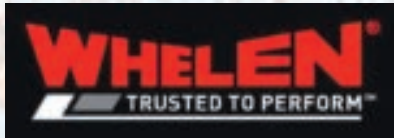




the
VOLUNTEER YEARBOOK
..... 2018

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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



“With fire season now complete it’s important to reflect on our achievements, so congratulations on another job well done.”

Looking back on the year that was, we have had a busy time of it once again. We have had plenty of incidents, advances in our business and a strong representation on the international scene.

SA Country Fire Service (CFS) continues to be more than a bushfire service, and this year we proved that beyond a doubt. The start of the Fire Danger Season was marred with more structure than grass fires with several hay sheds burning for days.

Then the January Northern Heights fire saw CFS crews assisting our Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) colleagues in a complex campaign structure fire.

Our crews continue to attend high numbers of road crash rescues and hazardous material (HAZMAT) incidents throughout the state. All of those trucks now have a defibrillator on board to assist our first responders.

Towards the middle of the season we saw more grass fires, with many crews attending fires around Christmas time. Then when we got a day of catastrophic fire danger on January 8 which put the whole state on alert. The Sherwood fire, in the South East, saw crews rush to the scene in hot and windy conditions. They were able to contain the fire the following day.

Grass fires continued to have a large influence on the season with the Emu Flat fire in the Mid North threatening Clare, and Middle River on Kangaroo Island.

A burst of hot weather in April saw crews, Regions and the State standby over four days, with fires in Inman Valley, Stansbury and Birdwood. The fire at Jeffries Soils also kept crews from several regions busy for days as it burned through mulch.

Unfortunately crews were also kept busy with a spate of arson attacks in the Southern Fleurieu, Mount Osmond and Parafield Gardens. CFS continues to work closely with SA Police to investigate these fires.

As always firefighter safety is a focus, and the retrofit of our trucks with additional safety features continues. The rollout of a second set of Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) continues and we also introduced compulsory P2 masks for all firefighters.

CFS has had a strong place on the interstate and international stage. We deployed several crews to a dump fire

in Melbourne where our state of the art Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) assisted the Melbourne Fire Brigade.

Three CFS members, and three Department of Environment and Water (DEW) staff were deployed to assist the Canadian government with fires in British Columbia on the same day. Only a few days later Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Stark travelled to Mongolia to help in an unprecedented wildfire season in the land locked country.

CFS has also started a partnership with the Kiribati Government in the Pacific Islands where we will provide equipment, training and advice over the coming years. We also hosted an Indonesian contingent who spent time in CFS HQ and the CFS State Training Centre to gather information about emergency services.

Accolades continue with two Australian Fire Service Medals (ASFM) presented to Region 1 volunteers John Edge and Doug Munn receiving the highest honour for firefighters. CFS is proud to have these two men within its ranks. Congratulations also to Cadell’s Chris Coombe who was presented the Corrections Medal, Athelston’s Chris Howie was presented with the Ambulance Service Medal, while former Group Officer Michael Kemp who was presented with an Order of Australia Medal (OAM) last year.

In the aviation space, we will soon announce the new contracts for our enhanced aerial firefighting fleet, which will include a new Primary Response Zone (PRZ) in the Mid North. This will add to our current capability and PRZs in the Lower Eyre Peninsula, Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South East.

We’ve also assisted the Northern Territory with Air Attack and Air Observer training, showing the strength of our programs.

The Bushfire Management Area Plan process is almost complete, with the last plans in the state almost finalised. This work will continue with reviews to ensure we have up to date information to guide our decision making.

With Fire Danger Season now complete it’s important to reflect on our achievements, so congratulations on another job well done. Now let’s gear up for the next job.

Stay safe

Greg

COREY WINGARD

Emergency Services Minister



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

Since being sworn in as Minister I have taken the opportunity to engage in the process of our emergency service response to severe weather conditions which we saw mid-April, and resulted in a number of incidents and an extended response at Buckland Park.

I have always admired and respected our Emergency Services staff and volunteers and I was very proud to

see the way everyone worked together to keep our state safe and limit the damage in demanding conditions.

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 the upcoming winter.

I have received briefings and had meetings with the Chief Officers across the Emergency Services Sector and I am very keen to visit, meet and listen to staff and people on the ground.

Hearing from those at the coalface provides valuable insight and knowledge into how the emergency services are functioning and I look forward to receiving more of your feedback.

I hope to meet as many people as possible and to listen to your thoughts and views. If I don't get to say it in person - thank you for your service and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards

Corey

ANDY WOOD

President CFS Volunteer Association



As everyone is aware, we have a brand new government in South Australia, and I know this is welcome result for many members. With any change there are opportunities and challenges.

The opportunities from working with a Liberal government, who should have a good understanding of country South Australia should be obvious. A challenge might be that because the Libs have not been in government for 16 years, we know very little about them, so instead of hitting the ground running, it will take, I believe, considerable time to develop the necessary relationship with them.

There is no doubt that South Australia must have a healthy, modern, expanding, community - based volunteer fire service. To help achieve this we need a positive, "can do" type relationship with CFS and government, we have this with CFS already and I am confident we will develop it with government.

Leading up to the election a lot of work was done on our positions document *Building a strong CFS 2018 and beyond*. This document has been well received as evidenced by the responses we received from all political groups prior to the election. This is an example, in line with our strategic plan, of lifting our political profile. Volunteers are no longer prepared to sit back in silence when matters

affecting the service they provide to their communities are being examined.

Looking back through previous reports the item that comes up often is communication. This is still our biggest challenge. We are not alone in this; every organisation I talk to around the country has a similar issue. Currently CFS is working on improving the information flow system and as an association we will work closely with CFS with the view to benefit from their research.

It will not surprise anyone that just forwarding on emails doesn't cut the mustard. I believe we need to get out and talk to people, evidenced by the road trip last year by Sonia and myself. If we are to truly represent our members, we need to connect with as diverse a group as possible.

Branch meetings are important, but I think we need to go beyond the regular meeting structure, road trips, while being resource heavy, help fill in some of the gaps by visiting members on their turf. I believe it is wrong to always ask members to come to us. This year will see a trip on the eastern side of the state.

SA Country Fire Service Volunteers Association are members of a national body, the Council of Volunteer Fire Associations (CAVFA). CAVFA works in a collaborative manner to pursue

volunteer interests on a national level. It is interesting that most associations have similar issues.

It is sometimes difficult to quantify the achievements of CAVFA but there is certainly benefit in being able to say that we are part of a national body that represent 253,000 volunteer firefighters around the country. What we do see, in regards to emergency services, is that South Australia and in particular CFS are in good shape.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the efforts and support of the team, Sonia St Alban CFSVA Executive Director, Kirsti Oliver, Executive Assistant, CFSVA Management Committee members, and the many others that have supported our association over the past year, and to all CFS volunteers and their families for providing such a great service to South Australian communities.

Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns or ideas regarding your association.

Andy

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REGIONS ROUND UP

REGION 1

1 Kangaroo Island Awards 2018

By: Becca Cole

On March 1, the Kangaroo Island Group held its National Medal and CFS Service Awards Service in American River to commemorate a combined 1,350 years of volunteer service.

American River CFS Captain and the CFS Volunteers Association President, Andy Wood paid tribute to all those receiving medals.

"I would like to recognise and congratulate all those who received awards, paying particular tribute to George Buick who had the most years of service on the night with 45 years of dedicated service to the community," he said.

The National Medal was awarded to George Buick, Colin Groves, Peter Guider, William Roper, Neil Stoeckel, Grant Stoeckel for Barry Stoeckel and Alan Thomas. A further 26 volunteers received CFS Service Medals.

Region 1 Regional Commander, Brett Loughlin attended to also pay tribute to the sacrifices our volunteers and their families make every day.

"These awards are especially fitting considering the fire activity across the Island this season – including the large Middle River Fire in February 2018.

"Many of the people receiving medals played a significant role throughout this incident and through their collective hard work the fire was contained."

We'd like to add our sincere thanks to all our volunteers across Kangaroo Island for their continued service and dedication to our organisation.

2 Region 1 Cadet Championships

By: Becca Cole

On Sunday 8 April, Region 1 held its first ever Cadet Championships at Wirrenda High School in Morphett Vale.

Nine teams of budding young cadet firefighters from Sturt, Victor Harbor, Heysen, Mawson, Kyeema, Mount Lofty and East Torrens Groups competed in a series of drills designed to put their teamwork and firefighter training to the test.

Drills included using hoses, hydrants and appliances to simulate real firefighter situations – all made more difficult by the hot 30+ degrees weather on the day. Each



Group's victory will also be commemorated with a plaque mounted pride of place on the wall of R1 Headquarters.

The event was organised by a committee of Region 1 Cadet Coordinators: Tom Painter, Michelle Painter, Sue Kluske, Ben Pettman, Emily Pettman, Peter Hammond, James Cleland and Chris Pederson. CFS volunteer, Dean Norman - Kyeema Group Officer, was Head Judge and was awarded a special certificate on the day to recognise his many years of service in the Cadet Coordinator role.

CFS Chief Officer, Greg Nettleton, and Deputy Chief Officer, Andrew Stark, both attended the Championships.

"It was great to see our cadets so enthusiastic in the way they used their firefighting skills in a competitive event," he said.

"Not only did teams demonstrate great teamwork, but they also mixed well

team was made up of six cadets – five crew and one crew leader – and were judged by a panel of adult CFS personnel on their speed, skills and overall team conduct. After several hours of tough competition, Sturt Group eventually emerged as the winners – congratulations to team members Jordan Cock, Cameron Wood, Brie Medder, Adam McCluskey, Josh Buxton and Nick Amos. Kyeema and Victor Harbor teams followed hot on the heels in second and third place respectively. The three winning teams each took home medals, and Sturt



Port Elliot's first firefighting unit from the 1940s
Photo by Allan Pomery



Port Elliot C1300 International used during the Ash Wednesday fires in 1980 and 1983
Photo by Allan Pomery

Elliot Institute, chaired by Councillor George Brittain, and attended by 25 local residents to consider forming a town fire service. George Carnegie Smith moved a motion to form a service and the Port Elliot Fire Fighting Association was born, affiliating itself with the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) shortly thereafter.

Over the years the brigade has had many different appliances and responded to diverse incidents such as a three day fire at Deep Creek Conservation Park in 1978 and both Ash Wednesday fires in 1980 and 1983. In 1994, the brigade completed their first interstate deployment when the Port Elliot 34 was sent to NSW to fight multiple large fires – a memento of which still hangs on the wall of the station. Nowadays Port Elliot goes anywhere they are asked and has completed over a dozen interstate deployments, as well as countless intrastate responses such as Port Lincoln, Port Pirie and the Flinders Ranges.

We'd like to take the opportunity to thank Port Elliot brigade for their continued service and wish them a very happy 60th birthday.

4 Region 1 National Medal and CFS Service Awards

By: Becca Cole

Last July National Medal and CFS Service Awards Ceremonies were held at Echunga and Mount Compass to honour the commitment and dedication of the women and men of Region 1.

The National Medal is awarded for 15 years of diligent service, with clasps presented for each additional decade of service thereafter. In total, 390 years of service awards were presented at both awards ceremonies.

Region 1 Regional Commander Brett Loughlin said "these ceremonies are an important opportunity to recognise the sacrifices our people and their families make every day".

"Every person who received a Medal or Clasp is someone who has missed meals, birthdays, family events and work.

"They've sweated in the heat and shivered in the cold and it is our great pleasure to say thank you to them and their families who have supported their service."

Many thanks to the Heysen and Victor Group Cadets and families for all their assistance throughout both events, providing a light afternoon tea following both ceremonies.

CFS would like to say another big congratulations to all those who received an award to acknowledge your service.



The Echunga ceremony.



The Mount Compass ceremony.

with the other groups and looked to have a lot of fun. It was also fantastic to see a good mixture of male and female cadets taking part."

"I'd like to say a big thanks to the organising committee and congratulate Sturt Group for taking home the gold."

Unfortunately, due to a Total Fire Ban being declared in the Mount Lofty Ranges on the day, Region 1 Regional Commander Brett Loughlin was unable to attend the event. He passed on his strong support from everyone at R1 HQ and said a huge thanks to the organising committee for their hard work in organising such a brilliant event.

Overall, the championships were a big success. Everyone was a winner on the day with all cadet teams displaying the highest level of skill, dedication and teamwork. Region 1 look forward to holding an even bigger and better event next year.

3 Port Elliot Brigade 60th Anniversary

By: Becca Cole

In February Port Elliot Brigade in Region 1 celebrated their milestone 60th anniversary. Whilst the Brigade officially began operating in 1958, a local fire service had been around in the area since the early 1940s.

Back in the day, then District Fire Supervisor George Carnegie Smith (grandfather of the current brigade captain Allan Pomery) approached the District Council of Port Elliot and strongly recommended that several towns, including Port Elliot, be equipped with appropriate firefighting equipment. In 1945 a Trailer Pump was purchased from the Civil Defence which included additional hoses, hand tools and several knapsacks.

