

# VOLUNTEER

VOLUME 129 MARCH 2013



## FARM FIRE UNITS WELCOMED SUPPORT DURING FIRE SEASON

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# VOLUNTEER

VOLUME 129 MARCH 2013

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electronically, via email or disc as a Microsoft Word document.

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### Cover

CFS Happy Valley members during the Coomunga fire in November whose efforts with other fire fighters from around the State helped to stave off a bushfire which had threatened the Port Lincoln and Boston townships and Port Lincoln Prison. Photo: Stuart Vallance, Myponga CFS Brigade.

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MARCH 2013 VOLUNTEER **1**





## CHIEF OFFICER GREG NETTLETON

During this summer, record extreme-temperatures in outback Australia have led to destructive bushfires in New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. Just weeks later communities in Queensland and New South Wales experienced record floods from ex Tropical Cyclone Oswald. CFS immediately offered resources to assist those affected States.

accuracy of this information.

Since the publication of the last Volunteer magazine many new faces have been added to the CFS team. Firstly, I welcome those new volunteers who have recently joined CFS to serve your communities. We also welcome new staff who have chosen CFS as your new employer. This summer's operations have demonstrated that volunteers and staff working together make CFS a powerful team protecting life and property.

I would also like to welcome back Minister Michael O'Brien to CFS. His first visit to CFS was when he was acting for the then Minister, Jennifer Rankine earlier this year. During this visit he witnessed the fully-activated CFS State Coordination Centre on a day when state-wide fire bans were declared. CFS looks forward to working with Minister O'Brien to strengthen our influence to protect life and property in our communities.

From an operational equipment viewpoint, CFS will shortly take delivery of another twenty three 34-appliances including a prototype 34. A 44-prototype is currently being built while the prototype 24 has been favourably commented upon wherever it has been displayed. A new Operations Support Vehicle for

Region 2 is under construction and CFS has recently upgraded its Breathing Apparatus training capability following the delivery of the BA training POD. The BA replacement project currently underway is examining the whole BA capability in CFS. This project will deliver a long-term strategy for the replacement and ongoing management of BA sets, cylinders and compressors. It is a complex project and not a simple one for the replacement of BA sets. There will be more news on this as the year progresses.

Onkaparinga Group's Group Officer Peter Wicks and Para Group's Deputy Group Officer Ken Potter were honoured this Australia Day. Congratulations to both officers following their award of the prestigious Australian Fire Service Medal. I would also like to acknowledge other CFS volunteers who have been awarded South Australian and CFS medals and commendations throughout the year.

The Bureau's most recent three-monthly forecast suggests this bushfire season has the potential to last well into March or even April. Already I have extended the Fire Danger Season dates in three Fire Ban Districts – Eastern Eyre Peninsula, Lower Eyre Peninsula and West Coast – to April 30. We still have a long way to go. I ask all Group and Brigade leaders to ensure all operations, no matter how large or small, are tackled professionally and safely. Everyone must get home.

Closer to home, our bushfire season started early in September with fires threatening communities and assets in the APY lands and on pastoral stations. As the season progresses, many fires have started with several having the potential to threaten lives and property. Regardless of where these fires have occurred, CFS volunteers and land owners have combined forces to protect their communities and assets. A feature in this edition on pages 6 and 7 acknowledges the fantastic support farmers' fire fighting units and pastoralists provide to CFS and their communities during bushfires. A related article on page 16 describes how CFS and pastoralists use the Northern Australia Fire Information (NAFI) website to manage fires in outback areas.

Fighting bushfires in the information age has become increasingly complex and

demanding. No longer do fire services simply have to combat the fire itself but now have to provide accurate and up-to-the-minute details of fires to satisfy an information-hungry and technically connected community. Fire services in NSW, Victoria and Tasmania saw unprecedented demands on their web sites and mobile phone apps from affected communities and from around the world following global media coverage of their most recent fires. Learning from this experience, CFS has rapidly increased its web and social media capacity to meet community demand for information when major fires occur in SA. The requirement for quick, accurate information from the fireground is now just as important as putting the wet stuff on the red stuff. If we don't provide the information to the community someone else using social media will – at the expense of the

**“Fighting bushfires in the information age has become increasingly complex and demanding.”**



## MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HON. MICHAEL O'BRIEN MP

At the turn of the last century a 19-year-old, while homesick in England, wrote a poem that captured the essence of the Australian landscape and the unpredictable nature of its climate.

Dorothea Mackellar first penned it.

It highlights the fact that our continent has been ravaged by natural disasters long before white settlement and continues to be exposed to its devastation and terror.

We now understand the inevitable nature of our climatic landscape but more importantly, we have developed a proud capacity to respond to disasters and assist our neighbours and protect their communities when these situations occur.

I recently had the opportunity to witness first-hand CFS operations in full swing while visiting State Headquarters during the Finnis fire on 4 January, 2013.

At its peak, this was a fast-moving fire burning through grass and scrub that required asset protection to be carried out at a moment's notice.

More than 170 CFS firefighters supported by aircraft battled the blaze and worked quickly to contain the fire, which burnt through 331 hectares.

I felt an overwhelming sense of pride for the humble commitment of those who took part in this emergency and I thank each and every one of you, our dedicated and brave volunteers, for your outstanding efforts in protecting the South Australian community. It is because of your collective efforts that no lives or homes were lost.

This incident clearly demonstrated to me the capabilities of CFS firefighters. It showed the extraordinary commitment of CFS volunteers in keeping their communities safe, and highlighted their value and esteem to all South Australians.

This small snapshot of operational activity which I witnessed at CFS Headquarters has made me feel exceptionally pleased to enter my new role as Minister for Emergency Services.

I am looking forward to visiting CFS regions across the State and will take the opportunity where possible to visit the brigades and become acquainted with CFS volunteers.

I am told that the CFS is more than a bushfire service. With the Fire Danger Season nearly over and the imminent threat of bushfire behind us for another year, volunteers will continue to assist the community during road crash rescues, structure fires and hazardous material spills.

Thank you all for a job well done.



## CFSVA PRESIDENT ROGER FLAVELL

Here we are in another new year with 2012 having rolled away and 2013 rolling on through. As they say, time waits for no one.

volunteers as they have in the past, and the reasons are many and varied. However as rural communities continue to shrink in population there will need to be some serious consideration given, to how the CFS covers this situation in the future.

Many urban fringe brigades have waiting lists to join while some country brigades struggle to attract new members and with the drift of the population towards the city, the service may need to get serious about having a reserve force of volunteers trained in the city and ready for action to cover the longer term deployments.

Wendy Shirley left us in early November and we wish her well

for the future, and Sonia St Alban has taken up the challenge of supporting and working with us. I encourage you all to make yourself known to Sonia and give her a warm welcome as she moves around the state to attend branch meetings.

We recently witnessed a change within government which saw Minister Rankin leave emergency services to take up the education portfolio and we wish her well in the new role.

We now welcome Minister Michael O'Brien to emergency services and look forward to getting to know him.

We will be working hard to see the presumptive legislation for

some cancers to be extended to cover volunteers in this state, as the work volunteers do is no different to our career counterparts across Australia and we are aware that this is being followed up nationally.

Congratulations to Peter Wicks and Ken Potter who each received an AFSM in the Australia Day honours awards.

I know that both have given a substantial amount of their life to CFS but more importantly provided innovation, ideas and progress in their efforts to protect people and communities during times of emergency.





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## NEWS & UPDATES

### THIS SEASON'S BUSHFIRE READY CAMPAIGN

BY NEIL CHARTER, CFS PRINCIPAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Every season the CFS invests a significant amount of money into campaign advertising. Its principle purpose is to raise public awareness about bushfire risk, safety, preparedness and planning.

Volunteers would see more than most just how many people out there continue to live in denial that they are at bushfire risk and fail to plan for themselves or loved ones' safety. This very fact puts not only other people's lives at risk, but also those volunteers that have to respond to help them.

The campaign is a very strategic, thought-out process with many factors that contribute to its development. These are based significantly on extensive research conducted throughout the fire season that measures behavioural changes, responses and attitudes within different bushfire target audiences. The results of interstate research are also considered when looking for effective bushfire safety messaging strategies. Feedback from volunteer experiences is also highly valid and a welcome contribution to the overall communications strategy.

The decision to introduce volunteers back into the campaign advertising a couple of years ago was strategic. The concept married with the corporate archetype which identifies the "Hero" qualities within the CFS. However, just as importantly, it identifies the "Sage" characteristic which is the holder of wisdom, the teacher, guide and source of expert knowledge. It was

therefore a strategic move to bring back the volunteer as both the source of credible advice and as a representation of the CFS brand.

Research clearly shows us that the public look to CFS volunteers not only as people that may well save them in a situation but also as experts in what they do. This provides us with a very useful vehicle in communicating important key messages.

In the past two bushfire seasons the CFS has "hardened" up its messaging. You will now see volunteers delivering key messages about the "facts of fire" and the consequences, often showing actual fire and embers. There is always a fine line in advertising about shock value and the viewer dismissing what is deemed too hard or too confronting. Finding the most effective approach to convey the right message is part of the skill of delivering an effective campaign.

The mainstream delivery of the campaign is through television, press and radio commercials. However supporting these is also a raft of other advertising mediums that include everything from indigenous "speaking" posters distributed by Region 4 and 6 in the remote communities of

**Download the CFS FireApp.**

To download your app for iPhone or iPad **CLICK HERE**

To download your app for Android **CLICK HERE**

The CFS FireApp is the official SA Country Fire Service smartphone application which provides users with bushfire alerts and safety information, wherever they are in South Australia, enabling them to assess their own preparedness for bushfire.

**For more information visit**  
[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) Information

**You don't need to see the bushfire for your life to be in danger. Know what you will do.**

Embers and smoke travel well ahead of the actual fire and can be just as deadly.

Bushfire Information Hotline  
1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)  
[www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

Government of South Australia

Background Photo by Drew Baker

the APY Lands through to beer coasters in regional township's pubs and clubs through to an outdoor billboard at the Port Lincoln airport.

Whilst television is the most powerful medium in reaching people one of the most successful communication channels has been the use of Adshells (bus shelter advertising) on arterial roads into peri-urban bushfire risk areas and the hills.

As summer progresses the messaging changes accordingly to remind people that it only takes one day to change a bushfire season and what they can do to keep themselves safe. Post Christmas you may well see labels on petrol pumps, or posters if holidaying in caravan parks and regional tourism brochures. You may also see advertising links to the CFS throughout digital mediums

including your Mobilenet, Facebook site or on Adelaide Now.

Whilst the current ads may have seen their last year, they have been highly successful in gaining the public's attention. They have also been recognised nationally through a number of other states re-badging South Australian CFS advertising materials and TV commercials.

The strategic thinking has

already begun for next year's advertising campaign and with a couple of concepts already emerging CFS Communications are always looking for Volunteer "talent" who may be interested in being the next face of CFS public messaging. If you are interested just drop me a line at [charter.neil@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:charter.neil@cfs.sa.gov.au).



# FARM FIRE UNITS

## – VALUABLE CFS SUPPORT

BY BILL NEHMY

It has been a long-standing practice for rural property owners and farmers in South Australia to take responsibility of the management of fires when they occur on their properties.

Farm Fire Units have played an integral part towards providing an effective time-critical response.

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) has supported this role through the development of guidelines jointly with the CFS, to help farmers understand their responsibilities and not compromise their safety during fires on, or near their land.

This involves some basic principles to help fight fires safely and effectively whether the CFS is present at the fire or not.

The "Farm Fire Units Guidelines" provide a basis for maintaining a consistent approach in the use of Farm Fire Units at fires across South Australia.

These guidelines also offer information to improve knowledge in fire behaviour, fire hazards and suppression activities, as well

as providing guidance on fire equipment, communications and protective clothing.

Key points highlighted in these guidelines include the following to ensure that:

- Operators' safety and that of others, is not compromised
- Equipment is suitable and capable of performing the task
- Equipment is reliable and;
- Equipment has the capability and robustness to operate in a hostile environment.

Operators of Farm Fire Units are not exempt nor above the law when engaged in firefighting operations, they are expected to comply with all legal obligations, including traffic regulations as part of their safety responsibilities.

General feedback to the "Farm Fire Units Guidelines"

has been positive and therefore encouraging improved standards in fire fighting equipment, a better understanding and compliance of OHW&S requirements and ultimately a united fire fighting team.



Farm Fire Units Guidelines.



**Above.** Farm Fire Units supporting the CFS at Leighton.  
Photo: Eric Sommerville.

## Kybybolite Protection Group

BY ANDREW SHEPHERD, KYBYBOLITE PROTECTION GROUP SECRETARY

The Kybybolite Protection Group, near Naracoorte in the state's South East, was formed in 1989 by a group of local farmers to provide and maintain a private fire unit.

