set is Friday June 15 and it will be held at the Freeling Hall from 7.30 to 9.30pm.

A barbeque tea will commence at 6.30pm.

The second will be on Thursday August 2 for members of the Kangaroo Island Group. It will be held at the Wilsanger Sporting Club and again will kick off with a barbeque tea at 6.30 with the forum to commence at 7.30pm.

All local volunteers are encouraged to attend, to what should be informative and enjoyable evenings.

Previous forums have been held in Clare, Mundulla and Uralda.

YAC – NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS SUMMIT 2011

BY KIRSTIE MCGARRITY, YAC REPRESENTATIVE, REGION 3

Two Youth Advisory Council members recently had the opportunity to attend the National Emergency Management Volunteers Summit, facilitated by the Attorney General's Department in Canberra.



The theme of the volunteers' summit was 'The Future is in our Hands' with a strong emphasis on youth within the emergency services, and how to keep them within their organisation.

We were also lucky enough to attend dinner at Parliament

House and for part of the evening Stuart Diver, who was the sole survivor of the Thredbo landslide in 1997, spoke to us about his experience as he was waiting to be rescued.

He also spoke about resilience and how the emergency services also need

to adapt to changes that may occur in the future.

We would like to thank the CFS and SAFECOM for providing the opportunity to attend the Volunteer Summit, as we found it a great experience to be able to network with other emergency service members

across Australia and a fantastic learning experience.

Above. YAC representatives from left, Wayne Thorley, Mark Groot, Toni Richardson, Kirstie McGarrity, Ruth Covey and Roger Flavell.

AFAC VOLUNTEER LEADERS PROGRAM

BY DANIEL PHILLIPS, CHAIRPERSON YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

In May this year, as a member of the SACFS Youth Advisory Council I was given the opportunity to attend the Volunteer Leaders Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly, Sydney.



Above. Daniel Phillips being presented with his certificate of participation by Terry Venchiarutti from the Australian Federal Police.

In May this year, as a member of the SACFS Youth Advisory Council I was given the opportunity to attend the Volunteer Leaders Program at the Australian Institute of Police Management in Manly, Sydney.

The Volunteer Leaders Program is designed to provide leaders within a volunteer emergency services organisation an opportunity to develop their leadership, communication and management skills. This is done through a number of class room tutorials including the subjects of Emotional Intelligence, Dealing with the Media and Influencing

as well as a group project on the Subject of "Good Supervisory Practice".

As a part of the five day program we also participated in a team building exercise at Sydney Academy of Sport and Recreation. I learnt a lot from being an active participant in the program, the things I learnt will not only benefit me as a volunteer but also in future leadership roles I may have in any facet of life.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time as a participant of the program and highly recommend this program to other volunteers within the SACFS.

Thanks from YAC

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) would like to extend its thanks to all members aged 16 – 30 who participated in the Youth Survey sent out in August.

The YAC received an overwhelming number of responses.

This data will be used to ensure the YAC are focusing on current issues which exist in brigades today.

WHO'S WHO IN THE



MICHAEL MATHEW



Title:
Manager Operations Planning

Role in the CFS:

Manage the Rural FF training project, deliver training to volunteers, staff and others as called upon, respond to incidents operationally as required.

Location:

I have an office at the STC Brunkunga, but I travel the state widely for my work. I also work from home which is located just outside of Clare when not at Brunkunga or travelling to training courses or meetings. Usually the 'office' is wherever I have set up my laptop computer and wireless modem.

A typical working day involves:

- Coordinating and managing the team of Rural State Training Officers and training resources and allocating them to courses across the state.

- Working with Regional Training Officers and DENR to coordinate courses and Trainer-Assessors.
- Consulting Specialist State Training Officers and other CFS staff to ensure training materials/procedures are aligned with current practice and doctrine. Preparing reports and managing budgets.
- Acting as a consultant with other government agencies such as SAPOL in helping develop their training materials.
- Responding to and generating 100s of emails.
- Checking the CFS website training section for accuracy.
- Managing training courses and trainee nominations in TAS.
- Supporting and managing staff and volunteer Trainer-Assessors for courses such as Basic Firefighting 1, Suppress Wildfire, Maps/GPS courses.
- Ordering and tracking stock levels of training materials.
- Redevelop training course materials.
- Working with interstate fire agencies to help support their training.
- Deliver and assess on a multitude of training courses.
- Coordinate BF1 courses held at the STC.
- Respond to CFS incidents as required. So not much at all now that I've taken time to think about it!

