

**THE
VOLUNTEER
YEARBOOK
2019**





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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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If you have any feedback about the CFS Volunteer Yearbook or any of our communications, or would like us to cover a story you think should be included, please email CFS.CorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au

Welcome



GREG NETTLETON AFSM **CFS CHIEF OFFICER**

Welcome to the annual CFS Volunteer Yearbook – my final as Chief Officer. This opportunity is not only a great time to pause and look at the variety of our achievements over the past 12 months, but personally for me to reflect on the past eight years.

As I conclude my time in this role on July 5, I'd like to acknowledge the work of our many volunteers, both in operational and non-operational roles. You all do a wonderful job and contribute to the CFS culture, safety and make-up of your community. I'm always proud to visit brigades throughout the year to meet new members, reconnect with those I know, and celebrate in your achievements.

Thankfully we have had no significant fires this Fire Danger Season, but that doesn't mean we haven't been busy.

Brigades have attended 8153 incidents (up until the end of May) and provided services to the community, not just in grass fires but structure, road crash, hazardous materials and assisting other agencies. I'd also like to acknowledge the hard work of staff throughout the year.

CFS continues to make its mark both interstate and internationally. In June 2018, we had our aviation specialists in the Northern Territory helping our neighbours improve their aerial capabilities. We sent firefighters to California in the United States and Incident Management Personnel to British Columbia in Canada. We also held training in the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati!

Nationally, we participated in three deployments, first in Queensland in December, where their Rural Fire Service had one of their worst fire years in history. In January and February, we sent Incident Management Teams (IMT) and specialist remote area firefighters from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) to Tasmania to assist.

Finally after a spate of fires across Victoria, CFS supplied vehicles and strike teams to assist for three deployments. The ability to deploy large scale resources in a short amount of time shows our flexibility and adaptability in emergencies. I have had so many interstate colleagues congratulate me on the professionalism of our crews and I'd like to pass on their thanks for your support.

I'd also like to acknowledge the families of those who have been deployed, and

who provide unwavering support to all of our members as they are called to incidents. Thank you also to the employers of our members who allow them time away to support the community and fellow colleagues.

I'm privileged to visit many of our brigades throughout the year for birthday celebrations, award ceremonies and other events. I'd like to congratulate you all on achieving these significant anniversaries and acknowledgements, it's wonderful to showcase our community in this way.

Looking forward, the Emerald project continues to be rolled out. This continues to enable our members to record their achievements and keep record of any changes. The rollout of the second set of Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) finishes at the end of this financial year. It's been a big project and it's satisfying to see volunteers being fitted out with the latest protection.

The Fire Safety System retrofit continues, with more protection also provided to our older fleet. This has given us an opportunity to ensure all of our vehicles are maintained properly so they provide adequate safety for our crews.

Project Renew has provided additional funds for CFS to upgrade its brigade facilities. We haven't had such funding in the past so it's good to see both major and minor changes happening at brigades around the state to improve facilities for our members.

CFS is leading the social research into the new National Fire Danger Ratings project. By being at the forefront of this research, CFS is able to ensure that South Australians will be well equipped with information going into future fire seasons.

We are also working with SAFECOM, SES and MFS to plan for a new State Headquarters. A main priority for the new headquarters will be access to volunteers. There will be onsite parking and it will provide an opportunity for our members to visit regularly to see the work being done to assist you at a brigade level and in the field.

So as I sign off, I'd like to thank you again for your support over my time as CFS Chief. Thank you for your commitment to the safety of your community, and most importantly to the safety of each other.

Look after yourselves, and come home safe.

Greg.



HON. COREY WINGARD

EMERGENCY SERVICES MINISTER

As the Minister for Emergency Services, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts over a long and extended Fire Danger Season in South Australia.

This season, I have visited brigades around the state, meeting the hard-working and dedicated volunteers. I have been truly humbled by the commitment of every single volunteer I have met.

For this and your continual commitment over the past several months - I thank you. I have no doubt your commitment and dedication will continue into and beyond winter.

Our election promise to provide \$5million over two years to upgrade CFS stations is well underway. I have visited brigades where the funding has been used to upgrade flooring or kitchen and catering facilities, re-sheet some brigades, and in some cases provide extensions.

Recently, we welcomed a new Chief Executive of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Commission, Mr Dominic Lane. Mr Lane has over 35 years' experience in emergency services, beginning as a volunteer firefighter. I will be working closely with Mr Lane to conduct a nation-wide search to find the best possible candidate to be the Chief of the CFS.

I can assure you all that both Mr Lane and I will be seeking a Chief who has a strong focus on volunteers.

I would also like to thank our outgoing chief executive Greg Nettleton for his dedicated and selfless work over the past eight and-a-half years. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

It is reassuring to know that our CFS volunteers in South Australia are always ready to help their communities and beyond, whenever the need arises.

Your efforts are true acts of selflessness.



ANDY WOOD

PRESIDENT, CFS VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

Once again as another year slips by we find ourselves reflecting on the year just gone. Whilst we would like to report that the CFSVA has achieved all it set out to, we find that much of the Association's valuable time and resources have once again been used to respond to reviews that lead to nowhere; and "proposed" changes that don't eventuate but cause distractions and unsettles volunteers.

No matter how many reviews are undertaken, the conclusion is the same. The emergency service sector is grossly underfunded, and if not for the generosity of 13,500 CFS volunteers, over 90 per cent of South Australian communities would be left vulnerable and exposed. It is time to stop the reviews and focus on the providing more funding for the sector and increasing support services for CFS volunteers.

The CFSVA is acutely aware that it exists to represent your best interest, protect your welfare and be the voice of all CFS volunteers. It is only with your trust and support that we can continue to represent you with honesty, dignity and integrity.

Thank you for the privilege of being your State President and allowing me to represent so many truly generous and amazing CFS volunteers.

REGIONS ROUNDUP

Region 1

1: Amy Cure encouraged race attendees to plan ahead of attending the race



2: SA Country Fire Service representatives in Melbourne for the annual Stair Climb.

Photo: Courtney Orrin

1: TOUR DOWN UNDER

by Simone McDonnell

With some of the world's best cyclists riding around our state's regions during days of Total Fire Ban, this year's Tour Down Under (TDU) was one of most high risk events for our CFS crews.

CFS volunteers, along with SES and MFS crews accompanied the Men's and Women's TDU throughout all of the courses, with the Fixed Wing Bombers on active standby over the duration of the event.

This year's race coincided with five days of Total Fire Bans in the Mount Lofty Ranges, but a strong social media push, featuring Women's TDU rider Amy Cure, informing the public of how to be prepared and prevent fires, resulted in no major incidents.

2: CLIMBING HIGH FOR MENTAL ILLNESS

by Brett Williamson

Firefighters from Willunga, Burnside, Compton, Mount Barker and Millicent took part in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb this fire season to step up for Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute.

Crews climbed the stairs of 28 floors of the Metropal Hotel in Melbourne in full breathing apparatus kit to raise funds for mental health support services.

The annual stair climb aimed to raise \$700,000 for Lifeline and the Black Dog Institute, to improve support services, fund research, remove stigmas and raise awareness of mental health issues like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and suicide, especially for those within the emergency service and defence communities.

More than three million Australians are living with depression and anxiety, while one in four Australians will suffer from a mental illness in their lifetime.

Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians aged between 15 and 44, with an average of eight people taking their own life each day.

In the Emergency Services, one in ten people suffer from PTSD.

Of our teams participating in the Melbourne Firefighter Stair Climb, Burnside blitzed the stairs and finished in second place.

Willunga raised the most funds of our SACFS participants, with a total of \$3,445.

3: HAHNDORF 70TH INVITATION

On 21 September 2019, Hahndorf CFS will be celebrating 70 years of protecting people and property, both within the Hahndorf community, and beyond.

To mark this special occasion, the Brigade will be holding numerous events over the month of September, paying tribute to our incredible volunteers—past and present.

Hahndorf will be holding a station open day, where the community can look at our memorabilia from the past 70 years, climb on our trucks, spray some water, and chat to our volunteers about their experiences.

September will also see them holding numerous fun in-brigade activities, where all current and former volunteers will be welcome to participate. Lastly, they will be hosting a formal dinner, open to our wider community, where they will look back with pride on our achievements over the years.

For more information, and to register your interest for any of these events, please email hahndorfcsis70@outlook.com.au.



Photo: Happy Valley CFS Facebook

4: 3000 CALL OUTS FOR LEE

In April, Happy Valley Captain Lee Filz reached the milestone of 3,000 callouts. The brigade celebrated this achievement with surprise of cake, party poppers and sparklers. They knew the milestone was nearly reached so had everything prepared when it finally came.

Well done on the achievement and 25 years of service to the local community.

5: KATELYN MAKES US PROUD

KATELYN Benham was fighting forest fires in Tasmania three years ago as a member of Kangarilla Country Fire Service when she felt a lump on the side of her head.

"Every time I turned my neck, this lump popped out," the 22-year-old said. "It turned out I was lucky it showed up because when they scanned they found 14 lumps on my neck and down my chest."

Diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, she faced nine painful months of chemotherapy — but the day she got the all-clear she was back at Kangarilla CFS station as a senior firefighter.

Katelyn has spent half her life as a CFS volunteer, beginning as a cadet at age 11.

"My grandpa was group officer for the Happy Valley Group and it's been a big part of my family," she said.

Nominating her CFS colleague for a Pride of Australia award, Amelia Rohrlach said Katelyn was "selfless" and "an unbelievable human being".

"Katelyn hasn't had life easy but she works hard every day," she says. "She's the first female senior firefighter in the history of the brigade and is also the brigade training officer and group training officer, a role that individually requires countless hours of work.

"Then she fundraises, helps run a community newsletter and supports the CFS cadets each Friday night, which is probably her only time off."

She's attended the devastating Eden Valley fires in 2014 and the destructive Sampson Flat fires a year later.



REGIONS ROUNDUP Region 2

Photo: Sonia Post

6: Region 2 Group Officer's Seminar

1: DUTY OFFICER'S DAY

Region 2 held a Group Duty Officer's Day at the end of August. The volunteers met to prepare for the upcoming Fire Danger Season, with an update on doctrine changes, and information about Warning Messages. The region also held an Operational Equipment Showcase with the Portable Automatic Weather Station (PAWS), Incident Support Vehicle (ISV) and Communication Trailer (Comms Trailer) all on show for volunteers. They also observed a Regional Command Centre demonstration based on scenarios common to the Fire Danger Season. To finish off the day they participated in a series of three short Tactical Exercises without Troops (TEWTS).



3: Jonathan Raymond getting prepared for the climb

3: DALKEITH FIRIES CLIMB FOR MND

by Simone McDonnell

Members of the Dalkeith Brigade joined more than 600 firefighters from across Australia, participating in the Sydney Eye Stair Climb, to raise money for Motor Neurone Disease (MND) research.

Held in October, this was the second year that the brigade has been represented at the *Furies Climb for MND* event, with repeat participants Jonathan Raymond, Dion Curnow, and Andre Ponce this year being joined by Steve Shaw.

"We met all these people who have MND. It was a complete eye opener, it was devastating. Seeing all of them staying strong and fighting this incurable disease," the team said.

The group met their fundraising target of \$3000, contributing to the \$77,000 raised this year- tipping the event over the \$2 million mark since its inception in 2015.



2: Darren shoots for gold

2: INVICTUS GOLD FOR DARREN PETERS

by Simone McDonnell

Region 2 Air Operations volunteer, Darren Peters returned triumphant from representing Australia at the 2018 Invictus Games in Sydney.

A decade after discharging from the Army, Darren donned the green and gold participating in the Wheelchair Basketball and Archery - two sports he has only been involved with since last year.

While our Wheelchair Basketball team failed to qualify for the Semi-Finals, Darren found individual success, winning Australia's first ever Invictus Archery Gold Medal.

Describing it as "an amazing experience", Darren qualified 10th out of the 45 competitors from all around the world, dominating the two semi-finals before winning the overall gold.

The Invictus Games were established by the Duke of Sussex, Prince Harry, as a way to support returned soldiers with their recovery and rehabilitation. Based on the Warrior Games in USA, this year's Games included defence personnel from 18 countries across Europe, the Middle East and North America, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

In the true spirit of the Games, a member of the Danish Team gifted Darren a t-shirt, which he carried on him through to the final round.

One of Darren's highlights was the role his wife played in the medal ceremony. "The best thing was the wives were asked to come down present the medals. It was amazing to be presented the gold medal from my wife Nicole," he said.

Darren was selected for the Australian Invictus Squad, through his involvement with The Road Home pathway project. Coordinated by the University of South Australia, the project is aimed at supporting the health and wellbeing of defence and frontline emergency personnel.

4: REGION 2 AWARDS

by Ali Martin



4: Region 2 held an afternoon of awards in May to celebrate the long term achievements of many of its members. Congratulations to John Atze and Tony Fotheringham who received their medals for a massive 60 years of Service. They are pictured with (left) Chief Officer Greg Nettleton and Region 2 Commander Brenton Hastie (right).

Photo: Ann Letcher



4: Tea Tree Gully volunteers (second from left) Jim Sandford, Rex Smith and Graham Verrall all received medals for 40 years of Service. They are also pictured the Chief Officer and Region 2 Commander.

Photo: Ann Letcher

REGIONS ROUNDUP

Region 3



1: CFS volunteers on standby at the Virgin Australian Supercars Championships at Tailem Bend in August.

Photo: Tim McNeilly



2: Jamboree

1: SUPERCAR FIRE COVER

by **Tim McNeilly**

The newly constructed The Bend Motorsport Park at Tailem Bend played host to the 11th round of the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship in late August.

With an estimated 30,000 patrons expected, Region 3 worked closely with the event organisers and other emergency agencies to develop a CFS Major Event Plan.

This included the provision of a 34P and QRV crewed by volunteers from the Swanport Group for the Friday, Saturday and Sunday of the event, plus a Region 3 staff member in the Event Emergency Command Centre.

The responsibility of the onsite CFS crew was to provide a first response to any fire, hazmat or rescue incident occurring on or immediately surrounding the site, excluding the race track and pit lane which was serviced by dedicated motorsport fire and rescue crews.

Each morning the crew were briefed on the activities for the day and a site familiarisation, provided with particular emphasis on the five-storey building which includes 100 hotel rooms.

Throughout the weekend, the CFS personnel were able to watch a number of the races, have a look through the race team pits and get up close and personal with the aerial acrobatics planes. They also got a photo and an autograph from their favourite Supercar driver while also ensuring that an efficient response was provided to any incident that may have occurred on the site.

With the crew responding to only one minor fire late on the Sunday afternoon, the event was a great experience for all involved.

The volunteers at the event did a fantastic job in representing the CFS in a positive and professional manner and should be very proud of the role they played in this significant event for Tailem Bend and the Region.

There is likely to be a need for CFS to continue to support events like this at The Bend Motorsport Park into the future.

2: JAMBOREE SUCCESS

by **Ali Martin**

As around 11,500 people descended on Tailem Bend for this year's Australian Scout Jamboree, there was an added level of safety, with the CFS operating a 24 hour pop-up brigade on site.

The event, held from January 4-13, saw Scouts from across the country and around the world take part in activities around the Murraylands, within the Adelaide Hills and metropolitan Adelaide.

The Australian Jamboree is held every three years, and CFS was involved in planning for the event from August last year.

While Region 3 took the lead in coordinating the CFS presence at the Jamboree, volunteers came from across the state to help keep the kids out of harm's way.

An Expression of Interest was put out to all volunteers who wanted to be part of the pop up CFS station.

Tammy Heinrich, Region 3's Major Events Planning Officer, praised the volunteers for their help.

"We had a really overwhelming response to our volunteer call out. Given it was so early in the New Year, it was so great to be able to provide a permanent presence across the whole event," she said.

All of those involved received a CFS shirt with the CFS insignia and Scout logo on it, along with a bucket hat.

The preplanning work, was done with SAPOL, other emergency services and Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure. Not only were there activities

on site at The Bend, but 200 buses transported Scouts to Wellington, Adelaide and Woodhouse in the Adelaide Hills.

Over the course of the 10 days, there were 120 volunteers who covered 22 shifts on the site. There were also eight staff who undertook a liaison role on site for the duration of the event, supported by the regional Headquarters.

"The brigade attended a minor gas leak and gas fire while the Jamboree was being held, along with assisting in a helicopter landing," Tammy said.

Although the Scouts had their own medical centre and SA Ambulance were able to respond, CFS also assisted with some patient lifts.

Thankfully, the weather while the Jamboree was held was relatively mild. After a 50 degree day for the set up, the rest of the time it was mid 30s and just one Total Fire Ban in the district.

"We did have plans in case a Catastrophic day was forecast, part of which would be relocating the Scouts, however The Bend was specially assessed to be a Bushfire Safer Place for the effected timeframe."

"We also worked closely with Region 1 so if anything happened on the route while buses were moving through, the Region 3 Staff Liaison was aware."

Whilst the local group supplied limited numbers of volunteers to the Jamboree they were held in reserve to provide surge capacity into the event should something major have occurred. They also assisted with providing extra fire cover for the fireworks at the opening and closing ceremonies.

"There was also a temporary Primary Response Zone set up so there would be an automatic aircraft response for any fires in the area."

Region 3 Commander Ray Jackson thanked all of the volunteers and organisers involved in making the Jamboree a success.

"It was great to see volunteers from almost all Regions be involved in this event. At one point we had 18,000 visiting Tailem Bend as they held a Market Day for families and potential Scouts to attend.

"The introduction of the Jamboree 34P made it one of the most photographed items at the whole Jamboree. It was great to show off our volunteer skills and professionalism to representatives from around Australia."

3: WORKING ON SUCCESSION PLANNING

by **Ali Martin**

Region 3 held two Captain Seminars this year.

The first in April for Captains of the Coorong, Mallee and Swanport Group where Brigade Lieutenants were also welcome to learn about the role as a way to plan for succession. Another was held in May at Waikerie for those from the Chaffey, Ridley and Mid Murray Groups.

The Region spoke about the role of a Captain and expectations that go with the role, before going through administration and funds management.

The groups had an opportunity to learn about recruitment and retention in addition.

Training then moved towards operations, with information provided on rural and urban fire along with prevention.

The groups then finished the day identifying their biggest challenges going into the future.

The Captain's day was a step on from a Group Officer (GO) Seminar held at Mannum last year. That day was similar in that it was an opportunity for GOs to get together and hear from Directors and different areas of CFS, whilst also having the opportunity to do exercises and share their experiences.



REGIONS ROUNDUP Region 4

Photo: Sonia Post

1: Radio Museum Founder Peter Lehmann

1: NEW RADIO MUSEUM

by Ali Martin

CFS has its first Radio Museum, unveiled at the Bundaleer Group AGM in August. The museum features a number of radios from around the state including, GRN, UHF and VHF radios.

The project was coordinated by Jamestown's Peter Lehmann who became Communications Officer for Bundaleer Group in 1995 and still holds the position.

"Jamestown member Fred Smith had collected a number of radios and stored them at Jamestown, painstakingly cleaning our dust and ash from the radios which took about 600 hours. One of his neighbours also had some," Mr Lehmann said.

Unfortunately as none of the parts are replaceable the radios won't ever work again, but they are on display in the cabinet funded through an AGL grant and the Bundaleer Group.

"We got a \$1300 grant from AGL which contributed to about half the cost of the locally made cabinet, the Group made up the rest.

"I gathered as much history as I could, with several radios being made here in South Australia. I wanted to make it interesting so people could see what the radios were used for and in what era."

The collection starts from the late 1940s.

"There's also a mix of mobile and bench radios, so ones in the truck and those in the station, lots were dual purpose. One was even home made with tin and some snips."

"Another interesting part of the collection is a valve tester. Initially, radios had valves which were later replaced with transistors (valves were basically a big transistor)."

Although some in the collection are locally made, by the mid to late 1960s Australia couldn't manufacture the radios cheaply enough. This history is also explained in the museum.

Peter said it's great to look back at what we had in the early days.

"Present day radios have definitely improved as old radios were being used until they stopped working, while now CFS replaces them about every 10 years.

"The current ones also have an emergency button and the ability to speak to people over a very large area, especially on the GRN we can talk to people in Adelaide from the fireground."

2: GOLF CLUB EXERCISE

by Ali Martin

Port Broughton brigade, in conjunction with Region 4, organised a training exercise at the local Golf Club in April.

Starting at 10am, the local crews were called to a structure fire and building impact at the club, involving multiple injuries, potential fatalities and a fire which had spread to a nearby shed.

Upscaling the alarm, the crews were joined by Wards Hill and Crystal Brook brigades, along with a Level 2 Incident Management Team (IMT). The Region 2 Operations Brigade brought their Incident Management Vehicle to the scene so the local IMT could use the resource.

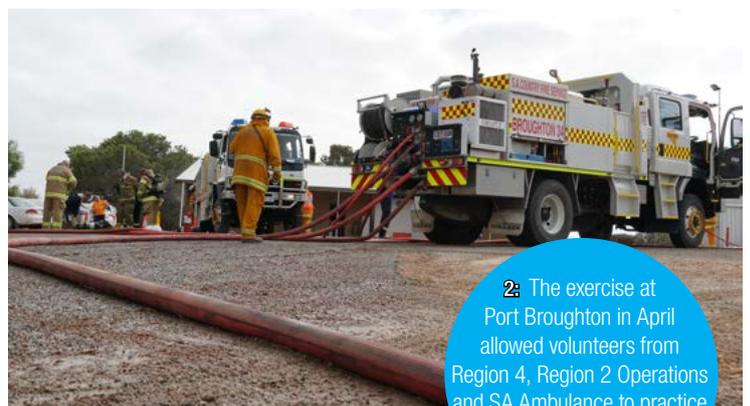
"We also asked some of our experienced volunteers and trainers to attend in a mentor role," said Region 4 Training Delivery Officer Nicoli Ackland.

"They had designated areas they were watching, and they provided support to those less experienced.

"The incident ran incredibly smoothly and was a wonderful learning experience for all involved. The inclusion of mentors meant instead of being a testing exercise for those involved it was a true learning experience.

"It was also great to include SA Ambulance as they are a vital part of our structure fire response, they not only assisted those actors we had as injured but were able to monitor the SCBA firefighters who were put through their paces in smoke and difficult conditions.

"We conducted debriefs at a brigade, IMT and mentor level and identified some areas of improvement afterwards."



2: The exercise at Port Broughton in April allowed volunteers from Region 4, Region 2 Operations and SA Ambulance to practice their skills in a training environment.



Photos: Ali Martin

REGIONS ROUNDUP

Region 4 cont.

3: Mercer SuperCycle

Photo: Dean Norman

3: BURRA HELPS CANCER PATIENTS

by Ali Martin

Burra brigade helped escort 40 cyclists into their town in April as part of Mercer SuperCycle. The cyclists were riding around SA to raise money for country cancer patients receiving treatment in Adelaide. This year they raised more than \$150,000 which will go towards building a fourth house for patients and their families to use. Find out more at www.supercycle.org.au



5: Region 4 and 6 Group Officer Seminar

5: COMBINED SEMINAR

Region 4 hosted the bi-annual Region 4 and 6 Group Officer Seminar at Pichi Richi Park in Quorn in July, 2018.

The weekend was a success. Group Officers (GO) and Deputy Group Officers (DGO) from most groups across the regions were represented.

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, along with Directors Daniel Austin and Georgie Cornish also spent the weekend providing a great opportunity for our GOs and DGOs to understand some of the work being undertaken by the Directorates and to ask questions.

It was great to have the forum to discuss some of the important areas influencing our business, including succession planning and the future of groups and brigades and how this should look into the future.

All enjoyed a fantastic roast dinner prepared in house by regional staff, following the meal a quiz was conducted, which was very entertaining, followed by glass of wine sitting around the campfire.

6: NEW COMMUNICATION METHODS

by Ali Martin

Region 4 have implemented some new ways to communicate with their members.

Every month, Regional Commander Sindy McCourt gets in front of the video camera to give members an update, or shine light on an issue she wants to bring to their attention.

The video link is then emailed to members and placed on the SA Country Fire Service Region 4 closed Facebook Group.

Also emailed is a more detailed newsletter, featuring updates on processes, volunteer profiles, important dates and appliance deliveries.

"It's a good chance for us to discuss what we need our Region 4 volunteers to know," Sindy said.

"In the March newsletter and video, we spoke about the expected culture within CFS, using the CFS insignia, and looking at four of the eight points of the star.

"We started the newsletter last year and we've had a lot of great reactions to the communications, so it's something we'll continue."



4: CFS staff visit Innaminka

4: OUTBACK TRIP

by Simone McDonnell

The CFS has always had a strong connection across the Outback areas of South Australia, with many communities relying on us as the first, and in some cases only, local emergency service. With 17 brigades scattered across 60 per cent of the state, the organisation supports some of the most remote and isolated communities in the world.

In March of this year, Phil McDonough and Andrew Pattern from Preparedness Operations, along with Quinton Kessner and Peter Ikonomopoulos from Region 4, visited 11 centres covering almost 2,000 kilometres in one week, with a further trip to meet communities in the main Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) communities a week later.

While spending time travelling between communities may have been exhausting, the group found the trip invaluable, building stronger connections and getting a better understanding of the unique challenges that the communities face. Over the course of the three weeks the group were also able to calculate and study the risks associated with the terrain, and categorize areas within communities that could be considered as Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges. This will assist these remote communities in bushfire events as they have identified areas where they can move to knowing it is safer than other areas.

One of the major issues that has been identified by communities on the APY Lands is the invasion of buffel grass, which is changing the fire dynamic. Over the last 18 months, they have experienced five fires that have each burnt over 100,000 ha, putting some communities under threat. Over this time, CFS has sent four different strikes teams to provide assistance to local crews.

The CFS has been able to work with key stakeholders such as Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC) and the APY council by providing advice in maintaining and extending fire breaks, as well as assisting brigades with undertaking of hazard reduction around each community.



1: Chelsea addressing His Excellency the Governor at Government House, Canberra



REGIONS ROUNDUP

Region 5

2: The completed Keith CFS mural facing the Dukes Highway

1: CHELSEA ON NATIONAL STAGE

by Simone McDonnell

Naracoorte-based CFS Cadet Chelsea Meulders was recently flown to Canberra as one of 36 young people from across Australia to participate in the 2019 Heywire Summit.

The 17-year-old student was tasked with writing an article for the competition as a school project last year. She chose to explore her position as the only female cadet in her brigade.

“The CFS has been a big part of my life. It’s something I do every fortnight. It’s a big part of me, and I love it,” she said.

Heywire is an annual competition, facilitated by the ABC, with an aim to encourage young people across Australia to tell their stories and share their experiences of growing up in regional and remote parts of the country.

Chelsea was chosen from the group to give a speech at Government House in front of the Governor General of Australia, Sir Peter Cosgrove.

“It was nerve-racking but great. He told me about his experience with the Defence Force, and we talked about the importance of volunteer firefighting units across regional Australia.”

Chelsea relishes her time with the CFS and said it has inspired her to consider a career in the Emergency Services, with the Year 12 St Martin’s College Student aspiring to study Paramedic Science at Flinders University.

As for the crux of her Heywire submission- “I’m the only female fire service cadet in my town”-Chelsea suggested a way to get more young women involved in the CFS would be to have better promotion specifically targeted for women, and that on the flipside, there also needs to be a greater willingness of women to sign up.

“I think in general, if more people knew how good it is to be involved, a lot more people would sign up.

“Our current members need to keep an open mind and support our cadets and new people coming through. There also needs to be mutual respect though. We have a lot to offer, but there’s also a lot we can learn from the older members of the brigades”.

2: KEITH MURAL UNVEILED

by Simone McDonnell

The Keith Brigade has added some colour to their township with a mural depicting CFS volunteers attending a fire.

Inspired by public art in other regional communities, the idea was first raised in a meeting 18 months ago, with the brigade engaging local artist Julia Davis.