The aim of this unit is to backup and assist the CFS within our local Brigade region.

The locals make a donation to the group annually which helps maintain our unit.

Just recently we were fortunate enough to purchase our old Brigade CFS 34 unit which was upgraded to a new twin cab unit.

Should our CFS brigade unit

be called away, especially on a bad fire day, it gives us piece of mind that we still have a unit on hand.

When there is a fire in our area it acts as extra support to assist the CFS on the fire ground and we keep in contact with the CFS via UHF radio

which most of the time works well.

We have a very active group of volunteers that help maintain and look after the unit which is vital to the area.

## FARMERS REDUCING THE FIRE RISK

BY ROGER FARLEY, STATE PRESIDENT  
SA FARMERS FEDERATION

Intimate local knowledge of local areas and its vegetation is invaluable to both local CFS crews and their appliances when it comes to fire fighting.



Locals know where tracks cross creeks as well as how to navigate hilly terrain and where to find tanks accessible to fire trucks.

Many farmers have gates not only between paddocks but between neighbours and this

not only saves time at the point of the fire but can save much frustration afterwards in livestock control.

The South Australian Farmers Federation (SAFF) is acutely aware of the huge loss that fires caused by farming activities

can have on farmers and the rural community. This is the main reason why a number of voluntary codes have been developed in conjunction with the CFS.

It is important that farmers do not cut corners, particularly in relation to the fire risk. In addition to this, it is necessary to be bushfire ready, with a well-maintain farm fire-fighting unit.

As farmers we accept we have a responsibility to reduce the outbreak of fires while also recognising that we are operating in an environment that can potentially be extremely dangerous.

We need to get our farming tasks done as efficiently and

safely as possible at all times but particularly during the fire season.

SAFF is continually encouraging all farmers in South Australia to keep and maintain all farm machinery and equipment in good working order so as to mitigate bushfire risk.

At the height of the Bundaleer fire in January there were 50 farm fire units supporting 200 fire fighters with 40 tankers and three fixed-wing bombers.

These efforts through the farming community demonstrates the importance of the farm fire units as an integral part of how we fight fires in this South Australia and is a valuable credit to everyone involved.

## FARM FIRE UNITS SUPPORTING CFS EFFORTS

BY MICHAEL CROUCH, SPENCER GROUP OFFICER

The CFS Spencer Group has nine Brigades which includes three that are town-based (Crystal Brook, Port Broughton and Napperby) in addition to six rural brigades which all have a long history using Farm Fire Units from the large pool of farm-based CFS members.



A FFU at Bundaleer

them in the event of a fire.

Farm fire units in Spencer vary from ex CFS tankers to an array of 1 tonne utes, trainer units, and trucks with water carrying capacity between 4000 – 5000 litres. During the harvest period, these units are at their best with their close proximity to the harvest activity.

A vast majority of fires are held or contained before CFS tankers arrive and it is not unusual to have 10-15 private units at any fire during a harvest. Communication with these private units in Region 4 is on UHF 9 (primary) and UHF 19 or 29 (secondary) channels which makes it easier to work together.

Information updates are also offered to farmers when requested.

Farm units save the community and insurance companies many millions of dollars each year and in some areas their significance seems to be undervalued. Even though this harvest we did not have a high number of fires, the use of fire units was particularly significant with three major fires.

1. A harvester reaping peas on the side of a hill hit rocks. The fire was heading to a large hill before it was stopped by private fire units. This saved days' of work.
2. A fire in a barley crop heading towards a scrub was slowed down by private units until the CFS unit arrived, saving the crop, scrub and hours of work.

3. A brand new harvester malfunctioned and a fire started within the implement. This fire was extinguished by private units, saving a \$600,000 harvester plus the crop.

As we all know, the CFS provides great training to its members but it cannot train members with local knowledge of terrain, local weather conditions, private tracks etc. This comes from local farmers which is why the CFS continues to support and foster its relationship with the farmers who operate these fire units and eliminate the 'them and us mentality'.



“My new role is quite a change of career for me and something I am really looking forward to.”

PETER PHILLIPS

## TRAINING OUR PEOPLE

This page and opposite page. Photos courtesy of Mt Barker Courier

“Joining the CFS State Training Team has provided me with an opportunity to turn my hobby into a full time profession.”

WAYNE RICHARDSON

### PETER PHILLIPS

I joined the Mt Compass CFS Brigade in 2000 having moved to the area from Glenelg and have been a Senior Fire Fighter since 2007.



Prior to joining the CFS I worked as an Account Manager in the Telecommunications industry where I started as a trainee technician straight out of school so the move to my new role is quite a change of career for me and something I am really looking forward to.

Over the last few years I have spent a large part of my time delivering training for the CFS and recently the SES and have gained a lot of satisfaction from my training roles and skills it has let me develop.

I am looking forward to being able to spend more time training CFS volunteers who continually give up their spare time to train as well as responding, working, studying, and all of the other things they juggle so that they can support and protect their communities.

I have also been heavily involved in training at brigade, group and state level and have been a Brigade Training Coordinator, Group Training Coordinator, URAR Lead Assessor and BF1 Lead Assessor.

I live just outside Mt Compass at Nangkita on 16 acres with my wife Judith and two adult children, Rebecca and Daniel, who are both CFS firefighters having come through the Cadet ranks.

### BRUCE LACEY

I have been married to Judy for 31 years and have two children: Rhys and Bree.



Rhys, 25, is a teacher at Whyalla High School and Bree has just graduated as a teacher and is working at Ouyen Primary School in Victoria.

I was a very sports-minded person playing cricket and football along with coaching both sports at under-aged level once I retired as a player.

I worked for ForestrySA for around 30 years starting off as a Forest Maintenance worker before gaining an Operations Supervisor's position.

I have been involved in and managed a large

number of fires not only forest but grassland and native vegetation over that period of time.

I have also been on deployments to Kangaroo Island in 2006 as a Deputy Operations Officer and Operations Officer, also in 2007 as a Divisional Commander and Deputy Operations Officer, and attended the Victorian fires in 2009 as a Deputy Divisional Commander/Strike Team Leader.

In my role as a State Training Officer Rural for Regions 3 and 5, I am looking forward to working closely with Dawn and Scott and assisting them in meeting the training needs of these regions, along with meeting the hard-working and dedicated volunteers of the CFS at Brigade and Group level in my travels within the two regions.

### WAYNE RICHARDSON

I am happily married to Christina with three adult children and one grandchild.



I live in Mt Gambier (Region 5), where I was employed by ForestrySA for 30 years in numerous rolls including

25 years within the research section.

I live in Mt Gambier (Region 5), where I was employed by ForestrySA for 30 years in numerous rolls including 25 years within the research section.

My final position with ForestrySA was as the Coordinator Research. I was involved in a wide range of scientific research from the identification and classification of soils through to the development of fertiliser response prediction

models for radiata pine. I also specialised in weed control and herbicide research and was the principle scientist for the national forest industry herbicide research consortium.

I have been a member of the CFS since 1991 and have 31 years fire fighting experience which ranges from being on the end of the hose as a fire fighter to working as a planning officer on level II and level III Incident Management Teams. This includes deployments both intra state (Kangaroo Island) and

interstate (Victoria 2009).

Joining the CFS State Training Team has provided me with an opportunity to turn my hobby of years of providing training as a CFS volunteer into a full time profession.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to turn something I love doing into a career and to give something back to the community by helping our volunteer members learn and practice the skills with which to do their job and most importantly come home safe.

### VAUGHN ELSWORTH

I have been a volunteer with the CFS since 1996 when I first joined the Woomera Brigade.

In 2001 I moved back to the Barossa Valley and joined the Lyndoch Brigade where I'm still an active member.

During this time I have held a number of leadership and functional roles.

In 2007 I joined staff as a member of the State Rural Training Team delivering Basic Firefighting, Suppress Wildfire and other rural related courses.

In 2011, I was successful in winning an Acting Regional

Training Officer position in Region 2 while the incumbent was on maternity leave. Since then, I have undertaken the role of Regional Operations Planning Officer in the Region until December 2012, when I was successful in winning the permanent Regional Training Delivery Officer position.

This role will again see me out an about delivering a wide range of training skills to members of the Region 2 CFS Brigades.





# “BRILLIANT WORK PROTECTING OUR HOMES”

BY ROD CUNNINGHAM  
CFS COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER

It's normally a day for relaxing and recovering from the New Year's celebrations but not so for the many CFS volunteers from the Mid North.

It only took a spark from an electrical fault, a call to Triple Zero and at 14:42 hours all of the Horrocks Group in the Clare Valley were on their way to incident 102. Many more appliances and crew from Region 2 and 3 were to join in the battle as fickle winds drove the fire through inaccessible terrain in Spring Gully, south of Clare.

On our appliance we had two choices, chase the growing fire over the hills or along the creek. We chose the creek.

Mintaro 34 headed though the Skillogalee vineyard to stop the spread along a heavily wooded creek. Another 500 metres and the fire would be in Spring Gully Conservation Park. Grinding through the hilly vineyard there was a sickening crunch from the rear as we took out several posts. Unperturbed, our driver headed for the smoke and the creek. The fire was the goal.

Thick wild plums in a creek bed, with dead trees, isn't a picnic, especially on New Years Day. Above the roar of the pump there was a new noise, white flecks of foam floated down.

The bombers were here! A plane load to halt the spread up the creek, then over the hill to halt the spread to the north. Sixty five drops that afternoon!

It was a welcome sight as extra crews arrived, helicopters as well. Two hours had passed and the initial chaos settled into organised rhythm. Farm units crawled by along the creek bank, a friendly wave and a smile, happy to leave us battle the wild plums.

**Below.** Fire crew from the Blyth Brigade prepare to deal with a fire near Sevenhill

**Main image.** Water bombing near Campbell Road

**Below.** The local community express their gratitude during the Sevenhill fires



“Above the roar of the pump there was a new noise, white flecks of foam floated down. The bombers were here!”

## WILDLAND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (PPC) — WORKING TO A STANDARD

BY ARTHUR TINDALL  
CFS MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

In our environment, the wildland environment in which we combat bushfire is challenging.

This necessitates exposing firefighters to potentially significant risk in an environment over which we have little control. Consequently for fire and emergency services the hierarchy of control is effectively reversed with the first three control measures being used equally to mitigate risk as follows:

1. Use of Personal Protective Equipment – e.g. Specific, clothing, helmets, boots, gloves and eye protection
2. Use of Administrative Control – e.g. Fireground practices, Chief Officer's Standing Orders, Standard Operating Procedures and Operations Management Guidelines.
3. Use of Engineering Controls – e.g. in cab roll down blinds, crew deck protection awning, cabin deluge system, in-cab breathing system etc.

Under Occupational Health and Safety legislation employers must, so far as is reasonably practical, provide and maintain a safe work environment and safe systems of work for their employees, (CFS Volunteers are classed as employees under the legislation).

In relation to Wildland PPC, as is the case with all Personal Protective Equipment, (PPE), provided to and used by CFS volunteers, CFS requires the products being used to be certified to the relevant Australian Standard.

In the case of wildland clothing the relevant Standard is “AS/NZS 4824, *Protective clothing for firefighters – Requirements and test methods for protective clothing used*



**Above.** CFS PPC conforming to all required clothing design standards

for wildland firefighting (ISO 15384:2003, MOD)”. This Standard addresses the following issues:

- Clothing Design –e.g. the Standard requires the collar to remain in a vertical position when it is set upright and to be fitted with a closure system.
- Sampling and pre treatment of material prior to testing.
- Thermal requirements
- Mechanical requirements
- General requirements – e.g. labelling requirements.

What the Standard does do is provide some guidelines on how clothing should be designed by making statements such as “Clothing should be light and flexible in order to be effective without introducing heat stress in the wearer” etc.

Standards are “living documents” that are subject to ongoing review and change. Changes are achieved through a Standards Committee process which includes public consultation.

CFS now has its own PPE Committee with staff and volunteer representatives

from each Region. They have recently undertaken a broad consultative process that has led to a new design of garment being developed for CFS. This committee can also raise issues with the CFS Manager Infrastructure and Logistics, (MIL), that they want discussed at a national level.

For over 35 years Australian volunteer rural fire agencies such as CFS have been providing their members with Proban treated cotton Wildland PPC to wear. Lighter and more durable fabrics that provide the same or greater levels of protection have been available for some time but have been cost-prohibitive to use.

A number of new generation fabrics have recently come onto the market that has broadened the choice available to CFS.

CFS has recently adopted one of these products, TenCate Tecasafe Plus, as it has better feel and drape, provides the same protection at a lighter weight, is inherently fire retardant, (as opposed to being a treatment ) and remains cost effective when compared to Proban.

### CFS Specific Happenings

Following several near misses during a major incident, work is being undertaken to ensure CFS firefighters are visible at night and in low light conditions. This is being achieved by replacing garments that don't have reflective and fluorescent tape attached with garments that do.