MALIM WATTS



Title:
Manager Operations Planning

Role in the CFS:

Manage and develop, Operational Plans, Policy & Doctrine including Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover, COSO's and SOP's, Field Handbook, Pocket Guides, SACAD and Risk and Response Planning to name a few.

Location:

State Headquarters – Waymouth Street Adelaide.

A typical working day involves:

- working my way through the ever growing calendar of internal and external meetings with

staff, volunteers, other Government Agencies, Interstate Fire Authorities, AFAC and administrative activities.

- My role also involves activities such as formulating/reviewing plans and budgets, writing reports on operational issues, preparing professional/technical reports or recommendations and contributing technical expertise at meetings or to projects, organisations and individuals.

- I have a great team in Operations Planning to whom many tasks are delegated. They make my day a little easier than it would otherwise be which I appreciate.

- In addition to balancing expectations and the wants and needs of the CFS family and others, I participate in training delivery, Incident Management and undertake a number of operational on-call duties including "CFS State Coordinator" and "Hazmat/CBRN Officer".

- If I'm lucky I even get to attend and interact with my local Brigade as a volunteer. There is never a "dull moment"



CFS ON YOUR SMARTPHONE

CFS FireApp is the official SA Country Fire Service Phone and Android application. Download CFS FireApp to stay informed of fire activity and other incidents in your area and to assess your own preparedness for bushfire. CFS FireApp puts CFS information at your fingertips, in real time and wherever you are in South Australia.

BETH WARWICK



Real name + nickname:
Beth Warwick (and I'm not telling!)

What brigade do you belong to?
Morphett Vale and State Operations

How long have you been a CFS volunteer?
Since 1999

Why did you join the CFS?
Vague memories of helping the community and doing something worthwhile for myself. Now it's friendships, fun and a good team environment that keep me there!

What's your favourite memory with the CFS?
I have many memories and I can't pin one down. Some are bad but most are good though, with a lot of friends old and new to share them with!

What do you do when not firefighting with the CFS?
Oh, boy, where do I start? I'm with the SAAS and I go around covering shifts for volunteers all over the state. I volunteer as a firefighter at Murray Bridge Speedway. I study (nursing – final year) and I'm a single working mum!

Who do you most admire in CFS and why?

I have many people I count as people to seek guidance and try to learn from. These include a number of long serving volunteers. My first Captain (Craig Holt – Burnside) is one of these many people and he deserves special mention. Without his guidance and mentoring, I doubt I would have had the same passion I have now.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?

I still see myself in the same position operationally. I have a limited availability being a single mum but I still commit as much as I can, when I can! I would like to start training and assessing so I can pass on some skills I've learnt to those who want to learn more about firefighting and leadership skills.

If you won a million dollars how would you spend it and where would you travel?

Firstly I'd pay off all my family's (and close friends) bills/debts, buy myself a house and put my son through school. Then I'd send my mum and dad on a well-deserved holiday. Then on cooking equipment and accessories, shoes, jackets and books. After that I don't think I'd have that much left as you don't know about my shoe, jacket, book and cooking collections (fetishes)!

GAVIN HODGSON



Real name + nickname:
Gavin Hodgson (Captain Gav)

What brigade do you belong to?
Crystal Brook

How long have you been with the CFS?
20 years (Currently Captain)

Why did you join the CFS?
I really hate death and suffering in people, so thought joining the CFS would be a great way to try and limit that.

What's your favourite memory with the CFS?
Rescuing a small dog from a house fire and giving it to the Ambulance officers who administered oxygen to it and then gave it to a vet. It was the only thing saved from the house and the elderly lady was so grateful.

What do you do when not firefighting with the CFS?
I am a Fire Prevention Officer and also own and operate a small earthmoving company. I'm married and have 3 girls, one of which is profoundly deaf. They all keep me very busy and all 3 girls say they want to be a fire fighter like dad when they are old enough.

Who do you most admire in CFS and why?
Young recruits, because of their desire to want to help people and step outside of their comfort zone to do it.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?
Still Captain of one of the best fire brigades a community could wish for.

If you won a million dollars how would you spend it and where would you travel?
I would purchase some very cool earthmoving equipment and build a new house or 3. I would take my family to Disneyland.