The mural faces directly onto the Dukes Highway, and local Captain Jason Wayman hopes its presence will encourage travellers to take a break in Keith.

“We at the Keith Brigade just wanted to give back to the community. The project has made a boring wall look great and will hopefully bring more people into our township,” he said.

The mural was funded in part by a generous donation from Master Butchers Limited, in recognition of the local Brigade’s efforts in saving the business during the Sherwood fire in January 2018. The donation has also helped the station.

Wayman said the team is incredibly proud of the end result.

“The wall has turned out better than we have ever dreamed of. We had a local painter prep the wall, and then Julia started painting.

“As it was progressing, interest around the town grew. It’s a really striking image. We’re incredibly proud!”

“I’m the only female fire service cadet in my town”

By Chelsea Meulders

The pager goes off and you roll out of bed into a wall of flames, or onto the scene of a fatal accident. Smoke blacker than night surrounds you until you can’t see where you are, dragging a hose that weighs a tonne, or operating heavy machinery to cut a friend out of a wreck.

These are common occurrences for Country Fire Services (CFS) volunteers, so why would a 12-year-old want to join up?

Something about it caught my imagination and one weekend when they were signing up cadets, I joined. That interest was intensified when the neighbour’s house burned down. I remember coming outside to a wall of flames, adrenaline pumping.

I grabbed the phone and called triple zero. Although I was frightened, I couldn’t help but think “this could be me one day”.

I’ve been a CFS cadet for four years now, and I love every minute. While I can’t volunteer at an emergency until I’m 18, being able to experience the training and situations firefighters have to attend has been amazing.

This year I was voted by my peers to be the cadet lieutenant, or the ‘second-in-command’ and completed my Basic Firefighting 1 training. This is a particularly satisfying achievement as the only female cadet in our team. In the past, volunteering with the CFS was ‘women in the kitchen, men on the field’.

While this is definitely changing, I’ve been the only girl in the cadets for two years and I long to see more girls joining in on the action.

I’d like to see more women as role models for girls wanting to volunteer. It’s an empowering job.

There is a lot women can offer the CFS and a lot we can get out of it.

Cadets isn’t just for boys — an amazing opportunity like this should be something that everyone is racing for!



Photo: Blue Razoo photography

3: MEN’S SHED SOLUTION

After receiving new road crash rescue equipment, Penola CFS were struggling to find a way to appropriately store it on the truck. Fortunately, the Penola Men’s Shed stepped in and came up with a solution to fit the new equipment into one of the lockers. They fashioned holders for the equipment so it’s easy to reach, when attending an incident.



3: Penola Men’s Shed solution

REGIONS ROUNDUP

Region 6



1: Region 6 Captains Seminar

Photo: Region 6 Facebook

1: CAPTAINS DAY

Region 6 held a Grass Roots Captains Seminar held at the Port Lincoln Hotel in August.

The 28 Captains gathered to discuss the topics that effect their Brigades.

The day was facilitated by Greg Napier (Lincoln Captain), who initiated and prompted a very animated, healthy discussion that involved every Captain into discussion on matters that affect them the most.

It is hoped the event will foster Captains that want to make a change, make a difference and most certainly do it for their local communities.

2: TUNARAMA SUCCESS



2: Congratulations to Lincoln CFS who took out the coveted Tunarama Tug of War this year. Taking on the Lincoln SES and Lincoln MFS, the team showed their strength during the annual showdown.



Photo: Region 6 Facebook

3: 60 YEARS SERVICE



3: Rex Crosby (50 year's service), Adrian Masters (60), Rex Kobelt (60) and Gavin Masters (40) with Emergency Services Minister Corey Wingard.

The Eastern Eyre Peninsula's longest serving firefighters Adrian Masters and Rex Kobelt were thanked for their service earlier this year.

Mr Masters was the inaugural secretary of the Wharminda brigade, while Mr Kobelt was a member of the Darke Peak brigade when it started.

A dinner to celebrate the long service included fellow volunteers and Emergency Services Minister Corey Wingard.

Both Mr Masters and Mr Kobelt told stories of their active days in the brigades. Also recognised on the night were Rex Crosby of the Rudall brigade for 50 years service and Gavin Masters of Wharminda for 40 years of service. Unfortunately Peter Prime (Wharminda) and Kelvin Hebbberman (Darke Peak) were absent for the presentation of their 40 year medals.

Both brigades were started in the 1950s when cropping programs raised funds for equipment. As soil fertilisation increased, so did fire risk on the Eyre Peninsula.



Incidents

4: CFS crews from APY Lands brigades and a Region 4 strike team protected the Umuwa community.

4: UMUWA COMMUNITY SAVED FROM FIRE

by Ali Martin

Brigade members from Ernabella and Mimili in the APY Lands, along with a Region 4 Strike Team, managed to protect the Umuwa community from a large fire in August.

The Mount Woodroffe fire was burning in inaccessible terrain for about a week before strong winds pushed it towards the community.

Thankfully preparation work from CFS volunteers, the Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC) and community members protected the township from impact.



4: APY Lands Strike Team.

“Grader breaks constructed in the lead up to Friday protected the town when the fire approached,” Acting Region 4 Commander Ann Letcher said.

“This work shows how important preparation and breaks around communities in this area are.

“Without the combined work of CFS, local services, and the community this fire may have devastated the community.”

The fire was contained after burning through 160,000 hectares.

5: SPATE OF FIRES CONTINUE IN NANGWARRY

by Ali Martin

Since May 2015, 10 structures have been destroyed in the small South East town of Nangwarry. Local CFS brigades have attended all of them.

On January 9, 2019, the Nangwarry Saints Football Club was destroyed by arson, causing \$500,000 loss.

CFS volunteers found the club ablaze at about 11.30pm and were unable to save the building. However, the 30 firefighters did contain the fire to one structure and save the nearby dressing rooms.

In addition, a number of unattended houses and sheds were destroyed in other incidents. A variety of causes were determined, including suspicious, electrical faults, undetermined and undetermined but not suspicious.

At the time Police said the community was “rightfully concerned” about the spate of fires and appealed to the public for more information to find the arsonist.

6: CFS LEVEL 3 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT UNIFORM

by Tegan Foster



6: IMTs going to Tasmania wore the field uniform

In recent years, CFS Level 3 Incident Management Teams (IMT) have been issued with grey Incident Management polo shirts, whilst these have allowed for some consistency in uniform there was a need to change.

The roll out of the new CFS uniform, combined with the common occurrence of our personnel deploying in the field uniform, the decision was made for CFS L3 Incident Management Team personnel to wear the CFS Field Uniform, with other agency personnel wearing a standard agency specific pant and shirt.

For CFS L3IMT personnel the new uniform will provide better protection, comfort and durability to all our members. The field uniform has a modern comfortable design and provides greater functionality for in the field, office and deployments and it has both male and female styles.

Level 3 IMT members have started to receive field uniform over the past few months due to multiple interstate and international deployments and we expect all Level 3 IMT members to have field uniform before the end of June.

We have received great feedback when interstate and internationally regarding our uniform and how professional, well-presented and easily recognised our teams have looked for each deployment.

Incidents

1: Fire tore through the country side of KI during the Gosse fire

1: GOSSE BUSHFIRE

by Brett Williamson

At 1:23pm on December 6, 2018, CFS crews were first alerted to a sighting of smoke in the Gosse area.

The fire would burn through almost 2,000 hectares on Kangaroo Island and provide many challenges for all involved.

At the height of the fire 100 CFS firefighters, 22 DEW firefighters and several local farm firefighting units traversed the fire ground.

Air support dropped 110 loads of foam and retardant to try to contain the 30.9 kilometre fire perimeter.

Reinforcements from the mainland were ferried across late Thursday afternoon, with around 19 brigades sending trucks and firefighters to bolster numbers on the island, and IMT members also flew in to help manage the escalating incident.

By 6:23pm Sunday evening the main part of the fire was listed as contained, with a two hectare duff burn controlled by the following morning.

To the credit of the local teams, only one building was listed having received minor flame damage.

The fire consumed 441 hectares of private land, 690 hectares of forest, 18 Department for Environment and Water (DEW) hectares and 44 hectares of undefined land.

The cause was not suspicious.

2: BOCONNOC PARK FIRE

by Brett Williamson

At 12:34 on April 16 2019, local crews were called to a rekindled burn-off near Blyth Road at Boconnoc Park, southeast of Clare in the Mid North.

A burn from the day before had managed to spark into a nearby compost pile, which quickly spread into nearby grass and crept into hills.

Within an hour, the fire had risen to an Alarm Level 3 response, a Level 2 Incident Management Team and strike teams had been deployed, a Watch and Act message had been issued and several roads in the area had been closed.

In almost identical conditions to the Emu Flat fire, which burned through parts of the same area in February 2018, the Boconnoc Park fire quickly spread through the challenging terrain and differing fuel loads in the area.

Crews dealt with terrain varying from sand to gullies, an open mine shaft and weakened trees that were dropping large limbs.

By 8:15pm, the fire had burned more than 223 hectares and was divided into two sectors.

Strike teams from Department for Environment and Water (DEW), Region 1, 2 and 4 were formed overnight and, with the help of heavy machinery operators, mopped up and created mineral earth breaks across the large fire ground the following day.

Crews were kept busy during the following 24 hours, with difficult terrain to traverse and small rekindling and candling trees popping up throughout the site.

At 4:23pm on Wednesday the fire was deemed contained.

Crews remained on the fireground, including strike teams from Region 3, for several days with most standing down after Fire Danger Index (FDI) dropped late Saturday afternoon.

Several homes were saved by the quick response of local Farm Firefighting Units (FFUs) and volunteers, with air support registering 40 drops through the area.

The only losses recorded from the fire was damage to parts of two vineyards and a row of hay bales.



2: Boconnoc Park Fire

Photo: Gary MacRae

3: THE PARACOMBE/BLACK HILL CP FIRE

by Brett Williamson



3: Crews were faced with tough terrain at Black Hill CP

Crews were challenged by steep ridges and mainly inaccessible countryside when they first arrived at the Paracombe bushfire.

The fire was first called in at 2:19am, 17 April 2019, with the caller unable to give an exact location of a 'very large fire' that was seen by the side of the road. Less than seven minutes after they received their pages, Athelstone's BW6 and Pumper were headed to the Gorge Road site and were greeted with a fire that had burned well into the Black Hill Conservation Park.

The job was quickly escalated to an Alarm Level 3, with additional CFS and DEW crews called in to try to access the fire in steep and uneven terrain.

Vast lengths of hose was laid and backpacks donned as crews largely went in on foot to tackle the fire.

By 6am, there were 13 fire trucks and crews on site with additional strike teams being filled, as the challenges to access the fireground became apparent.

Aircrews were activated just after first light, with observational planes overhead by 7:55am, and fire bombers beginning the first of what would total 76 drops for the day shortly after.

A forecast wind change at 11am pushed crews to shore up the flanks of the fire, and to the credit of all involved only a small amount of flare ups were seen and were quickly extinguished by ground crews with the aid of air support.

Crews continued to mop up and monitor the 52 hectare fireground, with more than 40 firefighters remaining onsite overnight.

Region 3 strike teams and SES volunteers supported efforts for the second day, with firefighters monitoring the area well into the Easter long weekend.

SA Police fire investigators determined the cause of the fire as accidental and it had originated near a make-shift campsite.



Photo: Brett Williamson

3: Crews mopping up at the Mount Compass fire in February.

3: OLD PINE BURNS FOR DAYS

At 10am on February 3, 2019 a fire started on the side of the Victor Harbor Road at Mount Compass.

The fire burned scrub and grass in a southerly direction, with a wind change expected to push it to the township of Yundi.

Six fixed wing bombers, 24 tankers and seven bulk water carriers attacked the blaze in Severe conditions.

By 8:45 that night, the fire was contained, having burnt 108 hectares. One hay shed and a few livestock were destroyed.

The fire was only two kilometres from the Mount Compass township and there were concerns about an old pine plantation still burning. Water levels for the Mount Compass Township were at 30 per cent so contingencies were made.

Crews continued to monitor the fire overnight and the following days, while the Eirkson Aircrane was brought in to assist with the pine plantation, dropping 16 loads to extinguish the fire in that area.

The fire was controlled on February 9 at about 9:30am.



3: Crews mopping up at the Mount Compass fire in February.

4: DATA ON HOUSE SAVES

by Ali Martin

After a bushfire the CFS Development Assessment Service gathers data on house losses in an effort to avoid such losses in the future.

Causes of house destruction may be their construction, the Asset Protection Zone around the home, or lack of intervention by firefighters. Often surveys are only conducted on house losses, rather than house saves or near misses.

The Service's Leah Bertholini said South Australia, and other states are now realising that although there is a lot of data on losses, there isn't any on houses which survive.

So when February's Mount Compass fire saw five houses saved, it was a good opportunity to assess why.

"We went out to the fireground with Region 1 Prevention Officer and two Local Government Fire Prevention Officers to collect information on why the houses survived," she said.

The Fire Danger Rating on the day the Mount Compass fire started was Severe and all of the houses had been built before current building standards came in.

"We went through logs in CRIIMSON, aircraft images, weather readings, and plots to build a timeline of the event. We were trying to establish what happened, and if an asset was reported under threat, whether crews attended the scene."

They assessed five properties where the fire came within 100 metres of the home.

Starting close to the ignition point, they looked at what was damaged, whether the fire was backing towards the home, or in the direct path of the fire and what prevention measures home owners had in place.

"After collecting data on all of these homes, we are confident in each case fire suppression from crews saved these houses."

The data collected also helped the service identify positives about the bushfire safety advice they give people.

"We often talk about how people should manage gardens. For instance, a row of trees may act as an ember break – as long as the vegetation underneath has been cleared.

"We saw evidence at a fire where a house had a row of trees to the north where the fire was coming from. The embers had been collected in the trees and fallen into the bracken underneath.

"However, it was the fire service who then extinguished the bracken, otherwise it could have impacted the home."

The Service also looked at available water supplies and how they were utilised during the event.

"Generally, power and reticulated water supplies are unreliable, either power shuts down or the header tank isn't adequate to run hoses and sprinklers.

"This data collection is a huge opportunity for us and something we want to do more of. It will not only build our knowledge on a local level but help us nationally on Building Code and prevention matters."

Incidents



1: Crews work to stabilise the diesel spill at Rocky Creek.

Photo: Phil Tapscott

1: INLAND WATERWAY LEARNING

by Ali Martin

CFS is the control agency for inland waterway incidents and in February, our skills were put to the test.

At about 1am crews were called to the scene of a single-vehicle accident approximately five kilometres South of Crystal Brook on the Augusta Highway.

A B-double truck had left the road and crashed into a nearby creek bed. The driver was injured and the highway was temporarily closed at 2:35am to air lift the man for medical treatment.

Regional Duty Officer, Phil Tapscott attended the scene and found crews hadn't treated it as a hazardous material spill in the beginning, because the leak was under the truck.



1: Crews work to stabilise the diesel spill at Rocky Creek.

Photo: Phil Tapscott

"They didn't realise the spring was running. It was lucky that the contractors who were working on the nearby bridge had marine spill equipment, so we used that and got it all dammed up," he said.

The highway was then reopened and crews remained on site for several hours to limit the spread of approximately 750L of diesel into the waterway and remove it from the prime mover.

"It was a slow process to get it cleaned up, Cleanaway came in and were the experts so they basically vacuumed up the spill.

"It was fortunate that the wind was blowing towards the bank so it didn't spread to a bigger area. It was also lucky that the plants and marine life in the water were introduced so the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) weren't concerned about effects on them.

"Another thing to work in our favour was that the reeds in the creek were a weed, and they captured the oil and diesel and helps to break it down so it was easier to clean out."

Phil said there were a number of lessons learned at the incident, including how long it would take for CFS equipment to be transported to an area to deal with such a spill – it's kept at the State Training Centre at Brukunga.

However, he said the information provided by Cleanaway was invaluable to assist with the cleanup effort.

2: LANGHORNE CREEK MULCH FIRES

by Brett Williamson

Mulch fires can quickly become an Incident Controller's biggest headache.

Fires that burn metres below the surface and continue to smoulder for days.

Fires that have an unquenchable thirst for water and foam, and usually happen in places where neither are abundant.



2: CAFS used at Langhorne Creek mulch fire by Beth Pfeiffer.

When the call came in at 3:20pm on March 23, 2019 that a fire had begun at Peats Soil and Garden Supplies near Langhorne Creek, it quickly became evident this would be another challenging event.

Trucks arrived to find remains of burning pallets and a large pile of mulch on fire.

The complexity became clear when the Alarm Level quickly rose to 3, the Belair Compressed Air and Foam System (CAFS) was responded and Strike Team requests were sent to Kyeema and East Torrens Groups.

On the surface, the fire was listed as contained by 6:37pm, but the mountainous piles of mulch would continue to smoulder for the next 24 hours.

Although the fire was less than two hectares in ground size, some of the compost piles towered at more than three metres and required heavy machinery to spread them out.

By the time the first change of crews was due, water at the incident had started to become an issue.

Bulk water carriers were tasked to the CAFS, and strike team trucks were soon making a 14 kilometre round trip to the nearest hydrant for fills.

A second round of Strike Teams were deployed, with Mawson Group arriving on site at 8:30am on Sunday morning.

The property owners began to truck water in, and two trucks from Lofty Group held the fireground from 2pm until the property was handed back at 10:38pm Sunday night.

Losses were limited to mulch stock, with the burn restricted to the various piles of mulch within the immediate area.



3: Region 3 volunteers at holding a debrief at Callington

3: DEBRIEFS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

In January 2018, Region 3 began debriefing all Level 2 rural fires and any other fire/incident of significance that occurs in the Region.

To date, this has seen seven debriefs conducted and 110 volunteers taking part in the process, with promising results.

Regional Operations Planning Officer (ROPO) Tim McNeilly said each debrief is facilitated to encourage a positive learning environment through a process of recounting the incident, capturing observations both positive and negative and most significant things the volunteers have learnt from the experience.

Throughout debriefs, the Regional staff facilitators have utilised many of the discussions to provide opportunities for development to the volunteers skills and knowledge. They have also captured instances of innovation from Groups and Brigades that can then be shared across the Region and organisation.

“Following each debrief, a debrief report is produced that outlines action items and those responsible for the action item,” Tim said.

“The report is then made available to all of the debrief participants and fed into the CFS Lessons Management System where they are then analysed and have the ability to provide influence and change where necessary.

“Region 3 is now beginning to see fantastic results from the extensive debriefing process at a tactical level where learnings are being implemented and applied regularly on the fireground.

“These learnings include great success in establishing control and developing an incident structure, sectorisation, quick and effective upgrading of incidents, a greater understanding and application of closed circuit relay pumping to maximise flow and many others.”

4: LESSONS LEARNED IS SIMPLE

by Ali Martin

Region 5's Kingsley Group is using the Lessons Learned process to influence their training and Group strategies.

Deputy Group Officer Roger Babolka is on the Lessons Management Functional Working Group and said he realised how easy some of the strategies would be to implement so went back to his Group and suggested them.

“We know people do an informal debrief as you go back to the shed about what worked, or didn't. What wasn't happening though was a way to capture that feedback,” he said.

“We implemented a process so no matter what the job we do some kind of debrief, how formal or in-depth that debrief is, that's up to the crew.

“We're not asking them to give us a full report on everything, but asking them if there are issues out there or a lack of understanding then use the templates on the Volunteer Portal and write them down.”

Roger said the information gathered gives the Group a better understanding of what crews are experiencing and what they may need to address through training.

“We instigated a couple of training sessions recently as a result of poor communication at incidents between CFS and the Victorian Country Fire Authority (CFA).

“Although we knew there were issues, we didn't understand the extent of them across the Group so now we have channels pre-programmed in the appliances and did some training at a Group level.”

“It's just getting the crews in the mindset to actually document or formalise what they know about each job. By just jotting down a couple of sentences we're able to consolidate data to see if there's something we need to address, or whether we need to take it higher to the Region or State.”

Roger hopes that within the next 12 months this process will be automatic for those brigades. But warns if others want to get involved they need to have someone to drive it.

“There has got to be some ownership at a brigade level, which is reinforced at a Group level. It should be on the agenda for all Group meetings.”

He said these lessons don't just help with training or processes, but it helps with succession planning, as new people join or enter senior ranks they can learn from those more experienced. It can also foster new ideas.

“We deal with a lot of people from diverse backgrounds, so making a process like this easy means it suits everyone. Regions are really supportive and can help with suggestions of how to implement these initiatives.

For more information about Lessons Learned, or to download the forms go to www.sacsvolunteer.org.au/site/operational/lessons_learned/virtual_debrief.jsp

learn and improve by observing prior experience

Check the answer is 'Yes' to these questions

Is it objective not just a complaint?

Is it a problem with the system not simply a mistake?

Is it a new approach to a task/process that improves efficiency or safety?

Does it adequately and correctly describe the situation?

Would you spend your time and money to change this issue/process?

make good observations

scan to link to the Lessons Learned Virtual Debrief





Operations

1: Region 2's Regional Command Centre in action.

“If a fire occurs, we’re trying to work out if the incident is going to affect lives or properties and try to issue early information to the community so they are aware of Bushfire Safer Places.”

1: WHAT HAPPENS IN THE RCC?

by Ali Martin

A Regional Command Centre (RCC) is activated on Total Fire Ban days, or if there is a significant incident within a region. Senior Media and Communications Officer Ali Martin, sat down with Region 2 Commander Brenton Hastie to get a better idea of what happens in an RCC on such a day.

“It really starts the day before, when we are aware there is significant weather coming. We put plans in place to have people available for Level 2 Incident Management Teams (IMT), which are made up of volunteers across the region.

“We chat to Group Officers about recent fires, any risks they have or crew shortages and we document those things on the boards in the RCC so we know what the risks or challenges may be if a fire starts.”

On the day of the Total Fire Ban, those in the RCC monitor radios, and again talk to Group Officers about risks – harvesting, blasting, any events in the Region or suspicious activities.

A Regional Duty Commander is present, along with a Situation Officer and Warnings Officer to support each other in the key functions if a fire starts.

Region 2's Operations Support brigade is usually brought in and they are available to help with monitoring radios, answering phones. They also help with staging, IMTs, and logistics support. Not all Regions have Operations Support Brigades who do this on Total Fire Ban days, and in other Regions they can have different roles. These volunteers work very hard behind the scenes and are invaluable to a operationally very busy Region like Region 2

“If a fire occurs, we’re trying to work out if the incident is going to affect lives or properties and try to issue early information to the community so they are aware of Bushfire Safer Places.

“We look at what the fire is doing, where it’s going and what the impacts might be. State helps with predictions and we look at what critical infrastructure might be affected so they can inform the State Emergency Centre (SEC).

“From the volunteers, we are interested in any information that makes up a SitRep. It is those elements that allow us to validate information.

“We can also see if the Incident Controller is meeting their requirements. If they are struggling, we’ll look to find a senior volunteer or staff member to attend to provide further support.

“We’re not fussed about individual trucks, but about the big picture. What does the Region need to do to help you get the job done on the fireground?

If the Region has multiple fires, they can put up bids to State for strike teams, aircraft, Level 3 Incident Management Teams and get resources behind the scenes to support firefighters.

The Regional Duty Commander will liaise with other agencies including SAPOL, Health, Ambulance, Education etc so all parties are aware of what’s going on with the fire.

Even when there’s not an incident in the Region, the RCC can be quite busy. They manage rostering for strike teams and deployments outside the Region or even nationally.

If the RCC isn’t open, support can still be gained via the Regional Duty Officer who is available 24/7 by phone or pager.

2: FIRE DANGER SEASON EXTENDED AGAIN IN 2019

by Brett Williamson



2: Chief Officer Greg Nettleton announces Fire Season Extension

A warmer and drier than average spring and summer saw the extension of several Fire Danger Seasons again this year.

In the 2017-18 Fire Danger Season, the Lower Eyre Peninsula was extended by three weeks and Mount Lofty Ranges by two weeks, but in 2018-19 we saw districts extended by as much as four weeks (at the beginning and end of the season).

“The Fire Ban Districts that we have each have a Bushfire Management Committee, made up of local community members. CFS staff, local volunteers and local government and each of those Bushfire Management Committees provides advice to me on whether a Fire Danger Season should be declared and when it closes,” Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton said.

“The Bushfire Management Committees advised that nine of the districts needed to be extended.”

Adelaide Metropolitan and the Mount Lofty Ranges had their season brought forward by two weeks and then extended by another two weeks.

Eastern Eyre, Lower Eyre, Murraylands, Riverland, Upper South East, West Coast and Yorke Peninsula were all extended by two weeks, with Kangaroo Island, Flinders, Lower South East, Mid North, North East Pastoral and North West Pastoral finishing on their scheduled dates.

“In reaching the decision to extend the Fire Danger Season this year, we had also been in consultation with our colleagues in Victoria at the Country Fire Authority and they indicated they would be extending their Fire Danger Season in a number of their districts.”

While announcing the extensions to the districts, the Chief pointed to the Soil Moisture Index for the Mount Crawford site, which sat at a deficit of 180mm until soil saturation would be achieved.

“Although the number of Total Fire Bans has been less than in previous years, it has actually been quite a busy year for CFS and in the last few months we have had three international missions and have been continuously providing resources to Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria.

“Whilst we haven’t had a lot of big fires in South Australia, we’ve had a lot of work providing resources to our neighbouring states.”

He said while we continue to see the effects of climate change altering rainfall and temperatures, we could continue to expect to see extended Fire Danger Seasons.

“Knowing the Situation, Impacts, Tactics and Resources on a fireground means both RCCs and the SCC can get a better picture of what is happening on a fireground.”



Intel Officer Andrew Banner in the State Intelligence Cell.

3: INSIGHT INTO INTEL

by Ali Martin

Incorporating Intelligence, Planning, Mapping Support, Fire Behaviour Analysts and an embedded meteorologist from the Bureau of Meteorology, the State Intelligence, or Intel Cell, is adjacent to the State Command Centre and is a hub of activity on Total Fire Ban days. CFS's Ali Martin sat down with State Intelligence Officer Andrew Banner to find out what happens in the Intel Cell, and how volunteer information assists at a strategic, state level to ultimately help at the Operational and Tactical command levels.

“The forecast risk rating will dictate how many people are stationed in the Intel Cell on a Total Fire Ban day,” Deputy Commander Banner said. “In the absence of some of the roles, Intel and Planning Officers will pick up the other roles on a lesser scale.”

“State Intelligence and Planning Officers undertake a number of courses including Fire Weather, Situation Officer and the Incident Management Development Program to a name a few, in order to undertake our roles.”

“Prior to being in the CFS, I was an Intelligence Analyst in the military. While there are obvious differences from that job to being a CFS State Intelligence Officer, the processes in order to turn raw information into useful intelligence in a fire service context are similar.

“It certainly helps that I started my time with the CFS as a volunteer with my local brigade at Roseworthy and have fireground experience myself.”

“Intelligence products produced by the State Intel Cell are used to assist in decision making at the Strategic State level, being fed to the State Duty Commander and Deputy State Controller Fire/HAZMAT, while also being fed to Regions and Incident Management Teams in order to support crews on the ground fighting the fire.”

Information they receive is gained through various sources, it may be CRIIMSON log entries, information from Air Observers or Air Attack Supervisors, along with the media, social media and our Bushfire Information Line operators.

“By taking information from multiple sources, we start to see the bigger picture.”

“The difference between the Regional Command Centre (RCC) and the State Command Centre (SCC) is that while a region looks after what is happening in their region, we have an overview of what is happening throughout the state.

“The SCC maintains strategic oversight of operations and is the point of liaison between the State Emergency Centre and other government and non-government agencies as required.”

On a Total Fire Ban day, every time a fire starts across the state the Intel Officer will do a quick prediction of where it is going and what it may impact, and we are required to provide that information to RCC's to assist in the formulation of public warning messages.

