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VOLUNTEER

YEARBOOK 2016





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Volunteer Yearbook is an annual publication which captures significant CFS activities and incidents from the past 12 months.

The views and opinions expressed through the contributions in this publication are not necessarily those of the SA Country Fire Service or the Government of South Australia.

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WELCOME

SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE CHIEF OFFICER GREG NETTLETON



Taking time to look back at our achievements over the past 12 months, it's rewarding to see just how long that list is.

The Sampson Flat fire of the previous season saw many new recruits join our ranks and the need for CFS to employ nine additional training officers to cope with the influx. CFS is one of the biggest training organisations in the state, with thousands of people upskilling each year.

Before the Fire Danger Season had begun there was plenty of talk about the devastation that could occur in what the Bureau of Meteorology rightly predicted an El Nino event. The media was talking it up to be a highly risky year with plenty of fuel and very dry conditions around much of the state, especially in the South East.

As we all know all summers in Australia come with an inherent bushfire risk, and it just takes one bad afternoon for a disaster to take place - we saw earlier in the season it doesn't even have to be an afternoon. The morning of Wednesday, November 25 saw a fire threaten the township of Mintaro in the Mid North. Crews however were able to pull the fire up and we all breathed a momentary sigh of relief before the devastating Pinery fire began.

CFS was faced with one of its greatest challenges in catastrophic fire conditions across wide open landscape where dense crops awaited harvest.

The Chief Officer's Intent the previous day outlined should a fire begin crews would be limited in options to pull it up, this was proven as conditions propelled the fire straight to Mallala within minutes. But I'm very proud of our efforts around that township and you can see on the fire scar map, that although crews couldn't conduct offensive firefighting, through preparation and some aviation assistance they were able to stop the fire impacting the town.

As the long afternoon took shape a wind change meant the fire sped towards other towns and too quickly for the same tactics to be implemented. Devastatingly, two people lost their lives, along with many houses, livestock and vehicles. The farming community is still struggling to control the dust to keep their precious topsoil.

However, we have seen some positives follow – farmers from the district have come together, and with some assistance from former CFS veteran Arthur Tindall, have worked to manufacture personal protective clothing which will be issued for Farm Fire Units in the district free of charge.

Also Project Pinery, a review conducted by CFS and Noetic Solutions, has identified lessons from the incident and what actions we can take to improve our procedures and resources. We should be

proud that we continue to recognise the lessons gained through experience and told in a no blame environment.

In fact many of the lessons we've learned are being used interstate and even overseas, with some of our Incident Management Team members being deployed to Western Australia last year to assist the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

We also deployed appliances and firefighters to Tasmania in January and February to assist Tasmanian Fire Service (TFS) battle dozens of fires after hundreds of lightning strikes caused havoc in their old forests. Personnel on deployment further enhanced our reputation as diligent, highly skilled and brave firefighters as they represented CFS across the seven days.

Congratulations to those who have received honours this year, with the Australian Fire Service Medal being presented to Region 1's Peter Venning who has served as a volunteer for many years, and Region 4 volunteer and Commander Bluey Devine.

As we look ahead to the coming year we have plenty of positives including the continued rollout of a second set of PPC for volunteers, and updates to our radio systems.

We will continue to attend incidents which challenge us either on a personal or organisational level so it's vital that we talk to each other and use the resources available such as the Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) unit. Beyondblue recently release figures on the numbers of Emergency Services personnel (firefighters, SES, ambulance and police) who commit suicide and the figure is unacceptable so please look after each other.

Thank you for another dedicated year for CFS, I hope you enjoy reading about our successes in the pages to follow.

Remember to come home safe.

WELCOME



MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES HON PETER MALINAUSKAS

As the new Minister for Emergency Services I have been fortunate to have become part of a team for which I have a deep respect and appreciation.

One of my first introductions to CFS volunteers was at the airport, seeing off deployments headed to help out colleagues in Tasmania. Speaking to

them I felt the commitment they have to keeping communities safe, and not just their own communities but those of our neighbour states as well. It is thanks to the dedication of volunteers like these, which give our communities a sense of trust and safety when a large incident occurs.

The exceptional service given by our volunteers not only during the fire season but year-round, when there are structural fires, HAZMAT jobs and road crashes, takes real dedication and bravery.

The nature of bushfires, the unpredictability and true ferocity they can bring, is a reality to all. I can see the enormous and longer term impact a large or even a small fire can have on both residents affected and those on the front line.

Protecting your community and fighting for your neighbours when you're not certain as to whether your own home is still standing, takes incredible courage and is no doubt incredibly challenging on many levels. It is this evident selflessness and sense of true community spirit within the Emergency Services that is so remarkable.

It is an exciting time for CFS and the Emergency Services Sector, with a growing volunteer base and our interstate and international colleagues looking to us for advice in many different facets. I look forward to learning more about the complexities and successes of CFS over the coming months, and years and hope to see more of you as I visit the regions.

For the effort you have already made and for your continued support of our state and its people – thank you.



SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ANDY WOOD

Reflecting on events of the past 18 months it is apparent that it has been a difficult and challenging time for CFS.

The constant pressure from the political arena has caused the CFSVA to focus much of it's attention in that direction placing considerable strain on CFSVA and Executive members, stretching our resources

and finances to the limit. It seems that just as we conclude one matter another appears on the radar, with the Emergency Services Sector Reform being the most consuming for the CFSVA.

The former Emergency Services Minister's sector reform process first introduced in June 2014, could at best be described as seriously flawed and at worst extremely dangerous, and Government's interference into operational matters outside of their legislative bounds caused serious concerns. The ambiguities and lack of details in the former Minister's agenda coupled with a lack of tolerance towards anyone with differing views only served to marginalised and exclude concerned volunteers and organisations.

The message delivered to the former Minister by the CFSVA was clear in that volunteers would only support change that provided value for money, improved services to South Australian communities and improved levels of support to volunteers. The CFSVA stood firmly on its initial position in that volunteers would not accept change merely for the sake of change.

The appointment of a new Minister, the Hon Peter Malinauskas, earlier this year will hopefully reinstate openness and transparency within the sector, which combined with the South Australian 10 year Strategic Plan for the South Australian Emergency Services and the CFS five year Strategic Plan will enable stability to return to the sector.

The CFSVA cannot stress enough the importance of CFS volunteers remaining involved, focussed, part of the journey, and masters of their own destiny.

The CFSVA continues to enjoy a good working relationship with the CFS Chief Officer and CFS staff and whilst at times we hold differing opinions, this open relationship is important as both the CFSVA and the CFS strive to achieve the same goal which is the safety and welfare of CFS volunteers, their local communities and South Australian.

I would like to acknowledge Sonia St Alban (CFSVA Executive Director), Roger Flavell (Vice President) and Jeff Clark (former Deputy Vice President) for their dedication, passion, and untiring efforts in "representing the interests of CFS volunteers" and welcome David Lidner to the team. I also would like to acknowledge Kirsti Oliver for her efforts and flexibility in providing much needed back up support.

Thank you also to all the CFS members who have worked on numerous CFSVA committees throughout the year, and who have given their time and support to ensure that the CFSVA continues to represent CFS volunteers at all levels.

CFSVA members, you are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated team carrying forward matters on your behalf, and I encourage you all to support your elected representatives to ensure that your thoughts and opinions are truly represented at all levels.

Most importantly I would also like to acknowledge all CFS volunteers and their families without whose dedication, passion and generosity a strong emergency service response across South Australia would not exist.



It's been five months since I joined CFS and so far I've visited each region and met a number of volunteers.

There is an overwhelming passion and commitment to working with their community, which is as strong as any other volunteer base in the nation.

Everywhere I've been people are presenting me with great ideas. It's pleasing to know they are looking to the future and how things could be done better, something we all want to achieve.

One thing I've appreciated while meeting volunteers is them highlighting issues and challenges they face. A number of people do feel frustrated with the processes CFS have had to go through in the past few years, but pleasingly they are still looking for changes for the better.

The great thing about CFS is that it has a very flat structure, which allows close consultation with myself, the Chief Officer and other executives through Regional Volunteer Management Committee (RVMC) and state committees through to Chief Officer's Advisory Council (COAC). This consultation allows issues to be escalated quickly and easily with good consultation to have solutions. However, we need to ensure committees are structured and effective solutions are being developed for the whole of CFS.

The quality of equipment volunteers have in South Australia across all specialisations is of a high standard and is well maintained by brigades, which shows people's pride in doing the job well.

I've moved to a number of different places in my career and as a volunteer, through that I've learned how brigades and groups reflect their communities.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: FRONTLINE SERVICES

*By: Andrew Stark, Deputy Chief Officer/
Executive Director Frontline Services*

South Australia is no different. For those brigades and groups in the urban fringe they reflect the expectations of those communities, while in regional, remote and outback areas the brigades are different but once again reflect that their community wants and needs. This reflection of community is why brigades are so effective in the way they operate.

However, there is a challenge as some communities throughout the state are under pressure of population decline due to the often sudden changes in the economy. This puts more pressure on brigades as expectations rise, so we're looking for ways to better support brigades in those areas.

I know there are always going to be fires which gain a lot of attention, in the past few years these have been Pinery or Sampson Flat and there are lessons to be learned and the impacts. However, at the same time there are many other days across the year where brigades have responded and controlled incidents. This is a testament to training

and commitment to getting out and just doing the job – sometimes that's masked by a big incident but I want to highlight those incidents and say well done for those as well.

With regard to training, we always tend to follow a particular focus of new skills or upgrades, but it's important to note that of our 14,000 or so volunteers, everyone is on a different part of their training program. From tactical fire and rescue to leadership of brigades and groups, there's a constant challenge to make sure we're developing and we need to look at how better to align training and delivery to firefighters and brigades.

There are always changes in our communities and environments. It's been 12 years since I have lived in cropping area and I've been surprised at the changes to farming practices. A focus on increased overall tonnage and yields, as well as the continuation of cropping clearly has had an effect on the potential for fire spread and intensity in cropping areas. So in the near future we may have to respond differently to those fires - the intensity of the Pinery fire is a good example of where we couldn't use our usual techniques of aerial bombing due to the intensity of the fire.

One last observation I'd like to make, for now at least, is to highlight the staff of CFS. They are a very small cohort compared to the size of any other fire organisation around Australia, but they work very hard to support brigades and groups in maintaining and growing their capability. They're also developing specialised expertise in many areas which are equal if not leading practices around the country.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

By: Ann De Piaz, Executive Director Frontline Services Support



In 2013 CFS had a restructure and Frontline Services Support was established to enable the operational requirements to be met.

As head of Frontline Services Support I believe it is important to acknowledge the behind the scenes work that goes into helping to make brigades and regions work to the best of their ability.

Since 2013 our team has worked hard to deliver many positive outcomes, so here are just a few.

There have been 23 new tankers and seven bulk water carriers procured, and we're always looking at ways to better our fleet. The halo system to provide better safety for our crew is on all new tankers and we're looking at ways to install this system, or something similar on older model tankers. Sturt Group's new bulk water carrier, delivered last during the year is a prototype fitted with a Compressed Air Foam System that has the ability to fight structure fires using specialised foam.

Frontline Services Support has also assisted in not only getting approval for three new stations but also organising upgrades to a further 12 brigade stations next financial year.

Our equipment has been updated with the distribution of new breathing apparatus to all relevant brigades was conducted last year. It's the first time we've had such a massive upgrade to

equipment in a short amount of time and although presented a major challenge, brigades are now experiencing the benefits.

There have also been major changes in communication with the new digital VHF tactical communications radios being rolled out at the moment, with some regions already having their new radios delivered. The SAGRn is also getting an upgrade announced by the State Government last year and our team has ensured that all radios are digitally equipped in readiness for the digital changeover.

This financial year we had some wins in the funding department with nine extra training staff appointed on short term contracts to help facilitate the thousands of volunteers we train every year. Changes to TAS have also been introduced enabling volunteers to access their training information and print their own records if desired.

CFS was also able to secure funding for an extra set of both structural and wildland personal protective clothing (PPC) for all volunteers. This four-year project is beginning its rollout now.

We have major changes to our Doctrine happening behind the scenes and you can read about that on page 39.



Region 1 Commander settled in

Region 1 welcomed a new Commander in August last year – Brett Loughlin who came from the New South Wales Rural Fire Service and has settled into the region well.

“I am seriously impressed with the dedication, professionalism, and achievements of the Brigades and Groups,” he said.

“Their passion and commitment is second to none and the people I have met have been very welcoming.

“The role is very busy, and there are new challenges almost daily, but thankfully the staff and Group Officers provide invaluable help and support which makes it manageable.”

The start of the fire season was busy with the Kyeema (or Yundi) fire which burned in difficult terrain for a number of days.

“The fire season certainly had a lot of potential in Region 1 and fortunately we have avoided the worst of it again.

“The fires that we did have highlighted the ability of Region 1 to rapidly surge a large number of

appliances and people to fires – however, it has also highlighted just how little time and space we have in Region 1 before fires start to impact on property and assets.

“The other impressive thing is the sheer dedication of our people. On Christmas Day we had a rapidly escalating fire start which ultimately saw a strike team deployed to assist.

“Many of our people spent hours on the fire ground away from their friends and family which was greatly appreciated.”

Then on New Year’s Eve an Emergency Warning Message was issued for people in the Mosquito Hill area, effecting holiday makers on the Fleurieu Peninsula.

“Post these fires we have identified a number of new ideas that we hope to implement which will allow us to hopefully make some positive improvements to the way we run large fires in Region 1.”



SEAFORD JOIN FORCES WITH SAAS

By: Ali Martin

A new ambulance station will be co-located with the local Seaford Country Fire Service brigade at Seaford - with work now underway.

The station will be located on Seaford Road, within the Commercial Road precinct.

Having the ambulance station next door for a CFS brigade will mean several enhancements will be made to the facility such as increased lighting in the carpark, said Region 1 Commander Brett Loughlin.

“CFS will also be able to use the ambulance wash down station and the area will have surveillance cameras,” he said.

The use of an Emergency Exit System for services to easily get onto Seaford Road has not been funded by the local council however, Mr Loughlin is confident there will be some signage installed to warn motorists of emergency vehicles entering the roadway.

Health Minister Jack Snelling said the station was a 2014 State Government election commitment and that SA Health and the CFS had worked closely together to finalise the location for the station.

“I am pleased a solution has been reached to co-locate the Seaford ambulance station with the local CFS station,” Mr Snelling said.

“This is great news for the people of Seaford who will benefit from a new, modern station, based in their local community.

“I thank the local CFS for their ongoing support and for agreeing to a shared emergency services site.”

Early site concepts have been agreed on between SA Health, SAAS and CFS, and will now proceed to formal design and planning consultation with the Department for Planning, Transport and Infrastructure.



Members of the Seaford brigade with an SAAS representative.

CAREY GULLY CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF FIREFIGHTING



From left: East Torrens Deputy Group Officer Doug Munn, Carey Gully President Richard Temple and Region 1 Commander Brett Loughlin cut the brigade's 60th anniversary cake.

By: Michelle Daw

The disastrous Black Sunday fires of January 1955, which claimed the lives of two firefighters and scorched 40,000 hectares, were the catalyst for the formation of the Carey Gully CFS Brigade, which last year celebrated its 60th anniversary.

About 50 past and present brigade members and their families took part in the event, which was combined with Christmas celebrations and a visit from Father Christmas.

The brigade's inaugural meeting was held in December 1955 and Don Driver was elected as Chief Officer (later Captain) a position he held continuously until 1984.

Until then, local people had fought fires using rakes, hoes, wet bags and back burning. In the 1940s, three 44 gallon drums were kept full of water and rolled onto

the first available truck and the water was sprayed using a hand pump, a hose and an old sprinkler head.

The brigade's first truck was a tray top with Chevrolet motor and transmission, generally known as "Old Stumpy" because it was almost as wide as it was long. Brigade members fitted it out with a 500 gallon tank, pump and knapsacks. Old Stumpy served until 1972.

The first station building was constructed in 1961. It was a galvanised iron shed not much bigger than the truck so it had to be moved out to hold brigade meetings. Brigade members subsequently moved it intact about one kilometre to the brigade's current location. A concrete floor was laid in one day in 1972 by about 20 members. The building was replaced in 1979 by a substantial brick building, still used by the brigade today. In 1984 it was extended uphill adding bays for two more appliances and a radio room.

In 1973 the Women's Auxiliary was formed. Members provided food and drinks at extended incidents and played a big part in fundraising. It continues now under the name of Operational Support, reflecting more accurately its function and recognising that males are also welcome.

The Carey Gully brigade played an important role in the Ash Wednesday fires of February 1983. Tragically, a member of the Summertown CFS brigade who had jumped on the Carey Gully truck was killed and the brigade's International truck was destroyed when it was caught in flames near Mt Bonython. Brigade Captain Don Driver and another crew member were seriously injured and hospitalised while another two firefighters escaped with minor burns.

A month later some of the injured crew were presented to Prince Charles and Princess Diana at Stirling Oval. The brigade has 25 active members and Captain Rudi Marich said they are always keen to recruit more.

Medals were presented at the 60th anniversary celebrations, with 16 National Medals and clasps awarded to brigade members. This included three third clasps, in recognition of 45 years or more of service, which went to Neil Badenoch, Sue Temple, and Des Ford. Eleven members were presented with CFS Service Medals and 14 CFS Life Memberships were presented.

STURT'S NEW BWC HAS GIANT CAPACITY

By: Daniel Hamilton

Biggest of its kind in the southern hemisphere and it's the newest addition to the firefighting fleet ready to assist the Sturt Group, South of Adelaide.

The new 13,000 litre bulk water carrier (BWC) utilises technology mixing compressed air foam with water to increase the output by up to seven times the usual capacity.

Director Operational Infrastructure and Logistics, Lee Watson, said this vehicle has been considerably funded by the local Blackwood community and surrounding areas and will be utilised to protect the community.

"This prototype combines technology which has been developed with the assistance of Moore Engineering in Murray Bridge, Tasmanian Fire Service, Mobile Energy and Global Fire Solutions," Mr Watson said.

"The bulk water carrier will tour around the state to give demonstrations to regional volunteers across the organisation to determine the viability of providing such resources into other regions."

It will be a valuable addition but Mr Watson said the greatest resource for the CFS are boots on the ground.

"The CFS is a community focussed organisation with 99 per cent of members being volunteers, we always look to implement the best technology to support but the trucks don't operate themselves so the real effort comes from those who give their time to volunteer."