In 1958 a meeting was held at the Port

REGIONS ROUND UP

REGION 2

1 Tanunda Brigade's cadet recruit bonanza

By: Brett Williamson

In a bid to boost the numbers of their brigade, Tanunda tried a variety of methods to attract adult members.

With little response to CFS and MFS recruitment drives, the team turned their attention to attracting the next generation of firefighters.

Their Facebook page announcement was shared by the CFS Promotions Unit and the Barossa Valley Community Chat page and the reaction was almost immediate.

"The phone didn't stop ringing," Tanunda Cadet Coordinator Jamie Heslop said. "The response was overwhelming."

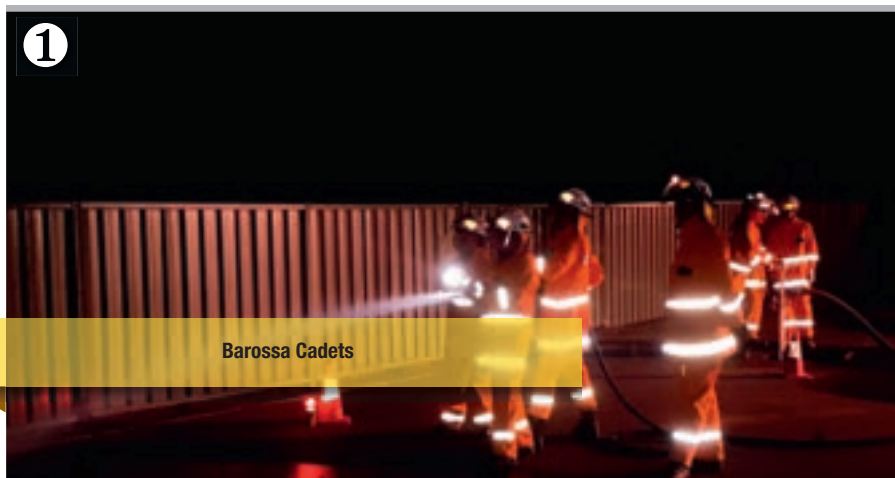
It wasn't long before the nine cadet spots were filled, with three more placed on a waiting list.

The program began in February and Mr Heslop said as soon as their turn-out gear arrives they will go from theory to practical training.

For a brigade which was struggling to gain interest from adults, Mr Heslop said the cadet response was heart-warming.

"All going well, as soon as they are ready we will be able to graduate them and our next generation of volunteer firefighters will begin."

The cadets train every second Wednesday, from 5:45 to 7:20pm, and mix with adult crew members when they arrive for brigade training from 7:00pm.



Barossa Cadets



The Region 2 Operations Brigade.



Colin Bolton and Jan Arnott in the Region 2 Operations Incident Command truck

2 Supporting our operations

By: Ali Martin

The focus is often on volunteers on the frontline, but there are also a number of volunteers in support roles who should be recognised.

The Region 2 Operations Brigade was established in 1986. The project was a pilot by then Regional Officer, Peter Ferris and started out as a communications brigade to assist the region in large incidents it has evolved from there.

The Brigade now has a long history of supporting its region's firefighters, Incident Management Teams (IMT) and Regional staff.

Current Captain Jeff Clark said the brigade can often be found in Region 2 headquarters on a day of heightened fire danger. In fact, while the fire at Buckland Park's Jefferies Soils burned,



Chief Officer with Two Wells Captain Adam Harris

the brigade volunteered in the region every day and night for a week.

“The primary role of the brigade is to support the region, and has a secondary role in supporting operations,” he said.

“The brigade the members participate in many levels of training including BF1 (Basic Firefighting 1), and GRN, then their focus goes to CRIIMSON, IRIS and all supporting computer aided training.”

“Basically all the options are open to them to do training, apart from specialist training like Breathing Apparatus and Road Crash Rescue.

Whilst activated in the region, the brigade assists with CRIIMSON entries, answering phones and being based in the radio room. But they also conduct a number of other tasks, whatever the region needs.

They could be sent forward to assist at

an Incident Management Team (IMT), responded to Group Bases or take on a logistics role, moving equipment. Their state of the art vehicle offers a mobile office with radios, phone connectivity and several computers.

“It’s quite a diverse role, one minute you can be Incident Staging Vehicle in the forward operations, then a few days later you could be running foam up to another group,” Mr Clark said.

“If brigades Groups are busy we could be handling three or four incidents at a time, sometimes even more.

“This brigade is ideal for someone who doesn’t want to keep out on the fireground, can still be active on the scene and have a lot of input into incident management.”

He said although it is ideal to recruit members who have a firefighting background, it’s also a great place for

people who haven’t been involved before, if they can commit to the training and volunteer hours they get an idea of what pathway in CFS they would like to take.

“Those who join the brigade work in the incident management areas can see the different functional roles and it can be a good precursor to find out what else they might be interested in,” he said.

The brigade trains every Wednesday at the Regional Headquarters in Roseworthy – if you area interested in joining come along.

③ Two Wells 60th Birthday

By: Becca Cole

In November 2017, Two Wells Brigade in Region 2 celebrated its 60th anniversary with a special dinner for volunteers.

The event was held at the Empire Café on November 5, and gave members past and present a chance to catch up and share stories and anecdotes about the brigade.

Chief Officer Greg Nettleton attended the dinner to present a special 60th anniversary plaque to Brigade Captain Adam Harris, which now hangs pride of place on the station’s memorabilia wall.

Two Wells Brigade was officially opened on 20 December 1957 and over the years has proved to be a highly dedicated and well-coordinated brigade. They’ve responded to a wide variety of incidents during their 60 years including bushfires, vehicle accidents, animal rescues and severe flooding. They’ve also assisted with numerous bushfires across South Australia and Interstate.

Thank you to all our volunteers at Two Wells – here’s to the next 60 years!

Jervois Brigade 50th Anniversary

By: Becca Cole

First registered back in 1967, this year marks 50 years of dedication and community service for the Jervois Country Fire Service Brigade.

The formal celebration of the Brigade's 50th Anniversary was held on Sunday, 18 June 2017 with current and former CFS members, colleagues and the community attending to celebrate the milestone.

From the very early days, Jervois has always been an active brigade with the station itself being built after years of fundraising and help from local trades people.

Brigade trucks formed a guard of honour by the roadside, and with more than 100 people attending the celebration in a station splendidly decked out in trimmings and all sorts of brigade memorabilia.

"We had an absolutely great day and it was a fantastic result of a lot of planning and work by the brigade," said Jervois CFS Brigade Captain John Heaven.

"It was especially great to talk with the founding members who attended".

CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton had the honour of presenting the official 50 Years Anniversary plaque to Captain Heaven on behalf of the brigade, and personally thanked its members for their service throughout South Australia.

Jervois CFS currently has 32 active members and former Captain Colin Sieber congratulated everyone on their achievements.

"They're a credit to their district and may they go on to better things," he said.



Jervois Captains together.
Greg Nettleton presents the 50 years anniversary
plaque to John Heaven.

Lameroo clocks 70 years

Lameroo Brigade celebrated its 70th birthday with an awards night last year.

About 70 people attended the birthday where David Morris and Kevin Sherman received Life Memberships.

Mr Morris has served as a volunteer for almost 29 years, as firefighter, lieutenant, training officer and equipment officer. Now he is part of the air operations support crew. Mr Sherman started in 1994 has been the Group's radio operator for many years.

John Price ASFM, a former Captain and volunteer of 45 years, cut the cake with the help of current Captain Brad Zerk.

Mr Zerk told The Border Times the local brigade had seen many changes over the past 70 years.

Kevin Sherman, second from left, and David Morris, third from left, were awarded life memberships of CFS at the brigade's 70th birthday celebrations. They are pictured with Andrew Stark (left), Deputy Chief Officer CFS headquarters, and Ray Jackson (right), Regional Commander Region 3 CFS.



Photo by The Border Times



Photo by The Border Times

Andrew Stark with new life
members David Morris, Kevin
Sherman and Ray Jackson

"Our air operations used to mix red retardant for the aircraft, which is very messy and hard work, and could involve many people to work it," he said.

"Now we have been issued with a trailer that is equipped with foam gel, and a mounted pump that can fill an aeroplane in three minutes and can be operated with three people.

"This brigade has been involved in many areas over the years with Road Crash Rescue, Breathing Apparatus, Heavy Rescue, Air Operation Support and Hazmat."

REGION 4

Bon voyage Bluey

By: Brett Williamson

Working his way up through the Lieutenant roles, on 1 March 2001 he joined the fulltime staff as the Regional Training Officer.

Bluey transferred his volunteer role to the Laura brigade in 2004 and progressed to Regional Operations Planning Officer in 2005, Fire Cause Investigator in 2009.

On 25 July 2011 he became the Region 4 Regional Commander.

Over the years he has been commended with various service medals, including the 20 year service and National Medal and was awarded the Australian Fire Service Medal last year for his outstanding service.

Over the past seven years as Regional Commander, Bluey has worked tirelessly to improve the fleet, capabilities and coverage of his region.

Guiding his crews and the communities through the Woolondunga, Bundaleer and Bangor fires, Bluey also formed unique partnerships with remote villages and mining camps to develop new partnerships and brigades in some of the state's remotest areas.

It's the accomplishment he is most proud of when he looks back at his time with the CFS.

"I can't take credit for this alone though," Bluey said.

"It was an amazing team effort by all involved."

His leadership saw the coming together of staff and volunteers from Region 4, State Headquarters, the State Training Centre, and many volunteers from other regions to achieve the goals.

His ability to bring people from differing backgrounds, and often different agencies, to work in a cohesive team at great times of stress was noted by all who worked around him.

"I think I will miss the people, both the volunteers and staff alike," Bluey said of his leaving.

"It's been a privilege to work with so many dedicated people who go above and beyond to constantly protect and support those who protect their local area and the broader community.

"It's been a humbling experience to be in the presence of these people," he said.

Bluey dedicated almost three decades to the SA Country Fire Service and leaves with the best wishes of the organisation behind him as he begins with the SA State Emergency Service in Port Pirie.



Bluey Devine

It was with the best of CFS wishes that Tracy 'Bluey' Devine departed from his role as Region 4 Regional Commander on 2 March 2018.

Bluey first joined the SA Country Fire Service back in March of 1989, as a firefighter with the Stirling North brigade.

Shooting for Gold

By: Ali Martin

Blyth/Snowtown Group Officer David Chapman is one sharp shooter.

He continued his success in the 25 metre Rapid Fire Pistol event when he competed at the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast in March.

He just missed out on the bronze and managed to secure fourth place on one of the last days of the competition.

David has a strong history representing the country. The pistol shooter won gold at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games in 2014.

David also made history by competing in the same event with his daughter Hayley, becoming the first father-daughter combination at a Commonwealth Games to represent Australia in the sport.

He won silver in at the Melbourne Commonwealth Games and competed in the London and Sydney Olympic Games.

CFS congratulates David on his continuing achievements in this sport.



Blyth/Snowtown Group Officer David Chapman competing in the Commonwealth Games. Photo by Getty Images

REGIONS ROUND UP

REGION 5



Glencoe 101st birthday plaque with CO Nettleton
Photo by John Critchley

1 Glencoe celebrates 101st birthday

Glencoe Brigade marked their 101st anniversary on 7 January 2018.

The 18-strong brigade, based about 25 kilometres NW of Mount Gambier, were joined by family, friends and special guests.

South Australian Country Fire Service Chief Officer Greg Nettleton presented Brigade Captain Doug Cram and Wattle Range Group Officer Fred Stent with a commemorative plaque to mark the occasion.

Away from the formalities, a jumping castle hired for the day turned out to be quite popular for the smaller and somewhat larger big kids in the crowd.

The brigade's history is an interesting one. The official opening on its plaque outside the station says the brigade opened in 1922, but research from one of its members found the following article from The Border Watch, Mount Gambier, SA Wed 17 Jan 1917. Page 4

GLENCOE.

January 9.

A public meeting; was held in the District Hall, Glencoe West, on Thursday evening, January 5, for

the purpose of forming a bush fire brigade.

Mr. G. Copping was voted to the Chair. All were in favor of forming a brigade and the following gentlemen were selected to fill the various offices :— President, Mr. G. Copping; secretary, Mr; M. D. Cameron captains—Messrs. W. Holloway 1st, J. Holloway 2nd, P. Ryan 3rd, and H. J. Bodey 4th; committee—Messrs. G. Copping, M. D. Cameron, John Riddoch, W. and J. Holloway. It was decided that the committee inspect the fire cart on Coola station, and report at a meeting to be held at Glencoe East during the next week.

A later meeting in connection with the fire brigade was held in the Public-Hall on Tuesday evening last. The committee reported having inspected the fire cart at Coola, but deemed a similar machine not suitable for here. After a good deal of discussion it was decided to purchase a fire-fighting apparatus, and all other details were arranged.

2 Dryland Firefighting success

By: Ali Martin

Volunteers in Region 5 have been using dryland freighting techniques for a couple of years now.

This season the volunteers were especially busy, using their skidders and graders on several fires,



3



R5RC John Probert talks to gathered crowd

Photo by Brett Williamson

in Region 5 and 3. These included fires at Paruna, KiKi, Lucindale, Ngarkat, Sherwood, Bangham, The Gap, and Karte – along with others.