As mentioned earlier the CFS PPE Committee has been working on a new wildland garment for our volunteers. This process involved the design, development and manufacture of a prototype garment that was displayed around the State as part of a significant State-wide consultation process. Following that process results were tabulated and an updated design of garment is now being manufactured. On receipt of the updated prototype further consultation will occur before the garment goes into production.

At a national level MIL has been working with a small group of people to progress a high visibility garment. Those wearing those garments will no longer need to wear tabards when working on roadways or in other high risk environments.



# ASH WEDNESDAY REFLECTION FROM THE SOUTH EAST

BY REX HALL AFSM, HISTORIAN AND CHAIRMAN OF SA VOLUNTEERS FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM INC.

Although 30 years have passed the memories of Ash Wednesday remains vivid to this day to those including myself who were among the 130,000 fire fighters across three states in south-eastern Australia, who became involved and a part of history.

In South Australia's south-east, on 16 February, 1983, the weather conditions were extreme with north-west wind gusts reported in excess of 100kph.

The temperature across the region averaged around the mid-40s with very low humidity.

At around 3.30pm that day, I can still recall the words of Dennis Page AFSM, who was the District Forester at Mt Burr.

"The gale force wind from the north-west has suddenly ceased as if you had turned off a tap and for just a few minutes it became dead calm – the calm before the storm.

"Then as if you had turned on a light switch the extreme wind change came from the south-west and the entire eastern flank became the fire front with three fires merging."

My research has revealed that these conditions were very similar to those that were experienced in the devastating 1939 bushfires.

In summary, the South East experienced the following consequences after the Ash Wednesday bushfires in 1983.

- 14 deaths.
- A total of 170,000 hectares of grassland destroyed
- An additional 150,000 hectares of pasture destroyed

- A total of 20,000 hectares of pine plantations valued at \$120m destroyed
- 350 farms razed
- 96 homes destroyed
- Loss of sheep 300,000
- Loss of cattle 10,000

I pray that weather condition and events beyond our control doesn't provide a repeat of these fires in the future. However I fear it is not a matter of if - but when!

*Lest we forget.*

**Below.** Ash Wednesday fire at Narraweena approaching Leggs Lane on 16 February, 1983

## ASH WEDNESDAY 30 YEARS ON

A memorial service took place at the Mount Lofty Summit on February 16 for all Country Fire Service (CFS) fire fighters who have died since 1976, the year when the former Emergency Fire Service (EFS) was renamed the CFS.



CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton



**Above.** Those who took part in the memorial service were asked to "Look Up and Remember" during a visual representation on Mt Lofty Summit Tower for the 13 CFS firefighters who have died since 1976 while serving South Australian communities.



Look up and Remember at the Ash Wednesday memorial. Photo: Courtesy of the CFS Promotions Unit

The special service coincided with the 30th anniversary of the Ash Wednesday bushfires which claimed 28 lives in South Australia including three CFS fire fighters.

CFS Regional Commander Chris Martin who was the MC for the event said this has become an annual tradition since 2000 when the Mt Lofty Tower Brigade was formed that year.

"Before then, only two memorial services had been held at the summit – one in 1984 and another in 1997 but they only focussed on the three CFS fire fighters who died in Ash Wednesday and no one else before this bushfire," Mr Martin said.

"After the Mt Lofty Tower Brigade was established, its members began hosting an annual memorial service to remember all CFS volunteers who have died on duty and not just in bushfires but in other emergency incidents including structure fires."

Thirty years on from Ash Wednesday, the CFS has evolved into a robust and dynamic emergency service with more than 13,400 volunteers who are committed to protecting our communities from various risks and emergencies 24/7 and not just bushfires.

“In the South Australia's south-east, on 16 February, 1983, the weather conditions were extreme with north-west wind gusts reported in excess of 100kph.

## Interim Bushfire Management Area Plans endorsed

BY LEIGH MILLER

Eight interim Bushfire Management Area Plans (iBMAPs) have been endorsed by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee, with the iBMAPs defining the agreed bushfire risk treatment strategies for each respective area.

The iBMAPs, which cover the mainland areas of South Australia, drafted by each Bushfire Management

Committee in line with parameters established by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

The iBMAPs were compiled using information from existing local government and CFS Bushfire Prevention Plans, and State Government land management agency Fire Management Plans.

A preliminary risk assessment was undertaken

by the relevant Bushfire Management Committee to ensure the iBMAPs were current, and reflected the Committee's assessment of bushfire risk within their area.

To view the plans, visit the CFS website at [http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/fire\\_safety/bushfire\\_management\\_planning\\_in\\_sa.jsp](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/fire_safety/bushfire_management_planning_in_sa.jsp).



Bushfire Management Plans



# ALDINGA BEACH CFS MEMBER CELEBRATES MILESTONE

BY BILL NEHMY



Mark Pinnock joined the CFS Sellicks Brigade as a 16-year-old cadet. Two years ago he moved to the Aldinga Beach Brigade where he celebrated his 20th anniversary as a member of the CFS. Last December in the same week he and his wife Charlene welcomed their third child, Austin Mark, a younger brother to Emily, 12 and Holly, 2.

**I**n the beginning the CFS was about making new friends and the thrill of the callout, and the adrenalin pumping every time the pager went off," Mark said.

"Over the years the reasons to stay have changed, especially since having my own family, my commitment now is more about protecting the community and being available to help those in need."

The CFS has provided Mark with many opportunities over the past 20 years in the form of travel throughout regional SA to train other fire fighters and participate in strike teams and training, leading to valuable technical and leadership skills.

Those skills and Mark's 20 years' experience attending fires, accidents, chemical spills and more, are the crucial elements that have given him the opportunity to develop his own successful corporate training company Australian Fire & First Aid.

Apart from attending callouts with his local brigade Aldinga Beach, Mark still volunteers his time on weekends throughout winter to train new fire fighters in basic fire fighting skills and breathing apparatus. This earned him a nomination in 2012 for SA trainer of the year.

Giving back to the CFS comes naturally to Mark who is fully

supported by his family.

Mark's wife Charlene said although it can be tough at times, such as when the pager goes off during a family dinner, she is comforted by the fact he is doing a wonderful thing for the community.

"Imagine being in an accident, needing help and no one came?" she said.

"That's exactly what would happen in many regional communities without CFS volunteers, which is why it is a part of our family life and many of our friends have been part of the CFS as long as Mark has."

So will baby Austin follow his dad's footsteps in 16 years time?

"It would be completely up to him but if he's anything like his sisters he'll be obsessed with fire trucks and ready to start cadets when he turns 11," Mark said.

**Above.** Mark Pinnock's newborn son Austin is "wrapped" in the CFS and may follow dad's footsteps who joined as a cadet.

## NEW AFAC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**T**he Australasian Fire & Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) has appointed Stuart Ellis as its new Chief Executive Officer.

Stuart was the Chief Officer of the CFS between 1996 and 2001 and more recently, was engaged as a consultant to the Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission in 2009.

In his early career, Stuart was with the Australian Defence Forces where he served with

the United Nations Forces in Somalia and was the Commanding Officer / Chief Instructor at the Royal Military College. He also served on the Board of Inquiry into the Black Hawk Disaster

Stuart chaired the COAG national inquiry into bushfires in 2004 and was a member of the team that conducted the 2012 Review of the Bushfire CRC.

He has qualifications that include a Bachelor of Arts

(History and Government) and Graduate Diplomas in Management Studies and Strategic Studies.

Stuart formally took up his new role as AFAC CEO on 26 November 2012.



The new AFAC Chief Executive, former CFS Chief, Stuart Ellis

## INTRODUCING THE BUSHFIRE RISK REGISTER TO SA

BY LEIGH MILLER  
CFS MANAGER PREVENTION SERVICES

This model is now being applied to South Australia and will be adapted to suit our State's conditions, with improvements being made to its functionality through enhanced software programming language.

Mr Chris Graves has been engaged to manage the development of SABRR and says the new model will use a more sophisticated yet simpler programming language.

"The benefit of this new model is that it will require less programming code, making it easier to fix and modify as required," Chris said.

The model is currently being tested for its robustness and accuracy before its scheduled roll-out in March 2013.

**T**he South Australian Bushfire Risk Register (SABRR) is the powerhouse behind the new Bushfire Management Area Plans, which were recently endorsed by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

The SABRR is a modified version of the bushfire register used by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service (RFS), with the RFS model having been developed several years ago to specifically suit the State's vegetation types.

**Inset.** GIS Specialist Chris Graves managing the South Australian Bushfire Risk Register

Have you heard of SPAM?  
Did you know there is a  
new SPAM phone line?  
**(08) 8211 9612**

When you dial this number it will  
diverted to the SPAM on-call duty  
officer.

This is available for you to call if you  
are experiencing difficulty from a CFS  
incident, or from a personal or family  
situation.

If required, a referral can be made  
for you to see a mental health  
professional, who is contracted by  
SAFECOM to provide professional  
and confidential counselling services  
to CFS and SES/VMR members and  
their immediate families. Please don't  
hesitate to call the SPAM phone line.

It's OK not to be OK  
— So call the SPAM team.



# NAFI MONITORING INTENSE FIRES CAUSED BY A “PEST” GRASS

BY SUSAN BARRIE  
COMMUNITY SAFETY GIS ANALYST

CFS Region 4 became operational almost three months ahead of the Fire Danger Season in August last year by dealing with a series of large grass fires in the Far North of the state.



These fires have been burning with intensity and speed unknown to the region due to the invasion of the pest species Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*) also known as Mamu Grass (Devils Grass) in the local Anangu dialects.

Buffel grass is destroying the habitat for the endangered Waru or Black-Footed Rock-Wallaby and squeezing out endangered flora species such as the Wrinkled Honey-Myrtle (*Melaleuca fulgens*

subsp. *corrugata*) and *Acacia Tenuior*.

Burning at temperatures of 696°C to 900°C, Buffel grass fires not only wipe out native species but require a different kind of fire management style to what has been traditionally applied.

When Region 4 had already been fighting fires for months before the official start of the Fire Danger Season, it became apparent that they needed to be able to see where the fires

had been as well as where they are now.

By being able to include recent fire scars in their control plans, the limited equipment available to fight the fire could be better allocated.

The North Australia Fire Information (NAFI) website was developed in the Northern Territory to assist with fire management across the Territory. It maps both the Sentinel hot spots (which have +/- 1.5km accuracy) and fire scars.

The scars are mapped by analysing the change in intensity of several light bands on two satellite photos taken at a set time apart from each other. As of the 2011/12 fire season hot spots for South Australia were added on to the site to assist Region 4 and their partners with identifying ignition sites.

This season we engaged Cape York Sustainable Futures, based in Queensland, to map the fire scars for South Australia for inclusion on the site.

Cape York Sustainable Futures are already engaged with mapping the fire scars in Queensland for Queensland Fire and Rescue Service. They have historically mapped scars from August 2012 and have been providing the CFS regular updates since November 2012.

Due to the high number of days with cloud cover over the southern part of South Australia it has only been possible to map the northern parts of the state, hence fire scars are only being mapped north of Coober Pedy.

Mapping of scars will continue until April 2013. In the meantime Region 4, Operations and the GIS User Group will be reviewing this process to decide if this service can be continued into the next fire season.

For more information visit [www.firenorth.org.au](http://www.firenorth.org.au)

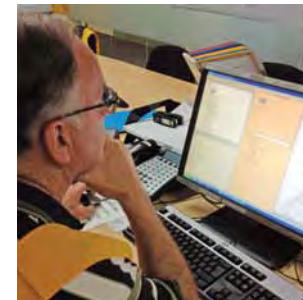
**Below.** Buffel grass fires burn with intensity and speed in the Outback

“These fires have been burning with intensity and speed unknown to the region due to the invasion of the pest species.

## MULTI FUNCTION IRIS

BY BRIAN HOLECEK & JOHN WRIGHT

Incident Resources Information System (IRIS) is an intuitive computer-based resource tracking system that was created by the Victorian Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE).



IRIS is currently being used by the CFS, SES, DEWNR and ForestrySA. It is based on AIIMS ICCS (Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System) principles.

The program enables users at Group (if connected), Region, State and Incident level to:

- Electronically record the formation of resources – personnel, vehicles and equipment – into crews i.e. First Responding appliances, Strike Teams, Task Forces etc;

- Record the dispatch of crews to incidents;
- Record the deployment of crews (and individual resources) at an incident;
- Produce summary reports of that incident's structure; the resources at that incident; Sector Deployment Orders; and Battleboard cards for all of the personnel, vehicles and crews at that incident.

IRIS is used by a Dispatcher/Operator who can:

- Record an event, dispatch crews, and deploy crews to an incident;
- See all other incident (state wide) and their details, and
- View multi agency details of State's personnel, vehicles and equipment.