Sturt Group's new bulk water carrier showing off its skills in a media demonstration.

By: Ali Martin

Region 2's headquarters staff are enjoying their new base at Roseworthy.

After a hectic week mopping up the Pinery fire, a storm ripped through Willaston on the night of Monday, December 7, causing major damage to the headquarters making it uninhabitable.

The region was able to quickly relocate offices to the University of Adelaide's Roseworthy Campus, next to the Mudla Wirra CFS Brigade.

Acting Region 2 Commander Nik Stanley said the staff have settled into the new location and are very grateful to University of Adelaide for making them welcome.

"It's been a fantastic team effort by all regional staff in relocating and setting up the office in a very quick time frame," he said.

"Staff remained operational throughout the move to the Roseworthy campus and has continued to work effectively now that we've settled in."

Nik said they have also had exceptional support from



REGION 2'S ROSEWORTHY HQ

Acting Region 2 Commander Nik Stanley and staff at the new headquarters based at Roseworthy

state headquarters staff and SAFECOM in assisting with the move and securing long-term lease.

"The Roseworthy Campus Facilities Management Unit has also been fantastic in assisting with

hanging whiteboards, moving furniture and generally making us all feel welcome."

Region 2 will be based at Roseworthy for the next three years, with a contract which can be continued.



ROB CELEBRATES HALF CENTURY

By: Ali Martin

The voluntary firefighting career of Rob Tonkin was celebrated recently as he clocked up 50 years with the CFS.

Stansbury Captain Scott Helmore welcomed Rob, his family, brigade members and special guests to a special lunch at the Dalrymple Hotel.

Rob first joined the CFS at Currumulka on New Year's Eve 1965 and has since held many positions including Training Officer and Captain.

He later moved to the Minlaton brigade becoming the Deputy Group Officer, Group Officer, and Group Administer. Rob was the first Group Officer of the combined Southern Yorke Peninsula section of the CFS. Rob is a qualified instructor in Levels 1, 2 and 3.

In November 1999, Rob joined the Stansbury brigade and has been an active firefighter, training officer, cadet co-ordinator and logistics co-ordinator. He's also part of the Region 2 Air Ops Brigade based at Stansbury.

Adding to his volunteer efforts, Rob is also an active member of the local community and buses at all the Seaside Markets raising money for charities.

Above: Rob Tonkin with family at his 50 year service celebration.

Left: Rob with Stansbury Captain Scott Helmore and Acting Region 2 Commander Nik Stanley.



Barossa Valley Activation Day



By: Teagan White

Last year South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS), South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and South Australia Police joined together for the Barossa Zone Emergency Centre's annual activation exercises.

The activities included representatives from all emergency services, local government and support agencies and provided a level of collaboration that is often practiced in major incidents.

The exercise was held at the Beckwith Park precinct on Barossa Valley Way, Nuriootpa. The focus on the day was a notional industrial fire within the precinct. The exercise enabled emergency services to assess their capabilities and improve their response and practices, as well as adapt to a dynamic emergency which thankfully doesn't occur often here in SA. No live fires were used on the day as crews extinguished simulated flames on the waste water dam and gas tanks.

Then Acting Region 2 Commander Tony Whitehorn said the preparation for the event had been going for at least 12 months as they searched the right site for the day's activities and assessed any risks involved.

"Overall the event went smoothly and I was very pleased with how all agencies performed on the day," he said.

"The next step now is for all of us to meet together and debrief on the happenings of the day and analyse what we excelled in and other areas we may need to work on."

"All emergency services would like to thank the community for their cooperation in the view to making the Barossa a safer place to work and live."



MFS Station officer Robert Van Dongen and Salvation Army volunteer – Mrs Denise Skeldon



Tarac Distillery Supervisor Michael Webster, Northern Barossa Group Officer - Kym Haebich, MFS Commander - Allan Fisk.

GERANIUM MARKS 50 YEARS OF FIRE FIGHTING

By: Michelle Daw

Fifty years of fighting fires in the Murray Mallee and beyond were celebrated recently by past and present members of the Geranium Brigade.

About 100 people gathered for a roast dinner at the Geranium Bowling Club and the brigade's first truck, and its current appliance were on display nose to nose.

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton presented Brigade Captain Geoff Drummond with a 50th year plaque in appreciation of the Brigade's service to the district. Region 3 Commander Richard Coombe, Mallee Group Officer Ken Schutz and former Regional Commanders Kevin May and John Fitzgerald also



CFS Chief Officer presents Geranium Brigade Captain Geoff Drummond with a plaque, recognising the brigade's 50 years of service.

took part in the celebrations.

The Brigade began when local residents met in 1965 and voted to form a local brigade of the former Emergency Fire Service and to acquire a suitable truck.

Until this time, only small farm fire units, wet bags

and shovels were available to fight fires.

A four-wheel drive, ex-military international cab-chassis was delivered to Geranium in 1968. Handy local members constructed the body and installed the equipment, creating an appliance that was well adapted for local needs.

In 1975 the Lameroo District Council built a permanent facility for the CFS in Geranium and equipped it with a siren and a new VHF radio, also installed in the truck.

Mr V.J. Nankivell was the first Deputy Supervisor and his radio-equipped two-seater Chrysler was a familiar local sight. In 1983, he was awarded CFS Life Membership. In 1985, Ian Jarvis was elected Brigade Captain and held the role for 22 years and is the longest serving captain of the brigade. Ian now serves as administration and training officer.

FIELD DAY FUN!

By: Teagan White

Attendance records were broken at the Region 3 Field Day held in Lameroo in August, as around 130 firefighters joined together to further their teamwork experience.

A committee of 12 from the Mallee Group and Lameroo Brigade spent six months preparing for the event, which ran exceptionally well. The day consisted of five strike teams rotating around five drill sites with 24 appliances on the ground.

The drills consisted of: a simulated gyrocopter crash, off-road driving, booster/ hydrants, running grassfire simulator (mad rabbit), learning about the volunteer portal.

The simulated Gyrocopter crash had an emergency landing into a tree at the end of the runway and was supported by SA Ambulance personnel as the crews were guided through the successful extrication of the pilot. Other hazards such as spilt fuel, foam usage and the use of dust marks were also utilised in the drill.

Conditions were sandy on the off road driving site, simulating roads that are often encountered in Ngarkat Conservation Park. The crews were given hands on experience when the tyres were deflated during the drill, preparing them to work under pressure and get back on the road using a compressor to inflate the tyres before moving on to the next location.

As always the 'Mad Rabbit', which is best described as a towed burning wheelie bin, was a great hit among the crews, simulating a running grass fire and promoting teamwork while enhancing basic skills.

It was a great day overall and the committee felt a great deal of satisfaction after seeing all their hard work pay off. Region 3 would like to thank all participating brigades for sending crews along and helping to make this another successful day.



Karoonda crew tackling the simulated blaze



Crews from Coomandook work on the boosters

Callington Family Fun Day

By: Melissa Wegener

Callington CFS held a Family Fun Day to thank its volunteer members and their families for all their effort and contribution to the CFS and the community.

Instead of catching up at Christmas time the brigade decided to include the children and have an event in April.

The event was held at the Callington Recreational Park Playground and was thoroughly enjoyed by all, including Swanport Group Officer, Wayne Thorley.

A jumping castle was kindly donated by Busy Bouncers Castle and Party Hire and face painting was provided by Mary Jane August. The highlight though was the attendance of Smokey who handed out goody bags to the children.



Children at the Callington Family Fun Day with Smokey.

MODEL VOLUNTEERS AT CADELL



A photo of the scale model

By: Mark Wheeler

Cadell CFS Brigade has taken delivery of a rather special appliance at its station, with the completion of a near perfect scale model of the Cadell 24 Hino.

The model is entirely sculpted out of clay and is the result of more than 98 hours work, by brigade volunteer, Colin.

To make the model look as realistic as possible it includes tiny replica CFS logos, and other features such as aerials (wire) and broom handles (match sticks).

Measuring just 42 cm long, 18 cm wide and 17cm high, it weighs around 2.3kg. The model now takes pride of place under the protection of plexiglass in the station's training room.

Cadell Captain Chris Coombe said an impressive amount of work which went into the model which shows a high level of dedication. The brigade is proud to show it off.

Cadell's other 'model' volunteers have also been gaining recognition.

The brigade's award shelf is filling, with the Chief Officer's Award the latest addition. It was accepted by brigade captain Chris Coombe and presented by Mid Murray Deputy Mayor Kevin Myers, for service to the community.

Cadell Brigade members Kerry Scroop, Chris Coombe and Jamie Reese (Eudunda), were also awarded Team Excellence Commendations for service during the Pinery fire. These awards recognise outstanding service from both the Department for Correctional Services and CFS members.

Are you prepared for the next call out?

Keep your gear together with the approved CFS Crew Bag made by Country Sew 'n' Sew (formerly Candy Canvas) in Tintinara. Made from durable 110z canvas with yellow handles and pockets inside and out.



Large Crew Bag: \$60.50
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MIMILI'S WOMEN TRAINED

"Waru wiya, pulya", (meaning - "no fire, ok") was heard on the UHF simplex multi-agency channel.

The new kungas (women) Volunteer Firefighters were just completing their two day basic firefighting (BF1) Course and it was exciting to hear the radio 'chatter' in their own language of Pitjantjatjara as they returned the Mimili appliances after training in the bush.

A group of nine women in a remote Aboriginal community in South Australia's APY Lands have formed the state's first Indigenous female firefighting team within the Mimili Brigade. With the men often absent on cultural business and other help too far away, the women wanted to have skills to protect the community.

Tania Pompey is one of the nine women involved and said it was a privilege to be part of the first all-female team.

"Us women have to stick up for ourselves and look after the family," she said.

CFS Mimili Captain, Tony Walker welcomed the women to be part of the Mimili CFS Brigade, who will be able to train and respond to fires as a sole women's crew.

CFS volunteer, Sandra Fawcett, Gumeracha Deputy Group Officer and Trainer Assessor led the team



of Women trainers to deliver the course in such a remote and isolated Community in July.

Assisted by CFS Volunteer Trainer Assessor Janet Kelly (Gumeracha CFS), Regional Staff Officer and Trainer Sindy McCourt, Training Assistant Katie Southern (Yongala CFS) and Staff Administration Officer, Zoe Williams.

Sandra was thrilled with the success of the course, with six fully completing the course and assessed as competent and three partially attending the course but keen to complete the course at a suitable time.

Sindy McCourt said the enthusiastic volunteers

learnt how to use a range of hoses and equipment.

"They took us out to some of their special lands and we actually conducted some of the training out there," Sindy said.

"You could see their connection with the land was so strong. For us to be able to teach them how to protect those lands, it's something you can't explain in words."



Warnertown CFS Captain Lyn Russell receiving a plaque for Warnertown's 60th Anniversary from Chief Greg Nettleton.



Warnertown's Ray Tiller receiving his 50 years of service clasp.



Warnertown's Barry Young receiving his 60 years of service award.

Warnertown celebrates 60 years

Region 4's Warnertown Brigade celebrated 60 years of service in September.

Celebrations were attended by about 30 guests, including Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton, Regional Commander, Bluey Devine and Group Officer, Michael Crouch.

Captain Lyn Russell said they had their youngest and our oldest current members present, so we had three generations of firefighters.

OUR REMOTE CFS FIREFIGHTERS AT BON BON STATION

For many CFS brigades their home is just down the road or perhaps a few kilometres away, but for those in the outback it can be a much larger commute. Volunteers Julia Harris and Mike Chuk have to travel 100 kilometres from their home on Bon Bon Station (600km north of Adelaide) to the Glendambo brigade.

Bon Bon Station Reserve for Bush Heritage Australia is a national not-for-profit organisation conserving biodiversity in Australia. For a century the station farmed sheep and its infrastructure reflects its history, now the 22,000 hectare reserve is once again home to a number of state and nationally significant plants and animals.

The desert landscape features shimmering salt lakes, sand dunes, mulga and myall woodlands and large expanses of open saltbush and bluebush country. In the centre of the reserve is Lake Puckridge which fills up with water in the big wet years (about once a decade) and can run to several metres deep. The traditional owners of this land are the Ankakirinja Matu-Yankunytjatjara people.

Julia and Mike have extensive experience living and working in outback Australia and an interest in conservation and land management. Mike has worked in the fields of agriculture, conservation and natural resource management; while Julia has worked in the sheep and wool industry, mining and with the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC).

They moved to South Australia from Queensland in 2013 and joined the CFS and completing their Basic Firefighting 1 Course in 2014 and are active volunteers with the Glendambo Brigade.

Fire is also a threat to the biodiversity of the region (particularly the mulga woodlands) and they are keen to work with the local community in protecting the environment from wild fire.



Julia Harris and Mike Chuk, members of the Glendambo CFS brigade.

They have also been actively involved in controlling and reducing the spread of buffel grass along the Stuart Highway. Buffel grass is an emerging invasive weed that has the potential to significantly alter the landscape.

To prevent this happening, the CFS Brigades of Coober Pedy, Glendambo and Woomera have conducted controlled burning of infestations which has been followed by spraying over the last two years.

"Mick and Julia are possibly our most remote volunteer firefighters in the outback," said Phil Dunkley Regional Officer – Outback Areas.

"They epitomise the generous emergency services volunteering spirit that is evident in our South Australian remote outback communities."

The CFS is proud of its outback volunteers and the broad variety of skills and interests that they bring to their volunteering.

FORESTRY INDUSTRY BRIGADES A STEP CLOSER

By: *Ali Martin*

To address a key recommendation of the 2013 Holloway review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005 the CFS with support from PIRSA and Forestry SA initiated a legislative reform project in January 2015.

This project has completed a review of the potential legislative establishment of Industry Brigades in country SA under the Fire and Emergency Services Act and Regulations 2005.

"This review incorporated extensive engagement with stakeholders across the state," said Project Leader, Dr Philip Mayes.

In October the CFS gained Cabinet Approval to commence drafting of a legislative framework for Industry Brigades. The first instalment, a Fire and Emergency Services (Industry Brigades) Amendment Bill is currently with the Minister for Emergency Services awaiting introduction to Parliament.

"These amendments will establish 'Head Power' under the Act facilitating the CFS to require the establishment of industry brigades generally, in accordance with the Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2005," said Dr Mayes.

"If successful this Amendment Bill will instigate subsequent parliamentary amendment to the Fire and Emergency Services Regulations 2005 to include specific requirements of the commercial

forestry industry sector, with regard to provision of apparatus and equipment, training of personnel and operations under the Act.

"In support, a series of Technical Specifications will also be developed for the forestry industry to assist in understanding their legislative obligations."

To date Industry Brigades in both the mining and forestry sectors have been registered by the CFS.

The proposed legislative framework will not preclude this into the future but will establish legislation requiring the forestry industry to continue to provide a specified level of fire suppression capability based on the size of their commercial plantation holdings.

"This will provide for an equitable 'playing field' across the commercial forestry sector with regard to provision of fire suppression capability," said Dr Mayes.

"Victoria has a well-established successful regulatory framework for Forestry Industry Brigades providing a foundation on which to build a similar model in SA."

"With the bulk of the state's commercial plantation located in the Green Triangle Region abutting Victoria we recognise the importance to the forestry industry of establishing regulatory cross-jurisdictional consistency with Victoria."

The importance to the state of a continued collaborative effort between the commercial forestry sector and CFS to suppress plantation fires was highlighted by the Tantanoola fire in 2015 with losses estimated at \$9 million in plantation and 3,745 volunteer hours expended.

"Importantly for CFS volunteers this collaboration will ensure that efforts to suppress plantation fires will continue to be shared between the forestry industry and CFS and utilise expertise in plantation fire-fighting held by the industry."



The 2015 Tantanoola fire was a significant campaign plantation fire fought through a collaboration between forestry industry brigades, CFS and other agencies

KINGSTON DINNER INTERRUPTED

Kingston CFS held their annual dinner on the final night of the fire danger season (April 30).

As they were getting ready to order tea the brigade was called out to a fire which turned out to be a planned burnoff.

The once interrupted dinner was again put on hold as a kitchen fire in Cooke Street saw their pagers beep again.

They managed to contain the fire to the kitchen, and help the occupants who safety got out.

Finally the brigade returned once more to their annual dinner to see appreciation awards handed out.

Well done to the brigade – it just shows no matter what the situation CFS volunteers are always willing to drop everything and save lives and properties.



BEACHPORT TESTS NEW QRV



The prototype QRV recently delivered to the Beachport Brigade.

Beachport Brigade has a new Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) to trial.

The prototype was delivered recently and has a standard utility tray top with a fire fighting unit

that can be easily slipped on and off. This differs from most QRVs in circulation which have a fully customised body, with the firefighting equipment bolted onto the chassis.

Wattle Range Deputy Group Officer Jeff Brooks said the prototype QRV will allow the brigade to use the

utility for non-firefighting operations as well.

The QRV was delivered near the end of the fire danger season, so Mr Brooks said the brigade hasn't had a chance to test it in fire conditions but have trialled its four wheeled drive capabilities. He said the real trial will be next fire season.

New Log Skidder for Region 5

By: Mark Wheeler

Region 5 is the proud recipient of a new Caterpillar log skidder, a highly effective piece of heavy machinery used for dry firefighting - particularly clearing breaks and access through scrub and bush.

The burgeoning fleet of two is based in Keith, under the management of the Tatiara Group. However, due to its capability, its operational work extends outside the group area and often outside Region 5.

Log skidders have proven to be effective dry firefighting machinery, particularly in the Mallee. They can quickly clear breaks through Mallee and coastal scrub.

The region will equip both log skidders with a modified blade to clear vegetation, and hitches to

tow a specialised A-Frame behind, flattening and shifting debris away from a wider, four to six metre break.

Bruce Hunt from the Kongal brigade and Chair of the Dry Firefighting Equipment Committee said if required, the second log skidder can follow along behind towing a mechanical rake hoe to create a bare earth break. This break can be more easily negotiated by smaller firefighting appliances.

"One of most obvious benefits of having two log skidders will be that we can clear breaks in just a single pass," he said.

"Previously, we'd often have had to go back and make another pass to get a bare earth break, which really means going over the same path three times. This will save us valuable time."

Its agility and speed are significant advantages over a tractor and bulldozer. It's considerably faster and far more manoeuvrable, and with rubber tyres, a log skidder can also be loaded and driven on roads.

A higher top speed also means they can travel much more quickly into remote worksites and fire grounds.