The machinery can plough around the whole perimeter if necessary. On the fire at Bruce, they managed to move at five kilometres an hour making the break.

Now that they have a second machine they can run both skidders behind the other, making it a much faster process and more efficient.

Bruce Hunt, Chair of the Dry Firefighting Equipment Committee, said the use of skidders to create breaks is efficient on manpower and water.

“Every hour on the tractor saves 10 hours in water and firefighter work,” he said.

At the Messent fire in December they did 24km in six hours. In grassland they can do 14km an hour with the plough.

The volunteers are prepared like those on the firetrucks. Mr Hunt said on the day Catastrophic day Sherwood began, they had the tractor loaded on the truck ready to go before the page came through.

They also had a list of crew who were available so once they were notified they went straight to the fireground to start work.

In that instance they went to the base of the fire and worked to secure the back of the fireground, working around the flank.

③ Naracoorte Aerodrome receives \$650,000 upgrade

By: Melissa Norris

A \$650,000 upgrade for Naracoorte Aerodrome was unveiled at an event marking the beginning of the Fire Danger Season for the Upper South East last year.

The upgrades have already helped to boost aerial firefighting capability in Region 5, with the new water bombing facilities used to help support firefighters in two small fires in the region.

The upgraded facilities ensured the Aerodrome is fit for use during major fires nearby, and includes the construction of a rubble runway, establishment of fire water bombing facilities, and amenities to cater for disabled access.

CFS Manager State Aviation Operations, David Pearce, said the upgrade meant the Naracoorte Aerodrome will have a significantly increased water filling capability for aircraft, and a choice of runways that will be potentially more suitable during days of high wind speeds.

“The firefighting upgrades include a high capacity bore pump with water storage and plumbing installed to assist our volunteer Air Operations Brigade reload the planes as quickly as possible,” he said.

“Aircraft are based at Mount Gambier during the fire danger season, but we can now use Naracoorte and the existing Lucindale airbase. This reduces turnaround times to the north of the Lower South East primary response zone, improving support to ground based firefighters and therefore enhancing community safety.”

Mr Pearce said the aerodrome upgrades meant the planes could now also assist towns in Victoria.

The \$650,000 upgrades are a coordinated approach by CFS, One Forty One Plantations, Naracoorte Aero Club and the District Council of Naracoorte.

The District Council of Naracoorte committed \$440,000 to the project with Department Planning, Transport and Infrastructure granting \$65,000. One Forty One Plantations have contributed \$35,000, while the Naracoorte Aero Club contributed \$10,000 for the project.

REGIONS ROUND UP

REGION 6



Craig Jericho with one of the cars he has altered to race at the Dry Lake Racers event at Lake Gairdner.

Need for Speed

By: Ali Martin

Caralue Group Officer, Craig Jericho has a high speed hobby.

Based at Wudinna, Craig is one of the 'locals' at the Lake Gairdner Dry Lake Racers event held in March.

The annual event attracts 1,000 competitors and 1,200 spectators from around the world to witness incredible speeds on the nine mile track.

"It's the only track in Australia you can reach these high speeds, and the only place

in the world a lot of racers want to compete on," he said.

World renowned Valerie Thompson competed this year in a car worth between \$2-3 million, she managed to reach a speed of 550 km per hour.

Craig hasn't managed to make those speeds, but last year took his modified Ford Escort up to 190km per hour. His son Adam drove this year but couldn't break his record.

"There are markers going down the side of the track so you know where to go, but there's no reference to speed because

there's nothing going past you," he said.

"The two door 1978 Escort has been converted and rebuilt but still has the original pinto motor in it.

"It's such a good event, people from all over the world come to compete and watch, it really is the best track in the world. The best part about it is there's no signal – the whole world could disappear and we wouldn't care."

He said CFS provide a truck each year for fire cover, with a number of volunteers heading to the lake to be on hand should something go awry.

Remote control

By: Brett Williamson

With Road Crash Rescue and Breathing Apparatus (BA) back-up brigades more than 100 kilometres away, Ceduna is one of the CFS's more isolated coastal firehouses.

That said, Brigade Captain Bradley McKay wouldn't have it any other way.

"We have the best of both worlds with the beaches, fishing and surfing, plus 4WD tracks and camping spots," Mr McKay said.

With a current membership of 15, Mr McKay said it is challenging to get new members through the door.

"But the members we have are a very dedicated bunch of great people which creates one big family, which I am honoured to be a part of and serve as their Captain."

The remoteness of Ceduna and the size of their coverage area means they can often be tasked for bushfire jobs more than two hours away and road crash rescues up to five hours away.

It can also be deceiving if being tasked simply by distance.

"We were responded to a fire on the Ghan one time as we were 2.5 hours from the job according to the map," Mr McKay said.

"What they didn't know was the 'road' they had mapped was Goog's Track, which has some 300 plus sand dunes and takes about two days to go from Ceduna to the rail line."

With such vast tracks of land to cover, Mr McKay said GRN takes a back seat for most parts, with crews relying on satellite phones and UHF radio when it comes to communicating.

"The most challenging thing to cover such a large area is the distance, and the forward planning needed for BA and HazMat jobs," he said.

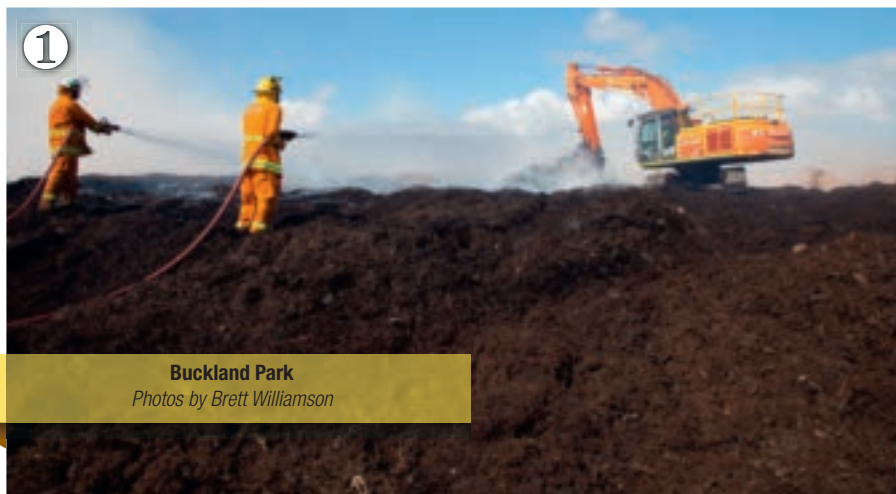
Mr McKay joined the Ceduna CFS at 11, following in his family's footsteps, and has seen many changes over the years to fire fighting in the area.

"The equipment has changed a lot throughout the CFS," he said.

A good rapport with the local farming community and an increase in farm firefighting units has meant farmers are often on site to help.

"They are normally there first and it becomes the CFS assisting the farmers," Mr McKay said.

INCIDENTS



Buckland Park
Photos by Brett Williamson

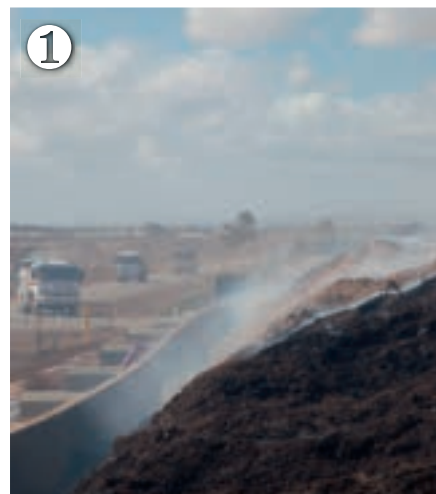


Photo from the cave rescue near Naracoorte where a teenager was trapped for several hours
Photo by Naracoorte CFS

1 CFS applauds support from all involved to control Buckland Park mulch fire

By: Brett Williamson

Smoke clogged Adelaide for days after a fire started at a mulch processing plant in Buckland Park in April.

CFS crews battled the blaze in unseasonal heat, rain, cold and strong, variable winds, and after four days were able to control the mulch fire and hand the management of the land back to Jeffries Soils.

CFS volunteer firefighters from across the state were called to the mulch fire on McEvoy Road.

The fire, believed to have been started from spontaneous combustion, burned through 2,000 cubic metres of mulch.

Losses to Jeffries Soils included \$150,000 in burnt mulch and damage to a portable processing plant.

Firefighters were able to stop the fire from spreading to the remaining \$6.1 million of

mulch, plus other plant machinery.

“The collaborative approach from all parties, including the MFS, Jeffries Soils management, CFS volunteers from regions from around the state, St John ambulance, SES and the Salvation Army made the operation seamless,” Region 2 Acting Regional Commander Ann Letcher said.

“At times we had more than 100 CFS and 100 MFS firefighters working in teams to control the area, supported by SES volunteers, all being fed by the Salvos,” she added.

Firefighters worked with Jeffries Soils staff to extinguish the unusual fire, which at times burned up to one metre below the surface of the mulch piles.

2 Tight rescue for teen

On March 31 CFS crews were called to the Tomato Stick Cave, part of the Naracoorte Caves at Joanna, in the South East.

The call for help came at about 5:30pm and on arrival crews found an 11 year old boy

stuck in the cave. Rescue operations began with crews called in from Naracoorte and Hynam CFS, along with two SES crews.

The boy was heavily trapped and SA Ambulance was called in when it became apparent that the rescue would be a prolonged event. The patient was pinned at the hips in a confined space, much like an hour glass.

After several attempts to free him, he became stressed and weak. Crews called in Rescu52 helicopter with specialist paramedics and the Med Star Doctor. They administered drugs to relax the patient.

Once this had occurred, rescuers were able to reposition the rescue ropes and successfully freed the patient at 11.50pm – seven hours after they arrived on scene.

This rescue was a complex one, in tight spaces underground. The collaboration between agencies resulted in a successful outcome and all should be congratulated for their efforts in what was a long and complex rescue.

INCIDENTS

1 Middle River fire on Kangaroo Island

By: Brett Williamson

At 11:02am, 8 February, the CFS received reports of large flames and smoke being seen from a shed near the iconic Hannaford and Sachs Fig Tree Restaurant and Accommodation.

The shed fire soon spread to surrounding grasslands and threatened the small community of Middle River.

Over the next 24 hours the fire was almost pushed to all points of the compass, as the changing coastal winds played havoc with firefighters best efforts.

Through the hard work of Kangaroo Island crews, flown in strike teams and additional resources and strike teams from southern mainland brigades, the 370 hectare fire's damage was limited to just two sheds and two vehicles.

The only residential property to sustain damage was when small portions of a veranda were burnt in the front's passing.

CFS volunteers, with the help of aerial support, Department of Environment and Water (DEW), SES, SA Police, SA Ambulance, SA Power Networks, the local council and heavy machinery operators were able to save all 32 of the local houses.

2 Back-to-back fire over Christmas break

By: Brett Williamson

The Christmas break turned into a very busy time for volunteers in Region 2.

Sparks from a quadbike started a 75 hectare fire near Stockport on Christmas Day, then heat from a catalytic convertor ignited a 50 hectare blaze the following day nearby at Tarlee.

The fires were so close together that crews mopping up at Stockport sighted smoke from the Tarlee fire and became first responders.

Water bombers were sent in to support ground crews at both sites, and became an integral part of the Tarlee response by shutting the fire down before it reached the outskirts of the town.

All up approximately 170 firefighters and farm firefighting operators attended both fires and operational staff and volunteers in the Regional Command Centre forgoing their Christmas breaks with family and friends to help out their community.



Morphettvale CFS at Middle River



The Tarlee fire almost travelled to the outskirts of the town

The Gap

By: Brett Williamson

At 1:35 on Saturday afternoon 10 February, Region 5 the local brigades and Group received a Country Fire Authority (CFA) callout to a grassfire near The Gap.

At 2:21pm an Emergency Warning Message was issued as the fire bore down on Frances and Neuarpurr in Victoria.

With changing winds and troublesome terrain, the fire quickly took off into scrub and forest, and within two hours it had grown to be 1,125 hectares in size.

The 110 firefighters traversed the sandy fireground in 24 firetrucks and 12 QRVs.

Six firebombers attacked the front from above, supported by their Air Attack

supervisor and Air Observer. Other regions from within South Australia and ground personnel were called in from Victoria to provide much appreciated support.

The CFA also sent aerial help in the shape of RJ, the 12,500 litre Large Aerial Tanker (LAT), and their 15,000 litre Hercules scrambled to the district with their own support aircraft.

The combined 27,500 litre drop from RJ and the CFA Hercules helped to slow the forward rate of spread of the fire, and reduce the dangers to townships in its path.

By nightfall the perimeter of the fire was still growing, though assets throughout the area were protected and moves were made to limit the damage to nearby conservation parks.

3

The Emu Flat fire provided several issues for CFS crews, including multiple assets and difficult terrain

Photos by Colin Paton



At 11:05 on Sunday morning the fire was mapped to be 2,821 hectares in size.

Ground crews managed to secure the boundary of the fire by Sunday, with the overall footprint measured at 3,154 hectares.