This, in turn, means that personnel in the Regional Coordination Centre or State Coordination Centre can easily:

- View the statewide picture
- View how many recorded

incidents have significant resource requirements

- View resources committed to individual incidents, and
- Generate summary reports on committed and available resources by type

### When is IRIS used?

IRIS can be used for any incident, training activity or prescribed burn.

Operators can gain experience in using IRIS by practicing during non-emergency activities such as tracking resources during prescribed burns, regional field days or organising standby crews/IMTs/coordination personnel for Total Fire Ban days.

IRIS is most beneficial for larger/complex incidents where there are many resources being utilised.

IRIS is covered by IRIS Business Rules and Operations Management Guideline 48.

IRIS is a computerised resource –tracking system which is best used:

- When multiple Strike Teams (Level 2 response) are activated and/or the potential for a incident to require additional responses beyond the initial response and multiple shifts are being considered or planned
- For state incidents (activate early)
- Interstate deployments

Incidents where IRIS has been utilised this fire season have included:

- Coomunga
- Tulka
- Sevenhill
- Bundaleer
- Finnis
- Marcolat

**Inset.** John Wright testing the capability of the computer-based resource tracking system - IRIS

## Volunteer recruitment video launched

BY TONI RICHARDSON

A new CFS recruitment video was launched at the Tea Tree Gully Brigade last December as part of a Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) project to assist brigades in recruiting new members.



CFS members from the Tea Tree Gully Brigade and VSB staff involved in the production of the recruitment video.

The video showcases the important work undertaken by CFS volunteers in a mock scenario that captures volunteers responding to a grass fire.

The fire was staged on the day of filming to demonstrate a realistic response to this type of incident.

The jointly funded VSB and Commonwealth government project initiated as a pilot project, with the two minute video filmed last June featuring Tea Tree Gully volunteers.

The short film was produced in partnership with Flinders Creations, which employs recent Flinders University graduates from the course run

by the University's Department of Screen and Media.

The video is available for viewing on the CFS YouTube Channel by searching "Become a CFS Volunteer" or" at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYNCB1Gbyyg>.

You can also watch the video on the CFS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?v=3629553076143&set=vb.252455201454031&type=3&theater>.

For more information about the video, contact the Volunteer Services Branch on 1300 364 587.



## THANK YOU CFS

BY CHAD MORRISON, NAIRNE RESIDENT

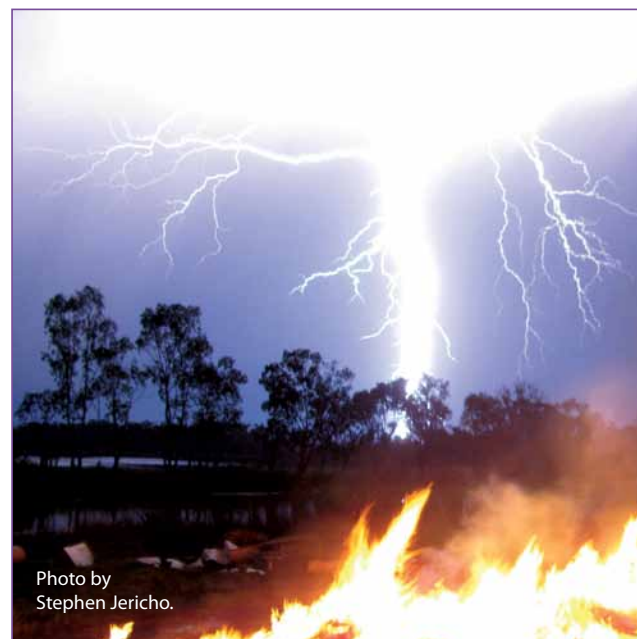


Photo by Stephen Jericho.

On Friday night a thunderstorm swept westward across the Murraylands towards the Adelaide Hills, bringing strong winds, thunder and lightning. There was little rain in the storm and our mobile phones (via the CFS app) kept alerting us to the growing number of fires left in its wake. As the storm

approached, the wind became stronger and more erratic. There were alerts for fires in Brinkley, Hartley, Rockleigh, Callington, Woodside, Wistow and finally Nairne. With strong winds, fires all around us and lightning hitting the ground nearby, we decided to put the three kids in the car and put our fire plan into action (leave town).

On our way out of town we drove to some high ground overlooking Nairne and surrounding districts and instead of seeing the Hills lit up by fires, they were lit up by emergency lights! In the distance, the Callington fire was building and the flames were glowing and licking over a hilltop. In the darkness between us and it, were the lights of the CFS trucks racing towards it. On the outskirts of Nairne, the blue and red lights of CFS trucks were indicating where crews were hard at work as the lightning struck overhead and in the paddocks where they worked. The CFS app was also telling us that crews were hard at work elsewhere because one-by-one the fires were being brought under control.

We sat tentatively on the top of the hill for some time as the sky flashed and as the crews worked. As the storm moved away, and as each fire was extinguished, we drove quietly home. The streets of Nairne were quiet and it looked like most people were oblivious to the action on their doorsteps. As we put our kids back to bed we

were reminded of how extremely fortunate we were to be able to put them back in their rooms and let them sleep, knowing that these courageous people go out in those conditions for us. What a courageous fire service we have!



Above. The blue and red lights of CFS trucks cast comforting shadows as they head to the Callington fire. Photo by Jay Patrick.

## AWAKE, SMOKY AND HOT: WORKPLACE STRESSORS WHEN FIGHTING BUSHFIRES

### We need CFS Volunteers to be part of our project

We are interested in how environmental stressors such as heat, smoke and lack of sleep contribute to performance and safety when on the fire-ground.

We are looking for CFS volunteers 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 (72h). Sleep and awake information will be collected before, during and after the simulation experience.

Participants will be required to 'live' in our simulated environment at the

CFS Training College in Brukunga for four nights and we are seeking volunteers to take part in 2013 from either;

March 6-10  
April 3-7  
April 10-14  
May 1-5

June 26-30  
July 3-7  
Aug 14-18  
August 28- Sept 1  
Sept 25-29  
October 2-6  
Oct 30-Nov 3

If you are interested in participating or finding out more information, please contact **Sally Ferguson or Bradley Smith at Central Queensland University**

**Sally.Ferguson@cqu.edu.au or 0407 799 204**  
**B.P.Smith@cqu.edu.au or 0412 630 675**



The CFS is in full support of this research.



## CFS CHIEF CONGRATULATES AFSM RECIPIENTS

BY GREG NETTLETON, CFS CHIEF OFFICER

Above. Peter Wicks AFSM recipient from the CFS Onkaparinga Group who epitomises the "complete" volunteer". Photo courtesy of Mt Barker Courier

Inset. Ken Potter AFSM who is the Deputy Group Officer of the Para CFS Group

It is with pleasure that the SA Country Fire Service acknowledges the honouring of Kenneth A Potter and Peter C Wicks who have been awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the 2013 Australia Day Honours List.



Mr Potter's strong leadership skills and dependability see him appointed as Incident Controller at large and complex incidents, such as the devastating train/bus accident at the Salisbury interchange in 2002.

He seeks to ensure that his Brigade is a benchmark for service delivery to the community by continually evolving procedures, processes and training methods to ensure volunteers are well rehearsed for any emergency situation.

### Peter C Wicks, Group Officer, Onkaparinga CFS Group

Peter Wicks epitomises the complete volunteer, and has served the CFS and the community with distinction over many years.

Mr Wicks consistently demonstrates outstanding management skills at major incidents with calm professionalism and sound judgement.

His innate ability to ascertain operational priorities and expediently gain organisational control, using the latest technology transfer of information, is recognised at the highest level.

Under his outstanding leadership, the Onkaparinga CFS Group demonstrates a strong presence and commitment as an integral part of the community.

This is a reflection of the time that Mr Wicks dedicates to leading the Group as well as personal effort in making sure his own training is up to date.

Mr Wicks enjoys incredible respect from his peers as an outstanding community member, shouldering responsibility for over 40 years and inspiring many others to follow.

On behalf of volunteers, staff and the South Australian communities we serve, we congratulate Peter and Ken.

The following citations detail the distinguished service provided to CFS by these outstanding volunteers:

### Kenneth A Potter, Deputy Group Officer, Para CFS Group

Since 1974, Ken Potter has been a committed volunteer of the CFS and has risen through the officer ranks to become Deputy Group Officer for the Para CFS Group.

During his tenure as Captain of the Salisbury CFS Brigade he was instrumental in setting up the first 'Bush Firefighting Team', a unique crew of experienced firefighters who, for various reasons, were not able to continue with full-time volunteering.

However, they continue to be available for response to larger bushfires and Incident Strike Teams and to pass on their wealth of knowledge anywhere within South Australia.



# CLOSE AIR SUPPORT

BY MARTY BOYCE  
BUSH POET

Marty Boyce is a bush poet from Laggan in New South Wales who was inspired to write a poem after witnessing the skill and accuracy of aerial- water-bombing pilots during a recent bushfire. He asked to share it with you, our Volunteer readers. This is his poem:

*Like aces of a bygone day,  
supporting those who fought  
They come in low to strafe and  
bomb providing close support  
with tactics long developed and  
refined in times of war  
the modern fly boys own the  
skies like those who came  
before*

*The men who man the front  
lines now have hose instead  
of gun  
like soldiers from the battles  
past each stays until they're  
done.  
Each flare up brings the fear  
that they will find their front line  
short  
until they hear the sounds  
above, here comes close air  
support.*

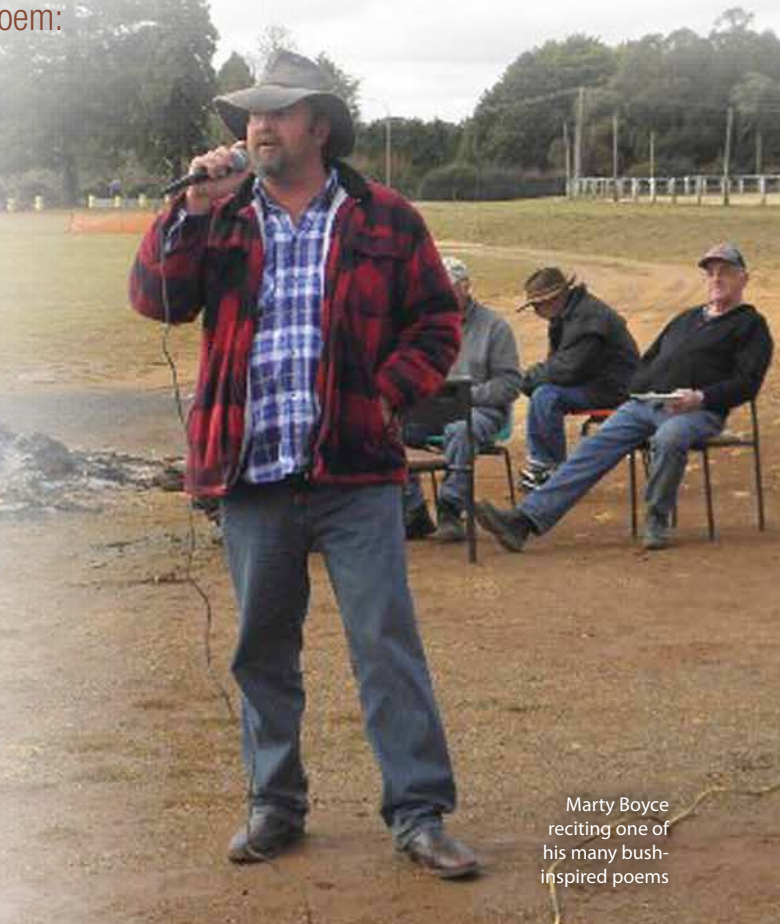
*Sweeping in on his approach,  
directions from the ground  
at tree top level swooping  
where the bravest men are  
found*

*The load is dumped, a flare up  
doused, respite for tired men  
The fly boy makes a turn for  
home, fills up then back again*

*A fire raging in the scrub, brave  
men are fighting hard  
against the might of nature they  
will battle for each yard.  
When all looks lost and hopes  
are dashed close air support  
appear  
to dump their loads in swooping  
runs then quickly disappear.*

*In ninety nine these men had  
fought the fires on their own  
no air support to douse the  
flames, they battled on alone.  
These days when fires take a  
turn, the men look to the sky  
they see close air support  
arrive, salvation from on high*

Marty Boyce ©  
13 January 2012



Marty Boyce  
reciting one of  
his many bush-  
inspired poems

## Life Membership Awards

BY DAWN HUNT, R3 REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER

Two CFS members were recently awarded with 'Life membership' for their extensive service to the SA Country Fire Service.



Captain of Walker Flat CFS  
Brigade Chris Bond (right), being  
congratulated for his CFS Life  
Membership by Andrew Patten.