[CFS Crystal Brook Brigade link]

ATHELSTONE CFS CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

On Sunday 30 October 2011, Athelstone CFS held a commemorative event to celebrate the Brigade's 50th anniversary. Held at the Athelstone CFS Fire Station, the anniversary event was enjoyed by over 200 former and current members, their families and friends of the Brigade.



The Master of Ceremonies on the day was CFS staff member David Pearce. Opening the proceedings at 1:30pm David, who has had a long association with the Brigade's, both professionally and as a volunteer with Blackwood,

outlined the importance of Athelstone in the overall scheme of the CFS, highlighting the Brigades commitment to excellence and the number of times that it has received the Chief Officer's Training Award. Official guests included John

Gardner MP, State Member for Morialta, Simon Brewer, Mayor of The City of Campbelltown, Assistant Chief Officer Rob Sandford representing the Chief Officer, Brenton Eden, Manager Training and Maim Watts, Manager Operations Planning. Following the formal speeches, guests were invited to inspect a display of past and current Athelstone CFS equipment and memorabilia.

A highlight of the event was the attendance of five original members of the Brigade, Messrs Brian Moffatt, Clem Druitt, Clive Williams, Neil Johnson and Desmond Packer, who were there when the Brigade was formed in 1961 and were



Above, Fred Kerr on the microphone with guests for the opening of the Athelstone Brigade 50 years ago.

presented with commemorative miniature 'Rakishoo' badges. A DVD, made up from the vast collection of still photographs loaned to the station and video news footage taken over the years, was provided to guests. Set to appropriate music it gives a memorable and at times moving visual history of the Brigade. A commemorative coffee mug has also been produced and are available at \$4.00 each or a set of 3 for \$10.00

Left, Past and present members of the Athelstone CFS celebrated the Brigade's 50th anniversary.

Yankallilla CFS hosts ACTIVE8 program for local students

BY JOHN EDGE, CAPTAIN YANKALLILLA CFS

On Tuesday November 15, 2011 the annual ACTIVE8 programme was run by Yankallilla Captain John Edge, John Talbot Smith and Craig Stone.

About 30 students participated in a one day introduction to the life of a CFS volunteer, including a sample of the BFI, practical drills in hose management and water patterns, communications (a game of battleships over the radio), and various round robin events.

This included a burnover drill and concluded with a lesson on the origins and structure of the CFS.

The students' teacher Andrew Grey also participated as a team leader in a few of the

events and excelled in the art of knocking over cones with a water stream.

The event was held at the Southern Fleurieu Group base and was enjoyed by all those present, particularly as it was in

an adult learning environment.

Below, Yankallilla CFS Captain John Edge (front left) and John Talbot (front right) with the students who had a taste of being a CFS volunteer.



MORPHETT VALE PUMPER

BY MATTHEW BONSER
Above, The new Morphett Vale medium urban pumper in action.

The Morphett Vale Brigade recently took possession of a brand new medium urban pumper built on an Iveco Eurocargo cab/chassis with Automatic Transmission and many other features.

The vehicle was manufactured by Fraser Fire and Rescue in New Zealand and was purchased off the New Zealand Fire Service (NZFS) contract for the supply of their Type One pumpers. This has been a popular appliance in New Zealand with dozens of them currently in service.

Negotiations began with Fraser early last year to purchase a new medium pumper, and the company saw an opportunity to

get one of the NZFS style vehicles into the Australian market, offering it to the Country Fire Service at a very competitive price.

The appliance arrived into Australia in time to be displayed at the 2011 AFAC Conference in Sydney and attracted significant favorable attention from other Fire Agencies.

The vehicle carries a full urban storage kit and has the following features:

- Seating capacity for six firefighters
- Rear mount Darley 750 G/ min pump with separate simultaneous High Pressure stage.
- 2000 litre water tank
- 60 litre class A foam tank with on-board refill pump
- Direct injection foam system
- 5.17 m³ usable locker volume

- 60 metre high pressure hose reel
- Four BA sets

The brigade has put the appliance to the test at a number of incidents, and is so far extremely happy with its performance. The pump is very easy to operate, the storage space is more than adequate for an urban brigade and the vehicle is extremely comfortable to drive. The quality of the workmanship from the Fraser factory is excellent, with many well thought out design features built into the appliance.

From an operational perspective this vehicle fits the requirements of a medium urban pumper perfectly. Any brigade fortunate enough to receive one will be very happy with it.