CFS and Department of Environment (DEW) crews worked for the following days to ensure the area was controlled, with the final DEW crew leaving the area at 4:27pm, nine days after the initial ignition.

During the fire 115 sheep, two tractors and other farm machinery were destroyed along with several kilometres of fencing.

3 Emu Flat

By: Brett Williamson

On a day, with no Total Fire Bans listed across the state, it took just a single spark from a lawnmower to place the outskirts of a Mid North town at risk for the following 19 days.

At 11:58am on 2 February 2018 a spark from a ride-on lawnmower created the Emu Flat fire.

Within 30-minutes the incident had lifted to a 4th alarm.

More than a dozen trucks and aircraft were inbound and strike teams were being formed to protect the south west corner of Clare.

At 1:24pm the fire size was estimated to be 60 hectares.

The fire began to travel in the east, west and northern flanks, and travelled into the inaccessible hills and gullies in the southwest borders of the town.

By 1:53pm it had grown to 90 hectares with spotting causing a five hectare finger to splinter from the main burn. At 2:31pm the fire size had grown another 10 hectares.

More than 100 firefighters crewed 19 trucks, four bulk water carriers and multiple QRVs to fight the quick moving fire in the plains and surrounding hills.

Ground crews were supported by three bombers and the high volume helitak, and by 3:17pm the following day the fire was listed as contained.

Unbeknownst to crews in the area, the Emu Flat fire was not yet over.

Almost one week after the initial ignition, Emu Flat flared again.

Wind gusts across the fire ground uncovered hot coals from a ridgeline near its centre, and threw embers outside of the containment lines.

At 1:41pm on 8 February 2018 crews were called to the fireground once more.

An Emergency Warning Message was issued for the area and by 2pm reports

3

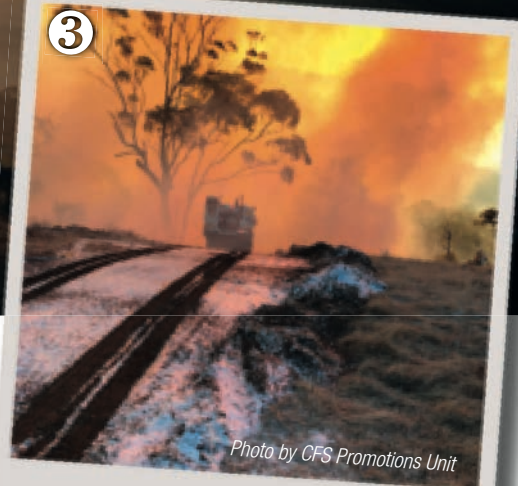


Photo by CFS Promotions Unit

The Emu Flat fire

were coming in of the fire spreading in north, east and southerly directions, and burning with high intensity on the northern flank.

Once more the silty terrain in the ranges near the township challenged crews, with only Quick Response Vehicles and footpatrols managing to gain access on the ground.

After the rate-of-spread was once more halted, crews began the arduous task of mopping up the now 135 hectare scar and burnt out the remaining patches of fuel within the control lines.

Although the fire had woven its way between several homes and menaced the outskirts of the township of Clare, thanks to a concerted effort by crews the losses were limited to just two structures and one vehicle.

At 5:57pm on 21 February 2018 the fireground was deemed safe and rehabilitation responsibilities passed on to the local council.

INCIDENTS

1 Karte's lightning run

By: Brett Williamson

As temperatures pushed to 40 degrees Celsius and wind gusts of up to 90kph were forecast, the last thing Karte Conservation Park needed was a lightning storm.

Conditions were perfect for a bushfire in Region 3 on 19 January 2018 and, less than a fortnight after Sherwood burned, Mother Nature delivered.

As swathes of lightning strikes speared Kangaroo Island, the Riverland and the Murraylands, the bolt that would start the largest of the fires struck the ground near Karte at 5:51pm.

The grass and stubble fire soon made its way into scrub.

It wasn't long before flame heights of up to 30 metres were being reported from the fire ground.

For the following 38 hours, the fire burned through difficult terrain.

Crews were challenged by sandy soils and the thick scrub as the fire burned into one of the surrounding conservation parks.

The plume-driven fire continued to grow through the night despite the low Fire Danger Indicators.

At the height of activity 17 tankers, three bulk water carriers, the Tatiara skidder, Department of Environment and Water Stick Rake, four fixed wing water bombers and two rotary wing, and three quick response vehicles from the CFS and DEW traversed the fireground.

A number of farm fire units also provided valuable assistance throughout the incident.

By the time the fire was declared contained, on 21 January at 7:57am, it had burned through 1,204 hectares, with no losses listed and two structures saved.

2 Kenmore Park

By: Brett Williamson

It was the South Australian fire that caught the attention of the world media after an ABC story described the fireground area as "almost twice the size of Singapore".

From outside of the region it was difficult to comprehend the size, scope and sparsity of the area.

Kenmore Park fire burned for more than a week through 124,594 hectares.

The local Ernabella CFS brigade and police were the first to respond to reports of smoke near the outskirts of the town on 8 February at 4:48pm.



The Karte fire was driven by strong winds and high temperatures
Photo by Dave Pearce



The remoteness of the Kenmore Park fire provided plenty of challenges for local crews
Photo by Joe Kowald CFS

An hour later calls came in that a resident was self-evacuating after seeing flames heading towards his home.

The Ernabella CFS crew began creating control lines and called in the support of

the Mimili and Amata CFS brigades. Their ETA – 2.5 hours.

Through the course of the next couple of days, crews from Roxby Downs, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Marla and Mintabie

3

Aerial photo of the Sherwood fire on
6 January 2018

would help Ernabella, Mimili and Amata crews defend Kenmore Park and Ernabella.

Along with townships protected, the CFS also checked-in on the remote homelands at Black Hill 1, 2 and 3, as well as Umpakanta, Donald's Well, Young's Well, Itjinpiri, Aeroplane 1 and 2.

Teams also responded to multiple fires deliberately lit within the community control lines of Ernabella.

Kenmore Park fire became a true cross-agency event, with South Australian Police helping to reach local communities and travellers in the area through their social media posts and face-to-face contact.

On 19 February, after conditions calmed and no further assets were at risk, the fire was listed as safe.

TOLL Mining, Regional Anangu Services Aboriginal Corporation (RASAC) and Ceduna Bulk Haulage played a key role supporting CFS operations with bulk water carriers and heavy plant.

3 Sherwood fire destroys 11,675 hectares

By: Brett Williamson

The first weekend of 2018 brought a triple-threat of catastrophic Fire Ban Ratings for the Upper and Lower South East and the Mount Lofty Ranges.

At 1:13pm a fire started from a faulty electrical fence began tearing through the dry fields near Dark Island Well and Emu Flat Roads.

For the next 14 hours, 36 CFS fire appliances, Department of Environment and Water (DEW) appliances, seven aircraft, multiple farm firefighting units and more than 150 volunteers worked to contain the out-of-control fire.

Before it was controlled six houses would be lost, multiple sheds, six vehicles, 250 cattle, thousands of sheep, 4000 olive trees and vast stretches of infrastructure and farming land was lost.

"Any kind of property loss to a community is heartbreaking," State Duty Commander Nik Stanley said.

If not for the courage of CFS, DEW and farm firefighting units, Mr Stanley said it would have been a considerably different outcome.

Region 5 Regional Commander John Probert said, considering the fire burned through more than 20 properties, things could have been much worse.

The courage shown by the crews fighting this fire was exemplary given the catastrophic conditions.

"Our crews arrived at one house where the flames had burned so close the curtains in the windows started to brown," Mr Probert said.

"Under those conditions even well prepared houses could be burned down.

"Crews observed fields of green grass and Lucerne paddocks burn, proving even normally safe areas for refuge weren't fall back areas under the catastrophic conditions," he said

Crews were also able to save the Master Butchers Co-Operative factory which employs 40 local staff.

① Tulka reserve fire proves challenging

By: Brett Williamson

Sometimes what first appears to be the simplest of jobs turn out to be the most challenging.

Smoke is reported from a small fire less than 10 kilometres from the centre of Port Lincoln.

Five appliance crews from Coffin Bay, Port Lincoln and the Lower Eyre Group respond.

The smoke is rising from deep within the Tulka reserve and access proves to be incredibly difficult.

While water bombers hit the small fire with eight drops from above, ground crews shoulder knapsacks and prepare for an arduous 500 metre traipse through dense scrub to get to the point of ignition.

Limited to a scorch mark of less than 1.5 hectares, it was almost four hours before all of the crews had returned to base and handed the fireground over to DEW teams for overnight monitoring.



Smoke rises from the dense canopy of the Tulka reserve

② Todmorden

By: Brett Williamson

The remoteness of the Todmorden Station fire does not start to sink in until you realise the closest CFS appliance was more than 80 kilometres away.

The second CFS brigade was 280 kilometres from the site.

The grass and scrub fire, 140 kilometres south of the Northern Territory border, was first reported to the CFS on 16 February at 12:28pm.

Staff from Todmorden Station had advised they were putting out a fire on the property.

The following pass of the Northern Australia Fire Information satellite showed images of a possible fire in the area.

Calls to the neighbouring properties revealed staff from Todmorden, Hamilton and Mt Sarah stations were all fighting the fire, with three graders also used to scrape in control lines.

By 7pm that night a call was placed to the CFS advising that the fire was now 30 kilometres northeast of the Todmorden homestead, with a request for support from local brigades.

Oodnadatta 34 responded and at 10:26 the following morning Coober Pedy's 34P began the 277 kilometre trip to the site to offer a changeover crew.

Both crews spent a night helping the local farm firefighting units, with COOB34P returning home at 7:42pm on 18 February.

③ Elliston swamp fire

By: Brett Williamson

At 7:52am on 24 October 2017, the first of a stream of triple zero (000) calls came in to alert the CFS of a small fire near the Elliston airfield.

The small fire would become a large headache for local crews.

The fire spread through the swamplands, fuelled by saltbush, tea trees, paper bark and mallee.

By 7:56am Elliston's 34 and 14 and the Mount Wedge 24 were paged to the scene.

Over the next half an hour Sheringa 24, Port Kenny's 24 and the Elliston Group's bulk water carrier were added to the list.

A smoke advice alert was issued shortly after, but winds and inaccessible terrain soon saw the fire grow and start to head in the direction of nearby properties. Road closures were implemented as the fire and smoke impacted on the main road into Elliston.

The advice was elevated to a Watch and Act message after the fire grew again at 10:09am, with Lock and Districts 44 and 14, and the Mount Hope 34 added to the list.

By just after 1pm six local residents had decided to leave their homes as the fire continued to burn through the dense undergrowth and swamplands and head towards the local golf course.

It wasn't until about eight hours after the fire had originally started that the crews began to make headway.

At 4:17pm the fire was listed as contained and the alert was downgraded to a smoke advice again.

Due to the close proximity to the town site and forecast bad weather the Lincoln Brigade assisted utilising their thermal imaging camera to highlight any potential hot spots that could pose a threat into the future.

With multiple hotspots and smoke plumes rising from the 40 hectare scar, Port Kenny and Elliston crews returned to the scene and continued mopping up over the next several days.



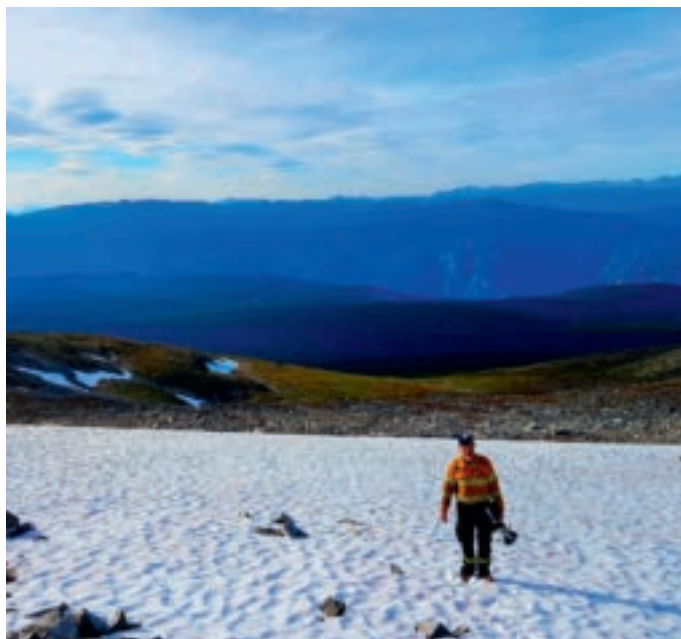
The Elliston swamp fire provided many challenges for the local crews

Photo by Jeff Allen - SAPOL



The local CFS brigades helped farm firefighting units to control the Todmorden fire

DEPLOYMENTS



CFS' first Canadian Deployment

By: Ali Martin

On Thursday, July 14, SA Country Fire Service (CFS) received a request from Canada to deploy Incident Management Teams and aviation specialists to help fight the wildfires in British Columbia (BC).

The province had a lightning storm the previous week which started more than 100 fires.