Another advantage is the front blade can be angled and controlled to leave behind sub-surface roots, minimising the long term damage to native vegetation in, for example, sensitive landscapes such as national parks. This helps speed recovery and lowers the impact of operations.

"The skidders are also proving to be highly effective as part of a complimentary approaches between private firefighting units, national park vehicles and air support. It's really good to see and is something we're learning a lot from," said Mr Hunt.

John Probert, Region Five Commander said, "This is a very useful tool. Tatiara group, which initiated the use of log skidders in South Australia, have used them with great success over many years.

"They significantly improve our capacity to mitigate fires in Mallee areas."

FROM FARMING AND FORESTRY TO FIRE

By: Michelle Daw

A background in farming and forestry has given recently appointed CFS Region 6 Commander Gavin Wornes a solid foundation for understanding fire behaviour and control.

Gavin took up the Port Lincoln based position in late February after moving from Esperance in Western Australia, where he served as Area Officer for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) for seven and a half years.

Before the DFES, Gavin was the District Fire Coordinator for the Department of Environment and Conservation, taking on operational roles in bushfire response, and managing bushfire mitigation on land owned by the Department.

Gavin began in forestry as a crew member for the Department of Conservation and Land Management, working in the jarrah, karri, marri and other tall timber forests in WA's South West around Walpole.

As he progressed up through the ranks, he learnt about planning and implementing regeneration burns and prescribed burns, land management and the impact of fire on different types of vegetation.

"I strongly believe that's where I learnt my fire trade, it's where I learnt about fire behaviour and fire suppression techniques," Gavin said.

"I learnt to understand the vegetation and the bush, which is important for fire behaviour."

Gavin grew up on a farm near Morawa, in the wheatbelt country north of Perth, another factor which has held him in good stead for working in the fire and emergency sector.

"I got involved in everything on the farm and learnt



New Region Six Commander, Gavin Wornes.

about burning off stubble and all sorts of practical skills," he said.

As the youngest of five children, Gavin said he needed to learn a trade off the farm. He originally qualified as an auto electrician, before the land lured him back and he started with forestry.

Working for the DFES and now CFS has given him an opportunity to apply his fire knowledge, work with volunteers, career staff and be involved with local

communities.

"One of my aims is to encourage people to be more resilient in bushfire prevention and reduce their reliance on other people and agencies," he said.

"I also think that fire has been a part of Australia's environment for thousands of years and our vegetation is adapted to fire, so fire can be a positive force if it is controlled and the land is managed well."

Four decades service

Two dedicated volunteers from Region 6 were recognised for 40 years of service at the March 2015 Regional Volunteer Management Committee (RVMC) meeting.

Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark was pleased to present the second clasps for their National Medals on his first visit to the region.

Robert Maddern started with CFS in 1973 and is currently Captain of the Region 6 Operations and Logistics Brigade. He has also held the position of Group Equipment Coordinator for the Lower Eyre Group for the past nine years.

Robert was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in 2002 and now adds the CFS 40 year medal to his honours.

Paul Hutt is part of the Wudinna brigade where he has been fighting fires since 1974. He received a Ministerial Commendation in 2009 along with his CFS 40 year medal and is currently the Deputy Group Officer for the Caralue Group.

Congratulations and thank you to Paul and Robert for their decades of commitment.



Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark presented Paul Hutt with his 40 year National Medal.



Robert Maddern is presented with his 40 year National Medal by DCO Stark.

ALERTING THE COMMUNITY

Have you checked out the Alert SA app?



It brings together all-hazards information from multiple agencies, including the CFS, MFS, SES, SAPOL, SA Health, Bureau of Meteorology, SA Power Networks and SA Water.



The information can help residents, business owners and employees in areas affected by hazards or an emergency to make vital decisions about how they should respond.

The Alert SA App and accompanying website provide real-time event summaries and warnings, including fires, floods, storms, earthquakes, power outages, road closures, traffic conditions and transport disruptions.

You can create 'watch zones' to receive alerts directly to your phone 24/7 about events and warnings in designated areas around your home, workplace or school.

You can also follow events of interest outside your watch zones and turn on proximity alerts for when you are travelling around SA.

The app has also been designed to allow users to

share information with others via texts, email and social media.

Officially launched in June last year, the app has more than 60,000 within the general community.

The CFS Fire App has served us well since 2012, however the operating system can no longer be supported and therefore CFS needed to find an alternate warning mechanism. The Alert SA App provided an extremely robust option with additional functionality. But remember don't rely solely on one source for event information and warnings. In addition to using Alert SA, you should use a range of other information sources, such as radio, television, and visit Agency websites referenced on Alert SA.

You can find the new website at www.alert.sa.gov.au and download the mobile app from www.alert.sa.gov.au/download/

Update your awareness.

For assistance in downloading the Alert SA App please visit www.cfs.sa.gov.au

Download it now!



PINERY FIRE

By: Ali Martin

The worst fire since Wangary in 2005 began just after 12noon on Wednesday, November 25.

Originating at Pinery in the state's Mid North, the grass and crop fire quickly escalated alarm levels and became the largest crop and grass fire in the region since Tarlee in 1996.

Most of the damage was done in the first six hours as the fire initially ran towards Mallala and then with a wind change made its way through Hamley Bridge and almost to Greenock and Kapunda.

More than 82,500 hectares was burnt in a single afternoon and tragically, two lives were lost. Five people suffered critical injuries, numerous properties were destroyed along with many thousands of livestock as well as significant crop losses.

Many CFS resources were dedicated to battling and containing this blaze including more than 1,000 CFS volunteers, staff, farm fire units and hundreds of vehicles, supported by MFS, SES and more than 300 firefighters from Victoria plus aircraft from New South Wales.

CFS issued Emergency Warning Messages shortly after the fire began and sent Emergency Alert text and voice messages to more than 32,000 people.

The Pinery fire was declared contained on November 27 and controlled on December 1. After this point, crews were only sent out in response to reports from members of the public.



PINERY IN NUMBERS	
2	fatalities
90	injuries
\$123.5	million in commercial insurance claims
\$45.7	million in domestic insurance claims
72,000	livestock lost
91	homes destroyed
438	vehicles destroyed
WARNING MESSAGES ISSUED	
23	Bushfire Advice Messages
12	Watch and Act Messages
8	Emergency Warning Messages
12,569	Emergency Alert SMS sent
21,734	Emergency Alert voice messages delivered

FARM FIRE UNIT PROTECTION INTRODUCED

By: Ali Martin

In many incidents, Farm Fire Units are a vital resource to the fighting of fires in our rural communities. Tragically though in the past two years, two farmers have lost their lives on the fireground – Andrew Harrison during the Nantawarra fire and Allan Tiller during Pinery.

These deaths prompted Allan's nephew Clinton Tiller, farmers, agronomists and businesses in the area to take action.

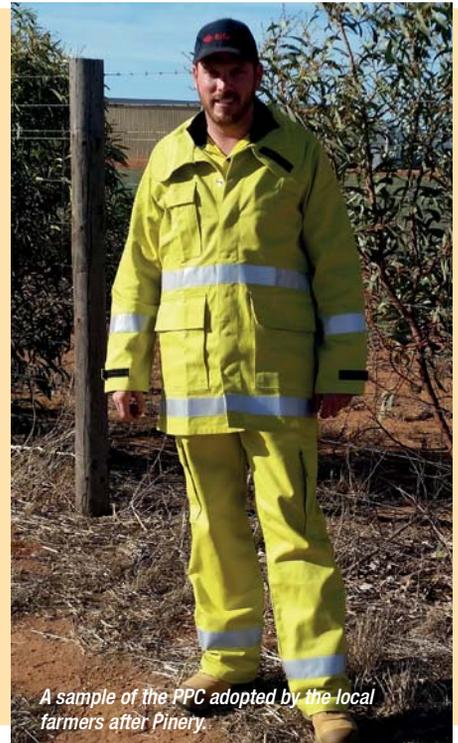
A group of five, in conjunction with former CFS Director of Logistics and Infrastructure Arthur Tindall have developed Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) which can be kept in the cab of a utility and used if a fire starts.

Four local companies including hay exporter - Gilmack, Balco Australia, Johnsons, Casella Family Brands and Grain Flow in Mallala have agreed to donate \$10,000 each.

The sponsorship will see 200 sets of the yellows, (which do differ from CFS PPC), be distributed to five Ag groups who were impacted by the Pinery fire and Mr Tiller is hoping to have some go to the Nantawarra area as well.

Mr Tiller said these will be delivered to farmers before the next fire season.

The PPC has already attracted interest from farmers in other districts, including the West Coast. So, Mr Tiller said the organisers are now looking to make the PPC available for farmers throughout the state to buy.



A sample of the PPC adopted by the local farmers after Pinery.

Project Pinery complete

By: Ali Martin

After the Pinery fire, in November 2015, SA Country Fire Service (CFS) engaged Noetic Solutions to help review its procedures for the Project Pinery. They are the same consultants who assisted with Project Phoenix after the Wangary fire in 2005.

Noetic, along with the Project Pinery Steering Committee conducted an extensive debrief process with staff, volunteers and external agencies. From there they identified lessons learned, with actions and subsequent actions to improve these procedures.

"There are a number of lessons identified, with key themes being some procedures, facilities and Incident Management Teams," said CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.

"Project Pinery not only identifies the lessons, but also quick and subsequent actions to help improve the way CFS operates.

"Some of these actions are due for completion before the 2016/17 Fire Danger Season begins, while others will be in place by the following fire season.

"Actions which require added resources or are not within our budgets have a longer timeframe allocated and we will be working to get these on the funding radar."



A full day workshop was held at Brukunga with all stakeholders to discuss lessons and actions from the Pinery Fire.

Although there are several lessons to come out of this fire, it is important to note the positives as well.

"Noetic Solutions found there were many positive actions taken out by volunteers, staff and external agencies during what was an extremely fast moving fire," Mr Nettleton said.

"However, CFS is always looking at ways to improve its processes and resourcing to better cope with any incident."

CFS has a strong lessons learned process after each incident, with debriefs conducted for both large and small events.

"It is only by learning through our own and other services or people's experience that CFS can continue to evolve and ensure that we can protect

the community to the best of our ability."

Noetic Solutions identified the following in its Executive Summary:

Conditions on the afternoon of 25 November 2015 meant that there could be no expectation of containing this fire until a forecast improvement in weather conditions late in the evening.

Faced with these abnormal circumstances, the CFS responded smoothly and in accordance with its published procedures which were, however, not entirely appropriate to the context.

It is important to note, that changed behaviour by responders would, in this case, not have affected the outcome. This fire was beyond containment until late on 25 November and it is not apparent that any actions taken by the CFS could have altered its course. Nonetheless, as a large, fast, intense grassfire, Pinery presents an opportunity to learn and to improve.

To this end, a number of other lessons have also been identified. For the most part the lessons reflect the maturity of the CFS processes for learning from experience and identify refinements of existing approaches. Noetic has observed that there is clear appetite in the CFS for identifying and learning lessons. This observation is based on the high level of engagement from CFS' leadership, staff and volunteers; on their openness; and on their willingness to share their experience and knowledge.

KYEEMA FIRE

By: Ali Martin

The Kyeema fire started just before 1pm on Tuesday, November 17, 2016 in a patch of scrub.

In total it burned 93 hectares over several days and at times threatened assets in the Yundi area.

“The Kyeema Fire ultimately was a small fire, but with significant potential,” said Region 1 Commander, Brett Loughlin.

“I would like to thank all the volunteers and staff who were involved in bringing about a positive resolution.”

“There were no serious injuries to the public or firefighters, and there was no damage to private property.”

“I think is an incredible effort and truly highlights the capabilities and dedication of our people.”



Photo: Ben Ewins



Photo: McLaren Flat CFS



Photo: Rowan Gilbert



EMERGENCY WARNING FOR MOSQUITO HILL

On New Year's Eve 2015 CFS crews were called to a fire at Mosquito Hill on the Fleurieu Peninsula close to Goolwa.

The hot and windy conditions fuelled the fire which interrupted many holiday makers on their way to the seaside towns for the celebrations.

About 60 firefighters managed to contain the fire before midnight however and it burned 305 hectares.

The fire destroyed four structures, four vehicles and four people were injured.

The fire was listed as controlled the on January 1 at about 9.30pm.



Burton fire destroys semis

By: Daniel Hamilton

Aerial water bombers were called in to support as a raging blaze in a Burton truck yard threatened homes earlier in March.

Just after midday, fire tore through grass and truck trailers putting up a smoke plume visible from Adelaide CBD; CFS and MFS firefighters responded quickly and worked to contain the fire before calling in aerial support.

Region Two Liaison Officer, Tanya Kuiper said once the fire spread through grassland it threatened to impact nearby assets.

"There were tyres exploding and smoke engulfing the area, it's not often you would call in aerial support for a fire in metropolitan Adelaide but it had potential to impact neighbouring homes," she said.

"Attending firefighters used breathing apparatus and needed to decontaminate afterward due to fibreglass being burnt in the trailers."

In difficult conditions all responding to the incident were commended for their performance.



Scenes from the fire which destroyed several semi-trailers at Burton.

INCIDENT NUMBERS:

2 bombers used,
140 fire fighters in attendance,
25 appliances, **2.3** million dollars damage, **2** injuries,
23 b-double semi-trailers destroyed,
2 hectares burnt.

"They were tough sweltering conditions and emergency personnel worked extremely well together ensuring the situation was safe for the public," said Tanya.

"Police, Ambulance, MFS and CFS representatives worked side by side supporting

what the other was there to do, when you have strong team work then you often get the best possible outcomes.

"There were many other trucks in the yard which had the potential to be destroyed, but our diligent firefighters ensured damage was limited.

"The difficult conditions did take a toll with two firefighters treated for heat related injuries but were not regarded as serious."

TATIARA GROUP TACKLES SERIES OF HAYSTACK FIRES

By Michelle Daw

An unprecedented series of haystack fires kept brigades in the Tatiara Group of Region 5 busy late last year, with brigades turning out to tackle six incidents in eight weeks.

All of the fires were within a 100 kilometre radius, with two at Mundulla, three in the Western Flat area and another near Keith.

All resulted in major damage with the largest incident resulting in an estimated property loss of \$500,000.

Group Officer Darryl Napper said it was highly unusual

to have so many haystack fires in a relatively small area.

"I have been involved in firefighting for 25 years, including seven years in this district, and to get six haystack fires in one season is phenomenal," he said.

"Interestingly, all but one of the haystack fires in 2015 ignited 40 days from the time of baling and the other one was 39 days from baling."

The 2015 growing season was extremely dry in the South East, with Bordertown recording only half its average annual rainfall in the 12 months up to August 2015.

Darryl said this meant farmers were forced to cut crops for hay that would usually be harvested for grain.

"They had a very narrow window of about a week in which to make a decision. When they knew it had been too dry and the grain heads weren't going to emerge, they had to quickly make a decision about whether they were going to cut the crops for hay.

Farmers had to harvest while the plants were still green, otherwise the plants would just become chaff and couldn't be sold as hay.

"However the nodes in the middle of the stems still had sugar content and were sweating, creating more moisture, which meant they hadn't cured properly.

Once the crops were baled, the sugar sweats and releases moisture, which raises the temperature in the bale, allowing bacteria to grow and that also raises the temperature.

"You only need a hotspot the size of a fist inside a 680kg round bale, that grows and gets hotter and expands until it combusts.

"We are hoping that next spring, conditions aren't so dry and the local farmers aren't forced to cut as much hay.

"One of the things we suggest is that farmers try to keep air around the bales to dry them out and not put them in the shed so soon, although of course leaving them out in the open means you can risk rain damage.



HELPING OUT OUR TFS MATES

By: Ali Martin



In January a band of lightning saw 1,997 recorded ground lightning strikes which resulted in well over 100 fires reported to Tasmania Fire Service (TFS).

CFS also supported Western Australia's Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) during the Yarloop fires, sending some personnel to assist in the Incident Management Team.

Many of the fires were in difficult terrain with firefighters being winched in to extinguish the fires. Crews came from interstate and overseas to assist with this specialty firefighting.

In late January, TFS requested 10 tankers and four command vehicles (two strike teams) to be sent to their Cambridge base near Hobart in preparation for strike team personnel to arrive via air. This was the first time CFS appliances made their way across the Bass Strait. A change in weather conditions meant TFS sent appliances home two weeks after they arrived.

However, an ominous weather forecast in mid-February saw TFS again request South Australian assistance and 10 tankers, two bulk water carriers and four command cars were again sent to Tasmania.

The first deployment of firefighters soon followed with 67 (including staff) and a State Liaison Officer

based in Hobart at the TFS headquarters made their way to Stanley Base Camp for a three day deployment.

The second deployment also lasted three days with a total of 68 personnel and the third deployment totalled 66 firefighters with what was initially a five day deployment but rains saw the team sent back early due to slippery tracks.

The total deployment had 193 CFS personnel with most based at Stanley Base Camp in the North West of Tasmania. Our firefighters worked along the Pipeline and Wuthering Heights Sectors, carrying out tasks to contain the fires spread, putting out hot spots and mopping up in rough and steep terrain.

All reports from TFS said our firefighters acquitted themselves well and reports back from the Incident Management Team verified this.

Thank you to all of those who volunteered for this deployment to help communities in a fellow state.



Tasmania

The huge tree that our fire fighters saved

February 25, 2016 3:28pm
HELEN KEMPTON Mercury



Fire fighters circle the massive tree saved at Mawoanna along with the Dip Falls. Picture: Stanley Tasmania Facebook.

CFS firefighters featured in this photo in the Tasmanian Mercury. Sixteen firefighters linked arms around the 400 year old tree's base. The impressive 62m stringybark is located in the Dip River Forest behind Stanley.



Bureau of Meteorology's John Nairn and Chief Officer Greg Nettleton signing an MoU to secure a relationship between the two departments.

BOM CRITICAL IN FIRE FIGHT

By: Daniel Hamilton

The devastating wind change during the Pinery bushfire showed why having critical weather information is vital when confronted with a catastrophic fire.

For the second year running CFS State Headquarters has embedded meteorologist on-hand to give the latest most up to date weather information.

Last season the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) provide detailed weather forecasts and observations within moments of receiving the data.

CFS State Coordinator, Leigh Miller said having a meteorologist just a few feet away is tremendously valuable.

“When the Pinery fire broke out it was a significant weather day, we knew the fire would be dictated by the weather events on the fire ground,” he said.