The new vehicle replaces the 22 year old Denis RS appliance that has been retired from active service and is now with SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum at Naracoorte.



Left, The NZ manufactured pumper at its CFS base in Morphett Vale.

AUSTRALIAN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE ACCEPTS REGION 2 VOLUNTEER IN LEADERS' PROGRAM

BY MELANIE MOORE

In November 2011 I attended a four day Volunteer Leadership Program held at the Australian Emergency Management Institute (AEMI) at Mt Macedon Victoria.



I was representing the Country Fire Service along side 21 other volunteers from across Australia from all different volunteer organizations including SES, Surf Life Saving Australia, St John Ambulance and AusAID. At our introductions we were asked to tell the group about where we are from, what we do in our organization and how long

we have volunteered for. I was amazed by the different levels and years of experience from all the organizations. When it was my turn I was thinking that I'm only 22 years old how am I going to fit in with this group that are "age not specified" people. Then I started thinking about what I have done in CFS, in my nine years at Kapunda

CFS I have gone from Cadet to Senior, elected as 2nd Senior Fire Fighter - Cadet, Coordination and Equipment Officer, completed my CABA training making me the first female to do so in Kapunda and recently become the Secretary for the Lower North CFSVA. Saying my achievements to a room full of strangers made me realize how much CFS has given me and I am very proud of everything I have done and hope to go further in the ranks maybe one day be in the State Head Quarters.

In the four days we covered a lot of topics. Focusing on the aspects of leadership, what a leader is, the difference in leadership and management and as well as styles and

strategies. We also focused on communication within your team, with different personalities, in a crisis and with the media. I found that understanding the media side of a crisis incredibly interesting and in some situations they can help with communication.

Being a part of an interstate leadership program provided me with a better understanding of what a leader actually is. It's not about getting what you want done, a leader thinks outside the situation to see what others can't, to listen and guide your team.

Left: Region 2 volunteer, Melanie Moore who took part in the four-day Volunteer Leadership Program at (AEMI) Mt Macedon in Victoria.

YOUTH LEADING THE WAY IN REGION 2

The Youth Advisory Council (YAC) held a Youth Forum in September.



Twenty young people from across Region 2 were invited to attend a day filled with training in the areas of leadership, staging, Crimson (non-accredited), vehicles and equipment. The day enabled these young people to gain skills and knowledge to take back into their brigades and hopefully have the confidence to take on leadership roles in their

brigade in the future. Members of the YAC also ran a discussion forum at the close of the day to gain thoughts and ideas about how the CFS can continue to improve on youth membership numbers. It was important for the members of the YAC to gain this information so they felt confident they were addressing current issues for young people across the State.

The YAC intends to hold events similar to this in the future to be able to provide young people in all Regions the opportunity to participate in training that they may not have access to as well as the opportunity to meet key staff and volunteers from their regions.

A big thank you goes to Sonia Post, Louise Wilson,

Peter Burgemeister, Andrew Plush, Aaron Hughes, Tea Tree Gully Brigade, Dalkeith Brigade, Region 2 Operations Support Brigade and Roseworthy Brigade. With out these key people this event would not have been able to go ahead.

Also a big thank you needs to go to John Hutchins and Region 2 staff for their continual support and encouragement of the YAC.

GLOSSOP COMMERCIAL FIRE

BY DAWN HUNT



CFS Brigades from Glossop, Barmora, Monash, Paringa, Moorook, Lyrup, Waikerie, Cadell and MFS appliances from Berri attended a commercial fire at Glossop on January 16.

Initial responding crews could see the fire showing up well whilst en route to the incident.

When crews arrived they found a large structure housing three businesses well-involved in fire and the incident was quickly upgraded to a 4th alarm. Initial responding crews could see the fire showing up well whilst en route to the incident.

Crews initially protected a free standing office which was situated on the north-east side of the structure. As extra appliances arrived, the strategy for firefighters

was a defensive attack to protect exposures and to stop the fire from moving through the main structure.

By late morning 80 firefighters, 16 appliances and additional bulk water carriers from DENR and Berri/Barmora Council were deployed, along with an MFS sky jet and BA pod.

An excavator and front end loader were contracted to assist with debris removal allowing

firefighters to access burning material and speed up the extinguishment and overhaul process.

During the afternoon, the emphasis had changed from extinguishment which was almost complete, to continuing the cooling of acetylene cylinders which were impacted by the fire and heat. The concern was the endothermic reaction inside the acetylene cylinders.