At the same time our Fire Behaviour Analysts commence more in-depth predictions projecting out for a number of hours and identify any further threats to the community. Once an RCC issues a warning message we then validate the warning messages issued by the RCC using information from our analysts, aircrew, meteorologists and reports from the fireground.

“One of the reasons we validate warning messages produced at an RCC level against our predictions at State level, is that whilst our meteorologist might tell us what the predicted weather is, there may be different weather reported from the fireground, or from the aircraft that the RCC is not aware of, so we take that into account and adjust.

“Ultimately it is about ensuring timely and correct public messaging and warning messages are issued to the community. This intelligence is then fed, where

appropriate, to RCC's and Incident Management Teams and disseminated to Incident Controllers.”

While information from volunteers is usually captured at a Regional Level, Andrew said good SITREPS from crews on the ground mean better ability for the Intel Cell and the RCC to validate conditions and provide and prioritise resources where needed.

“Knowing the Situation, Impacts, Tactics and Resources on a fireground means both RCCs and the SCC can get a better picture of what is happening on a fireground. While the SCC doesn't directly control resources on the ground during an incident, we are there to assist the RCC if required and ultimately assist crews with the control of an operation.

“Firefighters are the RCCs and SCCs eyes on the ground, so if for instance crews see a pyro-cumulous cloud forming over a fireground, or experience un-forecast conditions, it's so important for them to push that up the Chain of Command through their Incident Controller, so that we can then make plans at RCCs and the SCC for resourcing from other regions and agencies to assist.

“All of this information helps us inform the community of where a danger is. It means they will be much safer and hopefully be able to leave before they are threatened.”

4: ALERT SYSTEM SAVES DAY

by Ali Martin

The CFS Alerts Telebridge System is a way for Adelaide Fire to contact brigades. It's used as a back up to SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) and paging, as well as when a message needs to get to senior brigade members, and when using the Government Radio Network (GRN) is inappropriate.

The system is also used when there are burn-offs outside of the Fire Danger Season.

“Operators at Adelaide Fire will ring Captains, or a brigade to confirm if they are aware of a planned burn-off. That way it saves a response which may not be necessary,” said State Operations Officer Gary Bau.

It also means sensitive information can be passed on after the pager message and not broadcast over the paging and GRN, which is visible to everyone.

“The Alerts system is fully redundant and it's up time is extremely good, very resilient and a really good back up.

“It fits in with CFS philosophy, never rely on just one source for information.”

Recently a spamming issue was disrupting members, with their systems dialling random numbers linked to phone numbers entered in the alerts system. CFS State Operations Officer Gary Bau said a call to the contractor now means there is a pin number necessary to make a call so it blocks out potential spammers.

It also stops people ringing those numbers accidentally.

“We have 6,000 members on the alerts phone, both volunteers and staff.

“It requires quite a bit of maintenance and usually has entered about six to a dozen members from brigades around the state.

“Alerts has proved to be a really good back up for when we have outages. Some of them can be quite lengthy, up to eight hours, so it means we can respond brigades in the meantime.

“For instance, with some paging issues experienced lately, brigades aren't always responding to their pager messages, so Adelaide Fire operators will ring alerts to get the call.”



Operations

1: CFS State Duty Commanders Daniel Austin, Yvette Dowling, Brett Loughlin and Nik Stanley (front).

“The really rewarding part of it is that you have a state overview of all of the great work being done, where as in a Region, you can sometimes just focus on what is happening there”

1: MEET YOUR SDCs

by Ali Martin

CFS State Duty Commanders, or SDCs, this Fire Danger Season were Daniel Austin, Nik Stanley, Yvette Dowling and Brett Loughlin.

They head up four teams, which rotate through the State Command Centre (SCC) every week, with a night shift option for Orange or Red Levels of Preparedness.

The SDC is responsible for the effective and efficient coordination of the State's response to incidents. They also authorise and disseminate information about Total Fire Bans, in consultation with Bureau of Meteorology.

“The role is challenging and rewarding, there's never really a dull moment, and it can be complex,” said Nik.

“It's can be difficult to balance your day-to-day role with the operational one at times.”

“Everyone has worked in a region, which is good, because we have an understanding of how that works,” said Yvette. “Two SDCs have also worked in interstate agencies which brings another dimension.”

“One of the good parts of the job is that you can provide a level of experience to the regions. Sometimes a question from us can prompt a slightly different way of thinking,” said Daniel.

“The really rewarding part is that you have a state overview of all of the great work being done, where as in a Region, you can sometimes just focus on what is happening there,” Brett said.

SDCs also work closely with other agencies like Department for Environment and Water (DEW), SAPOL, SES, MFS and the State Emergency Interagency Call Capability Centre (SEICCC), who take over answering the Bushfire Information Hotline if the volunteers are overrun.

“On those bigger days it's about being able to provide information up the Chain of Command to other agencies, Ministers and the media so everyone is kept up to date with the developing situation,” Daniel said.

“Part of that is managing expectation with the public and politicians that there won't be a truck at every house, or aircraft at every fire,” said Nik.

“To be honest, this year although we haven't had a lot of physical fires, we've been going round the clock organising interstate deployments to Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria as all of those are managed through the SCC as well,” said Daniel.

They said traditionally there's been a clear training period, then the operational period throughout the year, but this has blended. In some cases winter is busier than the summer period, despite trying to recover from the season.

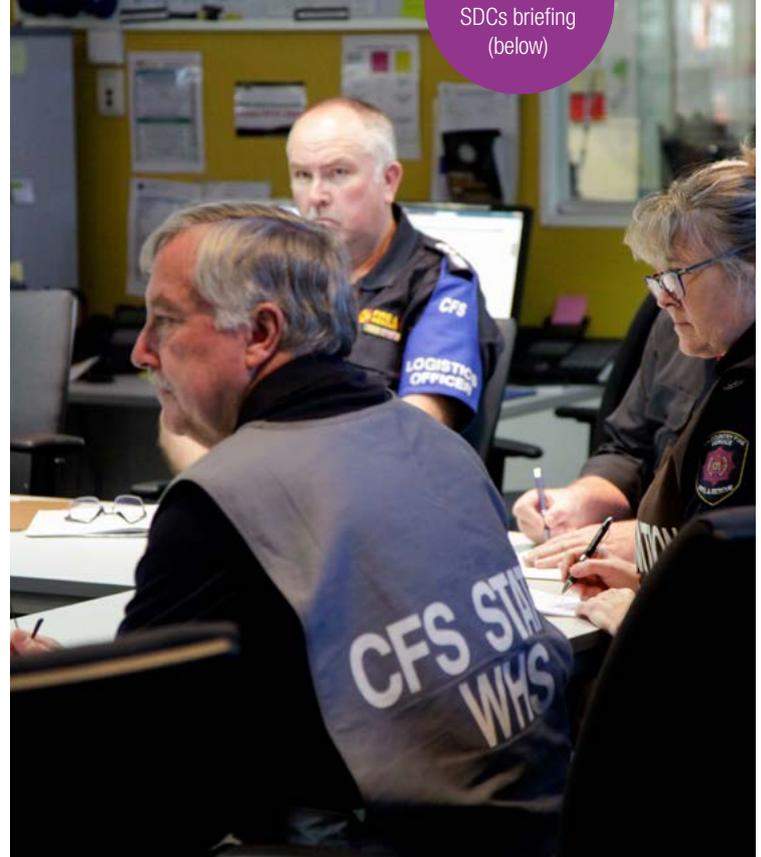
“Because we are busier, there's a greater movement of personnel around the state. In the past we may send someone from one region to another once a season, now it's constant to provide coverage,” said Nik.

“This means staff are exposed to other regions and areas they're not usually used to, which is a really good thing.”

Over the winter period Daniel, will step solely into the Deputy State Controller Fire/ HAZMAT role and Sam Quigley will be an SDC.



1: RCC briefing (above)
SDCs briefing (below)





1: DEW RAFT crews working with remote area teams from New Zealand, ACT, NSW and Tasmania

Deployments

Photo: Aaron Macumber

1: REMOTE AREA FIRE AND INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAMS IN TASMANIA

by Ali Martin

It was a terrible season for bushfires in Tasmania with multiple large fires burning out of control for months over summer. As part of the interstate assistance provided from South Australia, CFS and Department for Environment and Water (DEW) provided Incident Management Teams on rotation for almost two months. This enabled them to give much needed assistance to the local Tasmanians. In addition, DEW provided 70 Remote Area Fire Team (RAFT) crews from the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) were sent over to support local firefighters in 10 rotations across eight weeks.

The main priority for DEW RAFT crews was to work in remote locations to protect sensitive wilderness areas and infrastructure. Some teams were dropped by helicopter each day with their tools, while others worked from vehicles and walked significant distances to access the fires.

All of these crews met stringent health and fitness guidelines, had specialised training, skills and equipment to undertake the RAFT roles.

Fire Management Operations Manager, Sam Sanderson said the RAFT crews were working in inaccessible terrain which is hard, physical work, but they impressed the Tasmanian Incident Controllers with their capabilities and enthusiasm.

“This deployment was a great use and development of the specialist skills that these DEW firefighters have been trained with,” Sam said.

“Using hand tools, pumps and hoses to cover distances are important skills for fire crews working in our National Parks to protect environmental and built assets, and the taller trees, steeper hills and added remoteness in Tasmania’s parks added an extra challenge for our crews” he said.

The fires in Tasmania burnt more than 200,000 hectares, which is more than three per cent of the state, destroyed homes and infrastructure, as well as damaging environmental assets such as large old growth trees.

Four rangers were also sent to provide support managing National Parks while so many Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife staff were busy dealing with the fires.

The cool conditions and autumn rain put out the surface fires, but Tasmania will need significant rainfall to extinguish fires smouldering in deep peat.



1: DEW RAFT crews carrying hoses and pumps into rainforest areas to pump water from creeks and fight fires upslope

Photo: Leith Barker



1: Crews finding hotspots in remote rainforest

Photo: Tim Earl



1: Crews being dropped into remote locations via helicopter

Photo: Tony Pratt

GAMBRIER AIRPORT

Deployments



1: South East volunteers on their way to Victoria.

Photo: Wayne Richardson

1: VOLUNTEERS ASSIST VICTORIA

by Ali Martin

In late February 2019, Victoria experienced dangerous fire weather, with lightning strikes causing a number of fires across the State.

On Sunday, March 3, Emergency Management Victoria requested firefighters from SA and drivers with tankers to be deployed to assist their crews.

At 9am the following morning, 15 CFS 34Ps left Tailem Bend to help. On their way to Melbourne, they assisted by extinguishing some small fires on the road sides.

The following day 68 firefighters flew out of Adelaide to join them for a five day work stint.

A few days later the second deployment of 51 CFS and 10 MFS firefighters, along with SA Ambulance officers and CFS staff also offered their help.

All feedback from Victoria was positive, indicating SA crews were tremendous in their assistance to contain multiple fires still impacting the community.

The final deployment left more than a week after the first. Including CFS volunteers, MFS firefighters, SA Ambulance and a mechanic to provide support to the SA vehicles.

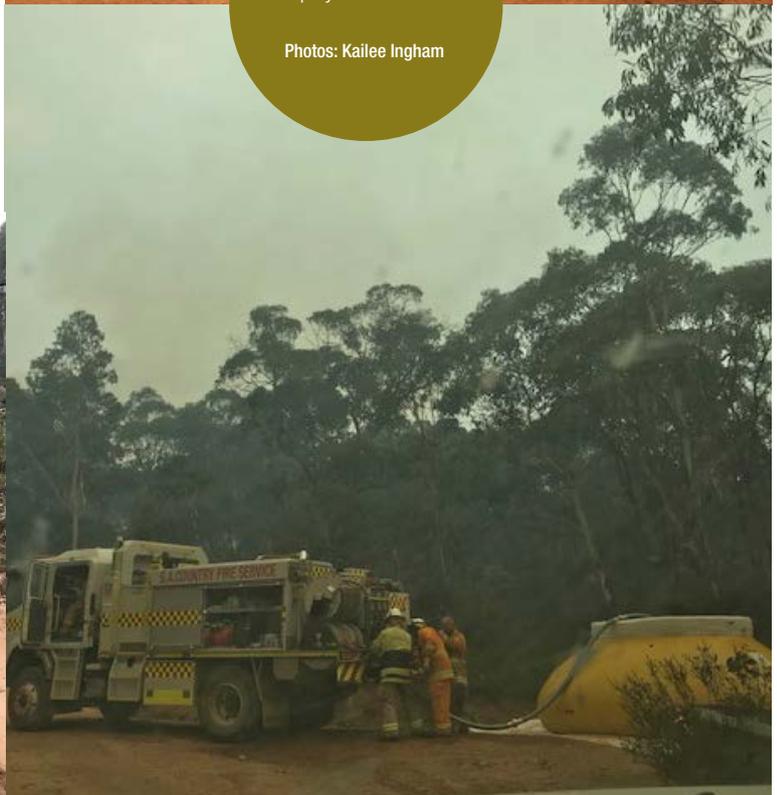
Again as the tankers made their way back home, they helped Melbourne Fire Brigades extinguish a couple of fires. Much to the amusement of the local fires, they turned out to the small job and found 15 tankers, three command cars and a mechanic van at the scene.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their time to assist interstate colleagues. It is a sacrifice from not only those attending but also the families and employers.



1: CFS crews working whilst deployed to Victoria.

Photos: Kailee Ingham





2: Phil, Dyson and DEWs Ross Anderson at the National Interagency Fire Centre

2: INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENTS TO US AND CANADA

by Ali Martin

In August 2018 CFS received a request to assist with major bushfires in California in the United States. More than 6800 fires burned 614,000 ha causing almost \$3billion damage with \$1.6billion in firefighting costs.

Region 6's Dyson Taverner and Region 4's Phil Tapscott represented CFS for a 42 day deployment.

An Incident Management Team was later sent to British Columbia in Canada to assist with their fire season.

Dyson Taverner

Dyson fought on the Carr fire for his first deployment. It was impacting the town of Redding in Northern California.

"A lot of people were disorientated and a lot of firefighters fatigued, so it was really important to have us helping in those overhead positions," he said.

Dyson served as Heavy Equipment boss and when he arrived they had a span of control about 18 to 1.

"They had no idea where machinery was or what their objectives were and if they were carrying them out."

After a quick briefing, Dyson got to work to dial the heavy equipment crews into a communications plan and ensure they knew the strategies, tactics and objectives. He was moved from division to division to get everyone on the same page, a tough job when he was the only Australian on that fire.

After two days rest, he was moved to the Hirz fire, which was only seven per cent contained at the time, and located in a politically sensitive area.

"As the fire progressed I had to pack up all of my belongings which was a tent etc and go out for the day working and then be directed to a new camp. That was probably the most challenging day, to set up and get dialled into a whole new area with no Australians or New Zealanders there either.

"You have to network pretty hard and stay focussed otherwise you can soon get off task.

He said his time in Northern California was eye opening, especially looking at how Cal Fire run their business with Forestry.

"People probably have in their imagination that it's a bit of glory but it's definitely a hard slog mentally, and physically challenging. It's a luxury in Australia.

If people are interested in an international deployment, Dyson said you must be ready for the challenge, have experience in large landscape fires and be able to adapt to fighting fires in a different way.

"The fuel loading is extreme, and it's such a hazardous environment in which to work that you really need your situational awareness."

Phil Tapscott

Phil was sent to the Mendocino Fire Complex for his whole deployment, working in different sectors as a Task Force Leader.

"I was looking after crews on the ground as well as some contract equipment, as in water tankers (tenders they call them) chippers and second time around I was looking after dozers and heavy equipment mainly crews on the ground," he said.

"It was challenging at times. For them it's a business so although they have contingency lines they don't do much direct firefighting.

"It's mainly dry land firefighting with hand tools, they use very little water. They don't take their appliance to the job, they park their appliance and walk to the job. And they run a lot of hoses, I've never seen so much hose run in my life!"

However, he said the crews work extremely hard and sleep in rough conditions, with only a thin piece of foam in a tent for 14 days.



2: The fire at Dease Lake in British Columbia, where the Australian IMT was based.

"I've never seen anyone work as hard as they do, in fact I struggled to keep up." Food in camp during the first 14 days was restaurant quality.

"I thought they had a basecamp set up really well. I encountered a couple of bears but from a distance, and I didn't have too much other trouble with wildlife."

As for the difference in firefighting techniques and how South Australia fares – "We can take heart that what we're doing here is pretty right," Phil said.

The second international deployment CFS was involved in was shortly after Phil and Dyson travelled to the United States. After assisting British Columbia in Canada last year, CFS once again sent Incident Management Specialists to assist in what is now the worst fire season in British Columbian history. Almost 1.3million hectares burnt from more than 2,100 fires.

Amy Riebe

Deployed in an Australian IMT was Public Information Officer, Amy Riebe, DEW's Sam Sanderson as Ignition Specialist and One Forty One Plantations Justin Cook (Planning).

Amy, Sam and Justin were based in British Columbia's North West Fire Centre at Dease Lake, a three day drive from the capital Vancouver.

As Public Information Officer Amy attended Community meetings held every night, and some during the day, to inform the local Tahltan First Nations Band of the fire status.

"The First Nations community was impacted and many had been evacuated so we were running meetings in the three towns, while also doing website and Facebook updates.

With several fires in their complex, the team had some big challenges. Connectivity was non-existent, apart from wi-fi in their offices, so Amy relied on a scratchy land line to answer questions from the community.

"It is a very strong community, very similar when dealing with APY Lands communities as local government wasn't responsible for land, the Tahltan Band was."

Some houses were lost.

The IMT used members of the Tahltan Band to work on heavy equipment and the Works Manager would come to the nightly IMT briefing to discuss work on the ground.

Amy said this was a good take away lesson to use here, especially as the workers knew the cultural heritage areas needing protection.

Another important lesson was that Recovery started quickly after the fire went through. Although BC Wildfire weren't directly involved, the roads were quickly repaired and the power restored.

"One thing people wouldn't necessarily think about is the need for the locals to have a freezer on. They catch salmon during their run and that lasts them throughout winter – with no freezer that would have lasting impacts so restoring and maintaining power was one of the most important things."

Deployments

1: Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with Manuia Marenaitu, Super Intendent, Police Operations of Tarawa and Matt Davis when he visited State HQ.

1: KIRIBATI ASSISTANCE CONTINUES

by Ali Martin

Last year CFS delivered Basic Firefighter 1 (BF1) and Defensive Fire Suppression training to 25 people on Tarawa – the main island of Kiribati.

They also delivered personal protective clothing, equipment and a 24P to assist the Pacific Island nation as part of a Federal agreement.

Pacific Island Liaison Officer, Matt Davis is planning to do the same again this year, with a further 25 people on the island trained, and two retired CFS 14s, radios and breathing apparatus equipment to also be delivered.



1: Where is Kiribati?

“The driver of this project is the Strategic Road Map for Emergency Management in Kiribati, which has recently been signed off by their government,” he said.

“All of the Pacific Islands need to have one of these, that’s 15 to be completed, with ours the second one approved.

Already this year CFS’s Steve Schneider, Scott Haynes and Heidi Davis travelled to Pohnpei to the SPC Emergency Management Alliance to deliver Incident Management training to local trainers. Five from Kiribati attended and will now return home to deliver training to locally.

The further BF1 and Defensive Suppression Training will be held mid year, and coincide with the shipping of CFS equipment no longer in service here. It will involve three trainers on the island for two weeks, giving those in government, police, ports and aviation fire and rescue the training they need to protect their community.

Shortly after trainers left last year, the 24P was put into action on a structure fire that would otherwise have spread to adjoining structures. It meant locals were able to test their new skills and assist the community.

“Later this year we will hold a scoping mission to Kiritimati (pronounced Christmas) Island, the second most populated island in the Republic of Kiribati – it’s closer to Hawaii than Australia.

“They have had a few bushfires and a structure fire which resulted in a fatality so we want to identify their risks and look at what we can do to train and equip them.

Also planned this year is the start of Stage 2 training, which includes Road Crash Rescue courses and to further implement their Incident Management system.

“Currently, they don’t have an Emergency Operations Centre so we’ll look at how we can assist.”

The current arrangement is that the Kiribati Government pays for the transport of equipment to the island, while CFS gifts the equipment no longer in service. However, Matt said long term he may have to look into grants to help fund this.

2: KIRIBATI USES NEW SKILLS

CFS continued to support the Pacific nation of Kiribati by donating two trucks and equipment to the remote community.

Fifty local police officers were trained by CFS staff in June with firefighting and road crash rescue skills. The training was conducted by three CFS training officers over three weeks.

Just a month after the training, the old CFS 24P responded to a small fire. The crews managed to contain it to a derelict bus and stop it spreading to the wider area.

2: Just a month after the training the old CFS 24P was responded to a small fire. The crews managed to contain it to a derelict bus.





3: TRAINING IN MICRONESIA

In late March, three CFS staff travelled to the Federated States of Micronesia to deliver two training courses, one similar to AIIMS (Australasian Inter-agency Incident Management System) and the other Working in an Emergency Operations Centre.

CFS's Heidi Davis, Steve Schneider and Scott Haynes flew to Brisbane, then on to Port Moresby and Chuuk before arriving in Pohnpei 14 hours later.

After meeting the other Australian trainers and familiarising themselves with the Pacific Island Incident Management System (PaCIMS) and Working in an Emergency Operations Centre (WEOC), the group met the participants.

Participants in the two courses came from the northern Pacific islands within Micronesia including, Federated States of Micronesia (including Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk – pronounced 'Chook'), Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Nauru, and Republic of Kiribati.

For the first day and a half, participants were trained in PaCIMS in order to give them an understanding of incident management principles, and enable them to champion the training and the use of an incident management system in their home countries. For the remainder of the week, participants were taken through the Working in an Emergency Operations Centre course and given the tools to become trainers in their home countries.

Steve said the participants underestimated the amount of their disaster management experience.

"What they might have been short on in qualifications, they were long on in experience," he said

"Throughout the training we found they had experience in cyclones, jail riots, storm

surges and water inundation as well as a plane crashing off a runway and droughts, so they had plenty of experience."

The major issue for many of the countries is distance.

"Some of the countries have multiple islands that they need to manage. The main islands have some infrastructure but it is limited on more remote islands," Heidi said.

"Their systems of managing disasters are stripped back to basics- it was great to see the participants undertake an exercise with very little in the way of infrastructure and operational systems and achieve the outcomes.

"It made us look at the way we operate and know that we could actually cope during major incidents and disasters without all the mod cons and bells and whistles."

"They're also dealing with a community that's much more resilient, with more realistic expectations as to what emergency management agencies can provide," Steve said.

The team said they were impressed by the people and how giving and engaged they were to learn more about emergency and incident management.

"One thing that took me a little while to grasp, was that although they were fluent in English, for some of them it was their second or even third language," Steve said.

"They could be working on an incident with the potential to be talking to people in up to 14 different dialects."

The course was run by the Secretariat of Pacific Communities (SPC), Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA) and Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) in association with AFAC and formed part of the twinning arrangement between CFS and the Republic of Kiribati.



Deployments



1: CFS crews working in Queensland in December

1: CFS STEPS UP FOR QUEENSLAND DEPLOYMENT

by Brett Williamson

Queensland called and 133 South Australian firefighters answered.

Within 24 hours of the first official call for help on November 27 2018, 74 South Australian firefighters were on a plane and heading north.

Over the campaign response of two weeks, South Australia deployed three sets of strike teams, two Incident Management Teams and multiple support personnel to help Queensland deal with close to 200 bushfires that burned across the state.

Teams were sent to complexes as far north as Mackay, to fires and back burning operations in the south east near Ipswich, and members were also deployed to help control fires on North Stradbroke Island.

At the time the Fire Danger Season was already underway in South Australia, and several weather systems were also affecting our state. The deployment displayed the organisation's ability to quickly respond to requests and work with other agencies to provide emergency response while ensuring we had adequate resources at home to deal with any local incidents.



1: The second strike team at Brisbane airport.

2: AVIATION SUPPORT FOR RFS

by Ali Martin

The fire season started early for New South Wales Rural Fire Service (RFS) with a call for help received by CFS in August 2018.

Initially asking for two Air Operations Managers, drenching rain meant only one was required.

Steve Byrnes was sent to Bega on the NSW south coast to assist with two aerial operations for two bushfires.

On the ground for five days, Steve was based at the Bega Base Incident Management Team where there were three airbases to run.

"It was an interesting operation. My background is in fixed wing aeroplanes, while they used predominantly rotary wing helicopters to support the Remote Area Firefighting Teams (RAFT)," he said.

"They would fly in the RAFT to cut helicopter pads and take the crews in and out of the area. The helicopters also provided support to the ground crews, as the bucketing operations gave them some protection.

"It was really good to be exposed to this tactic, as it's not one we really use or have the need for in SA. If we were ever to do this kind of work, we would need excellent communications between ground crews and air support, and helicopters to provide that bucketing support to protect those crews exposed to the elements."

Steve's work as the Air Operations Manager was at a tactical level, but also managed relationships between contractors and landowners where airbases were set, along with the State and IMT.

"I would coordinate aviation operations and ground support, as well as going back to the authorities in RFS to decide what they want for the following day. Part of this was negotiating what would be approved aircraft for the following days."

The aircraft did not need crew to fill them, as they dipped from local water sources, but he said getting fuel to them did provide some challenges.

Overall though Steve said the experience reinforced that the systems CFS use are also being used by other jurisdictions.



2: Steve Byrnes was deployed to NSW to assist with Air Operations in August 2018.

Brigade birthdays



1: Brigade Captain Luke Trewartha with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton



4: Brigade members at Kalangadoo celebrating 100 years of service

Photo: Sarah Huggley

1: ALDINGA BEACH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Aldinga Beach CFS celebrated its 50th birthday on the first weekend of June 2018. Past volunteers attended including founding Brigade Captain Kevin May. Current Brigade Captain Luke Trewartha said there was a pleasing turnout for the festivities.

"We had around 120 people with quite a few brigade captains from the past," he said.

Highlights from the event included an exhibition of an old ride-on lawn mower that was transformed into an appliance, and two specialty cakes – one in the shape of Aldinga Beach 34P.

"The cakes were sensational," Mr Trewartha said.

Current numbers at the brigade are at a high, with 48 active firefighters and 18 cadets.

"We are going pretty well at the moment," Mr Trewartha said.

2: BELAIR TURNS 75

Belair CFS celebrated its 75th birthday on December 1. Past and present members attended to celebrate the time and commitment they have given to the service.



3: HALF A CENTURY AT SELICKS



3: Congratulations to Sellicks brigade who celebrated its 50th birthday in late December.

4: KALANGADOO CELEBRATES A CENTURY

The Kalangadoo CFS celebrated its centenary on November 17, 2018 with an official ceremony and station open day.

Established following a town hall meeting in 1918, the brigade has proudly served the small community in the state's south east over the past century.

The 14 member brigade joined past members as well as Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton and CFS Life Member, Geoff Krieger, to commemorate the important milestone.

A range of memorabilia from the last 100 years was on display over the course of the day, with activities, including a mock house fire, to educate and entertain the local children.

5: HOYLETON CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

by Brett Williamson

September 25, 2018 marked half a century of service to the Mid North for the Hoyleton brigade, with more than 80 people gathering to celebrate the event at the Balaklava Sports Club on October 13.

Region 4 Regional Commander Sindy McCourt, Assistant Chief Officer Brenton Eden and members from surrounding brigades including Brinkworth, Blyth, Snowtown and Lochiel joined past and present members of Hoyleton to mark the occasion.

Leith Reinke, the son of one of the founding members, recalled how his father, with the help of the community, transformed a Bedford truck into the brigade's first appliance.

Reg Chapman was presented with a 50 years' service medal, and Barbara Chapman and Lenore Reinke were also honoured for their 34 years of operation of the radio base.