“I was able to liaise immediately with the meteorologists who have the best possible information on where the fire was heading and when the change may come into effect”

Mr Miller said the value of the meteorologist was not limited to big events but for day to day planning and knowing where to position resources.

“As we plan for the next day we could ask the meteorologists very specific questions or clarify aspects of a forecast.

“Having the computer with maps and analysis there meant were able to run through a number of scenarios which would otherwise have been difficult over the phone.”

The Bureau of Meteorology staffer provided weekly briefings as well as up to date forecasts and observations to assist in firefighting efforts across the state.

Do you have a story to tell?

CFS Media and Communications Team would love to hear about it - be it a birthday, achievement or just something quirky.

**Contact Ali or Dan on 08 8212 9849
or email CFSCorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au**

CITY FIRE DURING AFAC

As the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference was being held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, all eyes were on Hindley Street on September 3.

A fire at Wing Chun Academy broke out just after midday in the CBD and several fire chiefs from interstate and conference attendees were evacuated from the neighbouring Grand Chancellor Hotel.

Fire services from throughout the country then gathered on Hindley Street to see their South Australian counterparts in action.

Traffic was severely restricted by the 18 appliances, including two Burnside CFS crews and one from Eden Hills.



The Eden Valley pumper was called in to assist MFS crews

Several other buildings were evacuated and people told to stay off the streets due to the potential risk of burning asbestos.

CFS helped backfilling MFS stations with Athelstone, Happy Valley, Dalkeith, Burnside and Seaford all providing back up for their counterparts.

AFAC'S ADELAIDE SUCCESS

By: Ali Martin

Adelaide hosted the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Advisory Council (AFAC) Conference in September.

There were plenty of familiar emergency services faces wearing red shirts to help direct conference attendees.

The conference is Australasia's largest and most important emergency services and public safety conference and trade exhibition and was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre over three days.

The conference provided an opportunity to discuss and share new approaches in an all-hazard emergency management environment, and work together to examine sector reform, the challenges and opportunities of 'Shared Responsibility', and seek out new and engaging ways to partner with the community, researchers and the sector to foster and build disaster resilience.

CFS shared a stand in the trade exhibition with other local emergency services and provided presenters for three sessions.

Region 4 Commander Bluey Devine presented a session on the establishment of four CFS brigades in the APY Lands at Amata, Kaltijiti, Mimili and at Pip/Kalka. He was joined by five members of those brigades.

On the same day CFS Youth Advisory Council members Stewart Germaine, Ruth Tovo and Kristie McGaritty presented their session: Engaging and Empowering the future – the role and importance of giving young people a voice as volunteers in the Emergency Management Sector.

While Manager Information Operations, Fiona Dunstan spoke about Building Information Operations in South Australia: the challenges and opportunities in regards to information and warnings.



APY Lands CFS Brigade Firefighters from Amata (Hadley Brady and John Campbell), Mimili (Julie Anne and Sabrina Campbell) and Pukatja (Capt. Dudley Dagg) were special guests at the National Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council Conference held in Adelaide in September.



A number of CFS and other agencies had volunteers known as the Redshirts to help out during the conference.

Trial of reserve brigades

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) is trialing a State Reserve Team Brigade.

Known as the Para Reserve Brigade will have two appliances and up to 43 members based at Salisbury.

It has already been deployed to a number of major incidents, including the fire at a truck yard at Burton in northern Adelaide in early March, which destroyed 23 semi-trailers.

Brenton Hastie, Regional Operations Staff Officer is facilitating the trial.

"The brigade is trained and we're keen to build their experience in operational roles, under the guidance of a Group Officer or Deputy Group Officer who will attend incidents with them," he said.

"When the local CFS group or region has a major incident, the reserves can be used on a 'surge' basis to back up or relieve the regular brigades.

"The reserves concept enables us to utilise people who are keen to be CFS volunteers but who live in the suburbs and are too far from existing CFS brigade stations to be able to serve in that capacity.

"We have got a big pool of potential volunteers who live too far from brigade stations so having reserve teams will give them an opportunity to serve and provide back-up to our regular brigades."



A member of the Reserve Brigades fighting fire.



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WHAT TO EXPECT FROM SPAM

by: *Jane Abdilla, SAFECOM Welfare Coordinator*

Picture this... three days after you've attended a motor vehicle accident (MVA) your brigade, meets for a Group Intervention (GI). Your Captain explains he's organised the GI with the Stress Prevention and Management Team (SPAM) and two of their members, a Volunteer Peer Support and a Mental Health Professional are here to speak to you.

The GI begins with what happened at the scene, those in the two appliances that attended speak about the facts of their experience, what they saw, who placed the extinguishers near the front and side of the car, who started first aid before the ambulance arrived and who conducted traffic control etc. Each person speaks about their role and how they responded psychologically at the time.

The facts are often the simple part, it's sometimes easier to recount to the processes you took during a time like this – it's the way you react that is sometimes more difficult to explain, even to yourself.

MVAs can be extremely difficult, in country areas you may know the person or people involved. It may bring up memories of other accidents you've attended or it could be your first time at a fatality. The GI gives the crew members the chance to speak about these issues and by having your fellow volunteers understand

what effects these have on you it could help at future incidents.

More often than not we find it's not only what you may have seen, smelt, heard or touched at that MVA or whatever incident you're dealing with, but it could be other stresses in a person's life, where attending an incident is one final straw.

We all have pressures in our lives, some more than others and the worry of a health issue, relationship breakdown, sick child or the loss of employment are highly stressful times, in which seeing a horrific MVA sparks something more.

SPAM can offer one on one counselling, family counselling, as well as telephone follow up. The services are provided by qualified Mental Health Professionals and trained volunteer peer support, who can offer support as the first response following an incident which has the potential to impact volunteers. There are also counselling services offered by external qualified counsellors and Psychologists – these can be booked by calling the SPAM helpline on **(08) 8211 9612**.

You may choose to speak to a counsellor on the phone or personally, and you do not need to go through the chain of command to request these services. Simply,

pick up the phone and dial the SPAM helpline number. The services are confidential and no-one else will know unless discussed with you first.

In order to prepare your brigade for critical incidents that may affect you and your crew, The SPAM team can offer Pre-Incident Training (PIT) education sessions. A PIT will teach your brigade how to prepare your crews for and how to monitor your crews after a distressing incident. We also discuss the impact of Stress and Trauma, and the signs to watch for in others, so that you can pro-active in your approach.

We encourage partners to attend these PIT sessions, but not children. Sometimes two or three Brigades combine to have a session together, as we prefer to have no less than six and no more than 25 attendants, so as to encourage participation and discussion. If your brigade has already had a PIT session prior to the last 18 months, we encourage you to have another one soon, as the program has now been updated to include the Psychological First Aid Model and general mental health issues.

SPAM helpline is (08)8211 9612. Please call if you need assistance.



The SPAM Team



SP2025 - THE FUTURE OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SECTOR

The Emergency Services Sector (ESS) leadership team is helping to shape the future with a review of the SP2025.

SP2015 was unveiled to staff and volunteers last year, but since the appointment of Emergency Services Minister, Peter Malinauskas a new section has been added to the strategy titled 'Transformational Issues and Opportunities'. The focus for SP2025 continues to be harmonisation, alignment and modernisation across the sector.

The SP2025 Program Management Office (PMO) was set up in January 2016, with the purpose to establish and drive continual improvement, through a culture of sound project management practice across the sector.

The PMO are keen to make everything the sector does, directly attributable to Public Value. Public Value offers a systematic framework for a new approach to goal setting and measurement, making public sector programs and projects directly accountable to the end customer – the community.

The PMO, will assist the sector, in applying effective project management principles, that will promote, better practice through improved governance and accountability that will ultimately benefit the community.

Program Manager Anna Boden-Jones said we have exciting times ahead, looking

at how we can assist in promoting Public Value, throughout the sector, whilst re-energising the areas which need harmonisation and alignment.

"Currently we are building on analysis of the sector so that any improvement will be exactly that.improvement, with Public Value at the forefront in everything we do," she said.

There has been progress already in a number of areas for CFS including:

- Collaborative procurement of VHF radios;
- Development of a common asset management system;
- Commencement of Staff Development Program first half of this year;
- Review of Regional Structures and service delivery;
- Review of Incident Management within CFS.

To view the strategic plan visit www.safecom.sa.gov.au

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Long Lasting Power

Aviation flying along

By: Daniel Hamilton

Another summer saw South Australian skies busy with a buzz of aircraft engines as CFS Aviation Operations responded to dozens of incidents across the state.

As with every year extensive planning and training took place before a drop was made in anger.



At Murray Bridge in October CFS aviation teams descending for two days of extensive training where air observers took seats, pilots took to the air, and ground crew all replicated the response to significant incidents.

Manager of Aviation Operations, David Pearce, said the large scale training event stood the team well for the season ahead.

“After a few months without activity kicking off the season with a large exercise really allows us to identify any issues and ensures we are all aware of any changes to procedure,” he said.

“We had designated drop zones to test air attack supervision and bombing accuracy.”

Just weeks after the training exercise crews were called upon for a big event as CFS Aviation Operations played a pivotal role in the response to the Pinery fire.

The ferocious fire at times put such extensive smoke plumes which provided challenges for how aircraft could be most effective.

“The limited visibility created by the severity of

Aviation 2015/16 by the numbers:

Date(s)	Area	Flying Time	Loads
17th of November	Kyeema	38 hours flying time	78 loads
25th and 26th of November	Pinery	97 hours flying time	147 loads
8th of December	Messent CP	28 hours flying time	28 loads
16th of December	Niblet Gap	12 hours flying time	9 loads
31st of December	Mosquito Hill	54 hours flying time	91 loads
11th of January	Seal Bay	21 hours flying time	28 loads
13th of January	Middle River	9 hours total flying time	11 loads
13th – 14th of January	Western River	43 hours flying time	57 loads

the Pinery fire meant direct attacks from the air were not always possible and we focused on asset protection.

“Many of our pilots were commended on the work they did during this campaign and it was a credit to the work undertaken by the Region 2 Air Operations Brigade to reload aircraft in adverse conditions.

The hectic start to the season continued until early in the new year when the number of responses reduced as a result of milder weather.

“Certainly the start of the season was where we saw most activity in terms of incidents, thankfully we saw less fires requiring an aviation response after

December,” said Mr Pearce.

“It is important to acknowledge the effort from those who take the skies and especially the ground crews who are volunteers.

“Without the ground crews the aircraft would not be able to be airborne quickly and to be able to turnaround and reload, it all comes down to having the support on the ground to ensure the job can be done in the air.”

As we reach the quieter time of the year work continues with planning for next season and over the winter will see the relocation of the Woodside airbase to Brukunga.

The new location is five kilometres south east of Woodside and will provide a more efficient operation ready for the 2016/17 fire danger season.

“The new Brukunga airbase will allow for quicker turnaround of firebombing aircraft when they are fighting a fire. There will be room for more aircraft which is vital during an operation and there is also provision for more water to be stored at the base,” said Mr Pearce.

Identifying assets for bushfire management

By: Ali Martin

The CFS Bushfire Management and Planning Unit (BMPU) is identifying assets which need to be protected during bushfires in regions throughout the state.

Last year the Lower Eyre Bushfire Management Area Plan was finalised. Based on what CFS has learned from the Kangaroo Island Bushfire Risk Management Plan, the Lower Eyre Peninsula plan is a strategic plan which identifies assets at risk of bushfire and outlines the treatment measures required to mitigate bushfire risk.

The BMPU met with all local councils and state government agencies in the area and undertook community consultation to ensure the plan addressed the known risks, and posed strategies that are appropriate to reduce those risks.

CFS Director Preparedness Operations, Leigh Miller said it was encouraging to see the community identify further assets they want protected should a bushfire occur.

“The Bushfire Management Area Plan takes into account human settlement, economic and cultural heritage assets in the Lower Eyre Peninsula region,” Mr Miller said.

“In the Lower Eyre Peninsula alone we have identified over 400 assets which will come under this plan, including the SA Water managed lands.”

“This plan has evolved from the Kangaroo Island plan as a new process for South Australia, and we’re working on the eight other Bushfire Management Areas throughout the state to identify key assets in those areas as well.”

In fact the Limestone Coast and Mount Lofty Ranges plans are also being finalised after a recent public consultation period.

“In the South East we have identified over 600 assets, including the cultural heritage assets, economic and human settlement assets, while about 2,000 assets were identified for the Mount Lofty Ranges.”

“By being bushfire ready and undertaking steps to manage the landscape before a bushfire even begins will mean the damage caused by a large event can be mitigated.”

An important part of this planning process is the management of risk to our natural environment and to this end CFS is working hand-in-hand with the Department for Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) to identify bushfire risks to the natural environment, and to define risk treatment strategies for inclusion in these plans.

The BMPU has also commenced work on the review of the Kangaroo Island Plan and gathering of data for the Flinders Mid North Yorke Bushfire Management Area Plan.

For more information about the Bushfire Management Area Plan visit the CFS website (www.cfs.sa.gov.au).



The BMPU team with Region 5 Commander John Probert at the South East Field Days where they conducted community consultation about the Limestone Coast Bushfire Management Area Plan.



CFS and other agencies met at State Headquarters for a Bushfire Management Planning Risk Workshop in April.

CFS ON SHOW IN KOREA



A demonstration at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference held in the Republic of Korea.

By: Fiona Dunstan and Tracy Grime

Turn your information on, was the theme for the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) presentation at the 6th International Wildland Fire Conference held in the Republic of Korea in October 2015.

Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Manager Information Operations Fiona Dunstan and Community Engagement and Programs Coordinator Tracy Grime spoke to the conference about getting the most out of operational communications.

Recent inquiries into the preparations for, and the management of, natural disaster incidents in Australia have repeatedly focused on the adequacy and speed of information provided to the community by the responsible authorities.

Modern communications devices like smartphones, tablets and the web now provide authorities with tools to quickly communicate information and warnings to communities so they can make informed decisions on how to prepare for a natural

disaster and how to act during a natural disaster. This information is critical for their survival.

CFS has responded to this growing demand by restructuring to create a new operational capability called Information Operations. Information Operations is now an essential element of our State Operations Directorate and is one of the first capabilities to be fully staffed and activated during developing incidents.

Information Operations is complementary to traditional firefighting operations when disaster looms. However, in large aggressive uncontrolled fires, where firefighting operations have little impact on controlling the fire, information becomes king.

The strategy becomes one where the provision of timely and accurate information and warnings to communities in fire affected areas becomes paramount.

The success of Information Operations during wildfires requires significant community engagement well before an incident, this is achieved by working to prepare the community and build their individual, household and community resilience to natural disasters.

The language used in agency literature and

community engagement activities to prepare communities for wildfire must be consistent with the language used during wildfires. Information operations integrates marketing, media, communications, public relations, website, social media, business partnerships and community engagement to enable a common single source of consistent information for informed decision making when danger presents itself during the passage of a wildfire.

One significant feature to successful outcomes of the Sampson Flat fire for example, was the success of information operations using a variety of media, including social media, to provide advice and warnings to communities.

The fact that no lives were lost in that fire, and no community members admitted to hospital with life threatening injuries as a result of fires, has been attributed to the value of engaging the community well ahead of the fire season and the information and warnings issued through multiple media capabilities during the passage of wildfires.

Note: This paper was presented in October 2015 before the Pinery fire where a number of people were hospitalised and two people died.

Bushfire Action Week activities

By: Ali Martin

It was a jam packed Bushfire Action Week in October with the launch being held at Balhannah/Oakbank CFS station.

Volunteers from the brigade welcomed the then Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo along with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Chief Officers from MFS and SES and members of the media.

Throughout the week about 30 brigades opened their doors to the public to show them around the station and educate them on preparation for the fire season.

Media continued for the rest of the week with highlights on preparing farm fire units, pets, Sturt Group's new Bulk Water Carrier and the start of the fire danger season in some districts.

Community Engagement Officers held educational events in every region including Firey Women and Community Fire Safe Groups as well as stations at shopping centres in a bid to spread the message.

The week finished off with an event in Rundle Mall with Smokey and Freddy the Firetruck. It was a chance for the Community Engagement team and volunteers to answer questions from the public about the upcoming season.



CAMPAIGN GETS MESSAGE ACROSS

By: Neil Charter, Principal Communications Officer

The Country Fire Service (CFS) Government Campaign is held highly accountable to State Plan Target 20. This is a campaign target in line with the State's Strategic Plan and agreed upon between the CFS and the Department of Premier and Cabinet. This benchmark is aimed squarely at increasing the number of households in high bushfire prone areas that are prepared for a bushfire by 30 per cent by 2020.

The aim to increase community resilience by having a better informed and bushfire prepared community is not "out there" thinking; in fact one would think it is a no-brainer, something that is so common sense that we should not even have to promote the fact.

Sadly we do, year in and year out to remind people of the need to be prepared and to know what to do in the face of bushfire. CFS has a similar mission to that of Quit Smoking and Safer Driving campaigns of which SA Health and the Motor Accident Commission would be the first to admit that there is no easy, quick-fix solution to our end goal.

Promoting any safety messaging that may save lives to an audience that is sometimes in denial of the risk or overlooks the risk due to other life factors is challenging. As Benjamin Disraeli once said "The secret to success is constancy to purpose."

Significant fires such as Pinery bring windows of opportunity for 'selling' CFS key messages as well as capitalising on the increased media coverage. However, there is an emerging challenge that has been well documented through both the recent Sampson Flat and the Bangor fires, by both Colmar Brunton and McGregor Tan Research that clearly shows that the further away from a fire incident you live the less likely you are to be influenced by it in terms of being better prepared.

The exception to the latter is if you have a close family or personal connection with someone directly

impacted by the event. Equally, research demonstrates the increased public complacency that returns the further you move away from a fire experience in time.

Advertising plays a key role in saving lives in a bushfire. A community or individual that acknowledges its bushfire risk is better prepared, more educated and more accountable for their own safety is far more likely to make the right decisions when needed. In turn this directly impacts on the welfare of CFS volunteers on the fire ground not having to put their lives at risk through members of the public not having made the right decisions.

The challenges going into the 2016/17 bushfire season will continue to be around finding a way in which the CFS can influence community action over contemplation. History has shown that in such high risk areas as the Adelaide Hills we need to continually reinvent the way we present solutions to the risk of bushfire in order to gain public attention and action.