The initial size up of the incident identified a pallet manufacturing business to the rear of the complex as an exposure. The initial arriving crews focused their firefighting efforts toward this which resulted in a critical save during the incident.

The incident was extremely well managed due to the good cooperation between all services that attended.

Morgan Australia Day Celebrations 2012

BY KIRSTIE MCGARRITY

At the Australia Day celebrations held in Morgan, five Morgan CFS members received Australia Day awards.

On behalf of the Morgan and Cadell communities, Kirstie McGarrity received a certification of appreciation for all of her volunteer work with the CFS, including the Youth Advisory Council.

The Mid Murray Council also presented four cadets: Nicholas Seton, Ashleigh Johnston, Brandon Joseph and Haylee Campbell, with certificates of appreciation for their attendance at the 2011 ANZAC Eve Youth Vigil.

All five CFS members were given awards for their continuous commitment as young CFS members, in order to show them that they are in fact appreciated and the community recognises young people making an effort.



Above: Ernie Asplen and Kirstie McGarrity receiving their appreciation awards for their contribution to Morgan and Cadell communities



Above: Morgan CFS members who received certificates of appreciation for their volunteer work efforts.

REGIONS ROUND UP

[REGION 3]

MALPAS STRUCTURE FIRE

BY DAWN HUNT

On January 15, Browns Well and Wunkar CFS Brigades were called to a structure fire at Malpas between Alawoona and Paruna in the Riverland. This house was an early settler type home that had been gutted by fire after burning for some time. The five-bedroom home with cellar had recently been renovated.

The fire appeared to have started in the roof space and spread to all rooms in the house. On arrival crews undertook a defensive fire attack and concentrated on protecting neighbouring assets.

This Page. Renovated early settler home gutted by fire at Malpas.

[REGION 4]

REGIONS ROUND UP

BATTLING THE BLAZE

Above. Woolundunga Fire. Photo courtesy of Phillip Haley (Woolundunga Brigade).

Images below. The Woolundunga and Glendambo fires were among the most significant incidents in Region 4 this fire danger season. The Woolundunga fire kept 170 firefighters and operational personnel busy for 19 consecutive days who prevented property losses and averted a threat to the Wilmington township.

Region 4 has been terribly busy battling grass and scrub fires in the north of the state and near Woomera along with attending numerous flooding incidents since September last year.



One of the most significant fires occurred in the region a few days into the new year at Woolundunga near the township of Wilmington. Volunteer organisations including SES, Surf Life Saving Australia, St John Ambulance and AusAID also attended.

It took 19 days for the fire to be declared safe, burning a massive 8298 hectares of private land and destroying around 600 sheep. The cause is believed to have been started from lightning strikes in the area.

About 170 CFS personnel along with other agencies including DENR and MFS committed to attacking the fire. Approximately 30 appliances were on scene at the peak and aircraft were busy bombing and observing the fire.

Rainfall and thunderstorms offered some relief to the people of Woolundunga/Wilmington, helping to cease the fire and

hotspots which remained burning for quite some time.

On Christmas Eve, a scrub and grass fire burnt 4000 hectares of private land about 20 kilometres north of Glendambo on the Stuart Highway.

Heavy plant machinery and CFS crews contained the fire on Christmas Day with 15 personnel and eight appliances used to directly attack the fire and bring it under control. The township of Glendambo was never under threat thanks to the efforts of all involved.

These incidents are only two of the many emergencies that CFS volunteers and personnel have had to attend to over the spring/summer season in the state's northern region.

The dedication and team work of the people in Region 4 does not go unnoticed and we wish them a quiet winter for a well deserved break.



Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association Inc.

The Northern Territory Cattlemen's Association and its members wish to express their gratitude and thanks to the South Australian Country Fire Service members and volunteers for their assistance and support during the recent outbreak of fires in Central Australia. Due to the help of the SA CFS along with Bushfires N.T. our members were able to save homes and significantly reduce losses of livestock and pasture.

“It took 19 days for the fire to be declared safe, burning a massive 8298 hectares of private land and destroying around 600 sheep.



Main image: Salisbury 24P at the Woolundunga fire. Main photo courtesy of Phillip Haley (Woolundunga Brigade).
Inset photos below: Glendambo fires on the Stuart Highway and surrounding areas, courtesy of Stephen Scarr (Roxby Downs Brigade).