Chris Bond, Captain of  
the Walker Flat Brigade,  
was recently awarded Life  
Membership for his long-term  
commitment with the CFS.

Barry Bundett, currently a  
Lieutenant and Administration  
Coordinator in the Mannum  
Brigade, received a Life  
Membership award for his  
service.

Having been a CFS member  
for 39 years, Barry was  
originally appointed by the  
Local Council to Captain the  
CFS Bowhill Brigade on its  
establishment.

We congratulate both  
Chris and Barry for their  
achievements in the service.



Barry Bundett (right) who is a Lieutenant and Admin Coordinator at Mannum  
CFS Brigade. Barry receives a CFS Life Membership after 39 years of service.

# CFS FINALIST IN MAJOR BUSINESS AWARDS

BY MALIM WATTS, CFS MANAGER OPERATIONS PLANNING

The hard work and commitment of CFS Manager of Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover, Leanne Adams, was recently acknowledged through her nomination in the SA Telstra Business Women Awards.



organisation to work for which  
enables volunteers to manage  
their brigades in a safe, effective  
and supported environment.

Throughout this project I've  
kept in the front of my mind that  
to achieve effective allocation  
of resources such as training,  
equipment, vehicles and fire  
stations and to provide support  
for our brigades, requires an  
understanding of the diversity  
of our many brigades and the  
communities they protect.

It has also been important to  
develop options and resources  
that can assist volunteers in  
brigades with issues such as  
crewing vehicles, managing  
their membership and providing  
training that is appropriate to  
brigade roles and that meets  
diverse volunteer expectations.

I'm very proud that the  
SFEC is now a system that is  
up to date, relevant, intuitive,  
risk-based and supported by  
evidence.

It is a framework that should  
stand the test of time, it will  
accommodate changing risks  
within communities and it has a  
great deal of support from CFS  
staff and volunteers.

I'd like to thank the many,  
many volunteers and staff that  
contributed to this project  
including Lisa Bryant who has  
worked closely with me on this  
project and provided critical  
input.

Leanne was one of five  
finalists in the Community  
& Government Award section  
which was awarded to Sandy  
Pitcher from the Department of  
Premier and Cabinet (SA).

In the five award categories,  
there were seventeen amazingly  
talented finalists selected out  
of 4,600 South Australian  
nominations.

The awards celebrate  
exceptional women who  
are leading the way in their  
field of work and shaping  
Australia's business landscape  
by demonstrating enormous  
creativity.

This was the second time  
that Leanne was nominated as a  
finalist who used this opportunity  
to promote the CFS in many  
ways to the wider SA business  
community.

The following is a compelling  
extract from Leanne's application

that offers a good overview and  
context to her participation and  
achievements:

*I am aware and very proud  
of the value and impact that  
the project I've been working  
on for the last two years, the  
CFS Standards of Fire and  
Emergency Cover has had and  
will continue to have for many  
years to come.*

*It's been a wonderful  
experience to stand alongside  
many CFS staff and volunteers  
as part of this project to identify  
risks in our communities and the  
appropriate ways to deal with  
them and to equip our brigades.*

*The diversity, breadth  
and depth of skills and  
knowledge within CFS staff and  
volunteers is quite astonishing  
and something that South  
Australians can be very proud  
of. These skills and knowledge*

*have been critical resources for  
this project.*

*The SFEC project has  
probably been the greatest  
achievement of my career to  
date and I'm looking forward to  
its ongoing enhancement and an  
extended scope of the project.*

*I am very fortunate to be  
paid for a job that I love and  
I continue to be in awe of  
our 12000 strong volunteer  
workforce who collectively  
commit millions of hours every  
year to responding to thousands  
of incidents such as road  
accidents, hazardous material  
spills, building fires and bush  
fires.*

*The work that the volunteers  
do and the willingness,  
enthusiasm, generosity and  
empathy with which they do it  
inspires me to continue to do  
my job well and work towards  
making CFS an even better*

**Inset.** Telstra Business Women  
Awards finalist Leanne Adams



## COMMUNITY EDUCATION KEEPING CAMPERS SAFE

BY AMY RIEBE, CFS COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER

Members of the CFS Community Education team recently attended the Caravan and Camping Show to engage caravan and camper enthusiasts about bushfire safety.



Smokey kicking back at the Caravan and Camping Show

Having experienced a busy Fire Danger Season both in South Australia and interstate, there

was a keen interest in the CFS message with a focus on how people can stay informed.

The message highlighted to this audience was that even while away from home you should know your bushfire risk, and understand your options.

Accompanied by CFS mascot 'Smokey', the team actively discussed the importance of remaining alert to their surroundings and having a holiday Bushfire Survival Plan for travellers.

It was pleasing that many people stopped by to express their appreciation for all the hard work put in by CFS volunteers.

Smokey made several guest appearances over the five days to greet the crowds and show them just how good you can look

in yellows.

He did, however, experience some trouble getting into the smaller caravans which led to Smokey deciding that the largest most luxurious caravan was most suited to him. Coincidentally, this was also the caravan which happened to be equipped with a spa bath!

A special thanks goes out to all of Smokey's volunteer helpers for their contributions.

The CFS Community Education team would like to thank the Caravan and Camping Industry Association of SA who are proud supporters of CFS Community Education.

## AGED CARE PROJECT WINS RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARD

BY PETA O'DONAHUE, CFS PROJECT MANAGER COMMUNITY EDUCATION



The CFS in partnership with other agencies, recently took out a State Highly Commended award in the 2012 Resilient Australia Awards for a project to raise bushfire awareness in aged care facilities and country hospitals.

The CFS was a key partner in shaping the award winning project which was developed to help aged care facilities and country hospitals understand their bushfire risk and take appropriate action to reduce it.

The collaborative project was recognised in the 2012 Resilient Australia Awards, held last November, for demonstrating innovation and best practice in community safety.

The project initially came about in 2010, when it was identified that some aged care facilities were ill-prepared for a bushfire.

A grant was secured to undertake the project which included empowering facilities to mitigate bushfire risk using a risk assessment, and providing workshops and resources to support facilities in determining the best emergency response.

The CFS has since completed over 80 site bushfire risk assessments of aged care facilities and country hospitals across the State, as part of this project.

A review of the highest risk facilities from the first round of assessments has indicated that

they are making great progress and taking on board the advice offered to them.

These facilities are ensuring their grounds are clean by managing the vegetation around their site and are 'ember proofing' their buildings.

Importantly, many have worked on their emergency planning and are training their staff in realistic, practical and emergency procedures.

The project has fostered relationships between private industry, aged care groups and State and Federal government

agencies in the pursuit of achieving the common goal of creating safer communities.

The CFS was also commended for its CFS FireApp for iPhone and Android devices. The app provides interactive location-aware maps, incident information and tips for preparing for bushfires.

**Above.** The multi-agency project team who received a 'State Highly Commended' award

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## NEW EXECUTIVE TEAM



The Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) recently said farewell to Wendy Shirley and was thanked for her dedication and support that she has provided to CFS volunteers and staff over the many years.

As we wish Wendy well with her future endeavours we also introduce the newly appointed Executive Director Sonia St Alban and Executive Assistant Kirsti Oliver.

Sonia and Kirsti said they look forward to the exciting challenges ahead.

The CFSVA is an association under the SA Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005.

The association represents SA Country Fire Service (CFS) brigades and is empowered to take steps to protect and progress the interests and welfare of CFS volunteers.

**Left.** The new CFSVA executive team Kirsti Oliver, left, with executive director Wendy Shirley and her successor Sonia St Alban



CFSVA

CFS Volunteers Association on Twitter!

@CFSVolunteers



To follow us on Twitter, all you have to do is join up. See our website at [www.cfsva.org.au](http://www.cfsva.org.au) for step by step instructions on how to sign up.

That way you can receive information from us on your iPhone or your computer quickly and easily.

So sign on today to get the latest up-to-date alerts from the Association



### Smokey and Ted wait for new homes

The CFSVA is reminding everyone of the two types of cuddly friends that are available for sale.

Trauma teddies are used by fire and rescue services all over the world to assist in the management of children involved in critical incidents.

The teddies offer a degree of comfort to children facing traumatic situations such as road accidents and house fires.

Trauma teddies are available for purchase by CFS brigades and members.

In addition to our Trauma Teddies we also have Smokey Koalas and both are reasonably priced at \$25 (GST inc) and are a great gift idea for children and babies.

To place your order contact the CFSVA State Office on 8244 6500 or email [admin@cfsva.org.au](mailto:admin@cfsva.org.au)

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## KEY TO RECRUITING AND RETAINING VOLUNTEERS

BY AARON HUGHES AND STEPHEN ROBERTSON

Recruiting and retaining volunteers is essential to the CFS and the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) has been focusing on just that.



with numerous brigades including Dublin, Cummins, Coober Pedy and Blewitt Springs to assist them in identifying any issues that may hinder their success of running their campaign.

If your brigade would like some assistance with recruitment or retention advice, please contact the RDO covering your region.

Regions 1, 3 and 5 can contact Stephen Robertson on 0408 792 765.

Regions 2, 4 and 6 can contact Aaron Hughes on 0419 847 410.

Alternatively, you can contact the VSB on 1300 364 587 or via email at [VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au).

**Inset.** Two Wells Brigade undertaking recruitment activities. Photo courtesy of Bec O'Brien, Two Wells and Districts Echo

VSB Recruitment and Development Officers (RDOs) have been working with individual CFS brigades to give them a clear understanding of how to effectively run a recruitment campaign.

Once a brigade is ready to recruit, an RDO attends the brigade and runs a two and a

half hour planning session.

This workshop assesses the needs of the brigade, sets clear goals and assigns tasks to enable brigades to run a successful recruitment campaign.

RDOs can also assist with providing resources to support the recruitment campaign, and

offer advice to volunteers on how to achieve the best results from their efforts.

The resources that the VSB can provide include the VSB promotional trailer, recruiting banners, pamphlets and assistance with grant applications.

RDOs have recently worked

## Volunteer Services Branch is here to help

BY TONI RICHARDSON

It has been 12 months since the Volunteer Services Branch (VSB) of SAFECOM underwent its restructure and our team continues to work hard to provide support to you, our volunteers.



To ensure the right type of support is provided to the CFS and SES, I have been meeting monthly with the VSB Governance Group (which the Deputy Chief Officer from each agency sits on).

I have also been meeting with Regional Commanders to establish Local Area Plans for each region, to ensure that all regions receive support from the VSB.

The VSB is involved in a number of projects aimed at supporting volunteers.

These include the review of the Volunteer Charter, the Volunteers Portal (e-Connect project), updating the National Criminal History records checking policy and the CFS Administration manual, and creating the new training module, 'Leading and Managing Emergency

Services Teams'.

As always, the VSB is happy to assist volunteers wherever we can.

For assistance, please contact us on 1300 364 587 or via email at [VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au).

**Inset.** Toni Richardson, Manager Volunteer Services Branch

## CFS YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

BY DANA CAMPBELL

The CFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) had a busy year in 2012, having met six times throughout the year to discuss current CFS issues relevant to young people.



During this time the YAC contributed to the CFS Social Media Policy, provided feedback to the Uniform Committee and to COAC, and

participated in the Cleve Field Days.

The YAC also had the opportunity to send delegates to the 2012 AFAC Conference and

the Developing Leaders Course.

This year, the YAC will be working on further mentoring and will be attending the Paskerville Field Days and

YAC forums.

Nominations for appointment to the CFS YAC will be called upon this year and further information on the selection process for representatives will be provided in the coming months.

If you wish to raise any issues with the CFS YAC or want to contact your local representative, email [yac@cfs.sa.gov.au](mailto:yac@cfs.sa.gov.au).

**Inset.** CFS YAC members from left, Kirstie McGarrity, Nicole Kelly and Lisa West assisting Smokey at the CFS stand during the 'Cleve Field Days' event.

## CADETS LEADERSHIP TRAINING

BY TONI RICHARDSON

The Volunteer Services Branch is offering Cadet Leader Training across the State to cadet leaders and volunteers interested in leadership roles or who are looking to start up a cadet program.

The training covers a range of modules including behaviour management, finance, training and policies and procedures.

The training will be held in various locations across the State covering all regions between 4 May – 21 September 2013.

Cadet Leader Training will only go ahead if there is enough interest indicated in the respective regions.