Ms McCourt also thanked friends, families and community members who supported brigade members while they were attending incidents.

6: PINNAROO CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

by Brett Williamson

September 15, 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the creation of the Pinnaroo fire brigade.

Initially a local 'bucket brigade', the group has also seen transitions through the EFS and now CFS.

"We had a pretty good turnout for the night with 80-odd people at the dinner," Brigade Captain Jeremy Schutz said.

Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark presented the brigade with a commemorative plaque and an Honour Board was also unveiled on the night.

Past and current members of the brigade enjoyed the celebrations, which also marked the 50th year of service for Michael Fuller and 49th anniversary for Carl Kehl.

Pinnaroo is home to the CFS's only 16 QRV, a dual-axle single cab prototype which is perfect for the local sandy conditions.

The brigade also sports a fully restored original trailer used by the bucket brigade, and are currently restoring their first fire truck – a Blitz nicknamed Pip.



5: More than 80 guests gathered for Hoyleton brigades 50th anniversary

Photo: Kurt Walker



6: Pinnaroo celebrated a Century

7: SALISBURY CELEBRATES 75 YEARS

by Ken Potter

Salisbury CFS celebrated 75 years at a dinner in August. About 80 people attended including many current members and special guests.

The first part of the celebration was a brigade Open Day held on Sunday, October 21 with national medals presented there.

The dinner included a brief historic overview by Salisbury Brigade President - Rob Styling AFSM.

Service medals were presented, along with some brigade and CFS life memberships.

Ex-members tracked down were invited to the Official Long Service Awards Presentation held on Sunday 21st October.



7: CFS Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton presents the 75th anniversary plaque to Captain Robert Turnbull

Photo: Ken Potter

8: WATERVALE'S 70 YEARS



8: The new honour board unveiled

The weather was perfect and the turn-out was great as the past and present crew celebrated the Watervale Brigade's 70th birthday.

Sixty-seven members joined in the festivities, which included the presentations of 21 service medals.

Past Captain and Group Officer Chris Sullivan was presented with a 50 year clasp for his five decades of service by Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton and Region 2 Commander, Brenton Hastie.

Sixteen volunteers were inducted as life members, and a new honour board was also unveiled.

The honour board creation was the pet project of the brigade's historian Eddie Hadley, who delved back through 50 years of records to find past achievements.

Brigade Captain Allen Weedon said the brigade was operating well with 25 members on the books.

"We have a great core group that see us going strong," he said.



9: HAPPY VALLEY 80TH

On February 28, Happy Valley CFS celebrated 80 years in the local community. Members took a brigade photo on Monday the 25th to commemorate the special occasion. The brigade had a great turnout with all but one operational firefighter present for the photo.

Profiles

1 Allan Marshall

1: WHEN IT COMES TO MENTAL HEALTH, SOMETIMES 'HOW ARE YOU GOING' IS ALL YOU NEED TO SAY

by Brett Williamson

For 40 years Allan Marshall has been riding the firetrucks of the South East.

He's seen dramatic changes in the industry, from the transformation of the EFS to the CFS, to the development of specialised equipment and clothing, to the introduction of the Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) Team.

Over the years Allan has responded to more accidents than he'd care to count.

"We had a fairly bad incident here (Naracoorte) about 20 years ago," Allan said.

At the debrief that followed, Allan remembered several members becoming emotional and walking out of the meeting.

"Being Brigade Captain at the time, I took it on myself to go out and talk to them outside until they were okay."

About a month later Allan was approached by a member of the SPAM Team, who was at the debrief, and asked if he would like to become a part of the team.

"I felt privileged to be asked, as back in those days it was all 'she'll be right, keep your chin up or have a cup of concrete'."

As the team grew, Allan saw mental health becoming more and more a key part of emergency response.

"Over the years a lot more people have become accepting of the team talking to them and coming to incidents."

It was members of his own SPAM team who helped Allan through dealing with the death of a local member.

"I was at my lowest ebb, I was going to quit the CFS, and I got a phone call out of the blue from one of the SPAM Team members asking 'how are you?'" he said.

"From there it just lifted me (out of depression) – so it does work."

"How are you going is all you need to say," Allan said.

It's been 21 years since Allan joined the SPAM Team.

He persevered by introducing the service for the first 15 years, trying to convince the local farming community that mental health was important. In the past decade feels locally they are making a large difference.

As a peer-support member, Allan has been able to assist many volunteers and those who need specialised help to medical professionals.

He feels proud to have been able to help those who give all for the communities.

As a result, he's also witnessed local brigades now proactively managing their own debriefs and mental health care internally.

"That's a very big positive – people are helping themselves," he said.

"A few years ago we used to go home and maybe talk to our wife or girlfriend and that was it."

"It's okay to talk to someone, but it's nicer to talk to someone who knows a little bit about what you have been through as well."

The SPAM Team are available for all CFS volunteers, staff and family members – call 8115 3950 if you need to talk.

Editor's note: Allan was awarded an Australian Fire Services Medal (AFSM) in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours.

2: BUSY RETIREMENT FOR JULIE

by Ali Martin



2 Julie Burchell

Julie Burchell joined the Bridgewater brigade when she retired from teaching. Her husband Garry was already in the brigade, and soon after she was also volunteering in the Region 1 Operations Brigade.

Her teaching background meant she's had different challenges every day of her career, and loves to learn.

Through the Region 1 Ops brigade she said there are many volunteers mentoring and keen to help, support and nurture additions to the brigade.

An IRIS operator course was offered one day, so Julie took it up and hasn't looked back.

"IRIS is resource tracking software, so you know where appliances and people are at any time. From that, you can manage logistics and help planning," Julie said.

"I really enjoyed the course and the facilitator suggested I join the State Incident Management Team (IMT) as an IRIS Operator.

"I was deployed last year to the Middle River fire on Kangaroo Island as part of the Level 2 team sent to manage the fire. I'd only done my training a month before so it was challenging but rewarding.

Thankfully two of her mentors knew she had been deployed and reached out to give her support.

In December, she returned to the island to assist with the Gosse fire.

"It was great, once again I worked with the Region 1 Operations brigade so they were very supportive and encouraging.

"In Incident Management there is something for everyone. Although I don't want to work my way to be Planning Officer, I do love Management Support.

"If you don't mind using computers, it's easy to do but you need to keep using it. For those people who don't want to fight fires you can feel useful."

Julie has also worked in the Region 1 Command Centre (RCC) during days of Total Fire Bans. She plans to continue learning about the capabilities of IRIS and said there was more we could do with the program, including managing fatigue into the future.

“Being able to develop my leadership skills through different roles at my brigade gave me the experience to step up into different roles at work including my current leadership position.”



3: Stephen Scarr, Jason Kirchner (front), John Silverblade (back), Lucas Hobbs, Michael Carr volunteered at the Scout jamboree.

3: JAMBOREE VOLUNTEERS

by Simone McDonnell

Stephen Scarr

Age: 64

Brigade: Roxby Downs.

Stephen Scarr, 64, joined the CFS on the back of a career as a Marine Engineer in the Royal Australian Navy, where he had received firefighting training. During his 20 years of service, he undertook deployments to the Middle East, and helped with efforts following Cyclone Tracey which devastated Darwin in the Northern Territory.

Leaving the Navy when he was 38, Stephen said he joined the CFS to continuing his firefighting involvement with the Melrose and Woomera Brigades, before moving to Roxby Downs. He works for BHP as a Document Developer for Fixed Plant Maintenance.

Stephen's highlight from his time in the CFS includes participating in the Tasmania Fires 2016, helping in the Bangor Fire in 2014, and supporting with firefighting efforts in Horrocks Pass and the APY Lands.

Stephen said the best part of the CFS is the friendships he has made during his involvement.

Jason Kirchner

Age: 24

Brigade: Athelstone

Jason Kirchner joined the CFS as a cadet with Norton Summit, before moving to Athelstone Brigade in 2012.

An electrician by trade, Jason said he counts serving the local community and being able to travel, as positive elements of his involvement.

“The two biggest highlights of my time with the CFS are being deployed to KI in December of 2018- it was my first deployment as an air base manager and being involved in the Scout Jamboree in January of 2019,” Jason said.

Outside the CFS, Jason also volunteers for St John's Ambulance Service, where he acts as a first responder at events. He has used his St Johns training to assist at CFS incidents on several occasions, including in 2016 when the brigade was called to support a SAAS resuscitation, where he was able to provide more hands-on support to the paramedics on site.



John Silverblade

Age: 29

Brigade: Athelstone Brigade.

As a full time nurse, specialising in Post-Anaesthesia Recovery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital, you would think that John Silverblade would have enough on his plate. But the 29-year old Adelaide Hills resident keeps busy outside of his work commitments as a volunteer with the Athelstone Brigade.

Clocking up five years with the CFS, John said the reason he originally signed up was to become more involved in his local community.

However, John said some of the highlights of his involvement have been further afield. John was a part of our deployments to Victoria, (based at Licola), and Queensland, where his strike team was based out of Ipswich.

“These deployments were a fantastic opportunity to experience and learn about fire behaviour in some very unfamiliar environments. The chance to work alongside local crews and learn from challenges they have faced was very valuable.”

Lucas Hobbs

Age: 23

Brigade: Mylor

Lucas was just 11-years-old when he attended his first CFS training session, remaining a cadet until he was able to become a firefighter at age 16.

Now 23, Lucas has put a lot of his training and knowledge into practice, working as a Senior Project Firefighter with the Department for Environment and Water. Based out of Cleland, Lucas and his colleagues undertake fire prevention works, including prescribed burning and fire response, across the Mt Lofty Ranges.

Lucas believes his involvement with the CFS has given him more than just the relevant firefighting experience.

“The CFS has provided me with lots of skills, training and experience that I now use every day in my job.

“Being able to develop my leadership skills through different roles at my brigade gave me the experience to step up into different roles at work ,including my current leadership position.”

Michael Scarr

Age: 20

Brigade: Roxby Downs

Joining CFS was a family affair for Michael Scarr, following in his dad Stephen's footsteps when he signed up as a cadet nine years ago. But what started as father/son bonding time, became so much more for the Roxby Down's local. His involvement lead to many new friendships, opportunities to learn new skills and try new things.

Michael counts undertaking his BA and Road Crash courses amongst his highlights with the CFS, with the skills he's gained during his training crucial to being able to support the small outback mining community and respond to travellers on the Stuart Highway. He was also a part of this year's Scout Jamboree, where volunteers were the first to try out brand new equipment, “I loved getting to look and play with the new tanker!”

Profiles

1 Brett Rumball (left) with the team he was deployed with to Tasmania.

1: BRETT ENTERS LOGISTICS

by Ali Martin

Naracoorte Lieutenant 1, Brett Rumball, has been a member of the brigade for 11 years.

He still loves firefighting and was deployed to Victoria as a driver in March 2019. However, this wasn't the first time Brett assisted interstate colleagues, this year he was also sent to Tasmania as a Deputy Logistics Officer.

His career in Incident Management began after doing an IRIS Operator course in Mount Gambier where he was convinced to join the State Incident Management Team (IMT).

"I was always interested in Logistics, it's what I enjoy doing, so my plan was to eventually get into that – IRIS was a foot in the door," he said.

Region 5 was short of Level 2 Logistics Officers so Brett put his hand up and did the Incident Management Exercise (IMEX) with the Region.

"Shortly after that, a Deputy Logistics Role opened up on the State Level 3 Team and I didn't need any extra training or endorsement, so I went for it.

"The Tasmanian deployment was really good, considering it was my first time being deployed.

"Everyone was really welcoming and happy to have us, so it was better than I was expecting. I'm keen to continue at that level.

"One thing that really stood out from the experience was the Tasmanian's interoperability across different government agencies. It's something I think could be better here and I'd push for that."

About a month after he returned, Brett was driving a truck on the Victorian fires. He said the crew was great, but it was difficult to sit back after being in the IMT making decisions.

He encourages others to get involved in Incident Management, but said it can sometimes be difficult for people to receive support from their brigades, who may think they'll lose valuable firefighters.

2: JOINT CFS AND SES VOLUNTEER

by Simone McDonnell

Anthony Moyle has been with the CFS for the past five years, after a 19 year involvement with the SES and a volunteering role with the State Response Team from 2014-17.



2: Anthony Moyle

Photo: Blue Hazoo photography

3: Lower Eyre Group Officer Kym Eagle was deployed to Tasmania earlier this year.

3: GO AND OPERATIONS OFFICER

by Ali Martin

Kym Eagle has been a CFS volunteer on the Eyre Peninsula for the past 31 years.

In that time he's been promoted through the ranks as a firefighter, Brigade Captain of White Flat, Deputy and now holds the position of Group Officer for the Lower Eyre Peninsula.

He's also a Deputy Operations Officer at an Incident Management level.

"The plan was that I would move into incident management after I finished as Group Officer, but things are crossing over a bit," he said.

With an operational background on the fireground, Kym said it wasn't a big leap to do the Level 2 Incident Management Exercise (IMEX) several years ago.

"The operational basics are the same, but as you get into the IMT the complexity rises. It's still doing a lot of the same stuff you would do at a Level 1 incident but at that stage it's all in your head, whereas you have more structure at a higher level.

His first deployment was to Tasmania this year.

"There were no major differences with the way Tasmania operates, although every agency has their own systems and terminologies. But as far as the role goes, we all use AIIMS (Australasian Interagency Incident Management System) so it's easy to relate to.

"I was also on the fifth rotation so we were into blacking out and mopping up, if the fire was still running then it might have been more difficult."

He said having a Common Operating Picture (COP) on the screen, Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL) and the FLIR system meant they could have a plane fly over the fireground and see where hot spots were in real time.

"Being part of the IMT means you have a greater appreciation of what's going on and a broader sense of what goes on around you.

"It drives home how important communication is, it doesn't matter if you're working in different areas, you need to know what each other are doing.

"Being in an IMT is great for those who have experience on a fireground but may not want to ride the trucks as much anymore. Their experience is valuable and gives those in the IMT a good head start."

"I do think there's an under appreciation for those in CFS who do roles outside of riding on a firetruck, that outside of CFS as well as within.

"CFS provides so many options, that you can go on whatever path you want to, we should talk about that more when we are recruiting."

Kym isn't alone in this commitment to CFS, his wife Kerry last year started in a Peer Support role.

"In many ways it's really a family effort, I couldn't be involved like I am without my family supporting my involvement and time away."

Partnerships

1: The Naked Sun-Orchid *Thelymitra circumsepta* in flower

1: FIRE USED TO SAVE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED ORCHID

by Jen Dick

When the Department for Environment and Water (DEW) plans their prescribed burn program, reducing bushfire fuel loads to protect lives and property is generally their first consideration.

However the opportunity to contribute to threatened species conservation at the same time is a real win-win.

This was the case with a carefully planned and executed prescribed burn in the Adelaide Hills, which has helped bring a critically endangered orchid back from the brink of extinction.

The naked sun orchid population was down to the last 12 plants, until ecologists and fire experts decided to burn the area in order to save it. DEW Fire Ecologist Kirstin Abley said the orchid was being smothered by native coral fern, and something had to be done.

"We realised that we could keep monitoring and documenting their extinction or we could give it a go and try something new," she said.

"We had enough information to suggest that a lack of fire was a key threat, so we decided we needed to be bold and try burning some of these populations."

In a nail biting exercise, half of the population of 12 orchids was burnt and the other half left unburnt, just to be on the safe side.

The burn was a huge success, with a count this summer showing the population has increased to 83 plants. Compared to no increase in orchid numbers in the unburned area and it seems clear that the burn was beneficial.

"Burning areas like swamps is tricky, particularly if you only want to burn part of the swamp. Swamps have high fuel loads that are very flammable – getting them to burn is easy, stopping parts of them from burning is much harder," Kirstin said.

It took a massive effort and careful planning to protect the chosen six plants from burning, with hours of brush cutting, the installation of sprinklers, and firefighters positioned in the swamp itself.

"The level of skill the fire management team have developed in planning and conducting prescribed burns is amazing – it gives us the confidence to undertake complex burns like this. The rewards are priceless."

Our native plants have evolved with fire for millions of years, and treating fire as a natural process that can provide benefits if applied in the right way opens up all sorts of opportunities for environmental restoration.

The orchids will be monitored over next few years to see how well they flower and set seed, assisted by the Native Orchid Society of South Australia.

You can find a short video about this story here <https://youtu.be/qoMICoHroSU>

2: RESAMPLING OLD WEATHER DATA TO GET A NEW LOOK INTO BUSHFIRE BEHAVIOUR

by Brett Williamson

A new research project from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) will help fire agencies across the country gain a greater understanding of the conditions that precede major fires.

The Bureau of Meteorology Atmospheric high-resolution Regional Reanalysis for Australia (BARRA) is reprocessing weather data from the 1990s, through to current times, to gain better insight into past events and climate trends.

"When we compare weather models from last century to models from today, we are not comparing apples with apples," SA BOM Fire Weather Research scientist Dr Mika Peace said.

Dr Peace said with the advances in science and computing capabilities, re-running the data will provide tremendously improved records.

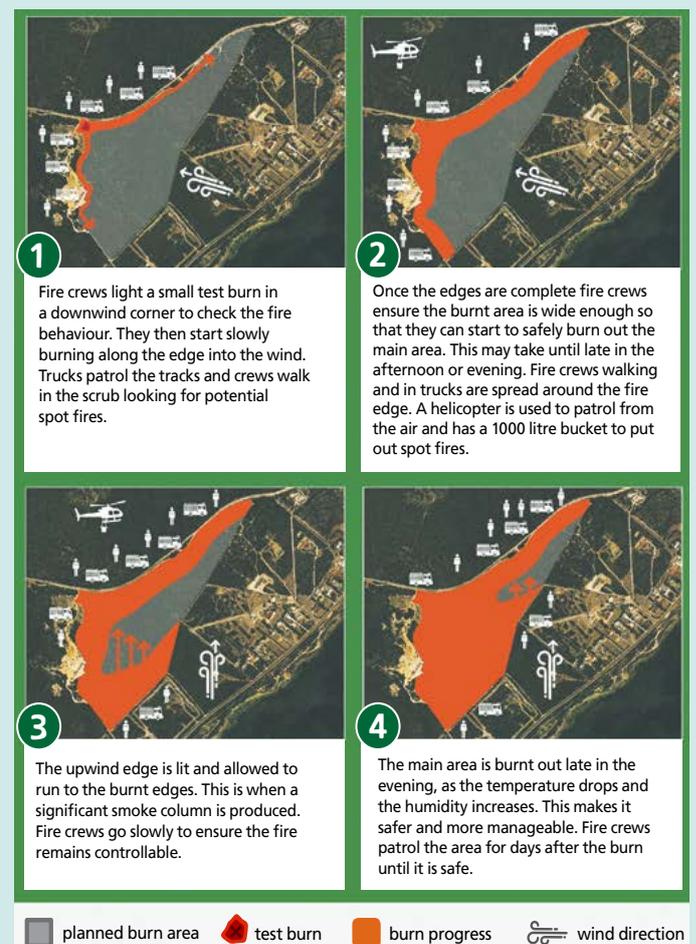
"The models have become much more accurate and detailed in the intervening period, so we can re-examine past events and produce a consistent dataset."

The historical datasets reprocessed may help to provide agencies like the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) and Department for Environment and Water (DEW) with planning and trend identification.

"We can use the dataset to look at changes in climatology in new ways to make assessments on impacts of future climate changes," Dr Peace said.

The South Australian weather datasets became available in early 2019, with plans to develop collaborative projects between the BOM, CFS, DEW and participating SA universities.

"[BARRA] is not suitable to be used for real-time weather events, but it will inform seasonal risk and help identify features of different regions," Dr Peace said.



On the 15 November 2018, the first prescribed burn on private land near Port Lincoln was completed, to improve the safety of surrounding residents in the event of a bushfire. This is how it played out. For more information on prescribed burning visit www.environment.sa.gov.au

Partnerships

1: Humanihuts

1: HUMANIHUTS READY TO GO

by Simone McDonnell

From next fire season the CFS will have access to some of the world's most state-of-the-art pop-up accommodation and facilities. In the event of a serious or prolonged fire event, where volunteers are required to work multiple shifts or where people are displaced, these temporary houses can be easily transported and set up in time for a shift rotation.



1: CFS Incident Management Coordinators get a tour of the Humanihuts.

The camp can flex up to 32 dormitory huts that sleep up to eight people, with creature comforts including air-conditioning, power, and comfortable stretcher beds. Best of all, the solid structure will block out sunlight and more noise than tents, allowing volunteers the opportunity to have better rest and privacy between their shifts. Additional to the sleeping facilities, there are also bathrooms with showers and hot running water.

The partnership with the SES will see them manage the coordination and set up of the Humanihuts, allowing CFS personnel to concentrate on firefighting logistic efforts.

Incident Management Coordinator, Heidi Davis, said that when required, the Humanihuts will be extremely useful.

"We were lucky with the fire behaviour in South Australia this year, but as we saw with the fires in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania and Western Australia, it only takes a few days of high fire danger and some small sparks to create a big fire event," she said.

"Many of our personnel will remember how uncomfortable it was during Sampson Flat, when we had to put a marquee with air-conditioning over the top of our tents to try to keep our resting volunteers cool. Not only was it ineffective, but there could have been serious repercussions for our volunteers health and wellbeing."

"As with all our Incident Management procedures, we live in hope that we never have to deal with any incidents big enough to implement them, but having the Humanihuts ready to go offers us great piece of mind."

"Volunteers and Incident Management Teams (IMT) will definitely welcome these facilities if, and when, we need to call on the SES to set them up."

In the event that the Humanihuts are required, David Zakrzewski from the SES, has ensured that the transportation and set up of the campsite at any fire location in the state.

"We can fit the whole campsite into nine containers, and we have engaged with a truck company who are on call 24/7 to transport the Humanihuts to any part of the state," he said.

"The quick pack up and pack down design means that they can be easily cleaned out and transferred to a potential next location. They will be extremely useful for not only the CFS but will transform how we manage many different incidents across the Emergency Services sector."

2: POWER CUTS TO AVOID FIRE

by SA Power Networks

Earlier this month (April, 2019), we cut power to Port Lincoln and surrounding areas as a preventative measure to reduce the risk of a fire start during the escalating bushfire conditions. It's not a decision taken lightly.

Manager Emergency Management, Frank Crisci explained what goes into reaching a decision like this.

"We had a situation where the fire conditions were worsening. There were very strong and strengthening winds and the fire danger conditions were escalating," said Frank.

"Often in conditions like this where we have had a hot dry summer and windy conditions, tree branches fall on powerlines. When the powerline comes into contact with the ground, it can start a fire."

We have only disconnected power in these circumstances 10 times since 1985 and it is more likely that customers would lose power in bushfire conditions either because of damage from falling vegetation or due to damage from an actual fire.

On Friday 5 April, 2019, we had reports of trees down around the state and fire starts. At Port Lincoln, the wind was so strong that it was moving our powerlines around quite violently. After consulting with the CFS, we made the assessment that the fire start risk in the area was too high, so we switched off power to Port Lincoln and surrounds.

3: MFS TO MOVE TO MT BARKER

The South Australian Government last year committed to fund a SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) in Mount Barker.



3: Current CFS volunteers, with MFS leadership and Emergency Services Minister Corey Wingard.

Mount Barker was previously a SA Country Fire Service (CFS) response area and CFS will continue to have a volunteer presence in the area.

The MFS will officially commence in Mount Barker on July 1, 2019. Some current CFS firefighters are likely to join the MFS retained model and both agencies will operate from the same location.

The current level of community protection will be maintained in and around Mount Barker. The Mount Barker CFS brigade will continue to be part of the Heysen Group. Post implementation CFS Mt Barker will:

- Continue primary response in a revised CFS Mt Barker response area.
- Support SAMFS within a new MFS Gazetted Fire District (GFD - encompassing the urban area of Mt Barker) and neighbouring CFS brigades.
- Continue primary response for Road Crash Rescue within CFS Mt Barker response area in addition to supporting SAMFS in Mt Barker GFD.



Frontline Services

1: Andrew Stark

1: WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRONTLINE SERVICES

by Andrew Stark

Frontline Services has had a busy year operationally, with deployments to Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria over four months.

The Incident Management Teams (IMT) were all a huge support to the local agencies, and by all reports conducted themselves in an impressive manner.

The beauty of AIIMS (Australasian Inter-agency Incident Management System) is that it makes it easy for our IMTs to integrate into other states and help them during disasters. I know that they will reciprocate if we have major disasters in the future.

We have also provided training in other states with our aviation specialists providing support to the Northern Territory as they review their aerial firefighting fleet.

On the national stage, CFS hasn't only represented in an operational manner.

We have representatives on a number of Australia Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC). Through this CFS influences changes in training, lessons learned processes, warning messages and public information and now the National Fire Danger Ratings System.

The Bureau of Meteorology and Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Council (BNHCRC) are working on the science of Fire Danger Ratings. The new look ratings will be introduced in the 2021/22 Fire Danger Season. However, a major part is looking at the social research in how to communicate these ratings, what they mean and what action the public should take.

CFS is leading this social research, and although it is looked at through a national lens, it's so beneficial to CFS and the South Australian community to have us involved at the forefront.

Behind the scenes, Frontline Services are continuing to make improvements to our systems. Emerald continues to be updated with information and members can now update their own information through the Volunteer Portal. We look forward to the training side of things being implemented and available soon. Additional information is available on page 51.

The CRIIMSON system continues to have additional features added and refined. These upgrades not only make it easier to log and track information, but assists in providing timely warnings to the community.

The Internal Communications project continues with updates to the Volunteer Portal just rolled out. For current members, you'll notice a survey included in this Yearbook about our communications. I encourage you to complete and return it so we can continue to improve our communications. If you have any suggestions we'd be pleased to take them into account.

Thanks for your support this Fire Danger Season and always.

2: SACAD – FASTEST AND MOST APPROPRIATE RESPONSE

by Ali Martin

The principle of SA Computer Aided Dispatch (SACAD) is the summoning of the most appropriate and nearest brigade to an incident.

The system starts with GIS and mapping, they locate the BEATS (response area) and Emergency Service Zones (ESZs). They all determine which brigades are fastest and most appropriate to respond to an incident.

For example, with the MFS soon having a station in Mount Barker the response areas are changing.

"This is a unique change to CAD, meaning the two organisations (MFS and CFS) have to work closely together so we can complete the changeover on time," Gary said.

"There has been a considerable amount of work to map the new boundaries and determine the MFS Mount Barker response area. Now the boundaries have been drawn we will revise the new back up BEATS."

This has now been sent to the Attorney General's Office to be entered into CAD.

Within CAD there are a series of response types and incident types along with response plans on how many appliances should be dispatched depending on the job and risk for the day.

"We have 580 lines of data for each ESZ (Emergency Service Zone) and that determines incident type, class of fire (Reduced, C, B and A) we then put in the backup BEATS and that determines the 20 closest brigades to the ESZ."

Back up BEATS are also established for each incident type so that if the incident has an increased alarm, the right brigades are called to assist.

"For example if we have a road crash which is upgraded the system will call the next brigade with road crash rescue capabilities, this brigade could be say fifth or sixth in line, but CAD skips to them because of their capability.

"It also enables us to automatically respond crews to grass fires with escalating alarms.

"The system has greatly improved in recent years, as Adelaide Fire operators can now monitor INTERCAD (used by SAPOL and SA Ambulance) and therefore have better intelligence to communicate with our people before they reach the incident. This gives them time to discuss and prepare themselves for an incident while they are enroute."

The system is updated every quarter, so Gary encourages Captains to report any issues to their Regional Office.

Frontline Services

DO YOUR 5 MIN PLAN

and be one step closer to surviving a bushfire.