The following Tuesday, three CFS (Scott Turner, Gerald Thomson and Ali Martin) and three Department Environment and Water (DEW) (Karen Philp, Brett Williams and Simeon Telfer) employees flew to Sydney to meet with the other 48 deployees from around Australia.

On arrival Gerald, Karen and Ali were deployed in an Incident Command Team with other Australians while Brett, Simeon and Scott were deployed individually into Canadian teams.

Here are some of their experiences.

Gerald Thomson

For Gerry it was his first time in a Logistics role on an Incident Management Team (IMT). He was in charge of the Quesnel East Camp with the team spending 14 days working and camping in tents.

He was part of a team of 11 Australians, led by Tasmanian Fire Service Neil Brooksbank, and including Karen and Ali in Planning and Information roles.

His job at the camp was to ensure all ran smoothly, the kitchen, laundry services,

security and induction of contract firefighters. One particular highlight was showing the Mexican deployment around.

"We were representing Australia, we were ambassadors for Australia, so it was important we leave the right impression."

He said the remoteness of the fires were a real issue, with difficult topography.

"Crews had to be out of camp for a maximum of 12 hours, so if it took three hours to get to the fire, they could only spend six hours a day on the fireground," he said.

Scott Turner

"My only exposure to Canadian firefighting was working with a Canadian Planning Officer, during the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires, so I spent considerable time organising and packing, reading, researching and building some awareness of how the Canadians fought large scale bushfires," he said.

Scott was deployed as a single resource and spent the first part of his time at the Provincial Wildfire Centre as Provincial Planning Chief.

His challenge was to lead a diverse planning team on twice daily sitreps.

On his second deployment Scott moved to Quesnel, where Gerry, Ali and Karen were placed the two weeks before.

"Working and living in a camp for two weeks was also a huge benefit, fatigue could be managed, morale could be managed, everyone shared stories,

lessons learnt, everyone was under the same conditions from -2 degrees one night in a tent, to 23 degrees another.

He finished saying the deployment reinforced that Australia's AIIMS system and the associated training and systems are world class and the skills are extremely portable. "It was an amazing experience."

Brett Williams

Brett had always hoped for the opportunity to be deployed abroad. So he worked hard to ensure he'd be a good candidate with qualifications as a Level 3 Deputy Operations Officer and Air Observer – being deployed as an Aerial Ignition Specialist however was a surprise.

Brett was sent to Bella Coola in the Pacific Coast Mountains.

"I had never heard of the town, but the British Columbian people sending me there indicated how lucky I was," he said.

"As an Ignition Specialist my role required me to assess, plan and implement aerial back-burning and burning-out operations to reduce unburnt fuel islands and to slow and manage the forward progression of the fire.

"The Canadians treat fire differently to us and concentrate their efforts on managing the fire's progression around towns, key infrastructure and other assets. They do not undertake too many direct attack strategies, but rather rely on winter to carry out the bulk of the blacking out."



Simeon Telfer

Simeon felt a mixture of excitement, relief that he'd updated his passport and a bit of concern for his family of four children when he was deployed.

However once on his way he was well prepared for life in the remote Puntzi camp.

"The camp I was in was much better than anything I've experienced in SA. The food was professional and abundant! I think other camps weren't quite as well catered though," he said.

"Dry camps sound boring, but it actually meant crews worked hard and slept hard and that applied to everyone from the Incident Controller to fire crew. Discipline was really good."

Simeon was deployed as a Fire Behaviour Analyst (FBA).

"The role was a bit different to back here in SA, more operational and less technical. The Incident Management Team and crews had a lot of respect for the fire behaviour analysts, and would listen intently to any predictions, advice or warnings," he said.

He said it was also positive to see how FBAs can be integrated into IMTs to inform plans and brief crews instead of tucked away in an office.

One thing he'd like to see happen at local incidents is letting Divisional Commanders, Operations, Planning, Intelligence and FBAs use aircraft to gather their own intelligence.

"It really helped make useful plans and validate predictions."

Karen Philp

When Karen was asked if she wanted to be deployed to British Columbia, she'd wasn't aware of the significance of the fires yet.

As Planning Officer, Karen was impressed with the fatigue management the camps offered and her resourcing team was in charge of ensuring all of those checking-in had adequate qualifications to take on the role they were allocated.

"Tours of duty were 14 days which helped with continuity and familiarity particularly in the IMT," she said.

However she said in the initial stages of the escalating incidents this would have been difficult to manage fatigue.

"No night shift IMT meant that the shifts were 14-16 hours for the Planning section because we had to be there very early in the morning for resource check in or other queries and were worked late in the night preparing the Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the next day."

Ali Martin

Deployed as the Information Officer, Ali had a public facing role. This included giving local media updates and dealing with stakeholder groups such as the local Council, City of Quesnel and Williams Lake. The Ranchers Association and Forestry.

"Along with those stakeholder meetings, the Incident Controller and I also visited several community meetings run



CFS Canada Deployment - Simeon Telfer, Scott Turner, Ali Martin, Karen Philip and Brett Williams

by Local Council," she said. BC Wildfire was not responsible for placing areas on Evacuation Order or Alerts, this was the local Council's responsibility. Although BC Wildfire made recommendations, it was difficult to comment to the public or give them an idea of when they could return home without having this information on-hand.

"For some communities they had been out of their homes for 40 days or more, with limited fire activity in the area they were becoming restless and quite resentful at times."

"Thankfully in some instances we were able to recommend the Evacuation Order be lifted and it was great to see communities returning home."

DEPLOYMENTS

① Developing firefighting in Mongolia

By: Ali Martin

The 2017 fire season in Mongolia was well above average, so Australian fire services offered their support. CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark travelled to the land locked country between Russia and China for a nine day deployment.

Mongolia usually experiences between 80-110 significant grass and forest fire each year (March –October). In 2017 it had already seen 220 by mid-July.

Half of these were caused by lightning, the others by mostly abandoned campfires or human cause.

"Mongolia is facing significant challenges from climate change with an increase in forest and grass fire activity, with very limited resources as a developing county," Andrew said.

He worked with Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), which is responsible for both fire and emergency response to all hazards. It has 81 units across the country.

"The remote area fire I attended was in mountainous terrain extending over 8000 hectares. The fire had been burning over a number of weeks. Firefighters had established containment and were working to extinguish hotspots near perimeter areas," he said.

The smoke was then a public health issue for those in major towns, which resulted in economic impacts, due to interruptions to international and domestic flights.

"The strategies and tactics implanted by the NEMA Incident Controller were contemporary and reflected best practice of Australia and other countries," he said.

"Other than the lack of available personnel for the task, the other significant limitation was the unavailability of heavy plant, dozers or graders to assist in the operation.

Interestingly Mongolia has no history of an established volunteer network. However, with the increased occurrence of incidents closer to the capital Ulaanbaatar and other provincial towns, NEMA has seen spontaneous volunteers attend fire grounds and actively engage in firefighting operations.

"NEMA has sought to have changes to its legislation to permit the engagement of volunteers in firefighting and is developing policies and procedures to support this capability.

Andrew also worked with NEMA staff



Remote firefighting in Mongolia

Photo by Andrew Stark



Blackwood and Eden Hills CAFS appliances tackle the fire in Melbourne.

sharing the Australian approach to emergency and Incident Management.

"They have limitations due to resources and the enormity of the country, plus they were relying on data up to 48 hours old. I provided them with links to Himawari-8 to access satellite imagery in real time."

As for future assistance, Andrew suggested providing NEMA with additional small pumps used by Australian remote firefighters and an internship program with a volunteer fire agency to enhance their ability to utilise volunteers.

② Melbourne Recycling Depot Deployment, July 2017

By: Becca Cole

In July 2017, the CFS received a request from Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) to assist the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade (MFB) with an

industrial fire in the northern suburbs of Melbourne.

The fire was burning in waste materials at a large commercial waste recycling plant at Coolaroo. Toxic smoke and ash caused by the fire forced hundreds of people in northern Melbourne to evacuate, with several people hospitalised.

EMV made special requests to Fire and Rescue NSW, ACT Fire and Rescue and SA CFS for Compressed Air Foam (CAFS) appliances to help fight the fire.

CFS responded accordingly by sending two CAFS units to Victoria – Sturt Group BW13 CAFS and Eden Hills CAFS 14 – along with a CFS Incident Management Support Vehicle, staff, volunteers, BA sets and other equipment.

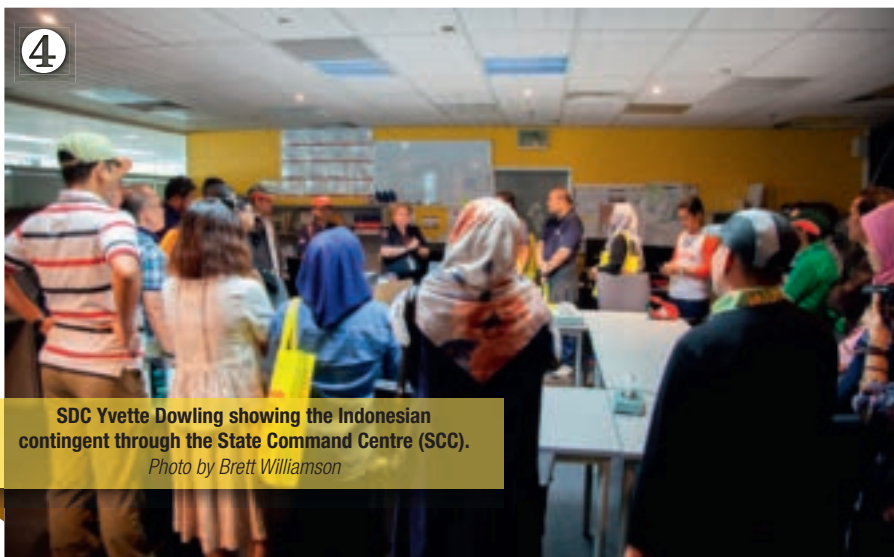
CFS crews used their specialist firefighting equipment to supply aerial appliances and large diameter hoses with CAFS product which significantly assisted in the suppression of the fire.

3



Chief Officer Greg Nettleton with Superintendent, Police Operations - Manuia Marenaitu and Pacific Islands Liaison Matt Davis.

4



SDC Yvette Dowling showing the Indonesian contingent through the State Command Centre (SCC).

Photo by Brett Williamson

The Coolaroo fire took 11 days to extinguish. The MFB Deputy Chief Officer managing the incident said our CFS crews were professional, highly competent and that their efforts made a marked effect on the fire ground.

We'd like to say a big well done to all crews involved for representing our organisation at its best.

3 CFS trains Kiribati Police

By: Ali Martin

CFS continues its sponsorship of the nation Kiribati as part of the Pacific Island Fire and Emergency Service Association.

Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Pacific Islands Liaison Officer Matt Davis and Community Engagement's Tracy Grime travelled to Fiji and onto Tarawa in August 2017.

The three visited as part of a scoping mission to work out what risks, resources and emergency management structures the country already had in place.

Now they're preparing to return to the developing country, made up of 23 islands, with equipment, training and community engagement tools.

They will be hosted by the Natural Disasters Management Office and worked closely with Superintendent, Police Operations - Manuia Marenaitu.

An old 24P single cab and a 7,000L bulk water carrier were shipped to the nation in May along with donations of old rural Personal Protective Clothing (PPC) from brigades. The donations are available due to the rollout of a second set of PPC.

"Region 4 has been especially generous donating several hundred sets," Matt said.

Chubb Australia also donated 100 fire blankets and LHD donated 80 sets of

structural PPC gear including flash hoods, helmets, boots etc.

A training pathway has been developed for the police officers undertaking the fire training. The first stage of training will be Basic Firefighting 1, from there they will complete a Defensive Fire Suppression course.

Trainers will be based on Kiribati's main island Tarawa for two weeks to complete the two course loads. They'll then travel back to finish training the rest of the officers.

Matt said stage two of the training will include Road Crash Rescue and AIIMS (Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System), followed by more training in the following years.

The Community Engagement side will work to develop a five year community safety plan with key agencies.

"We will research and identify appropriate community safety information to meet the needs of the range of Kiribati community," Tracy said.

They will work closely with Community Engagement Officers in Kiribati to identify the appropriate formats for translations and develop protocols for the use of social media. The presence of social media is growing in Tarawa, the main island where 80 per cent of the population lives.

Although the community messaging will have home and bushfire safety, Tracy said climate change is also a major hazard, with ocean surges causing issues for those on the islands.

4 Indonesians learn from CFS

A group of Indonesian firefighters were guests at CFS in November last year as part of a short course in Integrated Fire Management presented by Charles Darwin University.

The group was in Australia to learn current policies and ongoing strategies to combat fire issues in their home country.

They heard presentations from CFS at State Headquarters and State Training Centre about what CFS does and the role of communities in disaster response and risk management. They spoke about planning and communication of interagency roles is essential in emergency and disaster response.

Aerial firefighting and fire management planning was also discussed along with coordinating communications to different cultural groups.

PARTNERSHIPS

1 Fire weather effects

By: Ali Martin

The knowledge that communities at the edge of town are not necessarily safe from smoke and ember attack in a bushfire is not new. However recent research is giving us new insight into how fire and weather can interact to make a fire burning on a dangerous day even more devastating.