GLADSTONE GRAIN BUNKER FIRE

BY CFS MANAGER OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENT - MARK THOMASON

At 1626 hours on November 29, 2011, a grass fire emerged approximately four kilometres north-west of Gladstone in South Australia.



The fire predominately confined to crop and stubble, travelled rapidly (approximately 16 km/h) in a southerly direction under winds of 50-60 km/h and threatened the township of Gladstone. At 1644 hours, the fire impacted on the Viteria Grain handling site on the western boundary of the Gladstone

Township which resulted in one grain bunker containing wheat igniting in multiple locations along the northern side. The grass fire was contained at approximately 2045 hours however the grain fire continued to burn for several days. These are the lessons learnt:

1. The separation of vegetation from the bunker plays

an important role in reducing the impact of fire. This is identical to the philosophy used in the protection of houses from bushfires, as adopted by fire services.

2. The type of framing at the bottom of the grain bunker plays an important role in preventing the ingress of a fire or embers into the grain bunker.

3. The most effective manner in managing fire within the grain bunker is to evacuate grain using mechanical means such as a front end loader and managing any surface fire or changes in fire behaviour by applying water spray.

4. The use of water in fire suppression did not pose an explosive environment. It is unlikely that water will effectively extinguish internal fires.

5. The use of gases, such as carbon dioxide or nitrogen, may be beneficial if applied in bulk and using a large nozzle or discharge outlet to flood the bunker. However, if the grain is evacuated as soon as possible then the cost benefit needs to be assessed against the size and nature of the internal fire.

Above left, Grain smouldering behind the covers at the Viteria grain handling site near Gladstone.

Opening of the new Wilmington CFS Brigade station

BY SCOTT HAYNES, WILMINGTON BRIGADE

On Sunday December 4, members of the Wilmington CFS Brigade were joined by many people of their community, staff from Region 4 HQ and State Headquarters including the CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, to celebrate the official opening of the new Wilmington CFS station.



Dan van Holst Pellekaan, MP - and active member of the Brigade - was MC for the event and introduced speeches by Brigade Captain Geoff Hitch, who provided a brief and informative history of the brigade. This was followed by Mt Remarkable Group Officer Geoff Slee who detailed the many stages of the project which has culminated in the opening of a tremendous new facility for the community of Wilmington and the wider district.

Mr van Holst Pellekaan also introduced the Chief Officer who handed over the responsibility of unveiling the plaque to the Wilmington Brigade's longest serving member Max Slee and its youngest member, Brigade Cadet Bonney Swan.

The opening of the new station was extremely well supported by the local community with around 220 people attending which included past and present members of the brigade in large numbers and notably four previous captains.

Many members of the community made delicious contributions to the light lunch provided after the opening ceremony and a number of



farm fire units were inspected as part of the afternoon's proceedings.

The weather was extremely favourable with no call-outs and these factors combined to increase everyone's enjoyment of the gathering.

The new facilities were truly tried and tested during the subsequent Woolundunga fire which occurred one month after the event.

Wilmington was the base for a sustained fire fighting effort lasting nearly a week and involved establishing a Level 3 IMT and Staging Area at the new facility and hosting numerous intrastate Strike Teams.

The Wilmington CFS Brigade, its station and the wider community stood up to the test admirably.

01. Wilmington Brigade's longest serving member Max Slee with Brigade Cadet Bonney Swan at the opening of their new station.

02. From left, Geoff Hitch, Greg Slee, John Modystach, Lyn Brandon and Paul Brown.

AIR SUPPORT TRAINING

BY REX HALL

Following a safety briefing by the Brigade Captain Malcolin Johnston, two new members took part in a demonstration and training exercise in

unloading the pumps and other equipment from the Air Support Center followed by adding foam and supplying the foam mix to an aircraft.



Members of the Region Five Operations Brigade connecting equipment to the pump in preparation to fill the aircraft with foam. Photo: Rex Hall Region 5 Operations Brigade Administration Officer.

STRIKE TEAM 5003 ALICE SPRINGS DEPLOYMENT

BY KYLIE MERRITT



Region 5 Commander Brett Merritt saw off the first NT contingent made up of members of the Mt Gambier and Kingsley Groups. Thankfully the crews managed to get the last four seats to Adelaide on the Saturday flights. It was a long two days of travelling but the crews were ready and willing to assist in the deployment.