WHY RISK IT? PLAN AHEAD

Bushfire Information Hotline -
1800 362 361 (TTY 133 677)



cfs.sa.gov.au



METROPOLITAN
FIRE
SERVICE
SOUTH AUSTRALIA



1: WHY RISK IT? – THE 2018/19 BUSHFIRE READY CAMPAIGN

by Neil Charter

Why Risk It? An obvious question when it comes to bushfire and a great question for the public as a header to the 2018/19 Bushfire Ready Campaign.

Following in the footsteps of *Complacency Kills* (Winner of the 2017/18 State Government Marketing Award), this year's campaign was again targeted at the 18-39 year old market who are less likely to have experienced bushfire and in their busy worlds, needs reminding that the risk is real and not to be complacent.

An analogy I think is perfect for describing the need for bushfire preparedness is that of having a pool in your backyard and young children. Surely, you would make sure your children have swimming lessons to have that peace of mind of keeping them safe.

So how is bushfire different? When living in a bushfire risk area you need a plan so that everyone in your family has the best chance of survival. Why would you risk not having one?

The Bushfire Awareness Campaign is one of the most influential and prominent brand platforms of the SA Country Fire Service (CFS). It has two key objectives; to raise awareness of the risk of bushfire and promote what actions you need to take to stay safe. It works on risk recognition and acknowledgement as well as shifting personal behaviour to become responsible for bushfire safety.

The campaign is built on a combination of both strategic (here is the problem) and tactical messaging (here is the solution) to build awareness and positive action.

It is unreasonable to think that operationally the CFS can be at every property in a major event. When one happens it is critical that there is a level of responsibility that has been learned by the community to take the appropriate action off their own back. The campaign works repeatedly at influencing this behaviour in order to keep the public safe and equally keep CFS volunteers from having to put themselves in danger of rescuing people who have not done the right thing.

Whilst the final research results for the *Why Risk It?* Campaign have not been received at the time of writing, the mid-season research showed a positive recognition and recall of the *Why Risk It?* message and also of the key messages regarding how to stay informed.

The campaign uses many channels to communicate the key messages and repeatedly television and radio gain the highest recognition for reach and general awareness. Digital channels continue to grow and provide increasing opportunity to target specific areas/interests within communities. Such simple marketing collateral as counter top cards for shops within regional towns also have an essential community presence.

Outdoor opportunities are limited, however this year saw the use of a freeway billboard that received huge exposure over the two months it was employed promoting a simple message of how to stay informed.

Functional advertising outside of the core campaign also plays a quietly essential

role whether promoting safe harvesting or safe on-farm practices within Stock Journal, Smart Farmer or Farm Guide publications through to local press promoting up-coming regional field days as well as tourism advice for travellers across relevant media channels.

So what of the future?

Next year's campaign will continue to promote bushfire safety as simply as it can.

For the public to consider and use the information provided it has to be simple, practical information that is achievable.

Why Risk It? as a campaign still has plenty of life to grow and expand into a more community context with a focus on members of the community becoming ambassadors for the message and I think we can look forward to an even stronger campaign in 2019/20.

2: BUSHFIRE MANAGEMENT CHALLENGE

by Simone McDonnell

Covering such a large and diverse state can be complex. One of the biggest challenges for the SA Country Fire Service is the threat posed to life and properties by fires that occur on the outskirts of townships.

The CFS has nine Bushfire Management Areas, each with their own committee and individual plan to help keep South Australians Safe.

The Bushfire Management Areas are:

- Adelaide/Mount Lofty Ranges
- Fleurieu Peninsula
- Flinders/Mid North/Yorke Peninsula
- Kangaroo Island
- Limestone Coast
- Lower Eyre Peninsula
- Murray/Mallee
- Outback
- Upper Eyre Peninsula.

The Bushfire Management Planning Unit within the CFS is currently finalising the last of their plans from across the state, which are used to prioritise bushfire prevention measures for Local Governments and other interested groups.

The establishment of Bushfire Management Plans take into consideration and assess the risks posed to human settlements; places of economic significance; cultural, heritage and social value; and places of environmental importance.

The plans are designed to be 'living documents', reviewed and updated every four years, or to reflect lessons from fire and rescue incidents.

Volunteers can access the risk ratings associated with assets in their local community via Crimson Maps layer filter, and for more information can speak with their Regional Prevention Officer. Each committee also has a volunteer representative, who can be accessed via the volunteer portal.



Photo: Phil McDonough

3: Orreroo Hospital is one of the far reaching hospitals Phil McDonough visits every three years.

3: HOSPITAL CHECKS

by Ali Martin

Every three years hospitals, aged care and health care facilities are given a fire safety check.

CFS Compliance Officer Phil McDonough checks all facilities in non-metro areas from Pukitja (Ernabella) in the APY Lands to Yahl in the south east of the state. There are about 150 sites in total.

“We audit against the national construction code and, depending on the year of construction, on what fire safety systems they have in place,” he said.

“One thing we check is that the facility is maintaining their fire safety systems in accordance with the Minister’s specifications, and that their emergency procedures are correct.”

For instance, if a building was constructed in the 1960s they wouldn’t have sprinklers, but would have hose reels throughout. Any refurbishment however, would have to have sprinklers installed.

“These audits includes fire tanks, hydrants, extinguishers, hose reels, sprinklers, fire compartmentation and detection systems. We also audit maintenance and performance records.”

Hydrant booster systems need to be tested every three years and have a complete overhaul every five years so CFS check to see that’s been completed.

“There is some consideration and flexibility applied when making these audits as some defects may need considerable financial investment to rectify, so we may enter into negotiation on how to ensure client safety while funding is secured to make the necessary upgrades.

“In my years of doing this, I’ve only come across two inspections which have met all of the criteria 100 per cent. There are normally some sort of level of defect.”

There are three levels of defect

- P1 – This needs to be fixed before the inspector leaves. An example could be a bolt on the door meaning people could be locked in.
- P2 – This needs to be fixed within three months. An example could be that a wet room was changed to a storage room, meaning a heat detector needs to be replaced with a smoke detector.
- P3 – This needs to be fixed prior to the next inspection. An example could be a change in record keeping, or layout plans need to be changed.

“It’s important that we do these inspections so facilities can effectively manage their contractors, and we can ensure that we know that their systems will operate as they are designed to, when they’re needed.

“Reports can also be used to help assist in funding requirements. They may need the current fire authority certificate to get funding.”

It can also be a chance for the facility to engage with the broader members of CFS.

“I usually attend sites with someone from the Region, so they can build relationships and be the local liaison.

“In our reports I encourage the facility to invite the local brigades to have a walk through once a year. This means they will be familiar with the building should they need to respond to an incident at the facility.

If there are upgrades to the facility, such as building on a new wing, the CFS Development Assessment Service (DAS) will commission the sprinkler system and normally invite the brigade along to assist in the commissioning.

4: BEING BUSHFIRE READY

Just before the Fire Danger Season started last year, CFS brigades and Community Engagement Officers did a final push to get people prepared.

About 20 brigades signed up to host an Open Day to showcase their capabilities to the community, while also explaining why it’s important that has a shared responsibility when it comes to bushfire safety. It was great to see brigades from all regions taking part.

Community Engagement Officers also held several events, in the South East there was a community road show visiting local towns - Kingston, Naracoorte, and the Wattle Range areas.



4: Photo exhibition winner Bruce Barnes with CFS Community Engagement Officer Laura Gemmell

One major event was the inaugural Bushfire Photography Exhibition. Nine photographers from the Blackwood Photographic Club, Adelaide Hills Photography Club and the Strathalbyn and Districts Camera Club submitted 41 photos for the CFS’ inaugural Bushfire Photography Exhibition.

The exhibition was called Fire Through the Lens and it was held at the Stirling Library in the Adelaide Hills.

It saw 108 people vote in the People’s Choice Award and more people viewed the exhibition who did not vote.

Out of those 108 votes, 52 of them provided feedback about the exhibition itself which included comments such as “A sobering reminder of what we have to lose”, “visually beautiful and haunting”, “As someone who has seen it first hand, the photos were wonderful and thought provoking.”

The exhibition was not only about the photos, but there were a large number of meaningful conversations about bushfire preparedness around the home and property, Bushfire Safer Places, vehicle safety in bushfires and past fire experiences. Some people also registered for free bushfire preparedness workshops being held locally.

The winner of the 2018 CFS Bushfire Photography Exhibition was Bruce Barnes from the Strathalbyn and Districts Camera Club, with his photo titled “Pinery Fire”. Bruce received the People’s Choice Award on November 12 at the Region 1 CFS Headquarters in Mount Barker.

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Volunteer on mountain at Mt Torrens

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1: VOLUNTEER PORTAL GETS A FACELIFT

A project that was part of the Internal Communications Survey results of 2017 outcomes has been adapted to provide benefits to the CFS volunteers.

The project, originally planned to provide an Interactive Intranet for staff, was broadened in scope to include volunteers.

"The opportunity was seen to adapt the original project and broaden its benefits by transforming it from a staff-only site to the update of the more used Volunteer Portal," Media and Communications Officer and project coordinator Brett Williamson said.

"It quickly became obvious that we could upgrade the Portal to make more commonly used items easier to find and integrate aspects of the original project to share the benefits more widely."

The redesigned Volunteer Portal page includes icon shortcuts to the most commonly used items or pages including Fire Ground Practices, Standard Operational Procedures, Skills Maintenance Drills, CRIIMSON, Emerald, the Online Learning Hub and email.

The original tiles and menus that ran along the top of the page have been moved to expandable menus on the left hand side.

Forms and Templates also have a designated shortcut area.

New items include a 'news ticker' that will display current messages of importance, a photo gallery of recent incidents or events, a news blog that will feature content from upcoming e-news and Yearbooks, a real time feed of incidents via the CFS Alerts Twitter page, a link to the CFS Members Facebook page and the ability for volunteers to directly upload their photos from incidents and activities for inclusion in the photo gallery or publications.

"One of the main goals of the project was to introduce an interactive element within the website," Mr Williamson said.

"By including areas to comment, upload files and see news items as soon as they are published, our aim is to keep volunteers posted on new developments, as well as modernising the previous version of the page to include areas for photographs and information feeds.

"It was also important not to completely change the site, so by keeping the same menus and structures on the side we were able to refresh the look without having people struggle with finding materials which are not accessible through the icon shortcuts."

The remodelled Volunteer Portal was launched on June 12, 2019.

2: HELPING OUR NEIGHBOURS

by Ali Martin



2: Participants in the Air Observers course in Port Pirie in 2018 which included two Bushfires NT participants.

Photo: Kevin Churchward

In June 2018, CFS was asked to assist Bushfire NT (Northern Territory) with an evaluation of their current aerial firefighting status.

The request came after a report by Former NSW Fire and Rescue Commissioner, Greg Mullins showed a need to review their current practices.

Then State Manager Aviation Operations, David Pearce, and experienced Air Attack Supervisor Wayne Atkins travelled to Darwin to run a training course and present their report.

"We ran a four day training course for them at Batchelor, about an hour south of Darwin and then two of their Air Observers came to our training in Port Pirie later in the year to do a refresher," David said.

"They've since both returned to the state to ride in the backseat to gain some more experience of real jobs.

Training and equipment needs for the future were then scrutinised before the report was presented to the Executive Director of Bushfires NT and the Director of Operations. The report included any shortfalls in their current arrangements and how they could make positive changes for the future.

"There's always been a close relationship between CFS and Bushfires NT," David said. "The pilots we use spend a lot of time in NT as their season is opposite to ours."

As part of the suggested changes, Bushfires NT will use the National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) to procure their entire fleet for next season, currently they were only used to contract fixed wing bombers.

They will also be evaluated against national equipment and training standards, and may continue to send their people to do the CFS nationally accredited Air Observer and Air Attack Supervisor courses.



3: An Aerotech water bomber training before the start of the fire season.

3: INCREASED AIR CAPABILITY.

by *Simone McDonnell*

From the beginning of the 2018-19 Fire Danger Season, firefighters on the ground had additional help from the skies.

A \$9m injection from the State Government allowed the fleet to grow from 17 aircraft to 26 – with the fleet consisting of 14 Single Engine Air Tankers (fire bombers), and five tactical coordination and six tactical and strategic overview air craft.

The 2018-19 season also saw the return of Elsie, the Erickson Airplane.

With a 7,500 litre capacity, Elsie was based at Claremont for the first time this year, rather than Brukungu, and contracted from the end of December 2018 until 20 March 2019, assisting local crews with the fires at Mount Compass and Montacute.

A new Primary Response Zone and airbase was established at Hoyleton in the Mid North.

Responding to the demand for air craft capability in Regions 2 and 4, the Hoyleton site was a suitable location for a new base, joining Mount Gambier, Claremont and Port Lincoln as the main bases for the aerial fleet.

While nothing can replace firefighters on the ground working at extinguishing the fires, aircraft are important to slow the forward rate of spread of fires, and attack them in difficult terrain or in conditions are too dangerous for ground crews to get close.

On days of elevated fire danger, and during major events such as the Tour Down Under and Scout Jamboree, the fleet were moved around the state to appropriately manage the changing risk levels in each region.

On top of the South Australian-based fleet, the CFS also has Memorandum of Understanding with the CFA in Victoria to assist with fires within 30 kilometres of the border, with night time mapping capability also on standby during nights of high fire danger.

Over the summer, the aerial fleet responded to 213 incidents, performing 758 drops of firefighting products.

The 2018-19 season also saw the changing of the guard in aerial operations, with David Pearce retiring after 43 years with the CFS. Taking over as State Aviation Operations Manager is Nik Stanley.

Nik started off as a volunteer with the Stirling North CFS Brigade in 1996, before becoming Region 4's Prevention Officer in 2005.

From there the former English and History teacher climbed the ranks of the organisation, most recently performing the role of Manager, Risk and Capability, before applying for the State Aviation Operations position.

When asked what encouraged him to put his hand up for the role, Nik admitted that the aviation side of the organisation has always fascinated him.

"I've always been interested in the aerial side of things, from my time in Region 4, seeing how they operated in remote parts of the state, and how they access difficult terrain to support crews on the ground. I saw it as an exciting challenge."

Nik said that there was a lot happening behind the scenes in the aviation but after a few months in he's enjoying the change of responsibility and position.

4: IMT EQUIPMENT SUITE COVERED IN NEW MANUAL

by *Brett Williamson*

A large manual encapsulating the instructions and requirements for often rarely used pieces of complex equipment has been designed to help Incident Management Teams deploy specialised units.

"The manual provides easily accessible information, in one reference point, for equipment used in complex incidents," State Training Officer Adam Shearer said.

The Incident Management Supplementary Equipment and Resource Guide details information for the State Satellite Support Trailer, Portable Automatic Weather Stations, Rapid Deployment Communications Trailer, the Region 2 Incident Support Vehicle, Information and Communication Technology road cases and various communication cache road cases.

"(The manual) lists qualified operators and service providers, and provides detailed instructions for all of the listed equipment," Mr Shearer said.

5: HQ OPENS DOORS

by *Ali Martin*

Many brigades open their doors to the public during the 'Be Bushfire Ready' program. It allows them to show off their stations, give some information about volunteering and cleaning up before the Fire Danger Season.

This year State Headquarters decided to do the same for its volunteers. On Saturday, November 3 about 60 people took up the offer to have a tour of the HQ, getting information about various parts of CFS business.

The idea came about as part of the CFS Internal Communications Review which identified the need to break down barriers between staff and volunteers.

The tours started in the media room with a video and welcome from Executive Director Frontline Services Support Ann De Piaz. The guests then heard about Operational Infrastructure and Logistics (Lee Watson), Development Assessment Service (Joel Taggart, Caren Siegfriedt and Julian Aggiss), Bushfire Management Area Plans (Andrew Patten) and Lessons Learned (Nancy Bombardieri).

From there they saw the operational side of the CFS, with stops in the Intel Cell (Georgie Cornish), State Command Centre (Rob Sandford) Incident Management (Heidi Davis) and Public Information (Fiona Dunstan). The final stop was with the CFS Volunteer Association (VA) where Sonia St Alban and Andy Wood spoke to them about the VA.

Feedback from those who attended was generally positive, with many saying they would take information learned from the day back to their fellow brigade members. Attendees also said they would attend again and encourage others to do so.

More information will be distributed later this year about potential Headquarters, State Training Centre or Regional Office Open Days.

Frontline Services



1: Use your phone's camera to scan this code and it will open a link to the survey online or you can return the paper survey enclosed.

1: CHANGES COME AFTER INTERNAL REVIEW

by Ali Martin

In 2017 a survey was distributed via mail and email to all SA Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteers and staff.

From information collected an Internal Communications Review was conducted, with 20 recommendations outlined to better improve our communications amongst volunteers, but also staff.

Social media continues to grow and CFS last year introduced a CFS Members Page where we post information, updates and fellow volunteer stories we think volunteers will enjoy. Many brigades have their own Facebook Pages so we set up a CFS Social Media Managers Group so we can share information, find out good ideas and help brigades who may struggle with negative comments or tricky situations. A new online course is also available on the Online Learning Hub to assist.

There are several short videos on the Facebook Page and Volunteer Portal to show what's happening in different areas as well.

The Vol E-News continues to be published every two months and is featured on the Volunteer Portal with an email to notify you when it's been published, we are also looking to introduce an online blog on the Volunteer Portal so updates are given more regularly.

There are currently updates to the Volunteer Portal and if you're not using the Portal where you can find out how to log in and get your volunteer emails forwarded. There you will find a toolkit with templates you may find helpful.

Last year a Key Message Guide was distributed to volunteers via their brigades and regions. This document can help people understand CFS key messages, and ways to effectively respond to questions from the public.

In November we held a State Headquarters Open Day for volunteers to find out more about what HQ does on a daily basis.

Another survey is included in this year's publication. Please fill this out either via paper and mail it back, or use the Survey Monkey online form. This will help us find out what has worked, what hasn't and where else we need to improve.

2: BUILDING RESILIENCE

Looking around your local brigade, you would be hard-pressed to find a volunteer who hasn't been directly impacted by an incident that they have attended.

Whether it is those who have lost or had a property under threat from fire, or assisting at a crash involving a close mate or loved one, we know that in small, tight-knit communities the incidents attended are almost always 'too close to home'.

Building resilience within communities is crucial in ensuring they are able to survive, adapt and grow in spite of any unplanned events that effect them. Providing the appropriate services and support so that they can 'bounce back' is vital in ensuring long-term social stability and economic security in our regional and remote areas.

How prepared communities are, and how equipped they are to cope in times of adversity impacts on how well our volunteers are able to get in and perform their roles as first responders and emergency services, and, in many cases, how they are also able to recover from what they themselves, have experienced.

Over the past 18 months, the CFS has been heavily involved with policy development taking place on a State and Federal level, to ensure that communities are prepared for the unexpected and are resourced with what they need to survive.

In 2018 SAFECOM took the lead in establishing the South Australian Resilience Strategy, engaging with communities, businesses and the emergency services sector to create an overarching policy that can be applicable in all types of events and disasters.

From the consultation, SAFECOM landed on four main themes:

- Informed and connected neighbourhoods and communities working together to ensure there is a strong flow of information and a sense of unity.
- Prepared and adaptable businesses that can continue to operate when things go pear-shaped in their area.
- Children and young people actively engaged to reduce their risk and to increase self-reliance in the event of a situation where there are no parents or caregivers to direct them.
- Strategic Connected networks where we ensure that different branches of the Emergency Services, Community Organisations and Government departments can work towards shared outcomes in the best interest of the community.

Running in parallel to this state-based policy development, the CFS has been working with other state bodies to create a national disaster risk reduction framework has been developed by Emergency Management Australia, and that feeds into the work undertaken by SAFECOM.

By assisting communities to prepare, respond and recover from these events, we can actually then strengthen their ability to deal with those events.

For more information about the work being done to improve resilience in communities, or if you'd like to get involved with that is happening in your local area, chat to your CFS Community Engagement Officer.





Frontline Services Support

1: Ann DePiaz

1: WELCOME FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

by Ann DePiaz

Frontline Services Support's role is exactly as it sounds, to support our members in their operational roles.

Operational Infrastructure and Logistics have had an extremely busy year. Not only have they delivered new and refurbished tankers and pumpers but they've also introduced improvements to our bulk water carriers and 14 appliances.

The safety systems retrofit continues and through this process we've thankfully been able to identify some other maintenance issues and have them resolved while the appliance is offline.

Project Renew has meant we've been able to accelerate vital upgrades to our brigade stations and group bases, which we haven't had the funding to do in the past. We're so pleased to be able to make a difference in the environment you spend so much time in.

In addition we have also made upgrades to pagers and will continue to roll out new pagers to our members. We have also just completed the delivery of a second set of Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) to our operational volunteers, meaning they can now launder their clothing after it's been soiled at an incident and have another set ready to go.

Our Operational Capability and Planning team continue to review the Risk and Capability of areas around the state. By profiling the risk of a community we are then able to provide their local brigade with the right equipment and training.

The Lessons Learned team continues to assist with incident debriefs and look at reoccurring issues on the fireground. Information is then used to influence changes in our doctrine and operational processes. It's encouraging to read how groups and regions are conducting debriefs at all Level 2 and 3 incidents to improve the way we do things. Those articles can be found on page 17.

In the Operational Training and Professional Development team, we continue to see thousands of volunteers trained annually throughout the state. While we continue to provide high quality training in the face-to-face environment, the Training team this year has established a Digital Learning Team of three full time staff members, establishing a capacity to deliver simulation and virtual reality training to our volunteers. This exciting new development will be the subject of significant promotion in the coming months.

Currently all staff are undertaking professional development with the theme of teamwork. I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind all of our members that every one of us are leaders in CFS.

We work so well as a team in an operational setting, so it's important to continue this through to our trainings and at the brigade level.

Remember "If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito." - The Dalai Lama

2: PPC SECOND SET ROLLOUT ALMOST COMPLETE

by Brett Williamson

A program to provide all operational members with a second set of PPC and meet requests for a field uniform set is almost complete.

The four year project is now in its final year and was based on a request from the CFS Volunteers Association to see all qualified members equipped with second sets of rural (yellows) PPC, second sets of structural (golds) PPC and a single field uniform set.



2: Penola brigade tries on the new PPC.

"All existing firefighters who hold the SCBA capability have received their second set of structural PPC, with only a few sets of rural PPC still to be delivered," Specialist Equipment Officer Stephen Boucher said.

Those trained from 2017 onwards in SCBA have received their first set of Structural PPC while completing their training. With the second sets being delivered to their brigade shortly after their course completion.

"The second sets of PPC will enhance volunteers' safety and assist in managing extended responses to fires and other incidents. In addition it will reduce health related issues with the ability to clean soiled PPC while still maintaining operational capability due to the second set of Structural PPC being available to volunteers" Mr Boucher said.

Remember, your PPC is there for your protection, please help us to ensure it is in the best possible condition, clean and free of any defects.



Frontline Services Support

1: Rockleigh Opening

1: NEW STATIONS UNVEILED

by Ali Martin

Along with Project Renew, CFS has a Capital Program which sees new stations built every year.

Currently under construction in Region 1 is the Western District station on Kangaroo Island. Work started in March on a new piece of land close to the Western Districts Oval.

Piccadilly in Region 1 is also under construction and will receive a new station on the corner of Piccadilly Road and Atkinson Avenue.

Woolumbol in Region 5 is under construction and the brigade will take occupancy of a new six by 10 metre storage shed in June.

There are a number of projects in the tender documentation phase, including Tailm Bend, where a new parcel of land has been identified on the corner of Parklands Terrace and Golf Course Road.

The land was resurveyed, submitted to Crown Lands and is currently waiting for final endorsement. The architects have finalised the project documentation ready for tender.

In Tarlee in Region 2, there are plans to demolish the existing building and replace it with the same station model as Piccadilly, it is ready to release to tender in the near future.

At Mount Burr in Region 5, they will also demolish and replace the existing station with a new two bay station, complete with meeting room, toilet and SCBA cleaning room, all under the main roof.



1: Montacute Opening



1: Yunta CFS Opening

2: PRE-PLANNING A MUST

by Ali Martin

The annual Santos Tour Down Under (TDU) men's and women's cycling races bring thousands of spectators onto the route which passes through a number of regions.

Closed roads, street parties and an influx of people in an area can greatly hamper a brigade's ability to respond to an incident.

However, all of these things are taken into consideration by the CFS GIS team prior to the event. Once they get maps of both the Women's and Men's Tour route they tackle all of these factors and more.

They provide a web application to Adelaide Fire and the Tour Down Under Race Headquarters so that if a fire was to break out and the Quick Response Vehicle (QRV) following the riders need support to extinguish it, the maps can be used to check the response and manually adjust it if necessary. Stop calls were automatically factored in if a brigade had to travel through the route to get to the incident.

It also factored in close Bushfire Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges so if officials had to close the race due to fire, they could direct the crowd to those areas.

The relationship between the Tour Down Under organisers and CFS continues to grow with plans to provide them with live incident data on the TDU map for the Control Room next year.



2: CFS volunteers at the Santos Tour Down Under



3: Incident Command Vehicle

3: NEW COMMAND VEHICLES

by Ali Martin

Last year CFS trialed a new concept in light fleet Incident Command Vehicles (ICV), basing them in Groups around the state.

The Ford Ranger 4x4 dual cab purpose built cab chassis body serves as an operational response vehicle in the field.

Three of the Incident Command Vehicles (ICVs) have now found ongoing homes in Region 5 (Naracoorte Group Car 2), Region 2 (Wakefield Plains Group Car 1) and Region 1 (Heysen Group Car 1). The remaining two ICVs continue to be trialed in Region 4 with feedback being collated with a view to allocating them to Group Brigades.

The new ICV is field use ready and includes a second battery to assist with powering fridge, radios and lights/sirens. It also is fully fitted with wireless Government Radio Networks (GRN) in the rear, along with a full radio fit out with dual heads located in both cab and rear body.

The body has several storage compartments and trays to carry brigade equipment such as Personal Protective Clothing (PPC).

There is a magnetic slide out work table on the kerbside of the vehicle complete with a fold down white magnetic board with overhead LED lighting and trundle draws on the right hand side.

The vehicle even has a 15 litre hygiene station, complete with soap dispenser.



3: Incident Command Vehicle

4: FRASERS MAKE A HOME IN ADELAIDE

by Ali Martin

CFS has a contract with Frasers to manufacture some of its tankers.

The New Zealand based business last year opened up a facility in Adelaide which is proving to be a positive for CFS.

Manager Operational Response Vehicles and Equipment, Andrew Plush said vehicles now get delivered to Australia and Fraser's Adelaide workshop complete the pre-delivery, which is reducing the CFS work load.

It has however caused some delays with the 2017/18 build now being delivered alongside the 2018/19 program.

This year already 64 trucks have come through, and as they continue to find their feet in the Adelaide workshop it will be more streamlined.

"The best impact for Frasers is they're now able to see their trucks and conduct repairs if necessary," he said.

"They get the chance to see the wear and tear so they can find things they need to change. For instance there's been some instances with dust, which they don't have problems with in New Zealand.

"By seeing how the dust and other elements not experienced in their country it ultimately goes into a better truck in the future."

5: CFS WELCOMES NEW DIRECTORS

by Ali Martin

CFS has welcomed two new Directors to its Executive Leadership Team.

Former Region 1 Commander Brett Loughlin was this year appointed Director Preparedness Operations. He has acted in the role since July last year when Leigh Miller took leave into his retirement.

Tammy Moffat joined CFS as the Director of Operational Capability and Planning in April.

She started her career with Treasury and Finance as a Graduate Accountant before moving to SA Police and most recently SA Health.

Most of this time she has been a Business Manager or Manager of Business Operations. Tammy is a qualified CPA (Certified Practising Accountant).

She will bring a strong business management and planning focus to her team and is looking forward to aligning business/corporate functions with the direction of the service.