Bureau of Meteorology's Dr Mika Peace presented some of the key learnings on the latest in fire and weather research and what this could mean if another big bushfire kicks off near Adelaide's outer suburbs at a forum last year.

"Recent research in fire weather involves understanding the interactions between a fire, the atmosphere and the local topography," Dr Peace said.

"The energy released by a fire modifies the surrounding atmosphere, which can produce dynamic and unpredictable fire behaviour, particularly in complex terrain."

Dr Peace's research through the Bushfire and Natural Hazards Cooperative Research Centre (BNHCRC) looks at case

studies of extreme fires, as well as the development and running of a numerical weather prediction model coupled with a fire model, to better understand the interactions that occur and improve our ability to predict fires in the future.

One of the research case studies is the Waroona bushfire in Western Australia in January 2016.

Two separate pyrocumulonimbus events (when a fire produces its own thunderstorm) developed and there were two evening ember storms driven by downslope/gully winds.

One impacted the town of Waroona and the second destroyed the town of Yarloop, causing two fatalities. None of these events occurred in the mid-afternoon when the risk of fire weather is generally at its peak because it is the hottest time of the day.

At the forum Dr Mika Peace was joined by a panel of experts from CFS, Department of Environment and Water (DEW) and Adelaide University to further explore the issues around the risk of bushfire in the suburbs and what we can do as a community to live with the risk.

2 Cultural and Ecological Burning in the State's Far North

By: Jen Dick, Department of Environment and Water

The Department for Environment and Water (DEW) in partnership with the Witjira Co-Management Board made history in November, successfully carrying out the first cultural burn on co-managed land in South Australia.

The burn took place in the National Heritage Listed Witjira-Dalhousie Springs complex within Witjira National Park (NP). Local DEW Cultural Ranger, Dean Ah Chee used traditional firesticks to light the burn, which travelled across approximately 330 hectares of the Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) vegetation growing in and around the springs.

He guided the DEW fire management staff around the spring area during the burn, using markers to show where access was allowed and which areas to avoid for cultural reasons.



Fire weather effects
Photo by BOM



“We have got traditional connections to here, this country, and it’s important that we look after the sites around the spring area that’s been left for us to look after from our Elders before us,” he said.

Burning the dense reeds around the springs is a practice that local Indigenous people have carried out for thousands of years for cultural reasons and to provide access to open water.

Ecologically, scientists now know that burning the reeds creates more diverse habitat areas, crucial for the health and survival of unique fish species including the nationally listed Dalhousie Gudgeon (*Mogurnda thermophila*) and Dalhousie Goby (*Chlamydogobius gloveri*).

The isolation of the springs in the middle of large areas of arid land has led to the evolution of many endemic species specialists found no-where else in the world.

Travis Gotch, a DEW Water Systems Specialist from the Arid Lands region, said that the cultural burn was particularly targeted at increasing environmental water flows, and restoring critically endangered species.

“We’re undertaking a process now of reintroducing traditional cultural burning in conjunction with our understanding of the environment at Dalhousie, we are trying to protect, conserve and expand the habitat of some of these species that have just recently been nominated to be shifted to critically endangered” he said.

“If we’re serious about managing this park we need to go back and look at land management principles that the park has adapted to over 40,000 years, and one of those is the burn that has taken place at Dalhousie Springs.”

Witjira NP Co-Management Board Member Marilyn Ah Chee explained that fire had always been a part of caring for country.

“Lower Southern Arrernte people and Wangkangurru people have cared for this country for many, many generations,” said Mrs Ah Chee.

“This country needs to be cared for and fire is a great tool for achieving that. Our aspiration is to use cultural fire management across Witjira to help care for country traditionally for the benefit of all.”

The prescribed burn coincided with the

release of a draft Witjira Waru Pulka (Fire Management) Strategy which has been made in the form of a poster.

The strategy explores a variety of on-ground activities including prescribed burning at strategic locations to reflect cultural practices, and reduce the bushfire risk to life, property, cultural assets and values and the environment.

Inappropriate fire regimes, when fires either happen too often or not often enough, are a threat to the unique biodiversity of the springs, so the strategy is important to guide management actions.

Mr Ah Chee believes the strategy represents an important partnership with the traditional owners of Witjira NP and DEW, builds on reconciliation and makes the landscape healthier.

“Doing fire management programs creates new life, with new plants for our animals and the chance for Aboriginal people to see their cultural sites,” he said.

This prescribed burn has demonstrated that traditional cultural practice can work hand in hand with modern science and ecological management principles to achieve good outcomes.



2

The prescribed burn at Witjira National Park
Photo by Department Environment and Water

PARTNERSHIPS

1 Tent cities soon a thing of the past for CFS base camps

By: Daniel Hamilton

Rugged tent cities during large incidents may soon be a thing of the past thanks to a quick setup, temporary accommodation innovation which has received State Government funding.

The State Emergency Service will take ownership of a Humanihut kit, and will provide it for emergency volunteer housing at large bushfire incidents.

The 128-bed Humanihut was designed in South Australia and uses an innovative pop-up design to provide accommodation, as well as bathroom, laundry and community facilities in just four hours.

Flat-packed into custom built shipping containers the pop-up base camp is easy to move, build, dismantle and can be store ready to be assembled to support major incidents.

The SA company behind the Humanihut is expecting of global orders for a range of commercial and humanitarian uses in both the public and private sectors.

The system is also being considered for refugee settlements and emergencies across the world.

The Humanihut System has been around since 2013 and has collaborated with South Australian companies to get the concept to the point of release.

Humanihut has staff and agencies in Adelaide, China and US with demonstration units in Adelaide.

The SES Humanihut module will be available for CFS usage for the 2018/19 Fire Danger season.

2 Collaborative firefighting effort to extinguish Northern Heights fire

By: Nicole Ely, Media and Communications Manager, SAMFS

It was one of the state's largest structure fires in recent years.

The Thomas Foods meat processing facility caught fire on January 3 and burned for several days.

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters was the control agency, but were ably assisted by several CFS crews. About 100 firefighters in 23 appliances attended the fire on the first night.

They were able to contain the fire to the 75 by 100 metre shed, however the area wasn't declared safe until nine days later.

MFS Chief Officer Greg Crossman said the collaborative efforts of many agencies were critical to containing the immense blaze on the night it began.

"I'm immensely proud of what MFS and CFS firefighters achieved together during the first night of the fire under extreme circumstances," he said.

"They were ably supported by State Emergency Service (SES), South Australia Police (SAPOL), SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) and the Salvation Army."

"Metropolitan and regional MFS firefighters provided continuous firefighting at the site for nine days, contending with difficult fire access, the risk of structural collapse, extreme heat, strong winds and the constant risk of the fire extending beyond the area of containment.

"The effort of every firefighter, every day has been integral to the path towards extinguishment."

Specially trained MFS Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) firefighters also assisted with cutting holes through internal brick walls and concrete to provide fire access and ventilation.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer (ACFO) of Regional Operations, Phil Kilsby said Murray Bridge MFS has served and protected its local community for close to 95 years. "This past week, Murray Bridge MFS – supported by many metropolitan and regional MFS and CFS crews and supporting agencies – has done its community very proud."



1



Kylie builds CFS family

By: Brett Williamson



Kylie Kleinig with son Nicholas

Becoming a firefighter was a childhood dream for Region 6's Kylie Kleinig.

Kylie was determined to continue the work she had begun with the Alice Springs Bushfire Council when she relocated to Port Lincoln.

Her two goals of creating a personal training business and becoming a firefighter were quickly completed, and she signed on with the Lincoln Brigade in 2010.

"It fulfilled my adult passion of helping people and mentoring others," Ms Kleinig said.

"Being involved in an organisation that serves my local community and being able to meet new people and learn valuable skills keeps me young at heart," she said.

"I have learnt so much about myself through the training, the mentoring, the opportunities and the life lessons that, even at the age of 45, I am still learning and that excites me."

Ms Kleinig is also the Regional Administration Officer for Region 6, a role she said has given her a greater appreciation of the organisation as a whole.

"[The role] has influenced me quite significantly to the level of respect and appreciation of the time and effort that goes into all of the brigades to support our volunteers," she said.

With eight years of service as a volunteer, Ms Kleinig said one experience has left her with a lasting impression.

"The day my 11-year-old son Nicholas joined the Lincoln brigade as a cadet.

"Watching him in oversized level ones and a white helmet that fell over his eyes

climbing onto a truck, looking so small, driving off for his first cadet training night was a burst with pride moment for me," she said.

"I hope I am still active when he gets his first pager – mum and son in the back of a white truck with lights and sirens on responding to a job would be great."

Outside of the CFS Ms Kleinig doesn't stop – obstacle races, marathons and ultra marathon training, plus her personal trainer business, husband and two children make sure of that.

"Balancing work, volunteering, training and my family life takes good communication, time management, flexibility and respect.

"Throw in an unexpected call-out and that rocks the family time and it's then my responsibility to renegotiate my commitments, but that's okay, it's the nature of the service I choose and love."

From Cadet to Captain

By: Brett Williamson



Shane Rigden

In 1988 Shane Rigden was approached by the Wudinna CFS Brigade Captain to become a cadet – today he holds that role and is now doing the same.

Mr Rigden originally joined to give something back to the community, but now he wants to make sure the community and his brigade are prepared for any emergency that may arise.

"It was obvious during the recent extended blackouts that smaller communities may not receive assistance from outside sources for some time and they need to be self-sufficient," Mr Rigden said.

"It's my aim to work with different agencies and local councils to ensure the community is safe, and can continue to operate, no matter what the situation may be."

Away from his duties with the CFS, Mr

Rigden is a fuel tanker delivery driver dropping off products anywhere between Port Augusta to Penong.

When he's not behind the wheel of a delivery or fire truck, Mr Ridgen is spending time with his wife and two daughters or escaping to his shed.

"I've met a lot of good people over the years with the CFS," Mr Ridgen said.

I've always enjoyed the comradery with volunteers and staff and it's always good to catch up and reminisce about past experiences."

From patient to responder

By: Brett Williamson



Ricky Haagmans

In 2002 Ricky Haagmans was first introduced to the CFS – the local brigade helped to remove him from a wreckage following a serious car accident.

In 2005 Mr Haagmans was looking for an opportunity to do something within his community, and his memories of the experience drove him to join the Elliston brigade, where his father was already a member.

"Volunteering for the CFS is my way of contributing to our community and working closely with likeminded people," Mr Haagmans said.

That volunteer community team grew infinitely when Mr Haagmans joined strike teams on the Bangor and Sampson Flat firegrounds.

"It was a great experience working with other firefighters from different parts of the country, including crews from New South Wales," Mr Haagmans said.

Away from the firetrucks Mr Haagmans divides his time between helping his father on the family farm and spending time with his partner Cherise and son Ashton.

"I'd recommend to any person contemplating helping their community to consider volunteering at their local CFS brigade."

PROFILES

40 years in service

By: Brett Williamson



Paul Wurst

Paul Wurst joined the Country Fire Service in 1971, when it was known as the Emergency Fire Service.

Mr Wurst was living in a small rural community and saw it as his chance to help out.

Forty-eight years later he is still helping.

The comradery of members, from brigade, group and region level is what brings Mr Wurst back to the CFS after so many years.

"I get a lot of satisfaction in helping people out in their times of need," Mr Wurst said.

He lists saving assets during the major Bundaleer and Bangor fires as some of his most rewarding experiences.

Receiving the National Medal in recognition for his hours dedicated to volunteering is also listed as another highlight.

Away from the CFS Mr Wurst and his wife Yvonne manage a farming business near Appila, in the Mid North, producing cereal and prime lambs.

He also enjoys fishing and hunting and has been involved with his local South Australian Ambulance Service.

"I've been Captain of the Appila CFS for 32 years and a Bushfire Investigator for the past decade.

"During this time I have made a lot of personal friendships and feel the more you put in, the more you get out," Mr Wurst said.

"I really enjoy being able to help others and would not have been able to do so much without the support of my wife and family."

Crew leader and staff trainer

By: Brett Williamson



Robin Geytenbeek

CFS staff member and volunteer Robin Geytenbeek loves volunteering for the CFS for the "money-can't-buy satisfaction" of helping strangers.

He joined the CFS in 1992, following in the footsteps of his father. After 25 years in the service his favourite memory so far is fighting the Black Christmas fires in the Blue Mountains in 2001.

CFS deployed five strike teams to the incident, which involved more than 100 fires across New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory.

Robin was Crew Leader of Lucindale 34 in Strike Team 5, forming a key part of the more than 20,000 firefighters and 85 aircraft required to extinguish the blaze.

Despite heavy losses, no deaths or major injuries were reported as part of the fires, and an estimated 20,000 properties were saved.

Robin remembers that as the rain arrived at last, CFS crews were demobilised and began their journey from the fireground back to Sydney.

"All the residents came out and lined the highway, waving and cheering us as we headed back to Sydney to fly home," he said.