What will not change in the foreseeable future are the

delivery of succinct, simple, clear key messages and tasks; as well as the promotion of communities taking responsibility as a community.

CFS is increasingly targeting the 18-39 year old demographic who present a new way of advertising thinking. Demonstrating a lower engagement with traditional mediums such as TV, radio and print media this demographic is far more engaged with and trusting of digital advertising channels.

Research shows they are less likely to communicate with neighbours through traditional means and more likely to connect with each other through social media and other online communication platforms. The market today is also impatient and wants to be entertained, moving quickly from yesterday's information to today's.

CFS will continue to move its promotional thinking in line with this and yet recognise that today's marketing strategy is not about relying on any one single source of information.



Concordia CFS volunteer Sam Batson during the campaign shoot.

NEW DATABASE FOR HORSES



A new National Equine Database (NED) has been established for people to register their pets which will help in an emergency.

The services aims to connect property owners who have capacity to temporarily house animals during bushfire with horse owners in bushfire risk areas.

Victoria's Country Fire Authority volunteer Jenna Kelley, and founder of the Walking Forward Disaster Relief Team developed the nationwide database, which links equine owners with property owners who have the capacity to temporarily house animals during bushfires and other emergencies.

By networking through the database pet owners in bushfire prone areas can establish plans to move their animals to a nominated safe place on days of predicted peak fire danger.

Ms Kelley said the idea came about from not having anywhere to evacuate her thoroughbred on days of significant fire danger.

"The loss of animals and family pets from a fire is devastating and the impact on surviving animals can be felt for months afterwards," she said.

"Moving large animals from harm's way isn't always possible during the chaos of a fire.

"That's why planning ahead, and knowing your trigger to move before fire breaks out, is the best option."

NED can also store animal identification details and other records to help prove ownership.

The database launched in mid-February and can be accessed at www.tepscon.community.

WEBSITE

By: Peter Freeman, Web Design Manager

The CFS website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au continues to provide South Australians with the most immediate and credible source of CFS information, receiving approximately 2.5 million page views during the fire danger season.

Facebook and Twitter continued to reach huge numbers of people, with Facebook posts seen over 21 million times over the fire danger season and videos of personal Pinery experiences viewed 75,000 times.

Continuous improvement to the website, both in features available, and technical infrastructure, has ensured the site provides communities across South Australia with up-to-date incident information and timely preparedness messages.

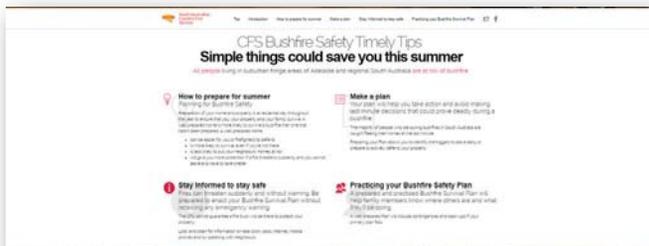
During the Pinery fire of November 2015, 280,000 people viewed 720,000 pages on the site-58 per cent of these people used mobile devices, reinforcing CFS's decision to build a site that functions equally on all devices.

This year saw additions to the incident map capability, providing spatial information such as Fire Ban Districts, Safer Places, Fire Shapes and going incidents all in one place.

Other new developments include CFS Local-where South Australians can enter their address and find all CFS information relevant to them in one spot on a map, and "My plan", a rich page site containing bushfire safety and survival tips.

CFS has fully embraced cloud computing this year, by embarking on a project to maintain and serve website and incident information from a cloud network.

This will further improve site performance and reliability, and reduce our reliance on hardware and traditional networks into the future, and position CFS as a leading agency in the Government's "Cloud First" policy.



Recruitment increases training

By: Brenton Eden, Director – Operational Training and Professional Development

As a result of the significant recruitment of volunteers after the Sampson Flat fire in early 2015, the training department was faced with a shortfall of training courses as recruit firefighter numbers exceeded 1,000 personnel, approaching double the recruiting levels of 2011.

To meet the requirement of training all new recruits within six months of their join date, CFS Operational Training and Professional Development adopted a unique trial of employing senior and experienced volunteer trainers as contracted staff members.

A total of nine extra training staff were appointed in July as part of a successful budget bid to reduce the training gap across many of the rural training courses. Over the financial year of their employment, productivity across all training courses within the Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover jumped by approximately 20 per cent and all recruits successfully completed their required training.

With many new volunteers completing their Basic Firefighter 1 courses in early 2015, many have gone on to complete training in other areas in the past year, with the majority of brigades showing significant reductions in their training gap.

This has seen a 50 per cent increase on those completing Defensive Fire Suppression, while four times more volunteers have completed a Rural Fire Suppression course. With the number of new and inexperienced firefighters across the service as a result of the significant recruitment, the take up of specialist rural firefighting skills ensures the service is well prepared for future fire seasons.

Two of the recently appointed trainers have helped support the specialist capability of Fire Safety



Systems by delivering this training to most of the required brigades across the state. Another two contracted Training Officers have focussed on bringing Road Crash Rescue brigades up to standard through both initial and revalidation courses. The benefit to the volunteer workforce has been considerable through the employment of these additional trainers over this 12 month trial period.

In the past year, almost 9,000 volunteers have completed their Skills Maintenance Drills (Burnover drill) which is the highest level of compliance CFS has seen for many years. It's imperative that this training is completed before volunteers are able to attend incidents, so it's pleasing to see so many are completing these drills.

Adding to this in excess of 5,000 volunteers have registered for a Unique Student Identifier (USI), which allows all of their training, with CFS and external agencies, to be logged. If you want to

register for a USI visit www.usi.gov.au.

One significant development across the training depart has been the integration of training delivery, the ESOTAS Database and the Volunteer Portal. Volunteers are now being provided with real time data and records management at a level never previously available, and this is enabling brigades to make better use of their training activities while managing their brigade administrative tasks.

Volunteer are now able to use the Portal to update their personal details and the ongoing integration of ESOTAS and the Portal, together with the developing area of on-line learning opportunities across CFS will continue to improve volunteer standards and training competencies. There has been a 50 per cent increase on the amount of individuals completing all Skills Maintenance Drills via the Volunteer Portal. Almost 2,000 individual drills have been completed with about 15,000 volunteers participating across these skill drills.

CFS participated in a national program to write a suite of functional management programs for level two incident management personnel. Partnering with the ACT, NT and Tasmania these courses were piloted and developed to compliment the AIIIMS IMEX program. Lessons management and observations from a wide range of incidents also saw the re-write to the Tactical Command and leadership program (Now Tactical Command) the piloting of a Divisional Command Course and the review of Strike Team leader and Sector Commander. CFS continues to lead the way with delivery of AIIIMS courses, both for CFS members and many partner agencies across the state, further enhancing interagency cooperation, collaboration and support during significant events.

It is also good to see our multi-agency training materials for Road Crash Rescue have been replicated interstate with NSW Rural Fire Service using them. A considerable focus this year has been on enhancing the existing road crash rescue training



materials with multi-media support to skills drills and fireground practices and as has always been the case in this discipline, the development has involved the considerable support of SAMFS / SES and CFS industry experts.

In the area of Breathing Apparatus Training, a new BA Pod was designed and developed at Brukungu to support training and operational requirements across the state and this facility is proving pivotal in the delivery of regional BA course where fixed training and compressing facilities are not available. With the support of volunteer and career Trainer Assessors, this facility is ensuring that our volunteers are provided enhanced capabilities and training experiences. The addition of the SCBA Skills Maintenance Drill continues to be well received and a positive addition to allow brigades to validate members competencies through the use of SMD's.

Lastly, following the retirement of Bob Kearney as our State Training Officer – Leadership Development, the training department will soon introduce a new initiative for Frontline Leadership, which will be outsourced in the private sector.



COMMUNITY NOT EMOTIONALLY PREPARED

By: Peta O'Donohue, Project Manager, Partners in Bushfire Safety

Research into the experiences of the community during the Sampson Flat bushfire were previewed at a community meeting in Tea Tree Gully attended by about 65 people during Bushfire Action Week in October.

SA Country Fire Service commissioned the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre and Central Queensland University Appleton Institute to investigate how people prepared and responded to the Sampson Flat bushfire.

"CFS conducts this research to ensure it documents any lessons from major events, so we as a fire service, and as a community can learn from it," said CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.

The final report and Hazard Note have now been released.

"The report shows a large number of people had Bushfire Survival Plans in place and many had prepared their homes for a bushfire, they should be congratulated for this effort," Mr Nettleton said.

Of concern is that only a quarter of residents had a written Bushfire Survival Plan and two thirds of people had no plan or had made plans that could potentially expose them to late evacuation.

Furthermore, although many people received the Emergency Warning messages to take shelter in the peri-urban area, many did not understand the message and panicked.

"There are many things people can do to prepare their homes for bushfires, but not many people appreciate the fear and anxiety that bushfire brings. This can cause people to change their plans at the last minute," he said.

"Although CFS has conducted many Community Fire Safe groups in the Sampson Flat area, as well as Bushfire Ready programs, it's obvious from this research that we need to put more emphasis on being emotionally prepared for bushfire."

"CFS will continue to raise awareness about the risk of bushfires, especially in peri-urban areas, where it seems many people don't see themselves living in a bushfire prone area."



Telecommunications Update

By: Mark Wheeler

Digital VHF radio rollout:



The rollout of new digital VHF tactical radios for all brigades is underway with Regions 5 and 6 completed. Regions 2 and 3 are expected to begin in mid-April and finish in July, with Regions 1 and 4 to follow before the fire danger season begins.

All of the various microphones, cases, chargers and other accessories also needing to be replaced and fitted into trucks.

A cutover date for all VHF radios to change from analogue to digital will be announced once the rollout is completed in all regions. Until the cutover, all VHF radios will continue to operate on analogue.

Manager of Telecommunications Mario D'Agostino said once the CFS makes the switch to digital, it will bring a range of advantages.

"We're expecting digital radio to improve the quality of coverage, with better voice quality and noise cancellation," he said.

"Digital radio also offers additional capabilities such as data, so we can start to use things like GPS, with plenty of potential safety and operational value."

The new radios will align with RFS and CFA channel plans, meaning operations along or across state borders will be supported by CFS communications.

Training packages for portable and mobile VHF radios are currently available on the CFS portal.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and training videos are also being developed.

South Australian Government Radio Network (SAGRN) update:

Progress on the new SAGRN P25 open-standard digital voice network continues, with a wide range of improvements to be achieved:

- New equipment throughout the network to mean a higher degree of service continuity (redundancy) is built into the network;
- New voice sites to improve voice coverage in areas such as Glenelg, Adelaide Hills, Mid North and Meningie areas;
- Upgraded voice infill sites to address blackspots including the Flinders Ranges, York Peninsula, Riverland, Adelaide Hills and Lower South East areas;
- Increased voice channel capacity across the network;
- Existing SAGRN equipment can be migrated to use the network.

A new paging network is also part of the rollout. This includes:

- New equipment throughout the network to improve service continuity (redundancy);
- New paging sites to improve coverage in areas such as the Adelaide Hills, Mid North, York Peninsula, Meningie and Kingston;
- Existing pagers will continue to operate on the new network.

New inter-site links will improve the resilience of the network, including for the West Coast, far North, Flinders Ranges, Riverland and Barrier Highway areas, and dispatch consoles and voice loggers at the State's three main Emergency (Triple Zero) Operations Centres (EOCs) will be replaced.

The upgraded SAGRN will represent one of the largest and most effective public safety radio communications networks in the world. A cutover date, for when the system will be switched from analogue to digital, will be announced once infrastructure nears completion.

CFS is approaching the completion of the SAGRN terminal upgrade project, which allows our current SAGRN radios to operate on the new network; approximately 3,800 out of an estimated 4000 SAGRN radios have already been upgraded. This has been a significant achievement.

Each of the different models and product versions current used across the CFS require different firmware versions and updates to be applied. Each firmware update takes about an hour, making the access, update and redeployment of each radio from and back to its owner across the entire state, is a significant logistical undertaking.

There are a small number of radios still requiring upgrade. If you know of any, please get in touch with your Region ASAP.

HOW DO WE USE THE LESSONS WE LEARN?

By: Mark Thomason

We've had many people ask what happens after an incident debrief?

As Manager Risks and Lessons Management it's my job to take all lessons identified in debriefs from road accidents to major incidents like the Pinery fire.

We can always learn something from an incident, no matter the outcome, and a no blame mentality means we can implement changes without volunteers or staff feeling intimidated.

CFS manages lessons through a range of ways, you will see the 5 Minute Lessons in your emails from time to time, information is also provided in newsletters, Operations Bulletins, Changes

to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Operational Management Guidelines (OMGs) as well as the review of training.

We solve problems from previous experiences and training. However, the infrequency of experiences and practice makes it difficult for skills to be developed.

There is evidence that we are not learning from previous incidents. Overseas research states the challenges to learning a lesson are:

- motivation for change,
- reporting,
- learning,
- exercising
- resourcing.

As firefighters we at times are keen to develop solutions due to operational needs. However in a lessons approach root cause is essential for the identification and development of correct solutions while ensuring they are connected to other systems.

After collecting and identifying key lessons from the 2014-15 fire danger season and previous seasons we saw a trend emerging, similar to those interstate and overseas and we had some great results in lessons learned.

Overall there were 1,135 observations coded and analysed in that period leading to a number of doctrine changes, Operations Bulletins and 5 Minute Lessons.

DOCTRINE CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

By: Mark Wheeler:

SACFS Operational Doctrine drives our operational work, almost all of us come into contact with it and at a minimum, each brigade has a folder which details procedures and guidelines governing all tasks volunteers need to know.

Across all of the organisation's operations, Doctrine documents and defines all of the necessary behaviours, principles, methods, rules, procedures and approaches required within the organisation.

Over many years, SACFS Doctrine has grown and evolved as new learnings, changes and additional practices were incorporated. Initially it existed as hardcopy, organised in a largely unstructured way.

In November 2015 Operational doctrine in the Tri-Manual structure was published online, with clearer tiers of information grouped into Chief Operational Standing Orders (COSOs), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Operational management Guidelines (OMGs). All Brigades have a hard copy of this and all volunteers are distributed updates quarterly by email.

The future direction of Operational Doctrine is the focus of a significant project within SACFS. It's important the information we rely on to guide our operations is well managed, understandable, useful, accessible, and highly structured.

A report commissioned to examine Doctrine in 2012 suggested that (amongst many other legislative, strategic, operational and administrative reasons) changing its structure and dissemination, including grouping core information more logically using a defined methodology, would improve its value and our ability to manage, understand, access and use the information.

The Doctrine project is currently developing and implementing a new framework for SACFS operational information. The goal for the Doctrine project is to develop a more responsive and adaptable 'knowledge library' that aligns and articulates the functions

of SACFS operations with its vision, methods, approaches, and so on—aligning this down through the organisation from legislation and vision, to firefighting operations on the ground.

The new framework provides a more systematic method of developing, evaluating, managing and incorporating each of the best practices, concepts, lessons learned and future changes that need to be applied to Doctrine.

The result: Doctrine is being re-organised into four levels, combining recommendations from the report with further advice from the Doctrine project team along with research and review of doctrine practices of interstate fire services. The new hierarchy will largely reflect tiers of knowledge currently in the organisation. These will be:



Capstone Level – this is the overarching, mission, objectives and functions of the organisation (a single publication that aligns the organisation to legislative requirements such as the Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005, and other major external influences).

Fundamentals Level – this compiles the approaches and directives for leadership of core issues, topics and areas of responsibility (for example, Chief Officer's Concept for Operations dealing with themes, such as Urban and Special Risk Fires, Aviation Operations and Emergency Management).

Procedures Level – this provides guidance about conduct, standards, direction, and best practices for specific issues and topics under the fundamental document (for example, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Urban and Special Risk Fires, such as Automatic /Monitored Fire Alarms, Response to Domestic, Commercial and Industrial Structure Fire, Structure Fire Investigation and Scene Preservation and so on).

Technical Level – this deals with the technical documentation that directly relates to procedural information. These will be organised into Tactical Action Guides (TAG) and Incident Action Guides (IAG) under each functional theme. For example, a TAG will address Urban and Special Risk Fires where IAGs will provide approaches to specific incident responses such as, Response to Silo Fires, Actions at Automatic/Monitored Fire Alarm under this section.

In addition to restructuring information, the Doctrine project sets out recommendations that will contribute to a more holistic approach to administering Doctrine, such as collaborative development of guides, the review and approval of information through the executive, distribution of information, and transition from the current Doctrine arrangements.

In particular, Technical Level information, which most directly impacts volunteers' work, will be captured in a new 'Field Handbook', comprising the Tactical Action Guides (TAGs) per each functional theme as well as Incident Action Guides (IAGs) providing technical guidance to the approach to common incidents, linked directly to the TAG.

The Field Handbook, it is envisaged, will be available in an easily updatable lever-file hard copy; in relevant places such as SACFS appliances and potentially, in future, as a mobile phone app.

For the immediate term, Doctrine will remain in its current tri-manual form until the project team works through the endorsement and implementation of recommendations.

A SECOND SET OF PPC FOR VOLUNTEERS

By: Mark Wheeler

Volunteer firefighters in the Heysen Group and Mount Lofty Group (Region 1) and the Para Group (Region 2) have started to receive the first 290 sets of Structural Firefighting personal protective clothing (PPC) as part of a project to issue a second set of PPC to all Structural (SCBA) Trained CFS volunteer firefighters.

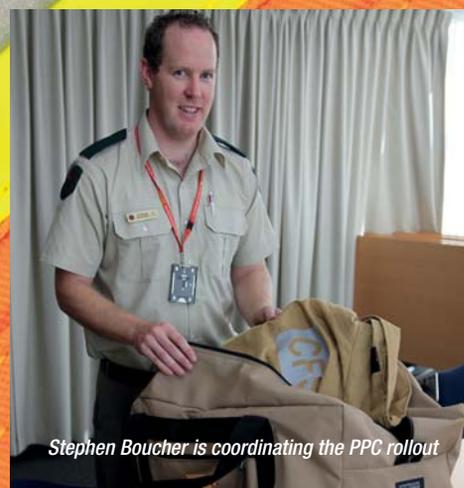
Groups in Region 6 will also be early recipients as the mammoth undertaking of assessing, sizing, ordering, tracking and distributing 1,210 sets of Structural PPC to volunteers who have the accredited training and are a current SCBA wearers.