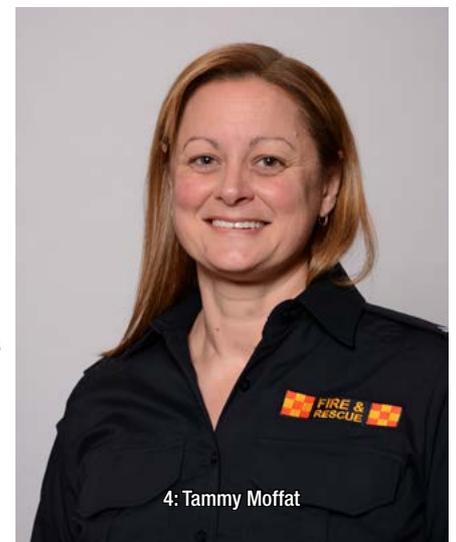
She was attracted to work at CFS because she wanted to be able to help people and the community as a whole.

"Already I have found CFS very welcoming and it is encouraging to know there are so many dedicated and committed people in the organisation," she said.

"I'm looking forward to working with the operational teams and enabling them to provide the services needed by the communities both now and in the future.

"They have lots of people with extensive knowledge and experience that they are willing to shared."

Tammy replaces Georgie Cornish in this role, Georgie has moved to a position in Recovery.



4: Tammy Moffat

Frontline Services Support

1: Norwood Football Club training at the CFS State Training Centre.

1: REDLEGS PUT THROUGH PACES

by Ali Martin

Norwood Football Club held a training session at the CFS State Training Centre as part of their preseason training.

After finishing skills drills at the Nairne Football Oval, they had breakfast at the State Training Centre before taking part in some team building skills.

The 55 players took part in five drills, first the gantry prop, where they had a rope and drum they had to shimmy up, before sinking a stand pipe. They held four 64mm charged lines and knocked over witches hats, as well as a search and rescue in the dark to find three hidden mannequins while carrying a Breathing Apparatus set.

Other drills included carrying 10 x 15 litre drums to the top of a building and arranging them in a pattern, before carrying them downstairs again to replicate the pattern for the next group.

Finally they used Road Crash Rescue tools to cut a pipe and spreaders to gently pick up a coke can and move it without crushing it.

CFS State Training Centre Manager David Jeffree said it was a valuable exercise which gave the footballers an idea of what volunteers do. He said they found it difficult to believe our volunteers do all of these activities in real life, without being paid!

2: NEW HEAVY INSPECTIONS INTRODUCED

by Ali Martin

The Department of Transport, Planning and Infrastructure (DPTI) now require for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes to have regular inspections once they reach a certain age.

Trucks will not receive an inspection until they are four years old. They will then require inspections every two years until they are 10 years old, when they'll have annual inspections.

Manager Operational Response Vehicles and Equipment Andrew Plush said the bonus of the retrofit of safety systems is that we have picked up problems that will ensure our fleet is in a good position for the inspection scheme.

CFS has the biggest government fleet in the state, with 800 trucks located in some remote areas meaning there will be major challenges to get vehicles inspected.

"We have built an additional six 34Ps which can be used to backfill as trucks are taken out of services for the inspections. One will be based in each Region to help support the project.

"All trucks in this age range will have to be inspected before their registration is renewed. We have asked for an additional person in each region to assist with the management of this process."

"The positives are that this initiative will help maintain the standards in our aging fleet."

CFS is hopeful it will be part of the pilot program and will know more by June 30. There will also be more information from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator about what the inspections entailed.

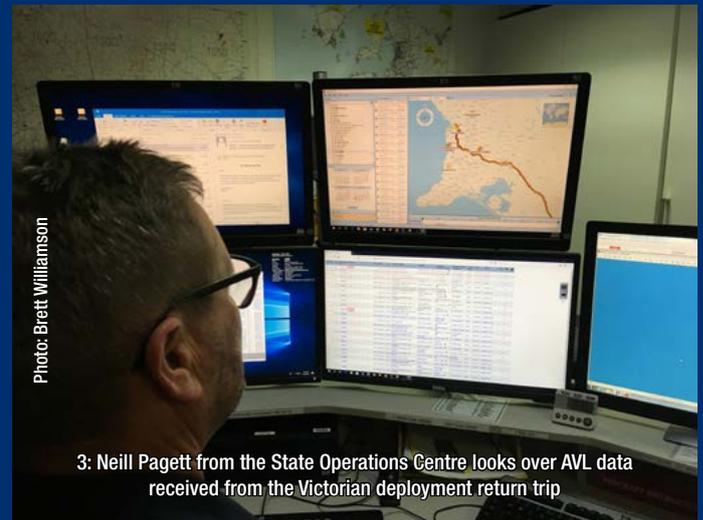
3: TRIALS OF AUTOMATED VEHICLE LOCATORS FOR CFS FLEET UNDERWAY

by Brett Williamson

Following the expressed interest of the State Government to consider Automated Vehicle Locators (AVLs), the SA Country Fire Service trialled three Tracplus RockAIR units.

The units were chosen for trial due to the complexity of coverage zones in which the CFS operates in across the state, and the firefighting aircraft and supporting vehicles use the same system.

"The units can utilise 3G, 4G and satellite networks," CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton said.



3: Neil Pagett from the State Operations Centre looks over AVL data received from the Victorian deployment return trip

"Two units were trialled with Para Group to test them in areas where we know 3G and 4G coverage is sometimes limited, to make sure they transfer between the systems smoothly."

Two units are dashboard mounted, while the third is a roof mounted version.

Although sensors can be added to the units to process data such as tank level, crew members and pump activations, Mr Nettleton said the CFS was only interested in having them as vehicle locators for response coordination.

"Truck responses and coverage areas can vary greatly from one brigade to another, so our biggest challenge will be to find the right device to suit all of our fleet, provide us with the information we will need from anywhere in the state, and at a cost that is acceptable for procurement."

"The trials main purpose was to determine what information is essential to assist incident controllers at Group Control Centres and Regional Headquarters," Mr Nettleton said.

"The location of appliances at bush and grass fires can greatly assist in providing vital intelligence and information particularly for fast moving fires."

First round trials have been completed.

If the systems are deemed to be fit-for-purpose by Group Officers and Regions involved in the trial, a case will be put forward to begin a larger scale trial with a possible mock incident to determine the usefulness and delivery reliability of data on a large scale for Groups and Regions.

If the AVL data is believed to be useful and suited for operational needs, a business case for funding will then be developed and put forward to the South Australian Government for funding for the entire fleet of fire trucks to be fitted.



4: Project Officer Peter Bonython in front of a retrofitted tanker.

4: FURTHER SAFETY SYSTEMS INSTALLED

by Ali Martin

After several burn-overs during the Pinery fire, the State Government pledged an upgrade to all CFS trucks without current safety systems to ensure protection for crews.

It's the third year of a four year project and so far 91 heavy vehicles have been upgraded to include in cab breathing and pump operation, deluge systems and where they need replacement, have thermal curtains installed. The vehicles are also receiving new reflective striping on the exterior of the truck.

Project Officer, Peter Bonython is based at Moore Engineering in Murray Bridge where this work is being carried out.

He said brigades have been pleased with the new safety systems. However, during the retrofit they have encountered a variety of problems with the vehicles which in some cases have meant a delay, extra work and a dent in some budgets.

"The safety inspection is revealing issues with pumps and plumbing problems that we've been able to deal with. If left unattended, these could have serious consequences," he said.

"This is a good opportunity to check the pumps on trucks, something we have never done in the past.

He said a lot of branches on the hose reels are leaking or the controls are stiff.

"I encourage brigades to not put up with equipment if it's not working properly. Report it and get it fixed. If you don't, it could fail during a fire when you are using it to protect yourself."

Also identified has been issues with chassis rust, an area CFS has been proactive in fixing before it becomes an issue.

"The rust is being caused by the foam used in the water to wash the trucks. It breaks down the surface tension of the water meaning it runs further. If left on metal, over time it corrodes it.

"If you are washing down your truck, take it for a drive after to dry it out, that will save this becoming an issue.

He is also reminding drivers not to crunch the gears. He said in some cases there are issues with gearboxes which brigades have not noticed or reported.

"It's very easy to change gears in these newer appliances, but drivers need to remember to be slow and steady as gear boxes are not as strong as they used to be."

There is still a large number of 24Ps to be fitted with the safety systems, but with only one spare in the state it is difficult to push them through.

Department for Environment and Water (DEW) have also had some tankers upgraded, along with MFS.

5: NEW BULKIES AND 14s

by Ali Martin

A new style of Bulk Water Carrier (BWC) has been introduced into the CFS fleet. Manager Operational Response Vehicles and Equipment Andrew Plush said when the BWC13s were introduced into areas in the Adelaide Hills they had difficulties descending steep inclines. So they're introducing BWC11s.

"This means the driver now has full speed control coming down hills," Mr Plush said.

"We've delivered six of these new BWCs and have another three in this build program. The eventual plan will be to move all BWC13 out of steeper country and place them in flat districts.

"The BWC11 is an automatic manual so the computer changes gears. This means it won't wear out like the other trucks. The new design also means we can put a lifting device in to lower portable dams to the ground."

The BWC11s do have 1,800 litres less water and two seats, not three. However, they have full safety features, including in cab breathing and deluge systems.

The new look 14s haven't increased in chassis size, but some changes mean it can now carry 1,500L of water. Andrew said the next build will have only three seats, not the four it currently has.

"There's increase performance of the pump engine too which is another positive. They also have all the safety features of our new vehicles."

The BWCs and 14s are manufactured by Moore Engineering, located in Murray Bridge.



Photo: Josh Jeffrey

5: Blanchetown had a new 14 delivered in April.



Photo: Jacob Michael

5: Southern Fleurieu had a new BWC11 delivered last year

Frontline Services Support



1: Warooka CFS received new kitchen facilities.

1: RENEWING CFS STATIONS

by Ali Martin

As part of the last State Election, the now government made a promise to upgrade CFS stations with \$5million in funding over two years.

Last year Brigades and Regions were asked to submit proposals with descriptions of upgrades required to stations. Project Officer Anna Frazelas and Business Support Officer Kym Walton are working directly on the upgrade, with the whole project managed by Sandy Pope.

There are 98 projects on the books for this financial year, with 86 brigades receiving upgrades. The funding will continue next year with already 112 projects approved to be completed by then.

Currently 36 projects have been finished, with another 50 already started.

"Brigades have been happy with the results, but the process has been a bit slower than many thought it would be," Anna said.

"Councils still own many of the stations so it's not only getting tenders, but gaining approvals from land owners for their building approval."

"It's really good to have some of these items addressed, especially with some brigades waiting a while to have some basic amenities," Sandy said.

There have been significant repairs and maintenance carried out, with the installation of toilets, security lighting and painting to update the look of some brigades.

"In some cases brigades have asked for stations to be painted, but on one instance it was decided to increase the project and re-sheet the shed so it lasts longer."

At Kadina, the concrete pillars at the front of the brigade were cracking due to the vibration of old roller doors. Consequently, the station was extended forward by three metres and new roller doors installed.

"There's now lots of room out the front, so the brigade is really excited about that," Sandy said.

Sedan and Netherton brigade have recently received new appliances and now have room for them in the brigade.



1: Narrung's shed was re-sheeted.



1: Sedan CFS had a storage shed built.



1: Tea Tree Gully brigade had new flooring installed as part of their project.



2: Nuriootpa brigade going through a decontamination drill as part of their training.

2: NEW HAZMAT VEHICLES HIT THE ROAD

by Ali Martin

One of the incidents CFS regularly attends is hazardous materials spills.

There are a number of brigades trained to combat hazardous materials, but when they aren't able to detect the material, or level of the incident is upgraded, a HAZMAT Technician brigade is brought in.

There are six brigades trained to this level around the state, one in each Region – Burnside, Nuriootpa, Murray Bridge, Stirling North, Naracoorte and Lincoln brigades.

Manager Technical Operations Wayne Atkins said the first technician vehicle was delivered to Burnside two years ago, with Stirling North getting a slightly improved version.

Now the other four brigades are set to receive a specialised HAZMAT Technician vehicle. They are lighter trucks with five or six crew seats, and carry equipment the standard combatant brigades don't have.

"The trucks are based on a road crash rescue truck we looked at in Victoria's Country Fire Authority," Wayne said.

"They will carry the current hazardous materials combatant list, along with special detection equipment for chemical identification and chemical protective clothing.

"Depending on where in the state the brigades are based, each have a different requirement for the equipment they carry, depending on the risk in their areas.

"In this case, the likelihood of technician brigades being used is low, but the consequence when they are needed is great."

No delivery date for the trucks has been set.

3: BATTERY POWERED RCR TOOLS TRIALLED

by Brett Williamson

Aldinga Beach and Athelstone brigades have been trialling Holmatro battery-powered road crash rescue (RCR) tools for several months to evaluate if they are fit for purpose.

"The initial feedback has been better than expected," CFS Specialist Equipment Officer, Stephen Boucher said.

Cutting and spreading pressures of the equipment is the same as the current conventional version, but weight-per-tool has increased by approximately 4kg due to battery and hydraulic pumps now being included on the tools.

"The additional weight and a need to use a ram extension were two areas of feedback crews were concerned about at first, but acknowledge that the benefits outweighed the areas for improvement," Mr Boucher said.

Aldinga Beach have used the tools operationally and completed many hours of training.

Athelstone have used the equipment for training purpose only at the time of compiling their report.

Both brigades commented that the tools were a vast improvement to conventional twin hose models due to their manoeuvrability, noise reduction, portability and being able to use multiple tools at the same time across the one incident.

Crews also stated their staging and set-up times had reduced by about four minutes to less than two minutes with the new kits.

Mr Boucher said the kits were lighter and required less stowage space and would be considered standard issue with new medium pumpers.

They would also be considered for RCR brigades, when the existing tool reached their end of life, and would be approved on a case-by-case-evaluation basis.

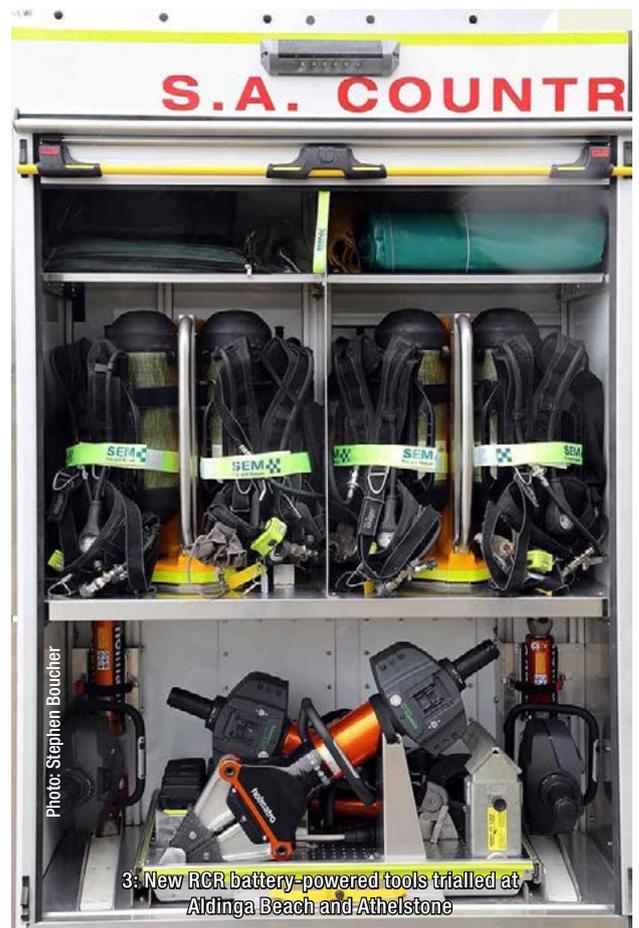


Photo: Stephen Boucher

3: New RCR battery-powered tools trialled at Aldinga Beach and Athelstone

Youth



1: Region 1 Cadet Championships

1: CADETS TEST SKILLS

The first weekend of May 2019 saw 90 cadets from across Region 1 take part in the 2019 Region 1 Cadet Championships.

Fifteen teams of six from Groups across the Region competed against each other in three different fireground, draughting and burn over drills, with medals awarded to the top three teams.

Approximately 35 volunteers supported this event, including the organising committee of Tom Painter, Michelle Painter, Ben Pettman, Emily Pettman, Bethany Morrison, Cameron Dangerfield and Sue Kluske, who spent countless hours planning the event in the months leading up to it.

"It is important for cadets to improve their firefighting skills, learn how to operate as part of a team, give them a sense of pride and to prepare them for their future volunteer CFS careers," said Tom.

"By having events that are scored both on their times and technical correctness, we're helping them develop skills that will be crucial on a fireground or emergency situation."

The winners of the day were Sturt Group Team 3, second was Victor Harbor Group Team 2 and third was Sturt Group Team 1.

The committee is looking forward to hosting an even bigger event next year, with the possibility of inviting other Regions Cadets to compete.



1: Region 1 Cadet Championships

2: REGION 3's CADET RESURGENCE

by Brett Williamson

This year Region 3 made a concerted effort to revitalise their cadet program, and the response has been very positive.

"About 12 months ago we identified that we did not have a great number of cadets across the region," Region 3 Regional Commander, Ray Jackson said.

"We allocated a staff member the responsibility of creating and running a committee," Ray said.

The move quickly gained momentum, with many brigades eager to reintroduce or boost their cadet numbers.

"We've seen a number of new cadet programs start up across the region since the creation of the committee."

"Cadets are the future of our organisation, so it is great to see the enthusiasm shown by all to teach our next generation of firefighter in Region 3."

3: YOUTH UPDATE

The CFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) has had a successful and productive 12 months through the establishment of some new training opportunities for CFS volunteers.

The YAC was successful in obtaining grant funding to implement a Leadership and Management program (Certificate IV), to be delivered by an external Registered Training Organisation at the State Training Centre. The course will begin in June 2019 and will help to improve volunteers' skills in both their professional and CFS careers.

Additionally, the YAC has continued to coordinate and provide a number of development opportunities for CFS members, with a number attending training programs including the youth Inter-Agency AIMS course, Rural and Urban Firefighting Development Programs, and Youth Mental Health First Aid course.

In looking ahead, the YAC elections will be held in July 2019, with some new faces joining the Council.

We look forward to continuing the momentum created over the past 12 months through the provision of development opportunities for the youth of the service.

The YAC can be contacted on CFS.YouthAdvisoryCouncil@sa.gov.au.



3: The YAC organised a Youth course with SES, MFS, SA Ambulance, St John's Ambulance and Surf Life Saving SA participants in the Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System at the end of May.



4: Hills Cadets watched over the memorial at Blackwood



4: Region 4 Cadets at the State Memorial



4: Our Cadets at Port Lincoln joined community groups in keeping vigil



4: Mount Pleasant cadets at Anzac day

4: CADETS PAY THEIR RESPECTS

by Simone McDonnell

Lest We Forget- CFS Cadets keep watch over memorials in lead up to Dawn Service

The Anzac Eve Youth Vigil stems from 'holding ground', a military tactic where a patrol would find and hold a strategic position prior to the arrival of their army. This would often involve an all-night watch, ensuring that the area is secured against threat.

Following on from a graffiti attack on the State War Memorial in 1999, youth vigils reflecting these military traditions have taken place across South Australia.

State Memorial

This year, representatives from Region 4 were invited to keep guard over the State Memorial, with eight cadets rotating positions around the memorial throughout the night. The group caught the bus from Port Augusta on the morning of the vigil, arriving in Adelaide in time to start their watch. Over the course of the evening, they worked with other groups including Army, Air Force and Navy Cadets, as well as representatives from organisations such as the Girl Guides, St Johns and the SES, to ensure that the memorial was guarded at all times.

Cadet coordinators used the bus ride to Adelaide to teach the group about the CFS Insignia, which they were then able to reflect on throughout the night, until the conclusion of the Dawn Service at 7am.

Tact: The way that they spoke to each other, despite being tired.

Loyalty: At the dawn service, after being up all night, they respectfully rose to their feet as the Governor entered. They showed a loyalty to the rank

and service that we can be proud of. Their loyalty to the spirit of ANZAC kept them on their feet, standing tall and proud, through the entire dawn service.

Dexterity: They were all willing to learn a new skill, in a new situation, practise it and then perfect it. Watching them march, standing tall and straight, shows the dexterity of these cadets.

Observation: With minimal guidance from the cadet leaders these young people observed the line-up of marchers and often slotted themselves into position to ensure CFS was adequately represented in the vigil at all times.

Sympathy: Their compassion and care. If someone was feeling tired, needed to find food or just wanted a break, they showed compassion by stepping in and supporting each other.

Gallantry: Our Region 4 cadet who was so nervous to be the "first" in line, our cadet who read publicly during the ceremony, our cadet who laid a wreath and our cadet who escorted one of the honoured guests were all nervous but took deep breaths and bravely stepped up to the challenges they were given.

Explicitness: They explicitly carried out all tasks that they were asked to perform in the timeframe and manner. They had explicit instructions provided about expectations and behaviours.

Perseverance: In the early hours of the morning, when their feet were sore and eyelids dropping, they remained on their best behaviour and stood respectfully through the dawn service, they persevered right through until the end.

Across the state, other Groups represented the CFS at local vigils, with more than 50 cadets taking part in this important tradition.

General



3: Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with Dr Ian Musgrave when he spoke to the CFS Executive Leadership Team about PFAS.

1: VAs CONVERGE ON ADELAIDE

On April 4 and 5 2019 the SA Country Fire Service Volunteers Association (CFSVA) hosted CAVFA delegates (Council of Australian Volunteer Fire Associations) in Adelaide.

Delegates from each state attended the two day meetings, representing in total 265,000 volunteer firefighters nationally.

The CFSVA and CFS are highly regarded for setting the trend on many volunteer matters, such as the presumptive legislation and speed limits past emergency zones.

Recent CFS interstate deployment also received high praise, with several delegates experiencing first-hand the professionalism and high level of training of both our CFS volunteers and staff.

The meetings were hosted at CFS Headquarters with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton as the guest speaker.

Chief Officer Nettleton provided an inspiring speech in relation to the importance of associations and their respective fire services working in cooperation to achieve good outcomes for their volunteers and the communities they serve.

Chief Nettleton was kind enough to provide delegates with a tour through CFS HQ.

2: ALERT SA APP AND WEBSITE 2019

by Sita Baker

The Public Information and Warnings team at SAFECOM have been working hard this year to build a new version of the Alert SA service, including a new App and Website which will be launched in conjunction with the 2019/2020 Fire Danger Season.



The Alert SA service aggregates and displays data sourced from 14 emergency service agencies, government departments and community partners. The service also provides the community with an opt-in capability to receive notifications. This alleviates the need to monitor a range of fragmented information sources, assisting the public to make informed decisions about their safety.

Users will be able to create custom geographical watch zones for key locations such as home, work, school, holiday house etc. and receive real time alerts and information that may affect safety in those areas.

SAFECOM would like to thank all of the Agencies, staff and volunteer involved in developing the new service for their hard work and contribution. We look forward to the Alert SA having a positive impact on community safety.

3: PFAS – IS IT DANGEROUS?

by Ali Martin

In the past few years, there has been a lot of talk about the use of firefighting foam, in particular those which have PFAS and PFOS present.

Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS, PFOS, PFOA) were previously found in B Class foam, used for oil spills and structure fires.

Foam with those substances were banned by the SA Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) at the beginning of 2018. CFS conducted two recalls of this product – if you know of any still at stations, please contact your Regional office.

It has not been used at the CFS State Training facilities in over a decade.

However, there has been some media attention regarding PFAS, with a cluster of MFS firefighters at the Largs North station having increased levels of the chemical in their blood.

To find out more about what this means, and if our firefighters are at risk, CFS Executive Leadership Team invited Adelaide University Senior Lecturer Dr Ian Musgrave to present to them on the issue.

Dr Musgrave is the convenor of the Toxicology Special Interest Group of the Australasian Society for Pharmacology and Toxicology.

“PFAS is called in media the new asbestos – spoiler, it’s not. But there is a complexity around it,” he said.

“PFAS is highly fat soluble, is slow to breakdown and not only persists in the body but accumulates.”

The health issues potentially related to exposure include increased cholesterol and uric acid in the blood, reduced kidney function, earlier menopause and there are some indicators of immune response levels and altered thyroid and sex hormones.

However, as for what level of PFAS is an appropriate level, Dr Musgrave said the biological data is not yet available.

He said it was recognised some time ago that there would be a bio accumulation of the product in the environment which could present problems.

Sources of exposure to the chemical include the use of firefighting foams with PFAS present either breaching safety equipment or being exposed while cleaning. It could also be present in dust vapour at training sites, contamination of food on areas using PFAS and to the general public through diet and water contamination.

The good news is since the chemical has been phased out of use, the levels of PFAS in the general population are falling.

Dr Musgrave said the Expert Health Panel delivered a report about PFAS in 2018.

That panel stated- “Evidence to date does not establish whether PFAS exposure levels seeing Australia might increase risks of cardiac disease. . . established risk factors. . . are likely to be of a much greater magnitude than those potentially caused by PFAS.”

“The panel concluded there is mostly limited or no evidence for any link with human disease from these observed differences. Importantly there is no current evidence that supports a large impact on a person’s health as a result of high levels of PFAS exposure.

“However, the Panel noted that even though the evidence for PFAS exposure and links to health effects is very weak and inconsistent, important health effects for individuals exposed to PFAS cannot be ruled out based on the current evidence.”

Dr Musgrave said studies on its effects are still continuing.

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton said CFS will continue to monitor any developments in this area. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) are looking to do a study, and CFS has representation on that committee.

The CFS Volunteer Association is also monitoring developments.

“One of the challenges of any larger logistical organisation is how staff and operational data is stored accurately with currency and accessibility. Leaving large amounts of data “unattended” can present significant risk and cost. ”



4: EMERALD

by Neil Charter/Cassandra Curtis

Optimising emergency services management and training systems through centralised data management

Late in 2017, SAFECOM in partnership with the CFS, MFS and SES embarked on a project to establish a shared Data Management Platform for collecting and managing agency data, particularly in relation to Membership and Training Management.

One of the challenges of any larger logistical organisation is how staff and operational data is stored accurately with currency and accessibility. Leaving large amounts of data “unattended” can present significant risk and cost. EMERALD is constructed to alleviate this risk and ensure that accurate, useable data is effectively managed to support both staff and corporate needs.

A SAFECOM owned platform rather than one controlled by external vendors will provide for future flexibility, growth and change.

EMERALD stands for:
EMERGENCY SERVICES
MEMBERSHIP
EQUIPMENT
RULES
ASSETS
LEARNING
DATABASE

“Project Boomer” was the formal project phase responsible for engaging and establishing the complex pathway towards realising a more effective, contemporary and centralised data warehousing system.

EMERALD and the Operational Data Store is the outcome of that process and will see the newly stored data start to be utilised for both Training and Membership purposes.

The transition from the previous management system allows:

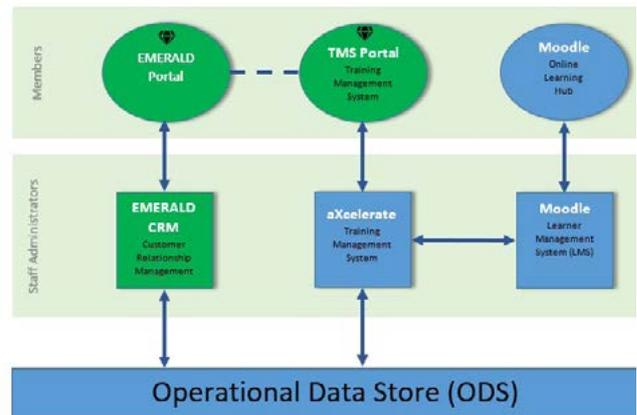
- ✓ A more centralised membership management system
- ✓ Greater member interaction functionality
- ✓ A contemporary ICT platform that can grow with business needs

What is being delivered?