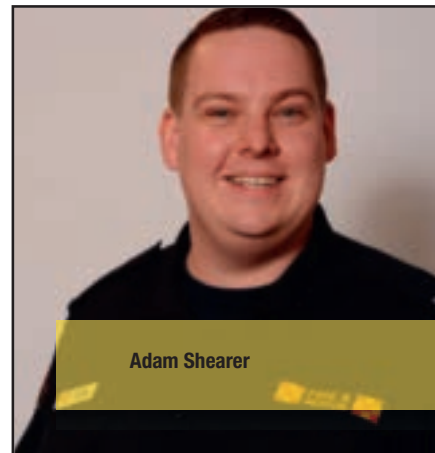
Today, you'll find Robin volunteering as the CFS Summertown Lieutenant 4, and working at the State Training Centre as Rural Firefighting Team Leader.

Combining a staff role with his ongoing volunteer experiences has immense benefits for him, as he gets to experience first-hand the needs of frontline firefighters and can help tailor their training to address these requirements.

"CFS has given me fantastic experiences, lifelong friendships and amazing opportunities," he said.

Proud to volunteer

By: Brett Williamson



Adam Shearer

It was the simple 'volunteer now' sign out the front of his local brigade that first twiggled Adam Shearer's interest in the SA Country Fire Service.

"It was a snap decision I just made then and there," the Morphett Vale and Mawson Group volunteer, and State Training Centre (STC) employee said.

The interest and motivation to join his local brigade was something that fuels the majority of our volunteers.

"I just like helping my community and enjoy the comradery," Mr Shearer said.

Since joining as a volunteer in June 2009, Mr Shearer has participated in multiple incidents and is now a State Training Officer for Built Environments at the STC.

It's a role that allows him to help improve the skills of current and future firefighters in not only South Australia, but across the country.

"I recently had the opportunity to train firefighters at Fire and Rescue NSW on fire safety systems – that was a great opportunity to show another organisation the great work we do," Mr Shearer said.

Away from the STC and his volunteering commitments at two brigades, Mr Shearer is a keen offroader and loves spending time camping, fishing and spending time with his family.

His commitment to the CFS, like most of our volunteers, is one which can at times place heavy demands on his time, but it is a commitment he is continually drawn back to.

"The community aspect of the CFS family is the reason I continue to be so heavily involved.

"I'm always happy to encourage people to find out more about their local brigade."

Lameroo Captain to Regional Commander

By: Dan Hamilton



Ray Jackson

New Region 3 Regional Commander Ray Jackson is back in the region it all began.

Well not quite. Ray, the journeyman, began as a cadet volunteer in Brukung in 1982 before moving to Lameroo in Region 3. There he drove trucks during the day and at night he was at the local brigade volunteering and eventually become a captain of Lameroo CFS.

Tired of hauling freight, Ray picked up a job as a Fire Prevention Officer with the Southern Mallee Council. After a few years he and his wife moved to the Adelaide Hills.

His career reset again and while working in a pub he picked up some night shift hours at State HQ before landing a Volunteer Support Officer backfill role. Over the following few years Ray clocked up some mileage with stints in regions 4, 2 and 3 where he eventually secured a permanent role as a Prevention Officer.

He moved to region 1 in the same role before becoming the Regional Commander of Region 3. It's a CFS career 36 years in the making and as he now leads the way in Region 3.

After falling into a career rather than planning it out, Ray attributes his success to 'persistence' and 'taking every opportunity.'

"If I hadn't been willing to move around the state and take the opportunities, I'm not sure where I'd be today," he said.

Proving women can stand the heat

By: Becca Cole



Sue Leslie

CFS Clarendon Captain Sue Leslie is setting an example to other women who think they can't fight fires on the frontline.

She joined the CFS in a volunteer capacity in 2002, initially bound for a radio operator role, but found she enjoyed riding in the truck so much, she never saw the inside of the radio room.

Now, sixteen years later, she's risen up the ranks to become the Captain of Clarendon, a position she's served in for more than a year.

"I went for the radio operator role because I didn't think I could do what the boys on the truck do, as a woman," Sue said.

"I'd come from a nursing background, which was a very female-dominated field, and I didn't know what I was capable of until I gave the Basic Firefighting course a bash."

Despite a steep learning curve, Sue said her experience as Captain has been excellent, requiring her to learn so much more, including Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), the Chief Officer's Standing Orders (COSO) and administration, to build on her previous experiences.

Having previously taught the Basic Firefighting course, she is well-known and respected within the CFS and has received much support for her current role at brigade and group level, as well as from other captains and volunteers.

"It's very seldom that I've seen a division of sex in the CFS, and that's the best thing about this role – everyone wants to be here, everyone is involved as a volunteer so we're all on the same page and we just want to get the job done."

Ain't No Mountain High Enough

By: Becca Cole



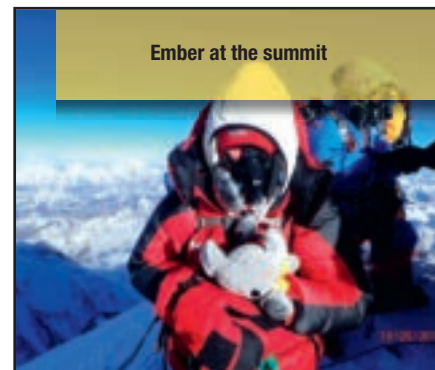
Trotty with 'Ember' the koala in half PPC / half mountaineering gear

CFS volunteer Lynette Trott ('Trotty') swapped her fire hose for an ice axe as embarked upon her dream of climbing Mount Everest in April.

Lynette has been a volunteer with Cherry Gardens Brigade in Region 1 for more than eight years and is a keen mountaineer in her spare time.

She's summited mountains all over the world – from Peru to New Zealand – and has previously made two attempts at reaching the highest point on earth, sadly to have just missed out on making it to the top.

In preparation for the expedition, Lynette put herself through a gruelling strength and conditioning training schedule which included stair climbing in a weighted vest and dragging a heavy tyre around on a chain.



Ember at the summit

She took a CFS Akubra hat up to Base Camp and planned to carry a CFS koala toy named Ember (Smokey's twin sister) right up to the summit. Unfortunately she suffered an accident at Base Camp which meant her trip was cut short. However, a friend carried Ember right to the top.

LOOKING BACK

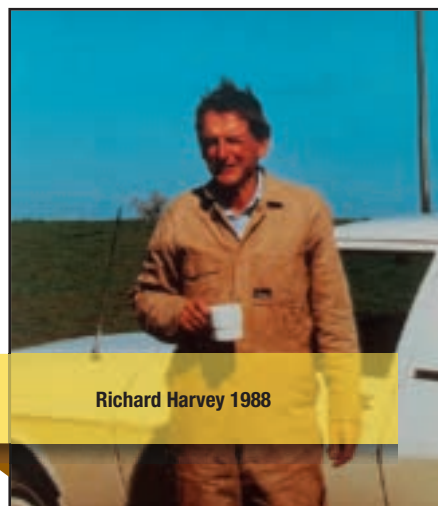
By: Becca Cole

Introduction

The CFS Media and Communications Unit were recently approached by Richard Harvey AM, a former farm manager on the Narrung Peninsula close to the mouth of the River Murray. He was affected by a bad fire in the spring of 1990. At age 91, Richard wanted to share his story and say another thank you to the CFS who responded to the incident all those years ago.

Born in 1926 in Kent Town, Richard studied Agricultural Science at the University of Adelaide. In 1963, having built up his farming experience at a property near Bordertown, he moved to the Coorong to become the farm manager on the Yalkuri property which his father had acquired many years earlier. Richard was awarded the Australian Medal for his work as a pastoral consultant and for working with the government on an experimental rabbit culling program at Yalkuri. He remained on the property for 27 years until the fire.

I had the pleasure of meeting Richard in his current home in North Adelaide to interview him and hear his story first hand. He is a remarkable and captivating individual, and what follows is his story of the Narrung fire and its aftermath, as well as the perspective of CFS volunteer, Colin Jolly, who was one of the first to respond to the incident.



Richard Harvey 1988

The day of the fire

Monday, 12 November 1990, was a windy but pleasant spring day on the Narrung peninsula. Richard was going about his business on the Yalkuri farm. Unfortunately, what happened that afternoon would change his life forever.

That day, the property's stockman was completing a routine check of livestock and doing the rounds on his motorbike. While cleaning out a trough he noticed a small



Narrung 41 used to fight the fire

fire had started under his bike. Grass seeds had become lodged next to the hot exhaust pipe and ignited the dry grass underneath.

As he had no means of putting out the fire, he raced off to find Richard and Richard's son, David, to collect the property's Farm Fire Unit (FFU). They all quickly returned to the fire scene, but the fire had spread from the grass paddock into an adjoining area of dense Mallee scrub. They were able to extinguish the fire in the grass, but called in CFS Brigades at Narrung and Meningie for help with the scrub.

CFS crews responded and implemented a fuel break with a dozer and grader provided by the local council. Richard and his staff helped CFS with back burning operations throughout the evening and into the early hours of Tuesday morning, by which point the wind dropped and everyone went to bed extremely tired.

The next day

The next morning, the wind picked up again and changed direction from North to South West. This enabled the fire to jump the dozer break, starting another grass fire. Richard and his staff tried to extinguish this new grass fire but failed, and retreated to the nearest water tank, some distance away, to refill. Before they knew it they had to flee in their FFU, with Richard hopping onto the passenger side running board. They were nearly out of harm's way when the FFU hit a large rock and Richard fell from the vehicle. By the time he was able to stand and compose himself, the fire was almost upon him.

Trapped by fire

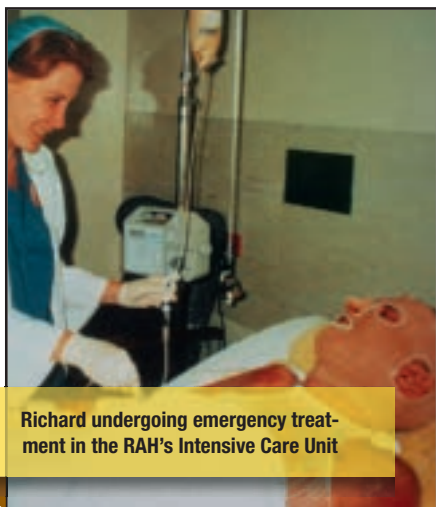
Richard knew he couldn't outrun the fire, and with no other option he concluded that his best chance of survival was to get to the already burnt ground. He ran through the flames, which at that point were over 2 metres high, and he immediately fell to



Richard burning off on the Yalkuri property

the ground in severe shock – everything became a blur.

Richard's colleagues in the FFU realised what had happened and drove back around the flames to find him. They lifted Richard into the passenger seat. The truck initially didn't restart as the flames had vaporised the petrol. However, they soon got him to safety and transferred him on to Meningie Hospital. Along the way, Richard was hosed down with water and kept upright to prevent his airway from blocking. He was barely conscious during the transfer to the hospital as he had been badly burnt on his face, hands, arms, upper body and part of one leg. His synthetic shirt had melted in the fire and fused to his skin.



Richard undergoing emergency treatment in the RAH's Intensive Care Unit

The aftermath

Richard received initial treatment at Meningie Hospital, with nurses applying thick cream to his burns, administering morphine, and inserting needles and tubes into his feet so that fluid could be drained into his body to keep him hydrated. A helicopter transported him to the Royal Adelaide Hospital (RAH) for emergency treatment.

Upon arrival at the RAH, doctors assessed that Richard had suffered third degree burns to more than half of his body and sent him to the Intensive Care Unit due to his partially blocked airway. At 64 years of age, and with such bad burns, doctors predicted Richard's chance of survival was minimal.

Treatment

Richard stayed in the ICU for three weeks under round the clock supervision, nearly all of which he spent unconscious and hooked up to a ventilator to help support his breathing. During this time, he underwent extensive skin graft surgery to help repair his burnt skin.

Once released from the ICU, he spent a total of six months in the RAH's Burns Unit where he received treatment from outstanding medical staff. Treatment included wearing a full compression suit and face mask, as well as continued skin graft operations. Despite the circumstances, Richard did not suffer any mental health repercussions and in fact was able to help other burn survivors in the ward to cope with their own injuries.

Road to recovery

Following the Burns Unit, Richard was moved to Kiandra Hospital where he spent another six months undergoing comprehensive physiotherapy treatment to regain his mobility. Having spent so long lying horizontal on a hospital bed, it took

a long time to even be able to sit up again, let alone stand and move around. He also required surgery on his elbows in order to bend his arms again.

Richard was released from Kiandra in late April 1991 and moved to a house in North Adelaide where he was assisted by registered nurse Alex Reynolds. She showered, dressed and fed him for almost a year, and washed out his compression suits which he had to continue wearing. During this time, he continued to undergo elbow surgery and physiotherapy to improve his mobility as much as possible.

Life after burns

Now 91 years old, Richard acknowledges he has undergone a miraculous recovery from the burns every doctor believed he wouldn't survive. He lives a happy life in North Adelaide filled with bowls games, gardening and walking. His son James continues to farm on the Yalkuri property and he is back in touch with nurse Alex who regularly drops in to visit or take him to lunch.

Since the fire, Richard has delivered speeches to local schools and medical students about his experiences. He also recently wrote and published a book, 'Miracle', about the fire and his recovery – a copy of which he has kindly donated to CFS Headquarters.