GET WELL PETER SMART

BY LINCOLN CAPTAIN - GREG NAPIER

Members of the CFS Lincoln Brigade who helped tidy Brigade member Peter Smart's and his mum's home who are pictured in the centre of the group. Photo Lisa West.

On Sunday February 5 a group of members from the Lincoln CFS Brigade armed themselves with mowers whipper snippers, chainsaws, polesaws and rakes.

The staging area was the home of firefighter Peter Smart and his mother.

Peter is a long serving member of the Lincoln Brigade who has had a bad turn in health in the past 9 months. With a large back yard full of fruit trees, natives and kikuyu grass that would keep a normally healthy person on

the go, Pete and his mum were struggling to keep up.

With various members keeping an eye "over" the fence to make sure things were okay, the decision was made to form a strike team and undertake a direct attack on the yard.

No leaf or limb was safe, if it was hanging low its now hanging

high, if it was growing high it's now quivering low. With plenty of enthusiasm and possibly not a lot of skill Pete and his mum's yard was cleaned up and straightened up by a not so qualified bunch of gardeners and slash grass assassins from Lincoln Brigade.

There is a strong sense of esprit de corps in the Lincoln Brigade

and Pete is considered "one of our own." There was no hesitation from any member when it came to volunteering their time to assist a mate and a fellow brigade member.

Everyone from CFS especially the members of the Lincoln CFS, wish Peter and his mum a speedy recovery.

BIG AUSTRALIA DAY FOR BUCKLEBOO CFS

BY TRISTAN BALDOCK

Australia Day was a proud day for the Buckleboo Brigade, with Lt Peter Woolford being named Kimba's Citizen of the Year while Lt Graeme Baldock was presented with Life Membership to the CFS, along with the National Medal and 40 year service medal.



Peter, formally a captain of the brigade, was named Kimba's Citizen of the Year

for his broad contribution to the community including inspirational leadership in

numerous community groups, including the Buckleboo CFS.

On accepting his award Peter said it was a big honour and a humbling experience.

"Kimba is a great place to live because of the quality of the people in it," he said.

Peter thanked the community, his wife Sue and his children for their support. His brother James also received life membership to the CFS at the opening of the Buckleboo Fire shed in October.

An active member of the Buckleboo CFS for over 40 years, Graeme was in a state

of shock when Regional Commander Kevin May called him forward to receive the National Medal and his Life Membership.

Graeme said this was totally unexpected. "When you love a community and are passionate about all aspects of it, you do what you can to make it a better place. CFS has been just one way of doing that," he said.

Left, CFS Regional Training Officer Justin Woolford congratulates Graeme Baldock for his Life Membership award.

Lincoln Brigade Life Memberships

BY LINCOLN CAPTAIN - GREG NAPIER

Lincoln Brigade members Chris McBeath and Peter Smart were both recently presented Life Memberships to the CFS.



Chris became a volunteer firefighter in 1976 when he joined the Mount Damper Brigade where he held various positions including logistics officer, training officer and Lieutenant.

In 1992, Chris was made Captain and remained in that role for five years before

becoming the Le Hunte Group Officer, a position he held until 2007.

Chris left the area and travelled around South Australia but eventually returned to the Eyre Peninsula where he joined the Koppio Brigade in the Tumby Bay Group.

Continuing the trend of moving south Chris and his lovely wife returned Port Lincoln and re-joined the local brigade in 2009 where he remains as a valued member.

Peter Smart joined the Lincoln brigade in 1988 and has put his hand up to



assist local and interstate communities on many occasions over the last 24 years.

Peter was a SFF and BTO during his time in the Lincoln Brigade.

Poor health has reluctantly forced Peter to hang up his

yellows pending his return to good health.

The members of the Lincoln Brigade congratulate both Chris and Peter on their life memberships.

01, Lincoln Captain Greg Napier presenting Peter Smart with his Life Membership to CFS.

02, Lincoln Captain Greg Napier presenting Chris McBeath with his Life Membership to CFS.

Young Citizen of the Year Award 2012

GREG NAPIER –
PORT LINCOLN
BRIGADE CAPTAIN



Geoff Earle was awarded the Young Citizen of the Year Award 2012 in Port Lincoln. He was nominated for the awards as a result of his outstanding contribution to the Pt Lincoln Community.

He is very active and has been over a sustained period in Baseball, as a player in the seniors and coach to the U16 side of his local club. As of this year he is also the President of the club.