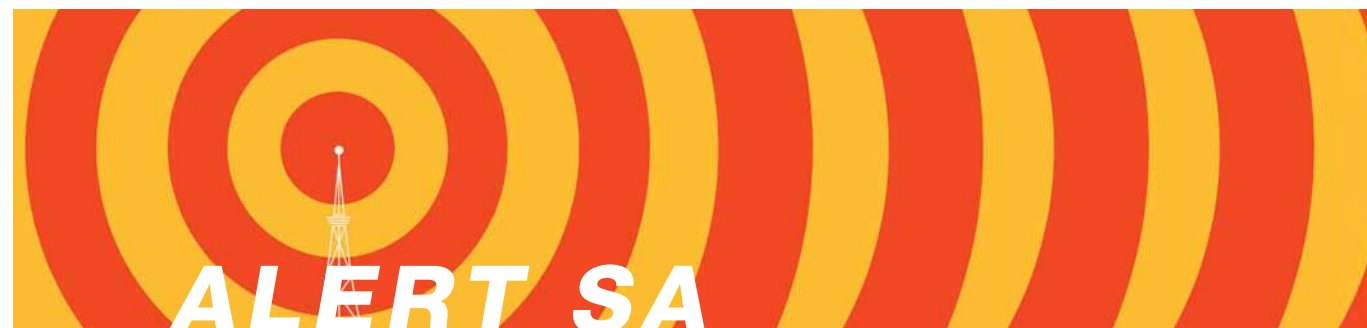
Registration forms and additional information on the program will be provided to regions in due course.

To register your interest, email [VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:VSB@safecom.sa.gov.au).



**Above.** Leading the way: Peterborough Region 4 Cadets raised \$400 through fundraising at their local Home Hardware store.





**BE BUSHFIRE READY**  
Stay informed

**CFS**

- CFS website: [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)
- Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361 (TTY 133 677)
- CFS fire app
- Facebook: [countryfireservice](#) & [cfsupdates](#)
- Twitter: [@cfsalerts](#) & [@cfsstalk](#)
- RSS Feeds
- Email subscription service
- Emergency Broadcast Partners (see brochures and our web page for radio & TV stations broadcasting CFS warnings)
- CFS Booklets, brochures and fact sheets
- CFS Community Engagement programs
- Friends, family and neighbours
- Your own senses and experience

**Don't rely on technology or one source of information. Sometimes your own senses provide the best warning.**

Government of South Australia

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE. **BUSHFIRE READY**

## RELIABLE EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency Services use a variety of communication channels to alert the community of incidents that are occurring.

**Y**ou should familiarise yourself with these channels to ensure you know where to obtain information if you, your family and community are affected.

The Alert SA website provides a reliable source of up to date emergency information and

should be included along with other channels, in your Bushfire Survival Plan, as an essential source of information.

The site collates social media messages from all state emergency services, so that you know the latest on any situation and can plan your next steps.

Currently the Alert SA site features social media feeds (Facebook, Twitter and RSS) from SA Police, SA Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Services (MFS), State Emergency Services (SES) and RSS feed for weather warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology.

Make sure you bookmark it today!

[www.alert.sa.gov.au](http://www.alert.sa.gov.au)



## SAPES GAMES 2013



Registrations for the South Australian Police and Emergency Services (SAPES) Games are now open. The games will start in March and run through to May and will comprise a wide range of sports including swimming, athletics, triathlon, shooting, angling, tennis, soccer and indoor volleyball.

More information can be found on the SAPES Games website [www.sapes.com.au](http://www.sapes.com.au)



## WHO'S WHO IN THE



### ROB SANDFORD



#### Title:

Assistant Chief Officer,  
Manager Operations Services

#### Role in the CFS:

As Manager Operations Services I have responsibility for the day to day leadership, support, coordination and advocacy of all six CFS Regions, Operational Information (including the State Coordination Centre), Aviation Services and Operational Improvement. Key focus is maintenance of governance requirements for the Operations Services portfolio.

#### Location:

CFS State Headquarters

#### A typical working day involves:

Not sure what a typical day is, due to the diversity of responsibilities and the time of the year, which may include:

- Processing emails
- Dealing with Ministerial briefings/correspondence
- Developing briefing papers for State Emergency Management Committee/

Emergency Management Council

- Developing/updating/distributing Fire Danger Season Outlook information
- Providing advice to the community on a range of enquiries/issues, for example refraining from using an angle grinder on a Total Fire Ban day
- Attending/participating in various meetings, including; AFAC Rural and Land Management Committee; Emergency Services Deputy Chief Officers Forum; Mt Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative; CFS HazMat Advisory Group; State OHS Committee
- Currently Project Sponsor for the Breathing Apparatus Replacement Project
- Executive Officer for Chief Officers Advisory Council
- Process and recommend CFS/MFS Boundary changes
- Maintain situational awareness of incident activity, particularly during the Fire Danger Season
- Undertake role of On Call DCO/ACO
- Involved in the delivery of a variety of training courses, including: Tactical Command & Leadership; HazMat; Road Crash Rescue; Strike Team Leader/Sector Commander; AIMS

#### Favourite quote:

"Strategy without tactics is a slow road to victory, but tactics without strategy is noise before defeat", Unknown author.

### ROD CUNNINGHAM



#### Title:

Community Education Officer

#### Role in the CFS:

Working with groups and communities to help them become 'Bushfire Ready'

#### Location:

Homes, halls and schools through the Mid-North and Yorke Peninsula in Region 2. There's also special events at country shows and Field Days. In fact, anywhere there is an interested group of people.

#### A typical working day involves:

Working part-time from home and the Region 2 office, setting up meetings with communities and groups who want to develop Bushfire Survival Plans. It can also be carers and council workers who are frequently on the road during the bushfire season.

Every meeting requires posters and flyers to be prepared and distributed. The challenge is getting the message out about meetings and its means chasing newspapers, putting up roadside signs and getting something onto Facebook.

During winter I do the rounds of CFS Brigades and Fire Prevention Officers prioritising communities who may be at risk. These become the focus during the coming summer.

I am a member of the State Incident Management Team and get called in during large incidents to liaise with the media and communities. Recent fires were at Coomunga and Sevenhill.

Probably the most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing change as people develop a survival plan with their families. It's been great after a fire to have a phone call from someone who says... "I put my plan into action, I knew what to do".

#### Favourite quote:

Previous CFS Chief Officer Stuart Ellis is "...putting out the information is as important as putting out the fire"

### CFS ON YOUR SMARTPHONE



CFS FireApp is the official SA Country Fire Service iPhone 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. CFSFireApp puts CFS information at your fingertips, in real time and wherever you are in South Australia.





# SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

## MEL CRAWFORD



### What brigade do you belong to?

Middleton Brigade, Mundoo Group.

### Why did you join the CFS and your favourite CFS memory?

I joined CFS 12 years ago, to assist with answering phones, back when we had the phone system. There was a lack of daytime phone operators and I was available at work.

I soon realised I could answer the phone and get to the station and write the info on the board before the crews arrived (I was very close by) and so assisted with comms as well.

I was later asked to complete Level 1 training so I could assist on the truck with radios, and it has continued from there.

One of my favourite memories was working in Incident Management at Coonalpyn Base, working on radios for a major fire. A lady snuck in next to me and assisted as a scribe. We were extremely busy for hours and it was at the end of the day, we had a chance to swap more than first names. I then realised I had been working next to a family friend that I hadn't seen for 20 years, since I was a kid. My other memories all involve people in the CFS and the great friends we make and meet here.

### What do you do when not on CFS duty?

I'm a mum to three teenagers, of which two also joined the CFS. I'm the office manager for Horseshoe Bay Plumbing Service, at Port Elliot, managing 5-6 staff.

Recently retired, as Race Secretary for State Dirt Track motorbike events, managing entrants and officials, for five years. I'm looking forwards to kicking back a bit more with my family.

### After a long stint of firefighting, what food & beverages do you enjoy?

Watermelon, fresh fruit and anything that I don't have to prepare myself.

### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

A houseboat holiday on the Murray would be nice. Anywhere the phone doesn't ring, and we can be camping or fishing and just be by ourselves.

## MICHAEL McENTEE



### Nickname: Mackas

### What brigade do you belong to?

Tailem Bend.

### How long have you been with the CFS? Forty years.

### Why did you join the CFS and your favourite CFS memory?

A mate talked me into joining as I have always enjoyed a volunteer role.

My favourite memory was when I was first approached to join the service. The person I spoke with asked if I had any qualifications that may be used to assist the brigade. During this conversation, I could see the smile on their face getting bigger as they knew that they potentially had

found someone that could fulfil numerous roles to assist the brigade.

### What do you do when not on CFS duty?

I have been a 'Baker' for 23 years and have my own business. The Tailem Bend Bakery currently has 7 staff and operates 2 shops. I am married with 2 great kids.

### After a long stint of firefighting, what food & beverages do you enjoy?

To sit down with a rum and a tasty chicken snitzel pack.

### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

Anywhere where phones and pagers can't reach me. The Simpson Desert would be an ideal destination as I enjoy camping in our great country.

### Favourite quote?

"Come on fellas, we will do it as a team and do it my way."

## RODNEY McMARTIN



### Nickname? Toad.

### What brigade do you belong to?

Robe CFS Brigade.

### Why did you join the CFS?

I joined 7 and a half years ago because I had time to commit, but I wanted to give 100% to a volunteer organisation.

### Your Favourite CFS Memory?

So many, but has been great watching the progress of the CFS and being involved in many different areas and

meeting so many different people over the years.

### What do you do when not on CFS Duty?

Work, go fishing and be with my family.

### After a long stint of fire fighting, what food and beverage do you enjoy?

A cold beer and barbie.

### What would be your ideal holiday destination?

Scotland.

### Favourite Quote?

Volunteering is about - "You only get out what you put in".



# GOOLWA HOUSE FIRE

Goolwa CFS responded to this fire on January 14.

The house was engulfed in flames when the first crew arrived and took about an hour to extinguish the fire. Crews from Port Elliot and Currency Creek were called to help the Goolwa Brigade as the fire spread quickly through the entire structure and started to impact adjacent buildings.

The quick action and combined efforts of all crews resulted in containing the structural damage to the one property. The damage to the house was estimated at around \$200,000.

“The house was engulfed in flames when the first crew arrived.”

## CADETS FIELD DAY BY JAMES CLELAND REGION 1 CADET REPRESENTATIVE



The group who took part in the CFS Cadet Field Day at Belair National Park

### On October 14 the Region 1 Cadet Committee held a Field Day in Belair National Park.

Cadets and leaders from Heyesen, Mawson, Mount Lofty, Strathalbyn, Sturt and Victor Harbor groups took part in four events during the day comprising the following:

**CFS EXERCISES:** Basic fire fighting activities such as pumping, draughting, locating and explaining uses of the equipment stored on a rural appliance, bowling out and rolling up hoses and a burnover drill.

**SHELTER BUILDING:** Using only the equipment stored on a rural fire appliance the cadets had to build a shelter that could withstand being blasted by a sideline off an appliance.

**ORIENTEERING:** The cadets had to navigate their way along 2 predetermined courses collecting clues along the way. Then solve a number of puzzles upon completion of the course.

**FOOD OLYMPICS:** This is a 3 stage game. 1) The Cadets had to bob for apples in a bucket of water. 2) Cadets had to move Malteasers from one location to another using only their mouths and a straw. 3) Cadets needed to eat doughnuts off a string. The idea is to finish each stage before anyone else.

It was a great day and gave everyone the chance to mingle

with people from other groups in the region. CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton and Acting Region 1 Commander Ray Jackson attended and spoke to the cadets.

Lunch was provided by the Blackwood Lions Club who did a wonderful job.

I would also like to thank Kytons Lamingtons, Magaries Orchard, The Farm Shop at Goolwa, Anaconda, the Region 1 Headquarters staff, the Field Day Committee and Belair National Park for their donations and assistance whose efforts and generosity contributed to a successful field day.



## VOLUNTEERS AT THE READY 24/7 BY BILL NEHMY

Littlehampton CFS member Murray Dolan is busy running his expanding business Adelaide Hills Firewatch. This involves travelling across South Australia and into parts of south-west Queensland.



His diverse client portfolio includes commercial, industrial, mining, government and domestic services.

Eighteen months ago Murray moved into a shopfront at Mt Barker whose premises includes fire safety supplies and is a certified cylinder test station.

Clients are offered a one-stop shop including servicing equipment from fire extinguishers, fire alarms, emergency lighting, electrical test and tag and First Aid restocking and supply.

In his travels, Murray

demonstrates the life of a CFS Volunteer is often constantly on the go.

Recently Murray was the first on scene at a motor vehicle accident while returning home from Murray Bridge. He discovered a car crashed into a tree and assisted a woman and her child who were injured.

In hot conditions, Murray calmed the distressed child while waiting for the ambulance to arrive by offering his iPad which was a welcomed distraction.

Another recent incident involved Murray and a work

colleague extinguishing a car fire in the main street of Williamstown. They used fire extinguishers and prevented the car from being totally destroyed.

CFS is 'More than a bushfire service' and Murray's commitment exemplifies this.

**Left.** CFS volunteer Murray Dolan at his Firewatch business

## WESTPAC CHIPS IN BY MOOSE DUNLOP BRIGADE LIEUTENANT, UPPER STURT CFS



It is always heartening as a small brigade to receive community support especially from a local business.