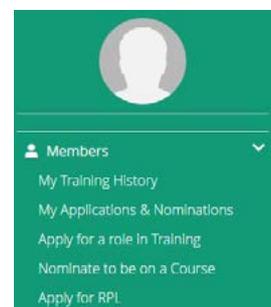
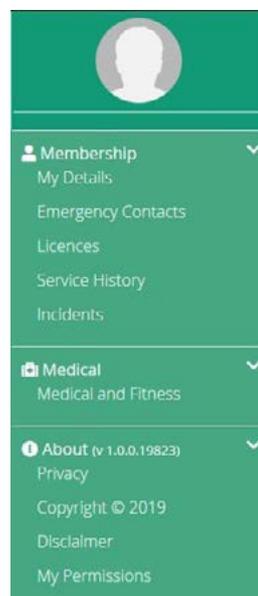
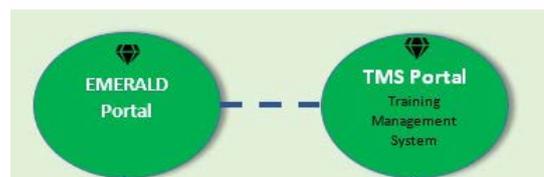
1. **Operational Data Store** = Referred to as the ODS
2. **Membership Management System** = EMERALD
3. **Training Management System** = A hybrid of an off-the-shelf product called aXcelerate together with a suite of customised functions in EMERALD built for our discrete business needs.

The operational benefits of the new EMERALD data system include:

- Reducing operational IT costs for the applications in scope by utilising Whole of Government pricing arrangements and by using “off-the-shelf” or “as-a-service” packages in place of custom-developed code.
- Move to an IT platform that provides current-generation technology with future flexibility and growth options, with the ability to develop, configure and maintain applications in-house.
- Deliver a data management system that can effectively deliver whole of organisation profiles with immediacy and accuracy.



For further information: Please direct all queries, issues, requests and feedback to: SAFECOMHelpdesk@sa.gov.au



General



1: Attendees at the Women and Firefighting Australasia conference

“Women and Firefighting has always been a passion of mine, empowering women to believe that if they have the interest in the CFS, or any service, then they can pursue it.”

1: Wafa CONFERENCE

Last September, firefighters from across Australia, the Asia-Pacific and countries as far away as Ireland, the UK and USA converged on Wellington, New Zealand, for the biennial Women and Firefighting Australasia Conference.

Nine personnel from the CFS were supported to attend the conference which, with a theme of “Looking forward, looking back: Shaping the new norm”, aimed to build confidence and empower women within the Emergency Services sector.

Region 6 Admin Officer and CFS volunteer Kylie Kleinig was selected to attend the conference, and found it to be extremely beneficial,

“Women and Firefighting has always been a passion of mine, empowering women to believe that if they have the interest in the CFS, or any service, then they can pursue it.”

“The Wafa conference is important as it is a foundation for women in firefighting, women who are wanting to make change, women who promote and develop strong leadership in their chosen field to come together to share experiences, knowledge and how they got to where they are today.”

The conference, which ran over three days, saw participants take part in a series of interactive workshops, listen to key speaker, and network with other women involved in firefighting, sharing ideas and experiences.

Kylie found herself relating to many stories of women who juggle competing demands in their lives, and the obstacles they have faced in their firefighting careers.

“I came away from this conference buzzing with ideas and confidence to put my options forward to start planning the next 10 years in the Service.”

With the event taking place every two years, plans are well underway for 2020, which will be held in South Australia, in conjunction with next year’s AFAC Fire and Emergency Services Conference.

“I am looking forward to Wafa being in SA as it provides an opportunity for more of our local volunteers and staff officers to be involved, to tell their stories and to promote the Service in our own backyard.”

Reflections on Wafa by Alisha Clark, Stirling North

When I found out I was going to the Wafa conference I was so excited but completely overwhelmed at the same time. I have never been out of Australia before, well to be completely honest, I haven’t left the state much. But I’m so glad I applied and got the opportunity to go.

Since returning from the conference I am more outspoken and I feel more confident within myself. It opened my eyes to being more than “just a mum”. While I love being a mum, it felt like there could be more and this showed me what I could do.

The conference has also helped me with cadets- I am now even more interested in taking a closer look at how we can support them to go from cadet to fire fighter as this isn’t always easy. They are usually heading into employment and finishing Year 12 but I really want them to step up as they are a big part of the brigade. The New Zealand trip helped to highlight this and gave me the confidence to look more into this issue.

The other thing that I found interesting about the conference was that it wasn’t just about women. It was about diversity and there were a number of guys that attended, two of them were CFS representatives which I thought was great.

This trip made me proud to be a member of the Stirling North Brigade and Region 4 because I have never felt discriminated against or had to overcome any issue relating to me being a “girl”.

This was a great opportunity which, without the support of CFS I would never have had. I would like to thank all those who made it possible and supported my journey.

2: STAFF AWARDS

Each year CFS holds a Staff Day, which is an opportunity for staff across eight locations to get together to learn and network.

Part of that day is to also acknowledge some of the stand out work by some of those people. Staff have the opportunity to nominate people for six awards.

The 2018 winners were:

STAFF ACHIEVER – SAM QUIGLEY

For the outstanding achievement of proactively reaching a significant milestone in the consolidation and reshaping of CFS operational doctrine, to enhance capability and address legislative requirements by providing clarity and efficiency.

INNOVATION AWARD - MATT DAVIS

For professionalism and excellence in representing CFS by building positive and inclusive relationships with the people of Kiribati, using an outcome focused approach which was both pragmatic and collaborative towards all stakeholders.

BEST FUNCTIONAL TEAM FOCUS ON CUSTOMER SERVICE DELIVERY - STATE RURAL TRAINING TEAM (Lonica Collins, Robin Geytenbeek, Rick Jarvis, Ben Lupo, Chris Record and Wayne Richardson)

For consistent and outstanding dedication to the support and training of volunteers and staff, sharing knowledge, skills and experience in the provision of engaging and contemporary training.

BEST INDIVIDUAL REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION – TIM MCNEILLY



2: Tim McNeilly

For demonstrating outstanding leadership, commitment and dedication in the development of a first class volunteer and staff rapport, achieving positive outcomes in all initiatives undertaken.

BEST HQ CONTRIBUTION – VANESSA GEERTS

For diligence and capability in conducting a review of CFS internal communications, capturing opportunities to build on strengths and ideas, resulting in an Internal Communications Strategy providing a sound pathway into the future.

CFS ACHIEVEMENT CERTIFICATE – EMILIA ADAMS

In recognition of valuable and proactive support to the Bushfire Management Planning Unit, both for the identification and improvement to online mapping in addition to the development of a mobile app for the collection of fire track information, incorporating a built in functionality to enable future use by bushfire management committees and other stakeholders.

“So far the process of engagement has included 48 focus groups with no connection to emergency services, and more than 5,500 people from across Australia.”



3: Studies are being undertaken to understand how to better describe fire risk

3: FIRE DANGER RATING SYSTEMS

The now familiar Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger Ratings may soon be a thing of the past.

A new National Fire Danger Ratings System is being developed to better predict and measure fire behaviour in different vegetation types and parts of Australia. The social science around the warnings is also being reviewed to ensure the community better understands the rating system and what it means to them.

Since 1967, Forest Fire Danger Ratings across Australia have been determined using the McArthur Forest Fire Danger Index.

This method looks at the chances of a fire starting, the predicted rate of spread, its intensity, and its difficulty of suppression, according to various combinations of air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and rainfall or drought conditions in forested parts of the country. It also now takes into account the Grassland Fire Danger Index.

A national project has commenced to look at these systems with jurisdictional representation from across the country, including the CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark.

This project is split between two main categories – the science and the social.

The scientific and environmental research is being led by New South Wales Rural Fire Service. It is looking at a broader range of vegetation than the current forest and grassland. It also looks more at wind changes and atmospheric stability, along with changes in temperature, humidity and wind speed.

Locally, the CFS has led the national social impact research, conducting the third largest survey of its kind. So far the process of engagement has included 48 focus groups with no connection to emergency services, and more than 5,500 people from across Australia. The findings are in the process of being collated.

An improved measure of fire danger will better place CFS volunteers to understand the risks and prepare for days of increased fire danger, as well as allowing the organisation to prioritise resources in different parts of the state.

The language and communication of these risks will also improve the local communities' levels of preparedness. With more accurate calculations, we should be better placed to reduce complacency and ensure that members of the public are aware of what to do on days of elevated risk.



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 the Team on 08 8115 3531 or email CFS.CorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au

4: MODERNISATION OF VOLUNTEER FINANCES

by Brett Ibbotson

The Future Direction for Volunteer Finance project was established as a review of the volunteer finance arrangements, to ensure that they are keeping pace with current and future banking practice and to standardise arrangements across the Country Fire Service to allow for better support for volunteers in finance roles.

The changes include clearer separation and management of Budget Funds (provided through the Emergency Services Levy to cover general running costs) and Local Funds (raised by the Group or Brigade to fund equipment or facility improvements above Budget Fund allocations).



The volunteer finance arrangements are fully explained in a series of Information Sheets that are available on the Volunteer Portal under the 'Administration' menu.

As part of the changes, Groups and Brigades have the opportunity to register for and begin using the Local Funds Reporting System (LFRS) for their Local Funds.

The LFRS will provide all Groups and Brigades with a simplified financial reporting system, which can be used to report on all local funds within the one system including bank accounts, term deposits and petty cash. This system will mean previous reporting including providing bank statements, ABCD reports and Woomera spreadsheets will no longer be required.

The LFRS also provides other benefits to Brigades and Groups including the ability to store electronic copies of financial documents online, ability to track specific activities or account codes and automatic processing of GST refunds.

Face to face training sessions for Finance Coordinators and others that may use the LFRS is currently being rolled out across the Regions. To compliment this, information and training materials for the LFRS are available on the volunteer portal.

Initial setup forms will be required to be filled out by the appropriate people at Brigade or Group level to activate the LFRS, with forms and guidance available by emailing SAFECOMFinance@sa.gov.au



General

1: Region 2 Field Day

1: REGION 2 FIELD DAY

With more than 80 cadets and 20 Cadet Leaders, Region 2 held a Field Day at Nurioopta at the start of June. Cadets had a wonderful time, testing their skills, learning new ones and interacting with others from around the Region.



1: Region 2 Field Day



1: Region 2 Field Day

2: THE CRITICAL DATA OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE

by Brett Williamson

It might seem like magic when a 000 caller needs help and emergency services seem to be in place at the right time, but it is actually the result of years of planning and research to ensure it.

The Risk and Capability Framework (previously known as the Standards of Fire and Emergency Coverage (SFEC)) is the SA Country Fire Service's (CFS) method of registering the different kinds of emergencies a community may face, and making sure sufficient crews and equipment can respond quickly.

"Our Risk and Capability framework takes into account brigade and community demographics, culture and capacity, and operational requirements," CFS Acting Manager for Risk, Capability and Analysis Stef Zakrzewski said.

"Risk and Capability allocates resources against the perceived risk of the state as a whole, then narrows down the coverage to ensure local communities have the resources nearby that they may need."

SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) and CFS have predetermined capability areas, many of which overlap.

South Australia's State Emergency Service (SES), MFS and CFS also have mutual-aid agreements that mean multiple agencies can be responded to one incident to ensure the event is promptly attended and support services are on-site.

The services which attend an incident are dispatched through the South Australia Computer-Aided Dispatch system (SACAD). These response plans are guided by the capabilities assigned to a brigade.

Group and Brigade reports, such as AIRS, also help to help determine increases in incidents types in a specific area and highlight the requirement to boost certain resources to help bolster our capabilities across a larger area.

The amount of specialists at a Brigade, and the variety of trucks and resources, all comes indirectly from data provided in AIRS and reports, combined with risk, capability and mutual-aid agreements.

"When it comes to emergency response, a little bit of data goes a long way," Ms Zakrzewski said.

CFS Volunteer Portal

Your Emerald Record
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 Vol E-News
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 Equipment information
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“Our aim is to provide awareness training programs to reduce the stigma of mental health, encourage people talk about it and to seek help early if they need it.”



Photo: Jane Abellia

1: Louise Hincks delivering a course

1: IMPROVING CFS MENTAL HEALTH

by Ali Martin

Over the past 18 months Mental Health First Aid Training has been delivered across the state to both SA Country Fire Service and SA State Emergency Service volunteers as a result of a successful Natural Disaster Resilience Program submission.

This project compliments other mental health services that are in place and forms part of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy for volunteers within South Australia.

The SAFECOM Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Officer Louise Hincks, who is coordinating the program said so far 11 two day courses have been held across the state for CFS volunteers, with eight for SES.

The courses have enabled 153 CFS volunteers to undergo the training, most of who are now accredited with Mental Health First Aid Australia as Mental Health First Aiders and others will soon join this group.

“SAFECOM identified a need for this training because we suspected CFS volunteers were already dealing with people having mental health issues, either in their brigade or the community after they’d experienced a fire,” Louise said.

“Our suspicions were confirmed when a survey at the start of each training session showed 48 per cent of participants reported they knew and managed someone within their brigade or unit, who they believe has a mental health problem in the previous six months.

Of that 48 per cent, most of them spoke to the person about their concern, and many suggested they talk to an allied health professional or the Stress Prevention and Management Team (SPAM). Some provided them with further information or assisted them to make an appointment for help. About half then followed up after the initial conversation.

“We want to support volunteers more by providing them with basic training, including what they can do and then where to find more help.”

“There has been fantastic engagement from the participants and they are seeing how valuable these skills are not only as a volunteer, but also in their personal lives.

“It’s about giving them a tool kit to approach a situation, whether it’s a mental health crisis or someone of concern, this shows them how to manage until the person gets professional assistance, if that is required.”

Some of the feedback received after courses has been:

- “Very good course. Mental health is such a diverse subject but what was covered was worthwhile. I certainly feel more compassionate toward people with mental health and also now equipped with some basics to assist a person in need.”
- “Very important that the officers from emergency services (especially the volunteers) are aware of these issues”
- “Very informative and valuable to both personal and CFS operations.”
- “Useful. Recommend that all CFS Brigade officers undergo the training.”
- “Excellent value for people who are managing people in high stress environments.”
- “I was excited to tell my brigade and work place about it, encouraging people at both places to do it. It opened my eyes and gave me a deeper understanding. Thanks!”

- “Mental Health First Aid is a worthwhile course to complete it certainly changed my views to mental health.”

Nominated Mental Health First Aiders within CFS and SES are likely to be the first point of contact. “We want to establish these contacts to work alongside our SPAM peer support officers, for all to be available to have conversations with other volunteers and offer assistance as required.”

Whilst the Mental Health First Aiders are specifically trained in Mental Health First Aid, the Peer Support Officers are also trained to assess in situations such as post disaster trauma, relationships, critical incident trauma, loss and grief, mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The two programs are designed to complement each other really well.

“Our aim is to provide awareness training programs to reduce the stigma of mental health encourage people talk about it and to seek help early if they need it,” Louise said

Another good example of this is the Stress and Trauma Awareness Session (formerly called a PIT) that is delivered by our peer support officers.

The Mental Health First Aid training project will cease on August 30, and then SAFECOM will put other programs in place

If you would like to speak to someone about any difficulties you may be experiencing, please contact SPAM on (08) 8115 3950.

2: SPAM TEAM GETS TRAINING

by Ali Martin

The Stress Prevention and Management Team (SPAM) held a Peer Training weekend in late May. They completed the Standard Mental Health First Aid Course and some members also did the Suicide Prevention Mental Health First Aid course along with Mental Health First Aid for non-suicidal self-injury. Project Officer Louise Hincks is pictured delivering a course, while the whole SPAM team is pictured in the other photo.



Honours



1: DesFord and Rob Sandford with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton



2: Chief Officer Greg Nettleton after being presented with the Australian Fire Service Medal with (from left) brother Charlie Nettleton, partner Terry Foster and daughter Kylie Nettleton.

1: ROB AND DES RECEIVE HONOUR

Congratulations to Rob Sandford and Des Ford on being awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Rob started his emergency services career as a volunteer at Tea Tree Gully Brigade in 1982. In 1991 he joined CFS staff as a fire spotter in the fire tower of the Adelaide Hills, before moving to a permanent role in the State Operations Centre.

He has since risen to the rank of Assistant Chief Officer, all while maintaining his role in volunteer brigades throughout the state.

Rob is an integral driver of national fire and emergency services agenda through several committees.

He has also worked tirelessly in strengthening national and state relationships in the fields of fire prediction, weather forecasting, and the production of the Southern Australia Seasonal Bushfire Outlook.

Rob has demonstrated outstanding leadership in the development of others across the organisation and continues to foster the long-term aims of CFS for the benefit of the South Australian community.

East Torrens Council is where Des Ford started his career in fire management, later appointed Fire Prevention Officer.

In this position for 13 years, Des drove the program to improve and implement the replacement of the fledgling fire appliance fleet, developed a maintenance program for the appliances, and urged the East Torrens Council to commit land and build fire stations within the area. Recognised for his passion for the job he was also appointed as the Council representative on the Disaster Planning Committee.

He has helped his Carey Gully brigade raise more than \$40,000 which was used directly for CFS equipment.

In his volunteer role, he's held roles as Group Officer and on the State Operations Management Committee, Chairman of the Region 1 Group Officers' Committee and as Chairman of Region 1 Bushfire Prevention Committee. He is currently a member of the Region 1 Operations Committee.

Des also has displayed strong leadership in dozens of statewide and interstate deployments.

2: AFSM FOR RETIRING CHIEF

by *Simone McDonnell*

Greg Nettleton could never have imagined that signing up as a volunteer for the Rainbow CFA brigade in rural Victoria at age 16, would set him on a life-long journey that would ultimately lead to his role as Chief Officer of the CFS.

Between stints in the Army and other branches of Government, Greg served 15 years as a volunteer firefighter in Victoria, New South Wales and the ACT, before leading the formation of the Western Australian Fire & Emergency Services Authority in 1998. A chance opportunity saw him head up Northern Territory Fire and Rescue, leading to him winning the Chief position here in 2011.

From a policy perspective, Greg cites the then State Government's attempts to reform the Emergency Services in 2015, as one of the hardest times he has faced as Chief.

"It was a tough time - the volunteers and the staff were extremely anxious, and no one had any answers about what it would mean for the organisation. It was hard to reassure everyone, because there were just so many unknowns."

Rather than dwelling on the negative, Greg is quick to turn the conversation to the many positive experiences, reminiscing about the many incidents over the past eight years and heaping praise on the volunteers who 'continually amaze him' with their efforts in keeping their communities safe.

Among his many achievements, Greg is proud of how he has been able to lead the CFS in increasing training and education, leadership opportunities and even simple things like implementing corporate uniforms to make the organisation a more professional and united outfit.

"Whenever our crews go interstate or overseas, we're always praised for how competent and useful they are- they look the part and they act the part and there is a real sense of pride attached to the CFS uniform".

When looking to the future, Greg believes the organisation needs to diversify, in order to grow stronger, with a focus on how we can include more women in all facets of the organisation. This isn't just lip service from the Chief, whose concerted effort has seen females make up 47 per cent of the CFS's paid workforce.

"Having started as a volunteer I have a strong understanding of what happens on the fireground. I know what it's like to drop everything and jump on the back of a truck. While the organisation has changed, the role of our volunteer responders remains the same, and my experiences have, I hope, helped me lead the organisation in a way that always puts their interests first."

Greg will finish his time with CFS on July 5.

Kirstie's experience

Kirstie MCGarrity started as a Cadet when she was 12 years old, transitioning to a firefighter when she was 16, holding roles as a Cadet Coordinator, Senior Firefighter, Lieutenant and the Region 3 Representative of the Youth Advisory Council for five years. Kirstie is currently backfilling the role of Regional Administration Officer at Region 1.

"I first met Greg in 2011, a couple months after he became CFS Chief Officer, when I was the Region 3 Representative on the inaugural CFS Youth Advisory Committee (YAC).

The YAC was on an Expedition Compass in the Flinders Ranges and Greg came up to visit us while we were doing team building activities and listened to our ideas about what direction the YAC should go in- at the time, we thought it was pretty normal, but over the years I've come to realise that his hands-on leadership style is pretty unique.

Greg has always been forthcoming with advice about my involvement with the CFS, whilst I was on the YAC and now as a staff member. Greg has encouraged me to look at different roles and opportunities within the organisation.

Greg has always been supportive of the YAC and the development of young people within the service. I am very appreciative of all the advice and guidance that Greg has given me, and I wish him all the best with what he does next.

“Members of SA Country Fire Service are eligible for a wide range of Internal, State and National awards and medals to recognise the dedication, commitment and sacrifices displayed during their time with the organisation.”



3: DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO DESERVES SOME SPECIAL RECOGNITION?

Members of SA Country Fire Service are eligible for a wide range of Internal, State and National awards and medals to recognise the dedication, commitment and sacrifices displayed during their time with the organisation.

The CFS accepts nominations for the awards at all times, with no specific cut-off date for any particular honour. The CFS awards committee meets twice a year to consider the awards within their scope.

If you're unsure of the level of recognition for which a person or group is eligible or you have any concerns about a nomination, contact your Regional Office.

Internal Awards

The process for all nominations begins with a Brigade Captain or Administrative Coordinator providing relevant information about the nominee, including the reason for the nomination, to their regional office to consider and process or refer to the SACFS Awards Committee.

CFS Certificate of Appreciation

A Certificate of Appreciation acknowledges service to the CFS by individuals, Brigades, Groups, as well as external individuals, businesses or agencies who have supported the organisation in a way that deserves recognition.

FiveYear Service Certificate

The five year Service Certificate is awarded by an individual Brigade or Group to all Brigade Firefighters, Operational Support Members and Brigade Cadets who have completed a minimum of five years' service.

CFS Life Membership

Life Membership is awarded by a Brigade/Group to Brigade Firefighters or Operational Support Members who have completed a minimum of 20 years' service (including time as a cadet) across the CFS.

Chief Officers Certificate of Commendation (Unit and Individual)

The Chief Officers Certificate of Commendation recognises an individual or unit going beyond the scope of responsibility normally expected in CFS duties.

Once a nomination for this certificate is received by a regional office, they provide them for consideration by the SACFS Awards Committee.

SACFS Service Medal

This CFS Service Medal is in recognition of a minimum of 10 years diligent and active service with the SACFS, with additional decades recognised with additional clasps and pins for the ribbon.

This is an automatic award with a list of eligible recipients provided for verification by Brigades annually around September,

Chief Officers' Unit Citation for Service

The Chief Officers' Unit Citation for Service is awarded to any Crew, Brigade, Group, or organised Unit, to recognise a significant contribution, where they have gone above what is reasonably expected, during fire service duties, group work performance, or other meritorious service.

Chief Officers' Commendation for Service

The Chief Officers' Commendation for Service is awarded to an individual who has made a significant contribution that may be considered courageous or valuable to the community, in active fire service duties, administrative leadership, or exemplary performance of a specific difficult project or task.

External Awards

State-wide

To nominate someone for either Ministerial Commendation or the Emergency Services Medal, a submission is still required to go through your Regional Office to the SACFS Awards Committee. Those who meet the criteria are then forwarded to the SAFECOM Awards Committee for their consideration.

Ministerial Commendation

The Ministerial Commendation recognises significant effort, bravery or service and is awarded for "meritorious or courageous action".

Nominations are evaluated against those from all services by the SAFECOM Awards Committee and decisions are made about those to be recommended to the Minister for Emergency Services for an award.

The awards are presented by the Minister for Emergency Services at an annual ceremony

South Australian Emergency Services Medal (ES Medal)

The SAESM is awarded to an individual who has demonstrated "distinguished and/or meritorious services of the highest order" in recognition of their significant contribution to the emergency services in South Australia.

National

National awards can be made at any time, but there are normally limited presentations each year. Once a nomination is received by the Region, and assessed by the SACFS Awards Committee, it is forwarded to Honours Secretariat, Canberra, for approval and issue of awards.

National Medal

Recognises long and diligent service by members of approved organisations that help the community during times of crisis where there is a risk to the wellbeing of the members of the organisation.

To be eligible for the National Medal, a member must have completed either Level 1 / Basic Firefighter Training or have been an active member of an Operations Support Brigade undertaking the roles of communications or Incident Management, and have the appropriate training commiserate to their role. Service completed with other eligible agencies will be considered providing it is not served concurrently.

Self-nominations can be presented to the next level of rank to be signed off and forwarded with documentary evidence or a Statutory Declaration must be attached to each nomination for service.

Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM)

Recognises distinguished service by members of Australian fire services. It is awarded to staff and volunteer members who have made significant contributions to an Australian Fire Service.

Evidence must be provided to justify the member's receipt of the award. The Australian Fire Service Medal is awarded by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the responsible Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers.

The criteria for nomination includes consistently outstanding and 'distinguished service' in an Australian Fire Service, such as service that is seen to demonstrate a high degree of resource and devotion to duty in a particular situation, or in the exemplary discharge of special duties above and beyond normal work.

Public Service Medal

Recognises distinguished service by members of Australian Public Service. It is awarded to Public Service staff and who have made significant contributions to Australia through their work.

A Member of any Australian State or Commonwealth Public Sector agency is eligible to be nominated for the award, which is presented by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the responsible Commonwealth, State and Territory Ministers.

The criteria for nomination includes outstanding service through areas like leadership, innovation, service excellence, and achievement.

Honours



1: Both Tyron Cummings and Craig Jericho were honoured for their work with the CFS

Photo: Bec Smart - Smarty Pains Photography

1: AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

by *Simone McDonnell*

YOUNG MEMBERS HONOURED

The Wakefield Council honoured **Georgina Burden**, as their Young Citizen of the Year. Georgina was just 11 years old when she first became involved with the CFS. After a break, she re-joined her local brigade and undertook the Basic Firefighter 1 before being elected as the Balaklava Brigade Logistics Coordinator at 16 years of age.

Last year she was voted in as the Wakefield Plains Group Work Health and Safety Representative and the Balaklava Brigade 1st Lieutenant.

Outside her involvement with the CFS, Georgina is passionate about her community, with an interest in getting involved with the SAAS volunteer ambulance group at Balaklava.

Lennox Kennedy was awarded Port Augusta's Young Citizen of the Year award. While Lennox has only been involved with the CFS for a short time, he has already made a great impact with his willingness to learn and participate, impressing others within the Stirling North Brigade.

In addition to getting involved with the CFS, Lennox was also recognised for his role as a Cadet under Officer for the local Army Cadets.

The Wudinna Council awarded **Tyron Cummings** their Young Citizen, for his commitment to the small township.

Tyron has been a member of the CFS for nine years, rising in the ranks to the role of Captain with the Wudinna Brigade. As well as his dedication to our organisation, Tyron volunteers with the South Australian Ambulance Association (SAAS).

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR

CFS Life Member, **Ian Qualman** was recognised as the Meningie Citizen of the year for his contribution to the lakeside community.

Ian has been a member of the brigade for over 25 years, undertaking the role of Area Supervisor (now a Group Officer) during his involvement.

Ian is known for his dedication to the community, volunteering with St John's Ambulance Service and the Meningie Lions Club, as well as various sporting clubs.

Craig Jericho was honoured as the Wudinna District Council's Citizen of the Year, recognising his 20 years with the CFS, where he is currently the Group Officer.

Craig is also a volunteer with the SA Ambulance Service in his community, and presides over the Wudinna Men's Shed.

For his 55 year contribution to the community, including almost 40 years with the local CFS Brigade, former Lieutenant **Trevor Johnson** was awarded the Citizen of the Year for Peake, in the Murraylands.

Renowned within the brigade for his 'cool calm and collected' ability to drive the trucks through difficult conditions, Trevor also supports the local community by maintaining the Peake Memorial Hall, Community Centre and Baptist Church.