The CFS has secured \$9 million over four years to fund the rollout of both Structural and Rural PPC to

volunteers. Each year, approximately 300 sets of Structural PPC (or one quarter of the total) will be issued (including Jackets, Pants, Gloves and Flash Hoods—matched to the year's available funding).

Brigades should store the second sets onsite in their original packaging to protect them from UV light and moisture. The second set can then be used when an original set becomes contaminated or requires laundering. PPC requiring laundering will be coordinated by the Region.

The additional funding also provides for a second set of Rural Firefighting PPC to be issued to all eligible volunteers. This will commence with the first 1,300 sets issued in the 2016-2017 financial year, ramping up to 6,100 sets in 2017-2018 and another 6,100 in 2018-2019.



Stephen Boucher is coordinating the PPC rollout

Cadets represent at Championships

Well done to the 12 CFS Cadets from throughout the state (two from each region) who competed in the 2015 Australian Fire Cadet Championships in September.

Hosted by the RFSA (NSW Rural Fire Service Association) and sponsored by SA Water, the local cadet had the chance to compete as well as develop their skills and interact with other cadets from across the country.

They competed against teams from New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Victoria, Western Australia and New Zealand. CFS Alpha placed 21st and CFS Bravo 23rd out of 25 teams. Events included the portable pump relay, two lines, two lengths drill, hose and hydrant drill and knapsack response relay, amongst others.

The aims of the championships are to:

- Provide a safe, enjoyable youth participation event for cadet fire fighters focused on developing skills through a competitive and structured competition;
- Provide an opportunity for socialisation and personal development for cadet fire fighters from across Australia and beyond;
- Enable the establishment of both formal and informal networks and the exchange of ideas and experiences between leaders of cadet fire fighter groups;



Team Alpha and Team Bravo competing at the championships.

CFS Alpha		CFS Bravo	
Team Manager	June Young	Team Manager	David Bryant
Team Coach	Andrew Otterspoor	Team Coach	Julie Cadd
Cadet	Isabelle Hart (R1)	Cadet	Matthew Kazla (R2)
Cadet	Tye Charlton (R1)	Cadet	Amy Johnson (R2)
Cadet	Ashleigh Johnston (R3)	Cadet	Stephanie Campbell (R3)
Cadet	Alexander Giles (R4)	Cadet	Callen Reynolds (R4)
Cadet	Wendy Reekie (R5)	Cadet	Andre Stefanek (R6)
Cadet	Darcy Wilson (R5)	Cadet	Mikaela Harding (R6)
Team Coordinator : Katherine Brown			

- Increase national public awareness of the existence and importance of cadet fire fighter groups and programs in Australia;
- Increase national public awareness of the existence and importance of cadet fire fighter groups and programs in Australia;
- Promote the cadet movement and emergency service volunteering for youth to help sustain volunteer numbers into the future; and
- Provide a catalyst for the establishment of a national fire cadet association that would coordinate future opportunities for cadet fire fighters and their leaders.

YOUNG GUNS COMPLETE BF1

What better way to spend your school holidays than completing your Basic Firefighter 1 (BF1) course.

Twelve cadets arrived at the State Training Centre in the second week of the April holidays to take the next step in

their volunteer firefighting career.

They all successfully completed their course - led by trainer Wayne Richardson. Congratulations to all, it's great to see the next generation of firefighters going through.



The 12 cadets who completed their training in the April school holidays.



CADETS HONOUR FALLEN

Ten cadets from Region 1 stood guard at the National War Memorial on North Terrace the night before ANZAC Day.

The cadets showed their respect throughout the night, rotating shifts with cadets from 12 other organisations.

All cadets made up the Guard of

Honour for the Guest of Honour His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO at the beginning of the formal ceremony.

Cadet Ashlee Sims from Blackwood provided an introduction speech, introducing the youth guest speaker, while Jack White from Hindmarsh Valley presented the CFS helmet to

YOUTH CONTINUE TO BUILD CFS

The CFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) had a busy year. The new team was welcomed in August last year, at the same time as they farewelled Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Lawson AFSM who has been involved with YAC since its inception.

Three YAC members presented at the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Advisory Council (AFAC) conference held in Adelaide in September. Stewart Germaine, Ruth Tovo and Kirstie McGarrity spoke about engaging and empowering the future. The presentation focussed on the role and importance of giving young people a voice as volunteers in the Emergency Management Sector.

Members eagerly accepted the invitation to the pilot CFS Frontline Leadership course held in October and November, which was well received.

The YAC for the second year, in conjunction with the CFS Foundation, are pleased to be running the 'YAC Frontline Leadership Event' on the 3rd to the 5th of June at the State Training Centre. Funded by the CFS Foundation; this event draw young people from around the state to develop operational leadership skills in leadership principles and styles, group dynamics, teamwork, effective communications and goal setting. The YAC is thankful for the ongoing involvement and commitment from Bob Kearney and Geoff Capper in the facilitation for this event.

They also attended Expedition Compass held at Walker Flat in March. The offsite weekend provided an introduction to new Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark. Sessions were on team building, guest speakers and project planning.

YAC have worked to update their terms of reference and are currently represented on the following committees – Chief Officers Advisory Council (COAC), State PPE and Uniform Review Working Group, Volunteer ICT Working Group, V&E.



Top:
A collection of photos farewelling former Deputy Chief Andrew Lawson.

Centre:
YAC presenting at the AFAC conference - Stewart Germaine, Ruth Tovo and Kirstie McGarrity.

Bottom:
Team building activity at the YAC's Expedition Compass.



Current members (appointed 2015) :

Scott Kennedy - Region 1 Representative

Hannah Cox - Region 1 Proxy

Matthew Cadd - Region 2 Representative

Joshua Forshaw - Region 2 Proxy

Maddy Schulz - Region 3 Representative

Nicholas Seton - Region 3 Proxy

Ben Kha - Region 4 Representative

Sarah Duff - Region 5 Representative

Nikki Jericho - Region 6 Representative

Luke Jantke - Region 6 Proxy

Stewart Germaine - Volunteers Association Representative

Ruth Tovo - Mentor



SA COMPETES FOR BOWLING TITLE

Current and retired firefighters came from about the country and New Zealand to compete with 152 participants taking part.

The carnival began on Sunday, April 3 with the fours competitions, the pairs were held on the Monday with singles on Tuesday. Participants enjoyed a Heritage Rail Train Trip to Strathalbyn before the finals were helped on the Thursday and Friday.

Tasmania won the past two tournaments and the last time SA won was after back to back championships in 1999 and 2000.



Retired volunteer Laurie Rowley from Myponga competing.



The scene at the Victor Harbor Bowling Club with MFS firefighter David Prior representing South Australia.

SA REPRESENTATIVES:

Paul Attwood - Sallsbury

Josh Mychajlin - Meadows

Scott Bevan - Rapid Bay

Noel Raper - Myponga

Matt Bickerstaff - Meadows

Laurie Rowley - Myponga

Richard Hempel - Myponga

John Savage - Yankalilla

David Benton

Bob Brus

Alan Collins

Wayne Duncan

Greg Edmonds

John Edmonds

Wayne Haskett

Bob Hillard

Trevor Hunter

Phil Marsden

Gerald Petersen

Greg Petersen

John Petersen

David Prior

Drew Schapel

Guy Uren

Brendan West



Hotline buzz continues

By : Michelle Daw

The Bushfire Information Hotline continues to be a valuable resource to the public all year round.

Although there is undoubtedly a peak in calls to the hotline during a major incident, the public place thousands of calls to the hotline throughout the fire danger season.

Every day calls to the hotline are answered at the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (SAMFS) Communications Centre, but if they reach a quota volunteers are activated and located in the State Coordination Centre (SCC) at CFS Headquarters. There is other flow on measures in the state with the State Emergency Information Call Centre Capability (SEICCC) and nationally to cope with a high volume of calls.

CFS volunteers from the State Operations and Support Brigade man the phones at the SCC. First Lieutenant of the State Operations and Support Brigade, Aaron Casey said the hotline operators get positive feedback from the community that makes volunteering on the hotline so rewarding.

"It's something that people really appreciate," Dr Casey said. "We often talk to people who are understandably quite distressed and after talking them through the situation, if they don't genuinely thank you on the spot, it is not unusual for them to ring the hotline back later to thank the operator they had spoken to."

"Public information during incidents is imperative and the bushfire hotline is such an important tool in this respect. It gives people the opportunity to discuss

what is happening and what their options are. It is so important for people to feel comfortable about what they decide to do in such an event, particularly for new residents, people on holidays and those passing through an area under threat."

The hotline volunteers are members of the State Operations and Support Brigade and more are urgently needed to work on the hotline.

Aaron said people who have had firefighting and other operational experience in the CFS are ideal hotline volunteers.

"They can really put their knowledge and experience to good use on the hotline, because our main job is to provide essential information to people and when they speak to someone who knows about bushfires first hand, it's very reassuring to them."

Training is held fortnightly on Tuesdays from 5.30pm at the State Operations and Support Brigade Station at 50 George St, Thebarton.

For more information, contact State Operations and Support Brigade Captain Garry Casey on 0488 188 449.



State Operations and Support Brigade members working on the Bushfire Information Hotline on New Year's Eve.

PRESCRIBED BURNING – IT'S NOT JUST HOLLOW PROMISES

By: Kathryn Mroczek,
Community Engagement Coordinator-
Fire and Flood Management- DEWNR

In Australia, we know that fire has played an integral part in shaping the ecology of the Australian Landscape for millions of years. Plants and animals have evolved and adapted to survive particular fire regimes and these fire regimes actively stimulate the regeneration and renewal of the ecosystem.

The Kangaroo Island fire in January 2016 and DEWNR prescribed burn conducted in 2013.

Well informed fire management is essential for effective biodiversity conservation because fire regimes interact with plant and animal survival and play a significant and positive role in sustaining and promoting plant and animal diversity.

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) continue the practice of implementing fire regimes through prescribed burning to reduce fuel (reducing the impact of future bushfires), assist with weed management and manage habitat for flora and fauna.

Burning can have both positive and negative impacts on the environment which makes it important to effectively manage fire regimes in the landscape to achieve maximum benefits whilst

minimising the impacts.

Fire from bushfires, and to a lesser extent prescribed burns, can impact old hollow bearing trees (habitat trees) if the trees are burnt through and fall down. At the same time, fire can stimulate new hollow creation when partially burnt trees shed branches.

Techniques implemented to protect tree hollows during prescribed burns have included: removing fuels around the tree base, excluding patches of significant trees from the burn, reducing fire intensity, wetting down trees near control lines, and extinguishing burning hollow bearing trees- all with the aim of getting the balance right.

DEWNR has conducted 53 burns as part of the

2015/16 burn program on public lands (DEWNR, Forestry SA and SA Water), many in collaboration with local CFS brigades.

The effectiveness of treating fuels on a landscape scale was evident as recently as January 2016 when a lightning strike on private land bordering the Seal Bay Conservation Park on Kangaroo Island started a potentially dangerous fire. The prescribed burn conducted at the edge of Seal Bay Conservation Park in 2013, played a critical role in reducing the impact of the fire on the flora and fauna, in particular habitat trees, as well as community assets by allowing easier access to suppress the fire and also slowing the rate of spread.



Above and below:

The moving service on Sunday morning which remembered fallen firefighters.



Above and below:

The parade on Sunday



Reunion success

It started with a dinner on the Saturday night in the Naracoorte Town Hall with guests attending from across the whole State and interstate.

Former Chief Officer's Alan Ferris, Vince Monterola, Lloyd Johns and his wife attended along with Anne McArthur, wife of the late Don McArthur, and current Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.

They were joined by about 130 guests including Federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin, and Shadow Minister for Emergency Services Duncan McFetridge.

Members of the local council also attended with former Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson, Assistant Chief Rob Sandford and CFSVA representative Jeff Clark.

Sunday morning started with a breakfast in the Cartwright Pavilion on the Naracoorte showgrounds, followed by a moving Memorial Service honouring

those that had lost their lives while fighting fire in rural SA. The Service was conducted by Eucharistic Assistant at Naracoorte Anglican Church, Graham Dickson.

Later on Sunday afternoon the floral arrangement that was laid at the service by Anne McArthur was presented to the Long ridge Aged Care Centre

Following the Service a Street Parade took place in Ormerod Street and included - SA Police, the Naracoorte Pipe band and an array of fire appliance from the latest to those of yester year.

There was a barbeque on Sunday night followed by entertainment .

"Thank you all who contributed in any way to what was a brilliant weekend," said organiser Rex Hall.

He particularly thanked the Naracoorte Lucindale Council for their support and financial assistance over the week end.

The next reunion is in planning stages for 2020.



Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with Joe Sfarra



Former Chief Officer Vince Monterola, wife of former chief Anne McArthur, and former Chief Officers Lloyd Jones and Alan Ferris



Mike Arnold, Peter Swann and Murray Sherwall.



Former Regional Commanders Kevin May and Chris Martin



General shot of the room



Organiser Rex Hall with Federal Member for Barker, Tony Pasin

Recruitment campaign

Volunteer Services Branch launched a new recruitment project last year, showcasing four of our volunteers in short videos.

The videos focus on targeting those in the South Australian community who may not have already considered joining the CFS. They are designed to target people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, youth, women and highlight the non-operational roles available in the CFS.

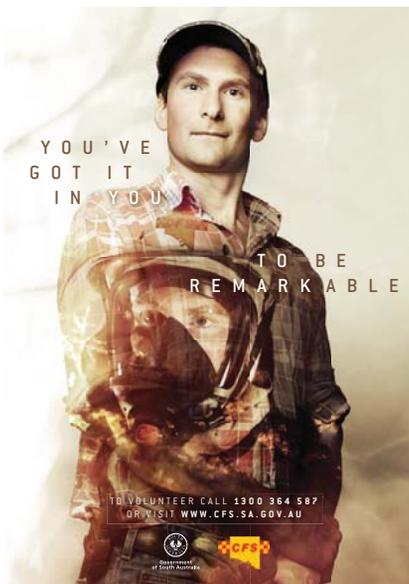
The four videos have been produced in two versions – a 30-second version to be used as a television commercial and a 90-second version for online use, such as social media, websites and at public events such as field days.

Funding for the project was made possible following a successful submission to the Natural Disaster Resilience Program (NDRP) last year.



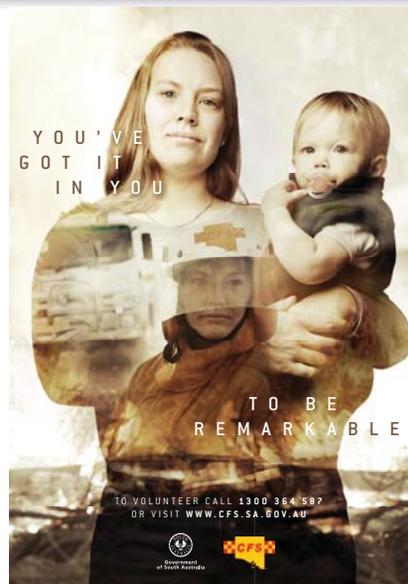
SAMANTHA WHITTINGTON-ARNOLD

Samantha Whittington-Arnold joined the Country Fire Service (CFS) as a cadet and is now part of the Waikerie CFS Brigade. Samantha speaks about her passion to giving back to the community and the skills she has learnt through being a volunteer.



ADAM HANCOCK

Adam Hancock joined the Country Fire Service (CFS) in 2008 and is now the Training Officer at the Naracoorte CFS Brigade. Adam speaks about his role teaching younger volunteers about fire-fighting and his passion for protecting his community.



LISA BALDOCK

Lisa Baldock has been a member of the Country Fire Service (CFS) for over 11 years. She is now part of the Kimba CFS Brigade and speaks about the valuable life skills she has learnt as a CFS volunteer, her passion to giving back to the community and the everlasting friendships that she has made.



PETER IKONOMOPOULOS

Coober Pedy local and Country Fire Service (CFS) Brigade Captain Peter Ikonopoulos, speaks about the skills he has learnt as a CFS volunteer and his passion to giving back to the community.

NEW DIRECTORS WELCOMED TO HQ

SA Country Fire Service has not only welcomed some new faces in the Regions but also in State Headquarters.



ANDREW STARK,
*Executive Director Frontline Services/
Deputy Chief Officer*

Andrew joined CFS in February 2016 after serving as Chief Officer at the Australian Capital Territory Rural Fire Service.

Starting out his emergency services career as a paramedic in New South Wales, Andrew has also been volunteering since he was a teenager.

Working in the ambulance service with a number of volunteers within the fire and emergency services he said was one of the most rewarding parts of the job.

Andrew was deployed to South Australia during the 2007 fires in Kangaroo Island where he was the Planning Officer for the Incident Management Team. He has a raft of experience in managing large emergencies with the Bunyip fire in Victoria in 2009 and many major fire emergencies during his time with New South Wales Rural Fire Service.



DANIEL AUSTIN,
Director of Regional Operations

Daniel returned to South Australia in December 2015 from Western Australia where he was District Officer then Superintendent for the Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES).

He has a long and distinguished professional career in fire services which began with the South Australian CFS as a volunteer in 1989 and as a staff member in 2003. He moved through a range of roles on Region 1 and 6 as well as the State Training Centre.

At DFES he was responsible for the leadership and management of physical, financial and human resources within the Region, major incident management, operational planning preparedness, response and recovery.

Initially working in the tall timber country of the lower South West, he then moved to Albany where the Region was a complex mix of significant regional centres with career fire and rescue staff. The Great Southern Region is about 140,000km² (or one and a half times the size of Tassie), with approximately 8,000 registered volunteers, covering both wheatbelt and forest country.



GEORGIE CORNISH,
*Director of Operational Capability and
Planning*

Georgie began her career with CFS just after the devastating Pinery bushfire in November 2015 after she, her husband Ben and two young children moved to Adelaide from Sydney last year.

She formerly worked for the Federal Attorney General's department and has significant operational experience in crisis management and risk mitigation. Her CFS role is centred on risk planning, mitigation and corporate governance. This includes overseeing the Lessons Learned program and the development and maintenance of doctrine.

Georgie also oversees primary risk assessment and capability body, Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC) which uses external datasets to identify key risks faced by each brigade and to then determine the capabilities required to meet those risks including, vehicles, training and equipment.

LAWSON BIDS FAREWELL

By: *Ali Martin*

From a diesel mechanic in the South East to Deputy Chief Officer of the SA Country Fire Service – the past 30 years have been an unbelievable journey for Andrew Lawson.