So it was with heartfelt thanks that the Upper Sturt CFS accepted a very gracious offer from the Westpac Stirling Branch to provide the opportunity for a sausage sizzle.

This coincided with the Tour Down Under circuit of Stirling.

Westpac provided the sausages and provisions and Stirling Brigade the labour, which resulted in a successful

partnership.

With sausage sales and donations, \$865 was raised for our brigade.

We are grateful for the support and appreciation from

Westpac towards their local Brigade.

**Above.** From left, Wombat Bridges, Moose Dunlop, Westpac manager Julie Redden, David Southern and Greg Collings.

## COOMUNGA FIRE STRIKE TEAM EXPERIENCE BY LEAH PIPPOS PORT ELLIOTT CFS BRIGADE

The pager message came in at 17:15 hours on Wednesday 21 November, 2012.



will be us shortly'.

After two briefings the second half of our strike team arrived, as did our fearless leader on their flight – finally!

The third briefing took place and by then we had our truck from Region 6, B34. It was a good truck and we were proud of it.

The first day was interesting – red stuff, white stuff, wet stuff and grey stuff. It got messy. But we all returned that evening to the staging area safe and sound.

But the mess remained – our trucks were dirty, our yellows were dirty and our faces were dirty. It was fantastic to return and have the SES recommission our trucks. It was a true blessing.

Day two saw us back on the fire ground by 8.00am, this time with Aldinga 24 whose truck had the joys of an intercom and a few other home loves.

This day, we were to defend the 'pump sector' which was the most southern part of the fire, with the support of DEWNR.

What a busy day that turned out to be! It was great working

with DEWNR who were a great bunch of fires with the added benefit of getting into areas our trucks couldn't access.

The second Mundoo strike team flew in, accompanied by two fellow firefighters from Port Elliot. Nick, who would have to be one of our youngest firefighters, and Allan, my Captain. This was great reassurance to know they were both on the field.

After two more days of hard work we returned home, exhausted, on Sunday 25 November.

I was so grateful for all the experiences I had on the strike team. I learnt so many things and implore any volunteers to take any opportunity to be on a strike team.

I thank all those who were involved in the Coomunga fire, especially my strike team – you know who you are.

**Inset.** Members of the R1 Bravo Strike Team that were called to the Coomunga fire on Eyre Peninsula

## Hindmarsh Island structure fire BY MEGAN MCARTHUR, R1 REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER

At 5.15pm on October 15 2012, CFS crews were called to a structure fire on Hindmarsh Island.



Hindmarsh Island structure fire. Photo courtesy of Allen Bence, Goolwa Brigade

On arrival, firefighters found a multi-story house fully involved in fire.

Six tankers from the Mundoo Group attended the incident, with eight members donning breathing apparatus to extinguish the fire.

Owners of the neighbouring property assisted CFS crews by allowing the use of their home as a staging and rest area for crews.

Due to the quick actions of a passer by, the resident of the property was notified and was able to escape uninjured.



# REGION 2 FIELD DAY

BY TANYA KUIPER  
R2 TRAINING OFFICER

On September 16, the Yorke Valley Group hosted a Field Day in and around the Maitland area, using the Maitland Showgrounds as the Staging Area. Approximately 250 people were involved as both participants and organisers of event. The Field Day, held between 9am-4pm, was packed with a range of activities.

Among these was 'Flamingo's' which was a team building exercise, a talk and demonstration on burning and a rural drill. The 'Mad Rabbit' was also put into action, which is a simulation of a running grass fire. A fantastic day was had by all who attended. Well done and many thanks to those for organising such a great event.



Around 250 people took part in the R2 Field Day



Main image. The "Mad Rabbit" grass fire simulator was during the R2 Field Day

“The ‘Mad Rabbit’ was also put into action, which is a simulation of a running grass fire.”

# FIREY WOMAN SWINGS INTO ACTION

BY ROD CUNNINGHAM  
COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER

Vanessa Murdoch wasn't expecting to implement her skills learned during a CFS 'Firey Women' workshop so soon, until a fire took hold in Corny Point on 5 November, 2012.



Vanessa Murdoch taking part in a hands-on Firey Women workshop

For Vanessa, it all fell into place when the Corny Point fire was approaching her family home. Having done the Firey

Women's workshop, Vanessa knew exactly what to do. "There is nothing like having to implement your Bushfire Survival Plan at 5.45am to iron out any bugs," Vanessa said. "Everything I had learnt just clicked in my mind. "I woke up my son, got him out of bed and stood him at the laundry trough," she said. "I got him filling buckets of water to wet towels and put these beside each of the doorways. He felt important, and it took his mind off the approaching fire."

Vanessa was a key player in setting up a Firey Women's workshop in her home town of Corny Point in 2012, with sessions designed to equip women in bushfire risk areas with vital safety skills. Attended by 17 women, the next two days were spent with CFS Community Education Officers learning about bushfire, preparing their properties and their Bushfire Survival Plan. Several members of the Firey Women's group met again in early November to talk about the challenges experienced

preparing their Bushfire Survival Plan and in particular, what to do with children during a fire. "All I can say is plan! And then practise and practice, and expect the unexpected," Vanessa said. "I encourage all women who live in a bushfire prone area to attend a Firey Women workshop, before it's too late," she said. "You will learn invaluable skills so you can protect your family. It is absolutely worthwhile."

# AWARDS CEREMONY

Main image. More than 150 attended the R2 CFS Awards ceremony at Riverton



1.



2.



3.



5.



4.



6.

- 1. Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson with Alistair Hope from Clare Brigade who was awarded a 50 year clasp. Photo: Andrew Cadd
- 2. Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with award recipients from Roseworthy, Kapunda, Freeling, Sheoak Log, Two Wells and Woolsheds/Wasleys Brigades
- 3. Gumeracha Brigade and Group
- 4. Barossa Brigade and Group
- 5. R2 Brigades Award recipients
- 6. National Medal recipients

Photography by Andrew Cadd & Region 2 staff. Copies of photos are available from Regional office



## WRECKING YARD FIRE

DAWN HUNT, R3 REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER

On November 8 just before 6pm, CFS and MFS appliances responded to a fire in a vehicle wrecking yard at Murray Bridge.

On arrival, crews found a pile of old vehicles, approximately

40 metres by 40 metres by three metres high, fully ablaze.

Smoke from this fire was highly visible to travellers on the South Eastern Freeway, as the vehicles alight discharged thick black smoke.

Crews contained the fire in just over an hour, restricting this to the pile of vehicles.

**Left.** Thick black smoke from the wrecking yard fire at Murray Bridge

“On arrival, crews found a pile of old vehicles fully ablaze.”

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP DONATION

BY TRENA WILLIAMSON  
R3 CADET COORDINATOR

The Swan Reach Area School has received the South Australian Leaders Association Credit Union SA Best Practise Award for 2012, for Community Partnership with the Swan Reach CFS cadet unit.



Several submissions were received by the panel but Swan Reach achieved the honours.

The CFS stood out for its very strong involvement and

partnership at many levels and as an important local volunteer group.

The judging panel was also impressed by the quality learning focus with students taking

a leading role in negotiating, planning and designing the curriculum.

There was a multiyear level approach where students helped to tutor and teach other in the importance of safety and bushfire emergency planning.

The students were also recognised for giving up their own time to become volunteers as fire fighters and also involve themselves in other duties such as the ANZAC vigil at the War Memorial and wreath laying ceremony on Remembrance Day.

The school, the students and the local electronic media produced commercials to inform the general public through a Catastrophic Days campaign.

As a result of winning this award the Swan Reach Area School received \$1000.00 in recognition of their Community Partnership with the Swan Reach Area School donating the funds to the Swan Reach CFS cadet unit.

**Left.** From left, Swan Reach CFS Captain Mick Marks, Swan Reach Area School Principal Kylie Eggers and cadet coordinator Trena Williamson who share the SA Best Practice Award for Community Partnership.

## FIRES LIGHT UP R3

BY SUE MICKAN, R3 DEPUTY GROUP OFFICER, COORONG GROUP

Region 3 experienced a savage lightning storm on November 20, 2012 that rolled across Narrung and the lakes area, passing Meningie and then taking in Coomandook, Coonalpyn, Salt Creek and Coombe.

The storm continued east through Sherlock, Peake, and Jabuk and all the Brigades in between.

On the western side, Meningie Station managed resources attending around the lakes area and towards Malinong, putting out more than seven fires.

Private farm fire units also worked alongside CFS appliances extinguishing several of the fires that started in the storm.

In the Coorong area and eastward, fire reports were coming in almost continuously, which were being managed by the Coorong Group Base.

A Brigade member's home was saved not far from Salt Creek and the number of actual fires attended by Salt Creek, Colebatch, and Coombe brigades, supported once again by private farm fire units, was by then into the high twenties at least.

Coonalpyn, Tintinara and Coomandook appliances were kept busy attending a series of quite large fires in testing terrain and reports of additional fires kept coming.

By now, fires were being reported in the Netherton, Peake and Jabuk areas. A fire on the property of a Brigade Captain, who was on the truck in another area, was attended by the neighbouring Brigade.

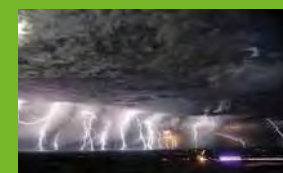
In the light of day the next morning, many more patches of scorched grass, crop and stubble were evident with lots of strikes extinguished by the patchy rain, or by roaming private units.

Thank you to everyone's fantastic team effort under trying conditions, and with so much at stake with harvest only partly completed.

A big thank you to all crews who minded troublesome areas in the week which followed and also for making sure the appliances were ready to go once again.

## Electric Sky

BY DAWN HUNT, R3 REGIONAL TRAINING OFFICER



Lightning strike at Sanderston. Photo courtesy of Simon Carroll

This time lapse photo was taken from the hill of the Walkers Flat Road, on the evening of Monday 26 November 2012, overlooking Sanderston and Milendella.

You can see the lightning strike that started the grass fire at Sanderston and the Black Hill fire burning in the distance.

Simon Carroll who took this stunning photo is an internationally renowned photographer who now lives in Mount Pleasant.

Simon travels the world working extensively on BBC documentaries, including many David Attenborough documentaries.

“A big thank you to all crews who minded troublesome areas in the week which followed.”



## BEETALOO RESERVOIR TOUR

BY PETER LEHMANN  
CALTOWIE CFS BRIGADE

“SA Water has undertaken extensive works to improve accessibility and water availability for fire fighting.



**Above.** Members from Spencer and Bundaleer Groups at the Beetaloo Reservoir Catchment Area

Members of the Spencer and Bundaleer Groups, accompanied by Region 4 Commander Bluey Devine and Regional Ops Planning Officer Sindy McCourt, have visited the Beetaloo Reservoir Catchment Reserve to inspect its upgraded infrastructure.

The visit was part of the group's planning, in preparation for the Fire Danger Season.

The southern part of the Flinders Ranges (east of Port Pirie) is vulnerable to lightning strikes,

and is a very difficult area in which to fight fires.

SA Water has undertaken extensive works in the 60 square kilometre catchment area to improve accessibility and water

availability for fire fighting.

Tom Baker from SA Water led the group in a 3.5 hour tour, where safety issues were identified, including 'no go' areas.

The visit to the Beetaloo

Reservoir Catchment Area was useful and productive, with the risk assessment of the area undertaken essential for the safety of our firefighters.

## \$3 MILLION CRANE FIRE

BY ROSLYN BREEDING  
YUNTA CFS BRIGADE AUXILIARY MEMBER

A mobile crane valued in excess of \$3 million was destroyed in a fire that took place on the Barrier Highway, 43 kilometres west of Cockburn.

The vehicle caught fire at around 8pm on Saturday 25 August and was fully engulfed in fire by the time the Broken Hill MFS arrived.

The Peterborough CFS Brigade assisted with the clean up operation of the crane, which is believed to have caught fire due to a mechanical fault.

The 100-tonne crane had been travelling in convoy en-route to Adelaide from Broken Hill when it caught on fire.

Brevet Sergeant Andrew Prevett of Cockburn Police Station thanked the CFS and MFS for their assistance on the day.

**Right.** The crane that was destroyed in a fire from a suspected mechanical fault



## ROXBY ROAD CRASH TRAINING

BY STEPHEN SCARR, TRAINING COORDINATOR  
ROXBY DOWNS CFS

Roxby Downs CFS held a road crash exercise on Nov 7 involving a road tanker carrying sulphuric acid and two cars that collided between the Andamooka and Roxby Downs turn-off on the Woomera Road. The exercise began at 0900

and continued until midday, involving CFS and SES from Roxby Downs and Andamooka, BHP Billiton's emergency service and SAPOL.