Tobi-Jane and Anthony Alcock are the first couple to be jointly named Citizen of the Year for Roxby Downs, being recognised for their commitment to the community.

Anthony, who is currently the 1st Lieutenant, has been involved with the organisation for 17 years, starting at Jamestown before transferring to Roxby Downs a decade ago. Tobi-Jane has been a member of the CFS for eight years, rising to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and Administration Coordinator. Outside of their commitment to the CFS, they are known around the town for their contribution to the Roxby Downs community, including helping coordinate Relay for Life.

The Regional Council of Goyder also awarded a husband and wife team, with the Robertstown ward Citizenship award going to honorary CFS members **Jenny and Michael Colbey**.

They are an incredible support to our volunteers, coordinating catering for the Robertstown CFS, most notably, cooking for evacuees who sought safety in the township during the Pinery fire.

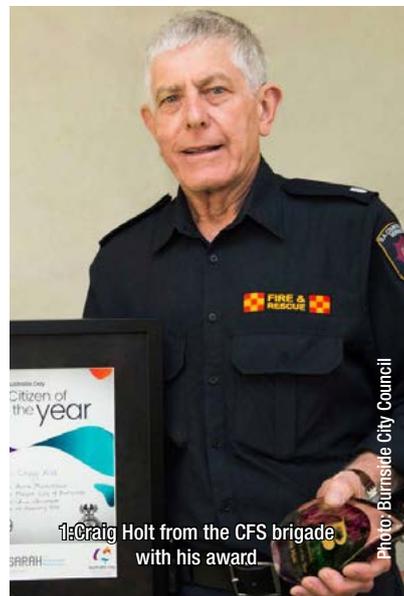
A stalwart of the Burnside CFS, there was no surprise when the city awarded their citizenship award to **Lt Craig Holt AFMS**.

Craig has been in the brigade for 43 years, serving as captain from 1996-2010, and holding the mantle as the busy station's most frequent responder.

Described as 'irreplaceable' by his colleagues, Craig is often found at the station cleaning equipment and doing maintenance.



1: Georgina Burden with Balaklava CFS Captain Ryan Post



1: Craig Holt from the CFS brigade with his award

Photo: Burnside City Council



1: Ian Qualman surrounded by his family

Photo: Coorong Regional Council



1: Roxby Council honoured Tobi-Jane and Anthony Alcock

Photo: Roxby Council



2: Ann with her husband Frank



2: Dianne Neill has volunteered for 24 years

2: CFS WOMEN ACKNOWLEDGED

by Simone McDonnell

Executive Director of Frontline Services Support Ann De Piaz, and Region 1 volunteer Dianne Neill, last year received the SA Emergency Service Medals for their longstanding contribution to the CFS.

Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton, attended the ceremony, and was full of praise for the two recipients.

“Ann and Dianne have played pivotal roles in making the CFS a better place to work and volunteer in,” he said.

“Ann has worked incredibly hard to break down and rebuild corporate structures, strengthening organisation’s functionality and capability at every level.

“While Dianne has dedicated thousands of hours as a volunteer, starting as a fire phone operator at Clarendon, and now working with SPAM to support and promote positive mental health across our workforce.

“To see two CFS women bestowed with this award does not only reflect the dedication of the individuals, but also recognises the important, and often unsung, role that women play across the organisation.”

The medals are awarded annually to individuals who have demonstrated “distinguished and/or meritorious services of the highest order”, and were this year presented by Minister for Emergency Services, Corey Wingard.

ANN DE PIAZ

Ann has been with the CFS since 2010, and has had a huge impact on our organisation, modernising corporate and administration structures in State Headquarters and beyond.

She was a driver for the increased volunteer Information Communications Technology (ICT) capability through the EConnect project and has ensured SACFS continued to meet agency and Government requirements, by encouraging investment in training and upskilling members of our workforce.

When asked about her award, Ann is quick to pin her success on others within the organisation,

“I haven’t done this on my own” before listing the likes of Yvette Dowling and other CFS teams including members of SAFECOM ICT and the Help Desk as being pivotal in the initial roll out and continuing support of the project.

“It’s all been about improving what is a professional, unified organisation, and getting better outcomes for our volunteers.”

“We are just the enablers, volunteers do all the work and it is our job to provide the equipment, systems and forward planning for volunteers to be able to effectively and proudly serve their communities. Everything we do is to support them”.

DIANNE NEILL

Di first got involved with the CFS in 1994, after being asked to help make sandwiches for her local brigade. As she admits, once she was in, she was hooked, soon volunteering as a fire phone operator and Communications Officer for the Clarendon Brigade, before becoming a founding member and firefighter with Mawson Operations Brigade, rising to the ranks of Lieutenant and then Captain. She joined the SAFECOM Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) team as a Peer Support Officer in 2005, and has since dedicated thousands of hours to supporting hundreds of CFS volunteers after critical incidents, as well as proactive coaching in stress management and prevention.

Di admitted she was shocked to hear about the award.

“I had to read the letter twice! I had no idea I had been nominated! I feel like a bit of a fraud with all the other wonderful people who volunteer with the organisation.”

“Working with SPAM is really rewarding-I get a great deal of satisfaction out of my involvement with the CFS.”

3: VOLUNTEERS HONOURED WITH GOVERNMENT HOUSE RECEPTION

Volunteers from across South Australia were honoured at Government House in Adelaide in November.

Members from the SA Country Fire Service and State Emergency Service were guests of Governor Hieu Van Le and Mrs Lan Le on November 8, 2018.

Governor Le hosted the reception for volunteers to thank them for their commitment to their local communities across the state in times of need.



3: CFS and SES volunteers honoured with reception at Government House. Pictured are those from Region 3.

4: VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

Morphett Vale CFS’s Trevor Baldacchino was presented with an Australian Government Volunteer Service Award on November 21, 2018.

Mr Baldacchino was presented the award in gratitude of his service within the CFS, which includes holding a Lieutenant role with Morphett Vale, which includes equipment and safety representative duties.

True to form, Mr Baldacchino was on a truck within hours of receiving the award as part of the Region 1 storm strike teams that aided the SES with call-outs from the wild weather experienced that night.



4:Trevor Baldacchino received national recognition for service

Photo: Morphett Vale CFS Facebook

SA Volunteer Firefighter Museum



1: Member for Barker Tony Pasin with SAVFFM Chairman Rex Hall.

1: WORK TO START ON MUSEUM BUILDING

South Australian Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum (SAVFFM) continues to strive towards its goal to research, record, conserve and promote the history and equipment of the SA Volunteer Fire Service

There has been much progress over the last 12 months in the SAVFFM's goal of achieving a permanent home for its invaluable collection of vintage fire appliances and equipment.

Building plans have been finalised and approved, tenders for construction released and preferred contractors selected and notified.

Earthwork on the building site has been completed, water connection installed and electricity connection to the boundary completed, meaning all is in readiness for construction of the structure to house the SAVFFM's amassed collection of vehicles.

Alongside all of the work being undertaken to get everything in place there has been much work done to source funding to undertake this construction.

A memorial for fallen firefighters was held on Saturday, April 6 in Naracoorte. The sombre occasion was attended by 100 guests, including CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.

Later that night a Variety Concert was held in the Naracoorte Town Hall. Artists at the concert included Bev Branson, Graham Hugo, Rohan and Candice Austin, Shamrock Band and The Mosquito Plains Strummers.

It was that night, after many hours of work into submissions for grant funding, that Member for Barker Tony Pasin announced an additional \$160,000 in Federal Government Funding to see stage 1 of the SA Volunteer Firefighters Museum completed.

The announcement came after Mr. Pasin secured an initial \$160,000 in Federal Funding for the project in November, 2018.

The past year has seen the SAVFFM continue with its travelling roadshow with many displays at field days, events and CFS ceremonies across the State.

Getting out and about to these events allows the museum to give people an insight into the collection that we have amassed, and spreads awareness of the work that we do.

Strength is in numbers and the SAVFFM is always on the lookout for new members who are keen to help us with our efforts of preserving the history of the Volunteer Fire Service.

Anyone who is interested in becoming a member should either visit the website at www.savffm.net.au, where there is a link to the membership portal or contact them directly for information.

Likewise, if you would like to be involved in the preservation / restoration aspect of what we do please give us a call or email.

The SAVFFM is always grateful for any donations of memorabilia or equipment so if you have any old items that relate to the Volunteer Fire Service that you no longer wish to keep please give us a call and lets preserve them for future generations.



1: CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton speaking at the memorial.



SA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM Inc



*To research, record, conserve and promote the
History and Equipment of the SA Volunteer Fire Service.*

For further information Contact Rex Hall
M 0417 081 560 • E gadang38@tpg.com.au

www.savffm.net.au



Tea Tree Gully Brigade Foundation Teddies



Brad Dennis

OVERVIEW

The CFS Foundation was formed in 2001. Its purpose is to provide immediate financial support to CFS volunteers and their families in the event of death, injury, or loss of property while engaging in their community service. The CFS Foundation relies entirely on donations and fundraising efforts by the public and corporate sponsorship. To date, the CFS Foundation has provided more than a quarter of a million dollars in financial assistances to CFS Volunteers and their families.

New staff/New logo/New look



Caroline, Alysha and Gloria

Within the last year, the CFS Foundation has taken the next step with a new look logo and new staff with the appointment of two Co-Chief Executive Officers. Caroline Duncanson and Gloria Berni have been with the Foundation since November 2018 and have taken the CFS Foundation to the next level.

Caroline has a strong background in the management of events and sponsorship, with the last 13 years of her career in the non-for-profit industry. Caroline likes to "think outside the box" in order to organise unique and successful fundraising events and is working on new sponsorship deals for 2019/2020. Gloria has previously worked in the media and marketing industry and more recently in management of two Adelaide non-for-profit organisations. She is a strategic and creative thinker with a can-do attitude and oversees the governance, compliance and financial management of the foundation.

Trauma Teddies for RCR brigades

We received a donation of \$12,500 from Cops for Kids and used the funds to purchase CFS Trauma Teddies. Cops for Kids are a registered children's charity run by a dedicated group of current and former South Australian (SAPOL) employees from metropolitan and country areas. Through payroll giving they raised funds and the CFS Foundation were lucky enough to be selected as the recipient for this donation.

These CFS Trauma Teddies are issued by CFS Volunteers to children who are involved in motor vehicle accidents to provide comfort. The appliance in the photo is Tea Tree Gully 34P, fitted out in part as a standard CFS Road Crash Rescue (RCR) response appliance. It carries all the items needed for RCR work, including the "jaws of life", vehicle cutting equipment, in addition, the appliance carries vehicle stabilisation gear to ensure a safe work area for crews and other ancillary items to protect persons trapped in a vehicle to facilitate the safest removal of persons from damaged vehicle by CFS volunteers.

We are grateful for this donation and see the role out of Trauma Teddies into RCR Brigades.

Bequest program

Leaving a gift in your will (called a bequest) is a wonderful way to provide ongoing support to the CFS Foundation and help the thousands of CFS volunteers that risk their lives to save others.

A bequest can make a real difference to the individuals and their families who have suffered through death, injury, loss or damage of their own property whilst in the line of service.

Gifts and donations will ensure the CFS Foundation can continue to provide a range of support to volunteers and their families when they need it most.

For more information please refer to the CFS Foundation website. www.cfsfoundation.org.au

Beneficiary update

CFS volunteer Brad Dennis was working at Pinery and assisted to help put out a fire. While Brad was putting out the fire, the wind conditions changed and he was caught in the flames. Brad drenched himself with water and filled his mouth up and ran through the fire.

Brad sustained 53per cent burns to his body and 48 per cent was full thickness. Brad spent 10 and a 1/2 months in Adelaide undergoing intensive rehabilitation and had multiple follow up procedures.

Brad set a goal for himself when he got to the Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre that he would be home in November to help with the family's harvest. With support from family, fantastic specialists and staff in the burns unit at the RAH, therapists and support from the CFS foundation, Brad has achieved his goal.

Nearly three and a half years after his accident, Brad is currently working on the family farm at Baroota and is still an active member of the Port Germein CFS.

Book Sales

From the Ashes of Eden - We have been extremely grateful to Rachel Ireland who is the author of "*From the Ashes of Eden*" for her dedication in the promotion of her book. With each sale of a paperback copy, the CFS Foundation receives \$1.00. Rachel and her CFS Volunteer husband David lost their beloved family home in the Pinery fires and were a beneficiary of the CFS Foundation. This is their way of saying thank you! Grab yourself a copy today.

Sampson Flat Bushfire

The CFS Foundation has the final copies of the *Sampson Flat Bushfire* book. This book contains a recollection of heart wrenching images of the devastation and aftermath of the Sampson Flat Bushfire.

The book is for sale through the CFS Foundation for \$24.95. To clear out the last of the stock we are offering FREE POSTAGE. To secure yourself a copy, please email Alysha on admin@cfsfoundation.org.au



Sponsors

A big THANKYOU to our sponsors for your ongoing support. We could not continue the support of our CFS Volunteers without your assistance.



CFS FOUNDATION
Supporting Volunteer Firefighters

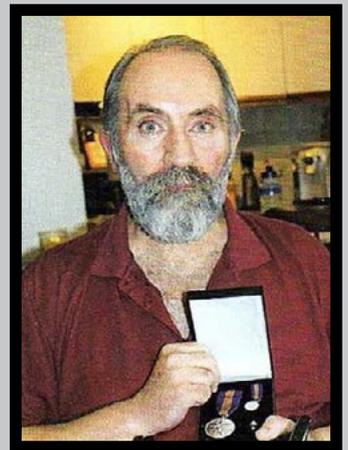
The CFS Foundation is here to support South Australian CFS Volunteers in times of great need*

*Subject to conditions

**Thank you to Peter Edgcumbe, former CFS volunteer with
the Tantanoola brigade for his generous bequest.**

Peter's commitment to the volunteers of his brigade, group and region was demonstrated by his position as a Group Occupational Health and Safety representative. With Peter's extensive volunteer and management experience, Peter was called to participate in a number of deployments. Peter remembered a number of charities when he formulated his will including the CFS Foundation.

Bequests like Peter's are vital to protect the financial stability of the CFS Foundation and ensure there are adequate funds to enable us to continue to support volunteer CFS firefighters when necessary.

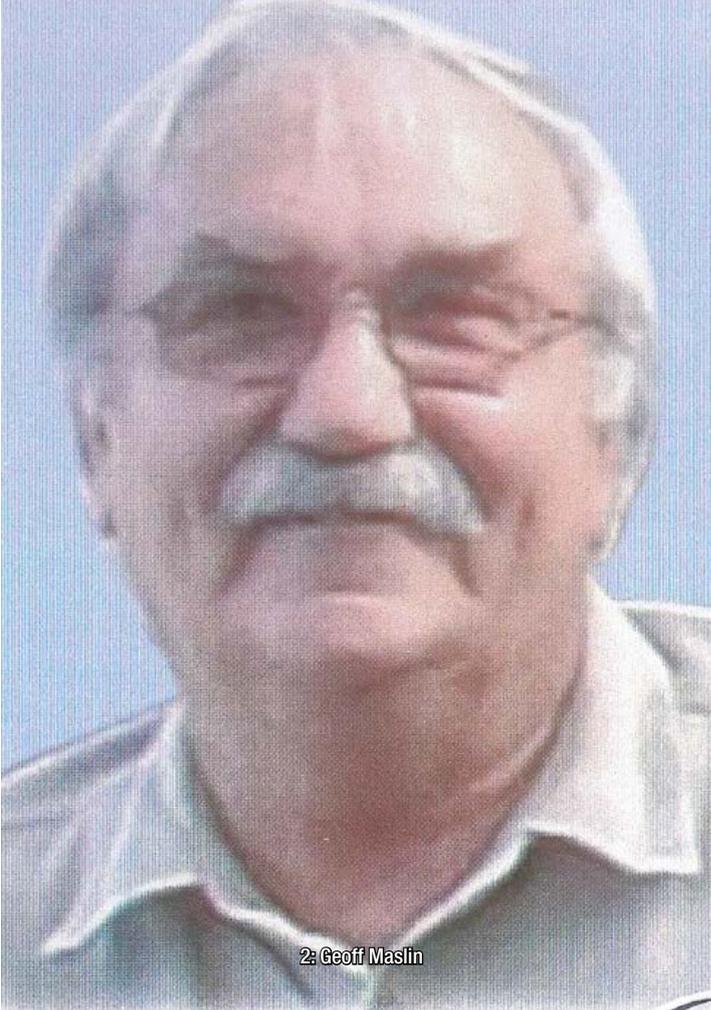


**THE CFS FOUNDATION ARE HERE FOR YOU SHOULD
THE WORST HAPPEN. CONSIDER LEAVING A GIFT
IN YOUR WILL TO THE CFS FOUNDATION TO
ENABLE US TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT CFS
VOLUNTEERS.**

Obituaries



1: Dawn Hall



2: Geoff Maslin

1: DAWN HALL

Dawn was born on December 9, 1938.

She married Rex Hall in 1961, and commenced her married life at One Tree Hill in the Adelaide Hills, their son Alan was born in 1962.

Rex, closely followed by Dawn, joined the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1960 at One Tree Hill, where she supported Rex in operating the One Tree Hill Base Radio, Catering and Logistics.

They moved to the upper south-east on a property named "Gadang" situated near Willalooka where they bred Poll Dorset and White Suffolk sheep in 1974. For many years, Dawn ran a sub-base from the Willalooka Station for the Tatiara Group, assisting with the coordination of brigades for many fires. She was secretary for Tatiara communications for many years.

This continued until 1997 when they moved to Naracoorte where Rex and Dawn became involved with the Border Network and Naracoorte Sub-Base where Dawn was often the voice on the radio working from home.

Dawn was also involved with the Regional Operations Support Brigade for many years as a valued member of the team, undertaking various roles including assisting Regional Staff during periods of high demand. She held the rank of Brigade Lieutenant and Secretary for a number of years. She was also noted for assisting those members with children who needed to be supervised whilst their parents were undertaking operational duties.

Dawn was not only a great support to Rex in his many endeavours but was a valued Country Fire Service member for more than 50 years.

Dawn passed away June 16, 2018, and is sorely missed not only by her own family but by the CFS family as well.

2: GEOFF MASLIN

Geoff Maslin was a member of the Hindmarsh Valley CFS Brigade until his passing on June 17, 2018. At his family's request, Geoff was farewelled with a CFS guard of honour at the Hindmarsh Valley Hall.

Geoff officially joined the Emergency Fire Service in 1967 at the age of 21, but like so many others in that period, he had been involved in the service since his mid teenage years when he attended meetings at the Hindmarsh Valley Community Hall with his father.

Geoff was heavily involved throughout his volunteer career being Fire Control Officer from 1980 - 89, treasurer from 1976-1981, Brigade Secretary for 20 years from 1971-1991 and Brigade Lieutenant from 1989-2011.

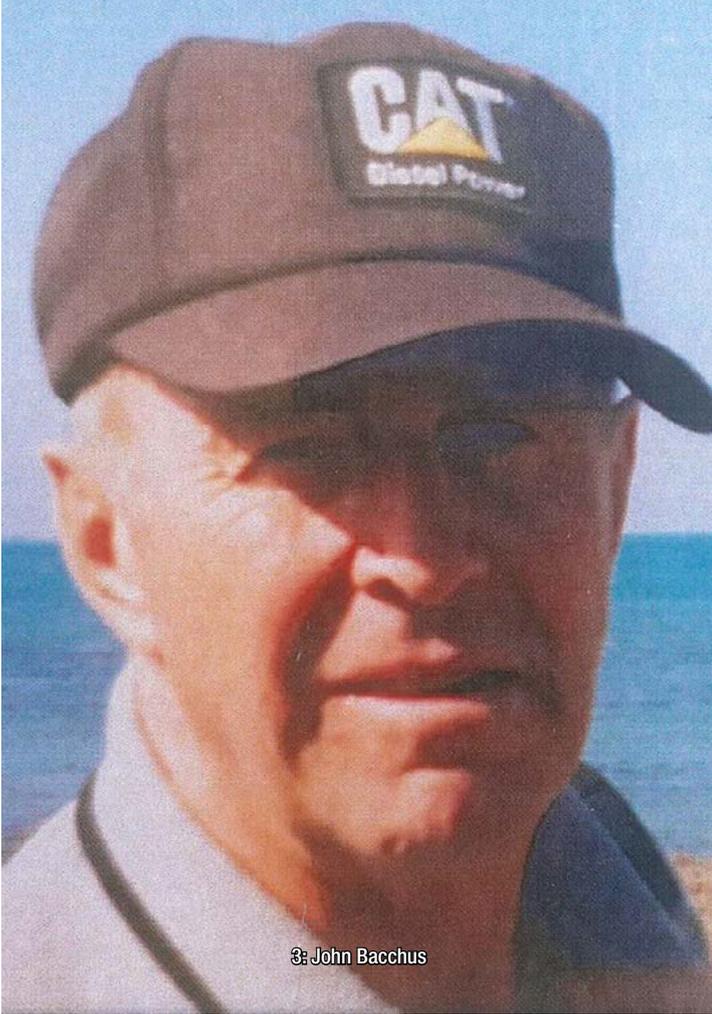
In this time he attended notable fires such as Ash Wednesday, responding to Ashbourne and Paris Creek, and was always willing to be away for days on a deployment.

Geoff's lifetime of experience in firefighting was invaluable to the Hindmarsh Valley Brigade, and through his line of work spreading super, he practically knew every inch of the Fleurieu.

He could handle a tanker on all types of challenging terrain, and his off-road confidence and intuition meant that the crew on the truck could relax knowing that they were in good hands.

He was a most valuable person to anyone learning to drive a tanker, his wealth of knowledge was shared if you knew the right questions to ask. If you were there at the right time you would sometimes be lucky enough to hear one of Geoff's long jokes, which were never repeats and kept the crew's spirits high, especially on a long slow night shift of mopping up.

Geoff's passing has lost the CFS over 50 years of experience and his presence has been dearly missed throughout the Victor Harbor Group.



3: John Bacchus



4: Tim Fuhlbohm

3: JOHN BACCHUS

Valued member of the Victor Harbor Operations Support Brigade, John Bacchus who passed away on 2 December, 2018, at the age of 79.

John provided a strong ongoing commitment to the group and will be remembered as someone always willing to put themselves forward within the operations support brigade, becoming Captain for a period of time until he was unfortunately diagnosed with cancer.

John played a strong role in the weekly Victor Harbor Group radio and pager test, and even throughout his treatment and recovery he attended regularly with many enjoyed a coffee and chat, and his secret tips on fishing techniques around the Fleurieu.

Unfortunately John's cancer returned and he was unable to beat it this time. His support and friendship will be remembered and missed by the group.

4: TIM FUHLBOHM

Tim Fuhlbohm was a member of the National Parks brigade of the CFS for 29 years. He attended many bushfires around the state during that time, and took part in many prescribed burns.

He was a passionate environmentalist who dedicated his 30 year career to the improvement of our natural world.

Tim spent much of his career as a ranger and for the last eight years worked for the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Management Unit in the Department for Environment and Water, where his observations greatly improved our understanding of how the natural environment responds to fire.

His core role was to control weeds at prescribed burn sites to maintain low fuel levels and conserve the region's biodiversity. His dedication saw him continuing this work in his own time, often in association with Friends of Parks Groups.

Affectionately known as the "Oracle" for his vast knowledge of native flora and fauna, particularly threatened species, Tim was generous in sharing his knowledge and skills with those around him.

Tim was taken too soon after a long battle with cancer. He will be sadly missed by his family, the community around him and his National Parks tribe.

Retirements



2: David Pearce at the Claremont Airbase in the Adelaide Hills with the Erickson Helitak behind him

1: 30 YEARS' SERVICE

by Daniel Hamilton

In July a larger than usual crowd gathered on Level Seven at CFS HQ to farewell a CFS stalwart who was heading home to retirement – Leigh Miller, AFSM.

It was a fitting place for a send-off, the State Command Centre where Leigh had often demonstrated the qualities which made him so respected across the CFS. Leigh recited tales from the last three decades which has seen dramatic change across the organisation.



1: Leigh Miller

He humorously told an anecdote about his time as a fire prevention officer, and one of his main responsibilities was to attend general store's across the Adelaide Hills to check the matches they sold were compliant.

The focus of fire prevention has come a long way since and that is in large thanks to Leigh. In recent years, his achievements have seen the development of Codes of Practice and the signage and identification of Safer Places and Last Resort Refuges, to name just a couple.

As Director of Preparedness Operations, preventing fire across SA has been a focus but when there was a significant incident Leigh was there too.

As State Duty Commander, Leigh was often steering a response to significant events.

He would, like many CFS people, drop whatever he was doing to serve the community. He recalled many occasions in summer where his wife Anne was left on the side of the road to catch a bus home while Leigh scurried into State HQ.

Leigh's greatest impact and legacy may not be the most visible components of his work, but the positive impact he has made on all those he worked with.

He was easy going, knowledgeable, considerate, kind and diplomatic.

It was not because of the nice cake that the Level Seven room was full at State HQ in late June, it was due to Leigh being one of the most respected CFS figures of the last few decades.

All the best for your retirement Leigh!

2: AIRMAN STEPS DOWN

by Ali Martin

Starting as a volunteer in 1975 with the Blackwood Brigade, David Pearce AFSM last year finished a long career with CFS.

It's been an interesting journey for the Manager of Aviation Operations. He's served with CFS as both a staff member and volunteer, as well as a couple of decades with SA Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS). He's served as Chair of the National Aviation Fire Centre (NAFC) Procurement Committee and represented CFS on numerous interstate strike teams.

Here's a look at his 43 year career.

After joining as a firefighter, then serving as Captain of Blackwood and progressing to Sturt Group Officer, David received Life Membership with the brigade where it all began.

He did an apprenticeship as a motor mechanic before moving to the Northern Territory where he joined the Police force for a short time.

Soon after, there a job was advertised as a Headquarters Radio Operator in the CFS Airdesk. Having experience in teletext and HF radios through his police work, David applied and was soon working at the Keswick Headquarters on what was then a 24 hour shift.

At the time the Airdesk managed the Rescue Helicopter, which was where his love for aviation began.

David stayed for a couple of years before moving to an Assistant Regional Officer role in Region 1 (then based at Stirling). It wasn't long until he was a Regional Officer – this time in the old Region 7 (Riverland, based at Murray Bridge). In later years he spent a brief period in Region 4 as the Commander.

In 1986 he was recruited by MFS and spent almost 20 years on shift with them.

"The shift work allowed me to do all sorts of things for CFS as a volunteer, which I really enjoyed."

In 2005, he came back to CFS and took on a State Training Officer role with a rural firefighting project, along with writing a drive offroad vehicles training course and helped with Incident Management Team development.

He then found the role of Manager Aviation Operations, where he's been proud to make a contribution to the current enhanced aerial fleet CFS has today.

"CFS has the best aerial firefighting response system in the nation, if not the world. The development and maturity in initial attack systems is probably the envy of most aerial firefighting sections."

David was one of the first Air Attack Supervisors in the early 1980s.

The refinements to the initial attack system first came into place in the early 1990s, as a suggestion from Aerotech owner Bob McCabe. They promised to dispatch aircraft to a fire when it was first reported, not to wait for it to be confirmed.

Crews work on that principle still today.

"Sometimes there will be a stop call, but by the same token 50 per cent of the time the aircraft do a drop, which is instrumental in helping crews on the fireground control the fire as soon as possible.

"The aircraft support results in a reduction in size and duration of the fires in the four Primary Response Zones."

Although his full time career has ended, you can still see David on airbases throughout the state, working as an Air Attack Supervisor and supporting Aerial Firefighting Operations both here and in the Northern Territory.

David wants to express his gratitude to the enthusiasm and professionalism of volunteers all around South Australia.

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Website: www.cfsva.org.au

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

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VOLUNTEER SUPPORT BRANCH - VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT:

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