Geoff is currently a Lieutenant in the Lincoln Brigade. He is highly qualified, modest and a great motivator of his crews. He has a great repour with all the members of the Lincoln brigade and is highly respected by his peers.

Along with his operational duties Geoff also assists with the brigade cadets and has rarely missed training in the last two years.

He is a much valued and respected member of the Lincoln CFS brigade.

WANILLA GROUP/HOWARD AVENUE COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUP

BY THERESA PEDLER

The Community Fire Safe program has continually proven that behaviour change can be achieved when a community group embraces all that it has to offer.



A Community Fire Safe group at Howard Avenue in Port Lincoln has now been running for about two years with new groups from Little

Swamp and Wanilla formed just before the end of 2012. An initiative of the Wanilla group was to go on a bus trip and investigate home fire sprinkler systems.

A fringe benefit of this initiative was meeting two other Community Fire Safe Groups - the new one from Little Swamp and the existing one at Howard Avenue.

All members of the three groups that participated

in the Sunday bus drive had the opportunity to meet other groups and members, discuss different ideas for Bushfire Planning and Preparation and to demonstrate and witness different home fire sprinkler systems.

Left, Howard Avenue resident Ken Holden demonstrates a sprinkler system to Wanilla resident Vikki Matthews.

RUSTLERS GULLY COMMUNITY FIRE SAFE GROUP

BY THERESA PEDLER

Bushfire Action Week provided an excellent opportunity for the residents of Cummins to become engaged in Bushfire Prevention and Preparedness messages.



Residents from approximately 40 homes in Rustlers Gully, north of Port Lincoln, gathered at the local Playground to update their Bush Fire Survival Strategies.

New neighbours were introduced to existing Community Fire Safe Group members to extend and strengthen the networks

already in place for residents to assist each other in the event of a bush fire.

Telephones trees are a common resource used by Community Fire Safe groups and some new "trees" were established and some others were updated. All members are aware of the importance of effective communication in

the early stages of a bushfire and a telephone tree is just one tool the members have chosen to adopt.

Above, Rustlers Gully residents gathering to discuss updating their Bushfire Survival Plans.



OBITUARIES



JOHN DILLON

18 JANUARY 1946 – 10 OCTOBER 2011

BY LORRI DILLON

Many young CFS members throughout South Australia are likely to remember meeting John Dillon when they first attended training at the South Coast Training Centre at Hope Forest, or as students at Willunga or Mount Compass schools.

Older members will remember John when he was Captain of the Range Brigade prior to Ash Wednesday or as the friendly caterer at SCTC and as the very capable and dedicated administration officer for Kyeema Brigades in more recent years.

In 2008 John decided to retire and was farewelled

by his CFS mates and former Chief Officer Euan Ferguson before setting off on an adventurous move to Port Huon in Tasmania with his wife and daughter.

He really enjoyed the panoramic view of the Huon River and Hospital Bay.

John bought a small sailing boat, volunteered at the local yacht club as a starter and was also a volunteer at the Maritime Museum in Hobart.

In July last year he was suddenly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and after a brave and stoic battle passed away on October 10, 2011.



GORDON MOUNTFORD

31 JULY 1931 - 12 JANUARY 2012

BY DAWN HUNT

Gordon was a devoted member of the Mannum Brigade for 40 years.

Gordon grew up in North London in an area that was heavily targeted during WWII. After he finished school he joined up with the British RAF and was employed as a Dental Technician.

During the war, a German bomb had landed near him, impaling shrapnel into his shoulder and some of this was found some years later. This contributed to his hearing difficulties, but none of this stopped Gordon from committing to his volunteer work.

After the war, he was sponsored to Australia and landed in Adelaide where he worked for ARC Weldmesh. The family visited Port Mannum on many occasions and eventually moved there.

On 27th November 1961, he became a proud Australian Citizen.

Gordon's adopted father was involved in the

building of the EFS / St John Ambulance station in Mannum and on 20th October 1972 Gordon also joined the EFS and this began his 40 years of dedication to the Mannum Community.

After his retirement, he spent many hours volunteering with the CFS and the local RSL. Gordon was always actively trying to improve the service in one way or another and until recently, no CEO had escaped his correspondence and his constant ideas for improvement.

Gordon will always be remembered as a true friend to the Mannum Brigade and the voice on Mannum's radio.

Farewell Gordy and thank you for your dedication, may you rest in peace.



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