Volunteer patients were made up to add to the reality and drama of the mock incident.

This combined exercise tested the HAZMAT and road crash teams by working together with different emergency services agencies.

A BBQ and debrief was held at the Roxby Downs CFS and SES base on completion.

Well done to everyone who took part in this exercise.

**Below.** CFS Roxby Downs Brigade took part in a road crash training exercise with other emergency services agencies in November.



## AWARD FOR CLOCKING 1000 HOURS

BY HOLLY WOOLFORD  
THE TRANSCONTINENTAL



the large Brigade, consisting of about 38 highly-skilled volunteers.

These volunteers have the capabilities to deal with road crash rescue, hazardous materials, urban fire and air operations.

Stirling North CFS captain, John Miller, was proud of the Brigade's prestigious award. "Our brigade is definitely

committed to training," Mr Miller said.

"Training gives us the skills needed to respond to all types of emergencies within our CFS charter."

Nik Ludborz received the National Medal for fifteen years of service as a volunteer.

(Article courtesy of The Transcontinental newspaper from Nov 7, 2012)

**Left.** CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton presents Nik Ludborz with a National Medal for fifteen years of service. Photo courtesy of The Transcontinental.

**Below.** Members of the Stirling North CFS Brigade who gained a Chief Officer's Award for Training Excellence.

The Stirling North Country Fire Service was awarded the Chief Officer's Award for Training Excellence on October 26 celebrated by a special ceremony at the Stirling North Station.

About 50 volunteers, well-wishers and supporters including the CFS Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton took part in the event.

The award was given in recognition of over 1,000 hours spent on training which is an enormous achievement for







Alongside their new truck at a recent training day are Wolseley Brigade members from left, Steve Brown, Captain Peter McLellan and 3rd Lieutenant Jack Murray. Photo: Adrian Packer CFS Tatiara Group and Mundulla

## NEW TRUCK AT WOLSELEY CFS

BY RACHAEL MCLELLAN  
CFS WOLSELEY BRIGADE

Just hours after being delivered, on October 20, Wolseley's new "34" truck was called into action.

The hand-over was well-timed as a Tatiara Group training session was held the next day at Western Flat, giving the crew the opportunity to familiarise themselves with their new truck.

But on the afternoon of its arrival crew members received a call-out to attend a fire on a nearby farm property.

Wolseley 1st Lieutenant Simon Ballinger, who was playing in a local senior tennis competition

match at the time of the incident, raced off the court to attend the call-out.

He joined Wolseley CFS captain Peter McLellan and Bordertown member Wes Twigden, who were also playing at Wolseley that afternoon.

Fortunately, the Wolseley fire shed, which was built in 2005, is less than 100m from the tennis complex.

The crew changed into their appropriate gear and arrived at the property to quickly bring the fire under control.

"Using the new truck for the first time the crew could monitor water supplies easier and add the appropriate amount of foam to control the situation," Peter said.

A crew from Bordertown also attended the incident, along with police.

Surrounding buildings were saved from the fire but the old shed was destroyed.

The shed caught alight when a fire burning in a nearby drum re-ignited after being left unattended on the property.

The incident served as a reminder to be vigilant around fire. "A clean-up burn needs to be monitored until it is fully extinguished," Peter said.

The Wolseley 34 truck, manned by a dedicated crew, means the town and district is well serviced, according to the captain.

He says crew members are impressed with the truck's dual

cab capacity and its increased safety features.

"The new trucks have more protection from a flash-over burn," Peter said.

"It also carries more water, with an extra 1,000 litres giving us a capacity of 3,000 litres."

The Wolseley crew is particularly appreciative of the automatic hose rewinder and the electric priming pump for dam fills.

Peter praised the new intercom system, allowing brigade members stationed at the back of the truck to communicate with the driver.

"The comfort and ride is greatly improved over our last truck," Peter said.

## Young Citizen of the Year

BY VIKKI HANN, R5 COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER



CFS volunteer Tegan McMartin who was named Robe Council's Young Citizen of the Year, with her proud dad, Rodney.

On Australia Day in Robe, CFS volunteer Tegan McMartin was named Robe Council's Young Citizen of the Year.

Tegan was recognised for her volunteering not only to the CFS for the past two years, but also for her work at the Kingston Veterinary Surgery.

Tegan joined the CFS as a cadet in 2009 and served until 16 when she joined the ranks of firefighter with the Robe Brigade.

Now 17 years old, Tegan is an active member of the Robe CFS Brigade and has recently completed the Plantation Fire Fighting Course.

She is now looking forward to remaining a CFS volunteer for many more years and would like to become a Cadet Leader in the near future.

Congratulations also go to Leith Robson from Mount Gambier and Zac Duffy-Brown from Naracoorte both of whom were awarded Youth Citizen of the Year of their respective towns for their outstanding service to the CFS.

“The fire swept through almost 140 hectares of pine forest and scrubland.

## MULTI-EFFORT AT GREENWAYS FIRE

CFS firefighters were assisted by water bombing aircraft, Forestry SA crews and farm fire fighting units, to contain a forest fire at Greenways in the south-east during January.

More than 70 firefighters and 25 appliances converged in the forest

on January 20 but were hampered by strong winds.

The fire swept through almost 140 hectares of pine forest and scrubland.

This photo of the fire crowning pine trees, was shot from the nearby Rymill Coonawarra winery.

The winery's managing director John Rymill said some of his staff used a farm fire unit to prevent the fire from spreading.

"Our crew was one of a number charged with holding the fire in the pines, and stopping it from spreading into farmland,"

Mr Rymill said,

"Our location afforded us the rare opportunity to observe the fire behavior and given the relatively mild weather conditions afforded by a warm and generally calm day, it was interesting to see the big flames."



## PARTNERS IN GRAIN

BY THERESE PEDLER  
R6 COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER



In September last year a group of 80 women from the grain farming industry met at the SARDI Research Centre in Minnipa to discuss bushfire safety.

Their discussion focussed on choices that may need to be made during a bushfire that could save them and their families from potential disaster.

Other interesting topics included the Firey Women

program and the significance of not being caught in a motor vehicle while attempting to flee a bushfire.

There were also many requests for the Firey Women program to be run in central and western Eyre Peninsula.

**Left.** A good attendance at a CFS bushfire safety meeting in Minnipa.

## FIREY WOMEN TRAINING ON EP

BY THERESE PEDLER  
R6 COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFICER

The CFS took its Firey Women program to the road in September last year through a number of towns on Eyre Peninsula including Rudall, Cleve and Cowell.

The successful program had an enthusiastic response from its participants.

The workshops were divided into two sessions with the first conducted at the end of the third term of the school year and the second part completed during the start of Term 4.



CFS Wanilla Brigade member Roslyn Pope enjoyed a fun day with her son Jack and CFS mascot Smokey at the inaugural Baby Expo held at the Ravensdale Racecourse in September. The event raised money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the "Women Who Have Been There" Support Group.



**Above.** Coffin Bay CFS Brigade made a big impression during the BAW event at Cummins

**Inset Left.** From left, Aimee, Della, Max, Norah and Lucy Pedler during the BAW event at Cummins

## CUMMINS HOSTS MAJOR BAW EVENT

BY BILL NEHMY

A key promotion was held in Cummins in early November as part of Bushfire Action Week (BAW) activities that were held statewide.



Services Manager David Pearce as the school children cheered as the water bombing exercise took place in an empty paddock close to the school.

"Fire prevention should begin with an acceptance by everyone in the region that bushfires are a reality of our natural environment and that we all have a personal responsibility to prepare for them by safeguarding ourselves and our families," Regional Commander Kevin May said.

This event generated valuable media interest in addition to the positive responses from the school community, local CFS brigades, council representatives and police who all took part in various activities on the day.

ABC Radio had many positive comments from listeners about the broadcast which prompted even further interaction on radio over the following days.

The event at the Cummins Area School encouraged members of the thriving community and an ABC Radio audience to begin preparing for the Fire Danger Season.

An ABC Radio outside broadcast for this event featured a wide range of stakeholders including local MP for Flinders Peter Treloar, CFS Regional Commander Kevin May, local government Fire Prevention

Planning Officer David "Crockett" Hall and Cummins Emergency Ready Committee members Brian and Wendy Treloar.

Local brigades from Cummins and Coffin Bay showcased a range of activities that attracted the interest of the school children and members of the community who supported this event.

The highlight was an aircraft training exercise that featured commentary by CFS Aviation

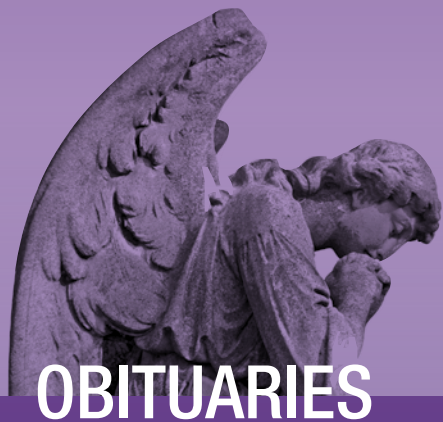
## Cummins Show

The CFS Cummins Brigade took part in the 101st Cummins Show in October.

Pictured from left are brothers Angus and Jasper Farlam and Kye Higgins who got a taste of being CFS firemen at the Cummins Show.







## OBITUARIES



### MICHAEL (MICK) PETERS

15 JANUARY 1960  
– 16 AUGUST 2012

Mick Peters was a member of the Clarendon Brigade for five and a half years, and in that time he left an indelible mark on the Brigade with his wit and humour. His keenness to get to the station and get on the appliance was second to none.

Mick enrolled in most courses available to him and completed his CABA within 18 months of joining the Brigade. He took his courses very seriously, always asking questions and seeking to be the best he could be.

Outside of the CFS, Mick was heavily involved with alpacas, and was president of the South Australian region of the Australian Alpaca Association from 2006 to 2009.

Mick was a passionate advocate for the alpaca industry, and was instrumental in the development of shows in South Australia.

He also ran a pool excavation business and put in many hours at the family fodder store, but he always found time to attend the Brigade's regular training sessions and callouts whenever possible.

His contributions to Brigade meetings were invaluable and his sense of humour would often lighten the mood.

With a background of auto repairs and car and truck driving, we knew we were in good hands when Mick was in the driver's seat taking us to a callout on priority one.

He bravely fought his illness for two years but sadly lost his battle. He will be missed by all members.

Mick leaves behind his wife, Claire and daughter Charlotte and many relatives in southern England.



### JOHN WILLIAM AMES

14 MARCH 1960 - 7 DECEMBER 2012

John lived about 150 metres from the Freeling fire station, across the railway line and whenever the siren would sound he wanted to be a part of what was happening.

Needless to say John joined the Freeling CFS in 1994 holding admin roles at Brigade and Light Group. He also became a trainer and assessor and was often seen in IMT doing staging while also being a part of the Region 2 comms.

John moved to Canberra for a short period and joined the fire service there, keeping us informed of its good and bad points.

He was an enthusiastically active member attending many local incidents, including KI during 2007 and Black Saturday.

John achieved so much in his life, originally coming from Tasmania he often spoke of a huge fire in the distance in Hobart but the fire trucks were going the wrong way.

Being only six at the time,

he later discovered they were heading to save the Cascades Brewery that was also burning.

On leaving school he joined the Army moving to Townsville, Butterworth and migrated across to the RAAF, later taking a position at Edinburgh with the P3s doing costal surveillance where he continued in that role until his passing

In his spare time John was an active RSL member, a JP and who became the first Special Justice in South Australia sitting on the bench in the courts.

Sadly we lost John after a brave fight with an illness. He will be sadly missed by his wife Rosie, Suzanne, Barbara, Kirsty, Robert, Todd and their wider families, work colleagues and his CFS family.



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Adelaide Hills Firewatch is a portable fire protection, maintenance and safety supplies business.

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boundaries. We are able to quote on a one-to-one basis to achieve a win-win situation for all clients.

Murray's background knowledge of the industry comes through 25 years of Country Fire Service volunteer work, two years previous work history within the same industry and three years as an Emergency Service Officer in the mining and oil/gas industries.

Adelaide Hills Firewatch currently holds many lucrative government contracts and also services local clients across the Adelaide Hills, Fleurieu, Riverland, Murraylands, Barossa Valley, Mid North, Yorke Peninsula and Upper South East regions.

Our servicing has produced high standards and excellence in customer service. It has enabled us to add servicing and supply options under OHS and workplace safety needs.

All our work is based on values of respect, empathy and integrity.

Adelaide Hills Firewatch also offers Fire Maintenance and Safety equipment to the general public at our newly fitted out premises at 5 Mount Barker Road, Mount Barker. During the bushfire season, we have been able to adequately provide our clients with a fantastic range of on-hand equipment and products for commercial, industrial and residential properties.



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