After six years volunteering for the Bordertown CFS, Andrew started his career with the organisation, and what a career it has been.

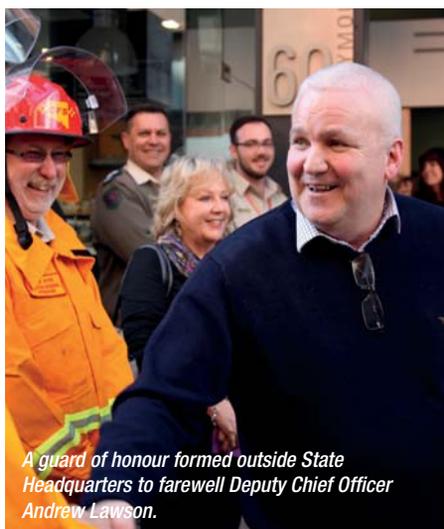
“When I joined the service in 1985 as an employee I would have never thought of the opportunities that have come my way,” he said.

There are many memorable moments but here are just a few:

“Probably one of the highlights would have to be the deployment to Indonesia in 1997.”

“As part of an AUSAID, South Australia sent two bombing aircraft over to Indonesia and I led the first deployment to assist the Indonesian Government in controlling the hundreds of fires they had over there.”

“Another highlight would be my involvement in the start of the CFS Map Book project with the first map book in the South East in 1999. It was the start of the CFS mapping project which has resulted in the map books that we’ve now got right across the state.”



A guard of honour formed outside State Headquarters to farewell Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Lawson.

There have also been lessons learnt along the way.

“Wangary was a real knock for us in 2005 as an organisation. The coronial inquest and the civil action that followed but we came through. It was the support of people working together and looking after each other that got us through,” said Andrew.

“We learned from Wangary and put in place some new systems, primarily the warning systems. That stood us in really good stead when in 2009 following Black Saturday there was a national review of warning systems so our system was seen as a good template, a good start.”

“What we learned from Wangary ultimately led to be part of the consideration for a national system. What we learned out of Black Saturday in 2009 stood us in very good stead for Eden Valley and ultimately Sampson Flat fires.”

Andrew has also travelled overseas to California, Greece, France, Indonesia and New Zealand representing the fire service and learning from other countries.

And then there’s the people, the volunteers and staff who come together to fight for their communities during sometimes tragic conditions.

“That’s again probably one of the highlights, CFS staff and volunteers who just keep going.”

“The commitment of both staff and volunteer to helping their community in whatever way they can.”

However, there are issues that CFS will continue to face, so Andrew’s leaving some advice.

“One of the challenges that I see going forward for CFS is the recognition that the brand is so easily damaged by people, within our ranks.”

“I have absolutely loved CFS but as the Deputy you are always the Deputy, you’re never not on-call. I can’t remember a Christmas where I haven’t had my phone on and been watching the weather,” he said.

“I do look forward to a job where I start at 8.30 and knock off at 5 o’clock in the evening and don’t have to think about work outside of that”

“I’m looking forward to being irrelevant.

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank ALL the staff and Volunteers I have working with over the past 30 plus years – it has been a great experience.”

From everyone at CFS, both volunteers and staff we wish Andrew and Julie all the best.

Andrew finished work with the CFS on September 18. However, he’s now a volunteer with Air Ops brigade and attended several fires over the season.

Mick Ayre retires

By: *Daniel Hamilton*



Recently retired ACO Mick Ayre.

CFS headquarters felt the loss of another departing senior figure with Assistant Chief Officer Mick Ayre retiring to enjoy the good life in late 2015

Mick began with the CFS back in 1979 as a volunteer with National Parks and moved onto the staff list in 2005 before heading to the Northern Territory in a senior fire management role.

In Darwin he also teamed up with current CFS Chief Greg Nettleton who was then the NT Chief Officer, working together again when Mick returned as Director Regional Operations.

Greg said during Mick’s latest stint with the CFS he made a big impact as Director of Regional Operations.

“When Mick returned from Darwin it was great to get him on board, he is passionate about what he stands for and a diligent operator,” Greg said.

“He oversaw a number of key projects and was a pivotal leader during significant events.”

Mick really enjoyed his time with CFS.

“Every day presented a new challenge and reminded me what a community based organisation the CFS is, our volunteers really do tremendous work in the community,” he said.

It has been an interesting start to retirement for Mick as he is already nursing a sore buttocks after falling off a ladder while completing some home maintenance.

“They say old people shouldn’t climb ladders so I took extra precaution by tying a rope to the ladder.

“Trouble is when I cut the branch it went the another way to what I was expecting and knocked me down.”

It may have been a blessing as the nasty fall restricted Mick to light duties for a number of days.

He said despite the rocky start he plans to pursue his passion for landscaping and travelling and it is certain we’ll hear more from him via letters to the editor.

TERRY'S COLOURFUL CAREER

After more than a decade with the CFS Manager Development Assessment Service, Terry Hassam retired in the middle of last year.

He began in a job he thoroughly enjoyed Community Education, working alongside Jeff Ayres, Fiona Dunstan and Shirley Smith.

"I've got to say that was one of the best jobs I've had in my life. It was one of the most amazing jobs, it's quite rewarding meeting people out there in the paddock that matter," Terry said.

"You see where community education's come now from when I started, we were doing eight or so Community Fire Safe groups every year and now you see that Sampson Flat fire and no one died. It's changed dramatically."

Antisocial hours meant Terry moved on to work in

prevention, helping to establish the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.

"I spent many, many, many hours consulting with Farmers' Federation and various grain harvesters, farmers, groups, brigades. I spent a year or so consulting with them and we came up with a pretty workable solution for a Grain Harvesting Code of Practice."

"It took a bit of selling but it's been sold. I had a bit of pushback, even from CFS, but finally everyone's adopted it so I'm pretty proud of that job."

He finished in the Development Assessment Service, based in Region 1.

As he left the service on July 24, he had this message: "I wish everyone well for a safer community."



Terry Hassam has retired after 12 years of service to the CFS.

TRUCKS DREW SANDY TO STAFF

By: Ali Martin

Sandy Paterson has been a volunteer with CFS for the past 46 years, and he's been on staff since 2002 – in July this year he'll retire from that role.

As Manager Operational Vehicles and Equipment, Sandy was well qualified for the role – trained as an automotive mechanic.

He initially applied because I liked to 'play with trucks', and has since seen many changes.

Initially trucks were serviced by one provider, but now brigades organise their own servicing.

"This gives the brigades the chance to keep the money in the town. I always say to them if you feel comfortable and trust the person servicing the truck that's fine with me, because the volunteers are the ones that have to go out in it onto the fireground," he said.

Each year when new trucks are distributed some of the old appliances are retired, while others which are about half way through their life have safety features added and the vehicles are rotated to another brigade.

He said planning to replace appliances is about three or four years ahead, and Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC) inform the Infrastructure and Logistics team as to what they should be planning for.

"SFEC have gone through many iterations, these days it's much more prescriptive and hopefully they keep up with it because it certainly helps from the vehicle build point of view," he said.

Volunteer safety on the fireground has definitely changed.

"It's gone from people on the back of the truck with nothing to hold onto, to dual cabs, with in cab



Sandy Paterson

breathing apparatus and the halo system."

Sandy would like to see those safety features on all CFS appliances.

"We can bring new vehicles on but the old ones still have the old stuff, so I'd like to see a retrofit – but that all comes down to budget."

In his volunteer capacity, Sandy started with Burnside in 1970 and in 1978 he moved to Commonwealth Hill Sheep Station where he volunteered with the Kingoonya Firefighting Association. He moved back to Willunga in December 1981 and has been with the brigade ever since.

Although he doesn't attend incidents anymore, Sandy is still involved with the Willunga Brigade and has many fond memories. He served as Captain and

Deputy Group Officer.

"The brigade has grown both in manpower and the amount of work and frequency."

He started a cadet unit in the brigade, which has been a great success, and cadets still learning at Willunga. In fact one of his first cadets is now with the Mount Compass brigade and was Group Officer for a couple of years.

The Vehicle and Equipment Committee is one of the oldest in CFS, and during his volunteering time Sandy made a large contribution in this area too. In the 1980s when trucks were using petrol, brigades had issues with fuel vaporisation. Sandy came up with a technique which was tested by the CSIRO and adopted by many brigades.

In preparing for retirement, Sandy said he enjoyed the ability to work in a really good team in both Infrastructure and Logistics, but also in the vehicle team, with the staff going to extraordinary lengths to get the job done.

He also acknowledges the time and effort volunteers make in taking care of their appliances and equipment but also their commitment to research and development of new ways to do things.

As for how Sandy will spend his time in retirement...

Sandy's wife Julie says: "there's the three f's – firewood, fencing and fixing things."

EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDALS AWARDED

Congratulations to Gumeracha Captain Philip Cornish and Ernabella (Pukatja) Captain Dudley Dagg, who have been awarded the South Australian Emergency Services Medal.

Philip Cornish became a member of the Gumeracha CFS as a cadet in 2002, his maturity and skill soon saw him training alongside the senior members of the brigade and became a firefighter at 16.

He has worked tirelessly through the volunteer ranks becoming Lieutenant in 2011 and Captain last year. Leading his brigade during the Sampson Flat fire, he was called back to his family property when it became impacted, and they lost a number of structures. Despite the losses he continued to support his brigade and provided extensive and practical community support to anyone in need.

He instigated the setting up of his station as a drop off point for food, water and supplies for firefighters and helped clean up roadways and private properties.

Dudley Dagg was the inaugural captain of the Ernabella (Pukatja) CFS brigade, the first brigade in the APY Lands. Since that time in 2010, Dudley has shown continuous, dedicated and exemplary service in management and delivering of an isolated and remote community fire service.

He has played a significant role in the successful promoting and planning of the CFS brigades of Amata, Kaltjiti, Milili and Pip/Kalka. This is thanks to the good repute of the Ernabella (Pukatja) brigade.

He has managed many incidents showing bravery, including being Incident Controller and containing a 7,000 hectare bushfire which threatened homes. Dudley received his award on 24 May.

Meanwhile there were a further three Emergency Service Commendations to Geoffrey Brown, Brian Foale and Rory Liebelt.

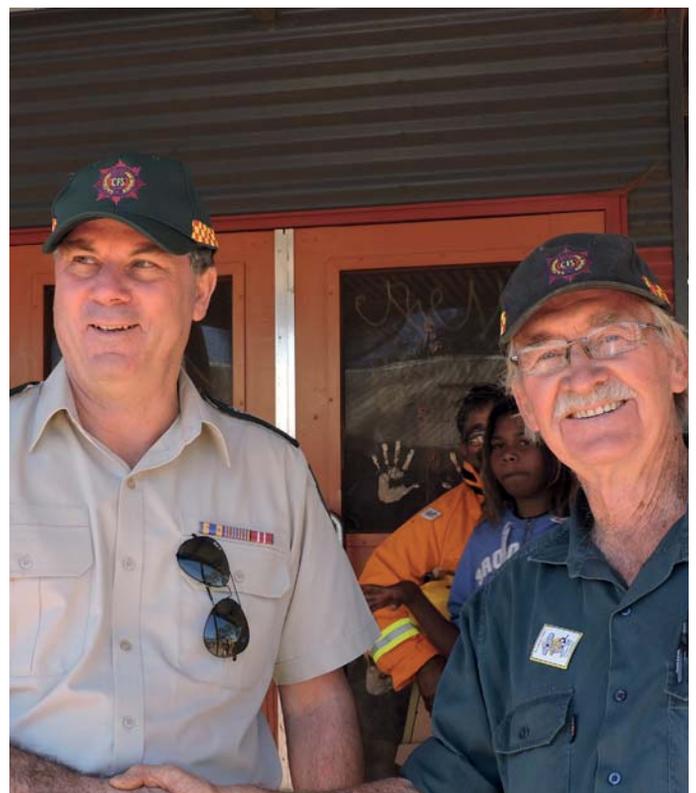
Geoffrey Brown joined the CFS in the early 1980s and has had continual involvement with state competitions until the closing of events. He competed for more than 16 years, including 10 years as the State Champion in the One Man Ladder drill and associated team events like the Three Man Ladder drill and Portable Pump Alarm Race. Geoffrey has continual outstanding achievements as State Volunteer Trainer and has been the main driving force for brigades and the Para Group receiving the Chief Officers Award for training excellence.

Brian Foale's outstanding dedication to the community has continued for more than 20 years. He's been the most frequent responder many times and his record in the last financial year was 114 responses out of a total 162 callouts! Now vice-president of the Aldgate brigade, Brian has been one of a small core of volunteers whose quiet and dependable dedication has held the brigade together over the years.

Rory Liebelt has tirelessly and selflessly carried out the role of Heysen Group training coordinator for over 17 years. He's been chairman of the regional training committee for the past three years, and until recently was captain of the Nairne brigade. Holding these positions has shown Rory's strong management and mentoring skills.



Philip Cornish receiving his Emergency Services Medal.



Dudley Dagg with CO Greg Nettleton at an event in the APY Lands earlier this year.

FIRE SERVICE MEDALS ANNOUNCED

By: Ali Martin



AFSM recipients Bluey Devine and Peter Venning with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton (centre) earlier this year.

Peter Venning and Bluey Devine were awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the Australia Day Honours.

Peter adds the AFSM to an already distinguished volunteer career with CFS, which includes life membership for CFS and the Morphett Vale brigade as well as a 40 year service medal. Peter joined the CFS at Gumeracha in 1973 and has been a volunteer ever since. He moved to Clare CFS for a time and then to Morphett Vale in 1982. He's been both Group Officer and Deputy Group Officer for the Mawson Group for almost 20 years.

He is an exceptional leader and role model for volunteers with in CFS and has contributed to the modernisation of the service, particularly in areas of volunteer management, public safety and the financial management of brigades.

When the Noarlunga and Happy Valley CFS groups merged in 1998, Peter helped steer the two groups towards a cohesive foundation. His solid foundation established in the early days of the group set an extremely high standard which is still evident today.

Much of Peter's work contributed to the organisation has been in the background with most volunteers unaware of how much time, effort and passion he has for CFS. His dedication to getting the best deal for all volunteers is unquestionably

beyond the norm and he deserves to be recognised for this.

Tracy Devine – or Bluey as he's known to everyone, started with CFS at the Stirling North Brigade as a firefighter in 1989. In 2001 he joined CFS staff as Region 4 Training Officer, and he was selected as Regional Operations Officer in 2005. This saw him work closely with brigades and groups developing plans and initiatives to enhance the response and operational ability of the region

Bluey became Region 4 Commander in 2011 and still holds that position today. He gained competency in Bushfire Investigate and Incident Management qualifications and has led a number of deployments to provide support to other regions and states, as well as responding with his local brigade (now Laura).

Bluey has enormous ability to lead and communicate with large groups and communities that are suffering high emotional and physiological stress from significant incidents. His leadership and skills have allowed him to help develop brigades in the indigenous communities in the APY lands, as well as the remote and isolated communities in the North and North East of South Australia.

He provides stability and with leadership in difficult circumstances, maintains a vision with achievable goals meanwhile having continual concern for those around him.

FIREFIGHTERS REMEMBERED WITH MEMORIAL

By: Ali Martin

The South Australia Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum (SAVFFM) unveiled a memorial to fallen comrades on St Florian's Day (May 4) – there are 15 names.

About 100 people attended the service at the site of the proposed Museum on Kingston Avenue in Naracoorte.

SAVFFM Chairman Rex Hall said the newly built memorial wall and garden dedicated to the bravery of individual firefighters was the centrepieces of the service.

Channel Nine News presenter and CFS Volunteer Brenton Ragless was Master of Ceremonies and the memorial was officially opened by Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas. The memorial service was conducted by Father Wayne Corker and Cummins volunteer Bev Branson sang two songs.

Chief Officer Greg Nettleton spoke about the tragedy of losing firefighters, and how that loss is felt throughout the service for a long time.

Following the minute silence the fire siren at Naracoorte station was heard ringing throughout the town – a poignant moment for all attending.

In other Museum news, SAVFFM received a \$20,000 grant from the State Government's Fund My Idea program.

This will help complete stage one of the three part project, which will eventually include a carpark, rest



The memorial

area and administration centre.

Committee Chairman Rex Hall thanked those who voted for the memorial and the individuals and businesses who have already contributed to the project.

Regional Development Minister Geoff Brock said 39

THOSE REMEMBERED:

Barry McLoughlin	Athelston	15-2-79
Andrew Lemke	Lucindale	16-2-83
Peter Matthies	Summertown	16-2-83
Brian Nosworthy	Callendale	16-2-83
Dean Dennis	Yeelanna	18-3-85
Brian Fox	Lobethal	22-1-86
Howard Kruse	Waterloo	1-5-90
Peter Stacy	Burnside	23-3-90
Robert Jones	Yahl	1-2-91
Peter Aird	Moorook	21-8-93
Leslie Peek	Strathalbyn	10-3-94
Neil Richardson	Ungarra	11-1-05
Trent Murnane	Cummins	11-1-05
Andrew Harrison	Mount Templeton	31-10-14
Brian Johnston	Millicent	9-12-14

ideas were put forward during the Limestone Coast round of the program with two winners chosen for funding.

"The great thing about Fund My Idea is that we see the creativity and passion of people living in regional SA come to the fore," he said.

"Ultimately, these projects are about getting the community more involved in Government decision making, and I thank everyone involved in this round of Fund My Idea – both those who submitted projects, and those who voted."



Brian Johnston died in the line of duty, his sons – Daniel and Jeremy are pictured at the memorial with Brian's brother Allan.



Emergency Services Minister Peter Malinauskas places a wreath



CFS volunteers give their all for others. When something happens to them, it's *our* turn to give.

CFS Foundation
For our local heroes

CFS Foundation – always there in a time of great need

In the 2014 Sampson Flat fire, CFS volunteer, Ben Whiteway, and his family lost their Kersbrook home to the flames, which destroyed everything on their property. Ben is pictured above right, sorting through the ruins of the family home soon after the fire.

Despite the devastation, the Whiteways decided early on to stay and rebuild. This has been an extensive process, requiring determination and resilience as the family coped with makeshift living arrangements in a shipping container while working towards building and moving into their new home.

March 2016 marked a new beginning, when Ben, wife Vicky and children, Ella and Sam, were finally able to take up residence in their completed house. "The process was difficult, but ultimately is very rewarding. At the end of this process we have a beautiful new house on the site we love."

The CFS Foundation is proud to have been able to assist the Whiteways in rebuilding their home and their lives.



The Whiteways and their new home

Give a Lasting Gift of Honour and Support

The **Country Fire Service Foundation** cares for CFS volunteers and their families during their time of greatest need.

A **bequest** to the CFS Foundation is a personal tribute honouring your local heroes.

By leaving a **gift in your Will**, you create a significant legacy to support CFS volunteers.

To make a bequest, please contact the **Country Fire Service Foundation**

GPO Box 2468 Adelaide SA 5001 office@cfsfoundation.org.au

Country Fire Service Foundation

Our Vision
Honour, support and care for SACFS volunteers.

Our Mission
To assist in the relief of suffering, disability, distress or misfortune of SACFS volunteers resulting from their community service activities.

OBITUARY - GRAHAM ASHBY

Graham Ashby joined the Gulnare CFS brigade when it was known as the Gulnare Emergency Fire Service in 1954.

He was an active member in the Brigade holding the position of President from 1969 to 1975 and served on the Management Committee from 1976 to 1978.

From 1970 to 1988 he was a Deputy Fire Supervisor (now called Deputy Group Officer) in the Georgetown District Council prior to the Rocky River Group being formed. He also held this position in the Spalding District Council area for some 15 Years.

Graham was also well known in the community as a stalwart of the North Ashrore Merino and Bundaleer Shorthorns.

He was one of the industry's most successful stud breeders and great livestock marketers, who's legacy spread worldwide, enhanced by his stud's top genetics.

Graham spent 60 years on the SA Shorthorn Society Committee, including three terms as president and was honoured with life membership of Shorthorn Beef in 2002, and a Merino SA service award in 2012.

Graham continued to be a strong supporter of the Gulnare Brigade until his death at 78 years.



The photo shows Graham on the far right after he received the 20 Year service award in November 1989, also pictured are Alan Davidson, Gordon Syms, and Ian Burgess.

OBITUARY - MALIM WATTS



Malim Watts

Staff and volunteers were saddened at the death of Malim Watts, dedicated volunteer and Director of Operational Capability and Planning in July.

Mal started volunteering in the Watervale brigade in 1983 and joined Athelstone in 1985 where he served the community for 20 years.

In 1998 he joined CFS staff as Regional Prevention Officer and held a training and operations roles. Promoted to Manager Operations Services in 2004, he then became Manger Operations Planning and in 2013 was elevated to Director Operational Capability and Planning, being appointed Assistant Chief Officer at the same time.

In 2002, Malim received a CFS Operational Commendation for his operational leadership as a Strike Team Leader in the Blue Mountains during the 2001/2002 New South Wales bushfire deployment.

On 8 February 2009 at 6am, whilst preparing for a pre-planned live television interview, Malim dived to the rescue of a man who was drowning in the River Torrens. For several minutes he repeatedly duck-dived into the dirty, opaque green water despite a pitch black sky and almost zero visibility and eventually was able to carry the man's body from the bottom of the river to the surface and assisted SA Ambulance Service Paramedics in lifting the man's body from the water.

Unfortunately the rescued man had been under the water for too long and could not be revived. His courage and selflessness saw him later awarded a Certificate of Merit awarded by the Royal Humane Society of Australasia.

Malim was presented with CFS Life Membership and a 30 year CFS Service Medal as well as a National Medal and First clasp for his dedication over decades of service.

His service saw him recognised nationally as having a vast array of knowledge and therefore he was asked to sit on several committees, including the Chair of the National Urban Operations Group, and AFAC Standards Committee.

Malim's death effected many people in CFS and emergency services nationally, with about 500 people attending his funeral at Immanuel College, others sending their thoughts from interstate and internationally.

If you would like to speak to someone after reading this article please contact the Stress Prevention and Management team is available on 08 8211 9612, Lifeline on 13 11 14 or visit beyondblue.org.au

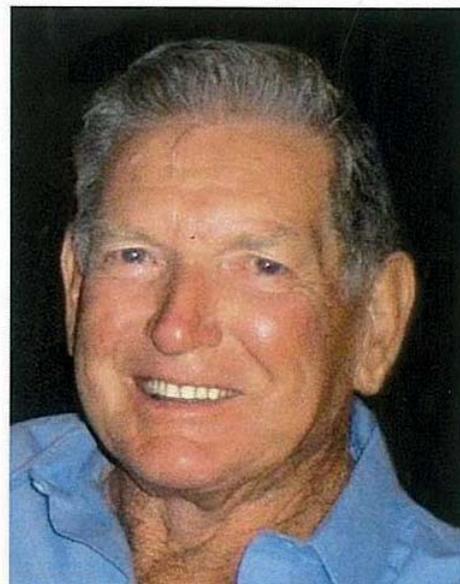
OBITUARY – JOHN PENNO

The Sturt CFS Group and Eden Hills Brigade were saddened to farewell a past Brigade Captain and the inaugural Group Captain of the then Mitcham Hills Group.

John was active in the Blackwood Community in business and local service clubs, along with his EFS/CFS activities. Initially as a firefighter with Eden Hills (joining in January 1955), then as Captain of that Brigade for seven years prior to undertaking the role of Group Captain.

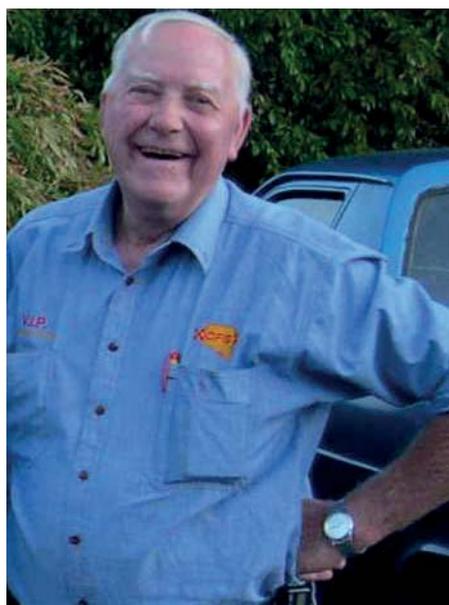
John retired from that position in 1987, however maintained a keen interest in his old Brigade attending most AGMs and enjoying interaction with new and more senior members of the Brigade.

John will be missed as a valued leader and firefighter in this community.



John Penno

OBITUARY – RON TELFORD



Ron Telford

A firefighting stalwart and trailblazer in community bushfire safety was farewelled in February when CFS State and regional leaders, staff and volunteers attended the funeral of Ron Telford in Mount Gambier in February.

Ron served as a fire fighter for 56 years and was awarded the National Medal, the SA Emergency Services Medal, and the Volunteer Service Medal, among many other achievement and appreciation

awards. He was also a Life Member of the Wandilo CFS Brigade.

Ron started as a volunteer in 1957 with the Country Fire Authority's Nelson Brigade, just across the Victorian border from his home in the village of Donovans on the Glenelg River in the State's South East.

The following year, he became a lieutenant and formed the Donovans Fire Protection Committee. The committee's bushfire survival plan specified that the many elderly residents were to be evacuated by boats on the river.

The able bodied would stay behind to fight the fire with knapsacks and wet bags, hence the title of Bushfires, Bags and Beaters, the book Ron wrote about the history of firefighting in the South East.

The community's plan was put to the test in January 1959 when a small band of volunteers tackled the disastrous Kongorong bushfire and managed to save all but a few weekend huts, with no deaths or injuries and without any outside help.

In 1969, Ron and his wife Bae took up dairy farming at Wandilo, north of Mt Gambier, where he continued his involvement with the former Emergency Fire Service. He also served as North West Zone Supervisor for the Mt Gambier Fire Fighting Association.

In an article for the CFS Foundation, Ron wrote about his experience of fighting the 1983 Ash Wednesday fires, describing them as the worst bushfires ever seen in the South East.

"Many acts of heroism took place that day and there were many lucky escapes," Ron wrote.

"Tragically 14 lives were lost, including some volunteers and their families. There were many burns and injuries suffered that day by firefighters and others."

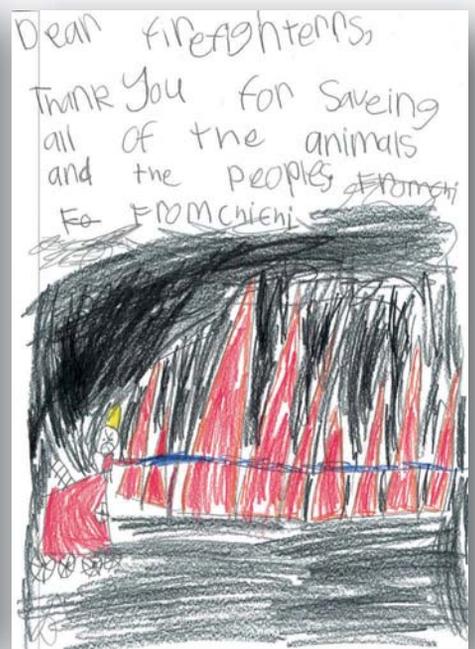
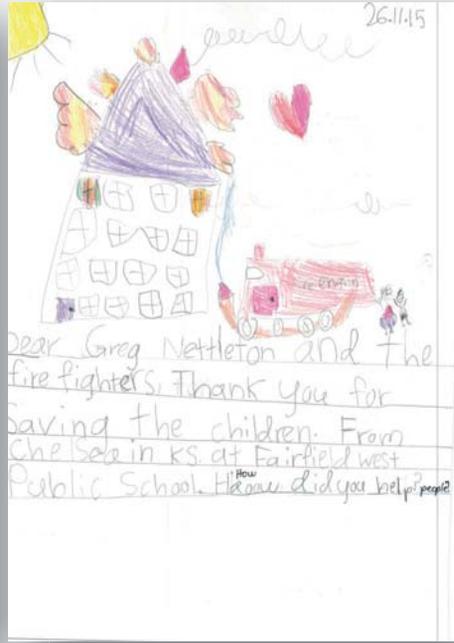
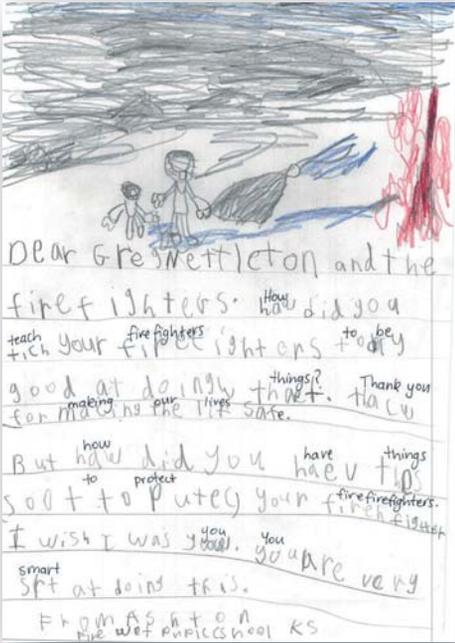
"During the Hackett's Hill fire my crews and I were complete surrounded by vicious fire but we fought through and survived. Thank God."

In his book, Looking Back - History of CFS, Rex Hall wrote that the Hackett's Hill fire broke away the next day but was again brought under control by brigades from the Mt Gambier Group, private units, and local landowners, plus help from the Port MacDonnell Group.

"Ron maintains that a further 10,000 hectares of Mt Gambier District would have burned, if this fire had not been contained. He spent 11 days straight away from his farm, in control of mop up and recovery operations and had no other breakaways," Rex wrote.

Ron was passionate about community safety and he helped draft one of the State's first Fire Prevention Plans and was president of the Mt Gambier District Council Fire Prevention Committee

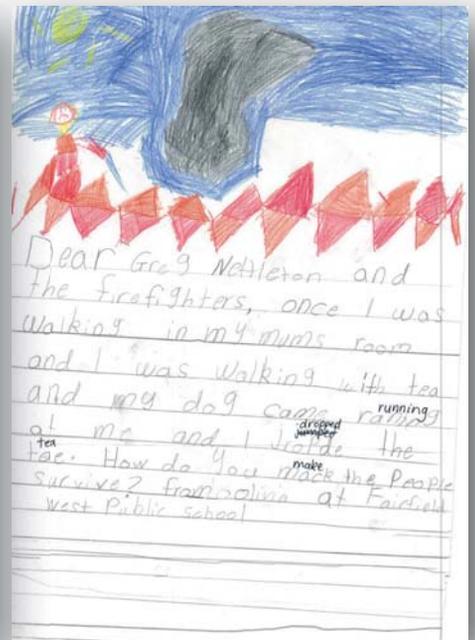
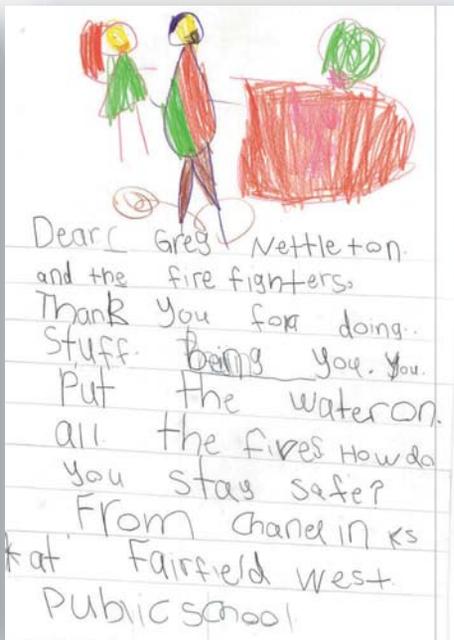
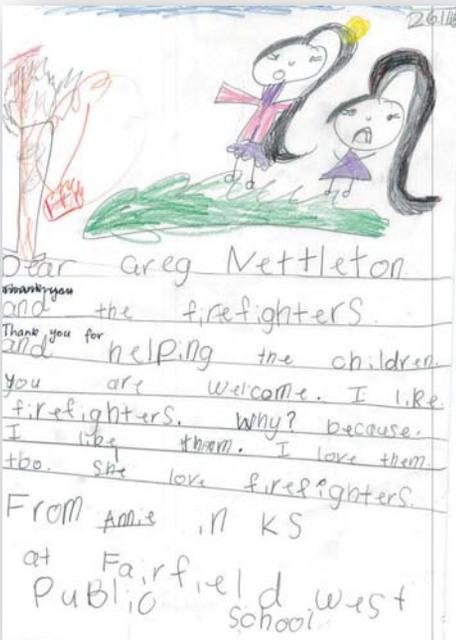
In 2004, Ron instigated a joint venture between the CFS and the District Council of Grant to conduct Project Fire Guard in schools in the district. In 2006, he became the first Community Education Officer for Region 5. He continued as a volunteer prevention officer for a number of years after his retirement.



THANK YOU CFS!

Kindergarten students from the Fairfield West Public School in Sydney wrote to the Chief recently after hearing of the Pinery fire.

Here are some of their letters which they asked him to pass on to all of the volunteers.





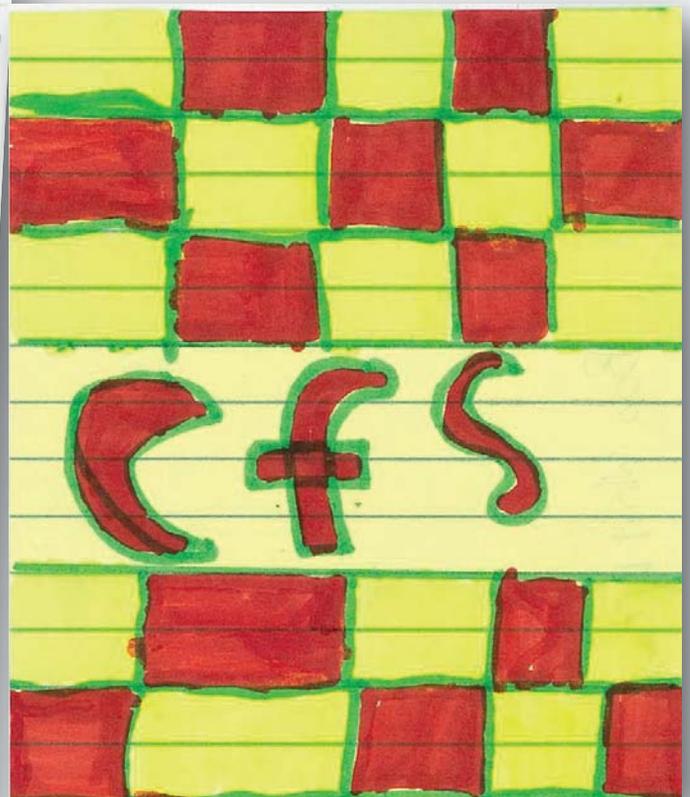
Dear Greg Nettleton and the
 fire fighters, Thank you for
 helping us. Please can you
 Do it again. I love you.
 How do you put out a fire? Can you
 help everyone please.
 From
 at Fairfield West
 Public School



Dear Greg Nettleton and the firefighters
 Thank you for helping us. You are
 beautiful. You are the best. Thank you
 for helping everything. And Thank you
 for helping the animals. How did
 you be taught to put the fire
 out? You are the best.
 Can you come to my school?
 From Isabella in KS
 At Fairfield West Public School



Dear Greg Nettleton and the firefighters
 are you helping water people?
 Dear Greg Nettleton and the firefighters team,
 You save and help people from the fire. How
 do you help do that? Thank you for helping us.
 From Nathaniel Murphy-Fowler in KS at Fairfield West
 Public School



Bob Whitbread sent this suggestion for a new CFS logo c/o
 Happy Valley CFS

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Postal Address: 75 Gawler Street Mount Barker SA 5251

Email: CFSDevelopmentAssessmentService@sa.gov.au

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Address: Suite 3, Transport Training Centre, 17 Wirriga St, Regency Park 5010

Telephone: 08 8244 6500

Facsimile: 08 8244 6400

Postal Address: PO Box 2359, Regency Park SA 5942

Email: admin@cfsva.org.au

Website: www.cfsva.org.au

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

Telephone: 08 8212 9858

Facsimile: 08 8463 5510

Email: CFS.CommunityEngagementSupport@sa.gov.au

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT BRANCH - VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT:

Address: Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide 5000

Telephone: Head Office: 08 8463 4102 Recruitment: 1300 364 587

Facsimile: 08 8115 1281

Postal Address: GPO Box 2706 Adelaide 5001 DX 206

Email: volunteernow@safecom.sa.gov.au

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