CFS perspective from Narrung Brigade Volunteer, Colin Jolly

Volunteer firefighter Colin Jolly from Narrung Brigade remembers the Narrung fire well and was the first to be called out on the Narrung 41. When he reached the scene the fire had just broken out into a nearby national park and was inaccessible, so he helped create the dozer break to try and prevent the fire from spreading.

Colin describes the second day of the fire as a "huge fire ball" created by strong 50km/h winds. He estimated the fire front as about two or three kilometres in length, which then grew to seven or eight kilometres due to the change in wind direction. In places, the fire was spotting hundreds of metres ahead of the main front.

Colin was defending the Yalkuri homestead when Richard suffered his burns, and he recalls support from Brigades such as Meningie, Coonalpyn, Salt Creek, Cooke Plains, and many more from the Adelaide Hills. Two planes were called in to do multiple drops of foam retardant and many local farmers pitched in on their FFUs to put out the blaze. Colin said "the whole community came together do to a magnificent job".

The fire was brought under control by around 6pm on Tuesday, 13 November, and crews remained on scene for five days after to mop up and black out the scene. Thanks to the huge effort from CFS volunteers and the community, no properties or livestock were affected by the fire. Generous donations to volunteers were made by the local storekeeper as a token of appreciation for their hard work.

The exact size of the fire was unknown, but was estimated to be around 3000 hectares. Richard's eldest son, James, recalled seeing smoke from the fire from Mount Barker – almost 80km away – as he drove down to Meningie.

A message to the CFS from Richard

Richard wishes to express his sincere thanks to all the volunteers and local farmers who helped to extinguish and mop up the Narrung Fire.

He is also keen to emphasise the importance of wearing suitable Personal Protective Clothing or, at the very least, garments made of natural fibres, when responding to incidents. He acknowledges that one mistake in wearing a synthetic shirt could have cost him his life, and that the severity of his burns was due to the shirt melting to his skin.



Richard (seated) celebrating his 90th birthday back at Yalkuri

Richard's story goes to show just how easily and quickly fires can start and get out of control – even when relatively early in the Fire Danger Season and when temperatures aren't at their peak. The Narrung Fire is an example of CFS volunteers working hand in hand with local landowners to get on top of a response. The CFS adds our thanks to all those volunteers and locals who responded to this incident.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

ANDREW STARK

Deputy Chief Officer
and Executive Director,
Frontline Services Support



“For our firefighters, safety continues to be a focus so the introduction of new fatigue guidelines was introduced to ensure firefighters are sent home, or transported home once they have worked certain hours.”

Frontline Services has had a year full of achievements.

Starting in July, we sent three CFS members to British Columbia to assist in the unprecedented wildfires Canadian deployment for six weeks. This is the first time CFS have deployed representatives to North America.

On that same day a call from Melbourne Fire Brigade (MFB) came in, with CFS asked to provide assistance at a waste facility in northern Melbourne. Our compressed air foam capability (CAFS) meant CFS was one of only three agencies in the country who could provide assistance to the MFB. The other agencies were from New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

Just a few weeks later CFS was again asked to assist in an international deployment, as I was sent to Mongolia. You can read more about my experience on page 22.

Through the year CFS has continued to work consistently with our colleagues at Department of Environment and Water, SA State Emergency Service and SA Metropolitan Fire Service, along with SA Police, SA Ambulance and Local Government. CFS has ably assisted those agencies in a support capacity, and likewise they have been there to support us in bush and structure fires, along with hazardous material spills.

It's pleasing to see the maturity shown at these multi agency collaborations and we look forward to continuing, not only at incidents but behind the scenes like Project Boomer and new National Warnings Framework.

CFS has seen an increased level of preparedness for high fire risk days, thanks to the introduction of new doctrine, before the Fire Danger Season. For our staff this has meant a clear start time for days of Total Fire Ban and the introduction of an afternoon and night shift before a major fire starts.

For our firefighters, safety continues to be a focus so the new fatigue guidelines was introduced to ensure firefighters are sent home, or transported home once they have worked certain hours. This takes into account the time they've worked in their occupation that day so we believe it will provide a safer work environment, especially at large incidents.

It's also pleasing to see additional funding continue for tanker safety systems with the retrofit continuing on our older fleet. This has seen some mechanical issues also resolved which gives us renewed confidence in the fleet.

Thankyou for your support this year, we look forward to increasing your support through Frontline Services in the next.

Busy season in the air

By: Ali Martin

The work started for the aerial firefighting fleet well before the Fire Danger Season had even begun.

An air observers (AOB) course in October at Port Pirie saw eight newly qualified AOBs get their wings. Manager Aviation Operations David Pearce said the course was a success.

"Those air observers were mentored throughout the season and got some additional training," he said.

Preseason briefings saw 180 people doing their Skills Maintenance Drills with 60 people trained in working safely around aircraft.

That aircraft could look very different though next year with the fleet's contracts coming to an end in June. This gives CFS the chance to change up the fleet with some additional resources.

"The bid for additional funding was successful in January, meaning we can establish a new Primary Response Zone (PRZ) in the Mid North next season," David said.

"This will mean four PRZs throughout the state, as we already have them established in the Eyre Peninsula, Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South East.

"Aircraft based in the PRZ are dispatched immediately when fires are reported on days when the Fire Danger Rating is forecast above 20 so we can get an overall picture of the fire, sometimes before ground crews get there. This intelligence is so important, and is fed to those on the ground."

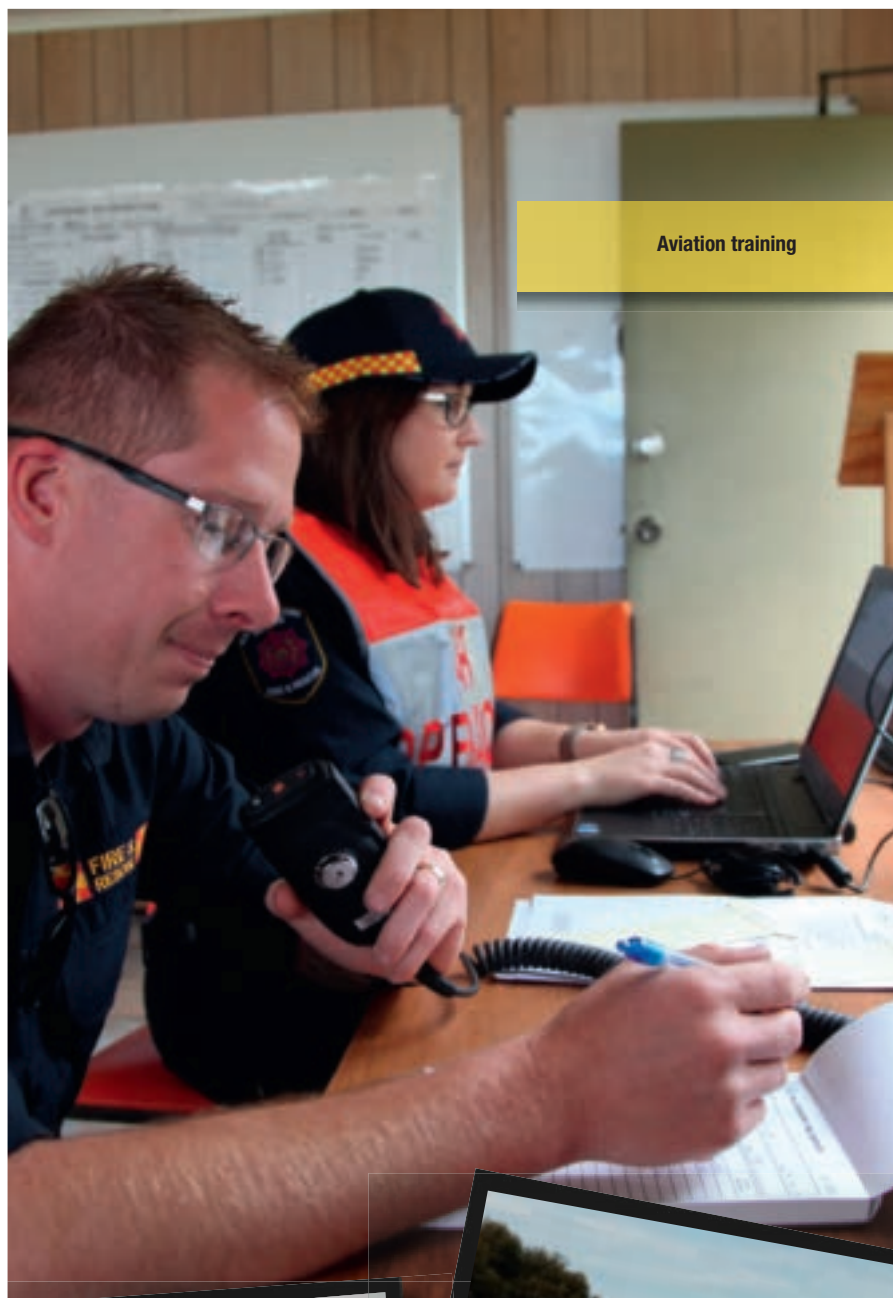
The National Aerial Firefighting Centre (NAFC) is undertaking the airfleet procurement process and the announcement is likely to be made soon.

Upgrades have been made to air bases where possible throughout the state, with the installation of fixed shades and water storage on site.

"Thanks to Steve Byrnes for undertaking the audits at each base, he'll be missed when he leaves the role in June." We wish Steve all the best in his retirement.

The Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) has also installed new equipment to fill Large and Very Large Air Tankers should they be called in to assist from interstate.

"The base at Edinburgh is the only one large enough to refuel those airtankers so the agreement with RAAF is vital."



FRONTLINE SERVICES

1 Be Bushfire Ready

By: Ali Martin

The traditional Bushfire Action Week was transformed this year, into a month long preparedness campaign called Be Bushfire Ready.

Starting in mid-October, with a launch by then Emergency Services Minister Chris Picton, the message to the community was to prepare for the fire danger season by doing some simple things around their home.

There were media launches in each region, with local Regional Commanders speaking to media about local issues. Some statewide media events were held with the launch of Operation Nomad by SA Police and various other hot topics.

Community Engagement Officers held 37 events throughout the month, again with a local flare on what people should be doing as the season approached.

There were Brigade Open Days held across the state with a total of 59 inviting their community into the stations. Some used it as an opportunity to recruit while others raised money through barbecues and raffles. Others had preparedness talks to give advice on what people should do to protect their families, pets and homes.

Overall the month long event was a great success, and we'll be doing the same next season so look out for information on Open Days coming out in August. Or if you want to register your interest earlier email CFS. CorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au

Bushfire Investigators

When a bushfire starts it's reported location is usually the first place bushfire investigators start to look.

But in a fast moving grassfire, when hectares have been burnt before crews have arrived, how do they find the cause?

CFS Bushfire Investigators (volunteers, staff and SA Police) were given a refresher in just that during seminars in August 2017 at Port Augusta, Roseworthy, Naracoorte and Mount Barker.

Seminar organiser Yvette Dowling said the refresher includes a visual assessment which the investigators use pile burns with different accelerants to identify the source.

But before that they may need to do some detective work to find out where to even look for the cause. Usually this involves speaking to witnesses then looking at an external examination of the fire scar – determining the



The Morphett Vale Brigade Open Day activities.



Acting Region 6 Commander Tony Stockham speaking to local media.

boundary of the fire, direction of spread and any evidence that may be connected with the cause.

From there they start an internal examination looking at the head fire in the general origin area. They look at determining the path of the fire and follow fire run indicators, identifying what items were destroyed or damaged.

Then they can identify the specific area of origin, then ignition area and that is where they can determine the cause.

Fire Cause Investigators are not always called to bushfires – directions about whether to call them in is outlined in the relevant SOP.



Photo by Brett Williamson - CFS

2 Six sensor multi-gas detector roll-out for CFS HAZMAT teams

By: Brett Williamson

The CFS and MFS have adopted the MultiRAE Lite as their new gas detectors.

"It's a newer version of sensor with the latest software and better sensors," said



1
The Morphett Vale Brigade Open Day activities.

This was the first time a survey of this kind was conducted and overall 1,243 responses were received. This represented a response rate of approximately 10 per cent.

Regions were well represented with a response rate of about 10 per cent in Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4. Region 5 was slightly lower at 7.5 per cent and 6 per cent from Region 6.

In 2017 CFS employed Internal Communications Officer Vanessa Geerts to review the survey, speak to staff and develop solutions to improve communications.

She said there were a variety of findings which are now being used to create tools and change methods of communications to better serve our diverse range of members.

Many people are using the Volunteer Portal to access information, but there was also some discontent, so we'll be looking at enhancing this further to allow more people to get information through this means.

"Face to face information was a popular way volunteers communicate, which was evident in another question where it is clear volunteers would rather hear from Brigade Captains, Group Officers and Regional Commanders – people they know," she said.

"When asked what topics recipients would like more information on, respondents identified Training, Equipment and Resources, Information and Logistics along with Incident Case Studies."

The results showed some people want to receive information more regularly than others, so we're looking to implement weekly and quarterly updates people can subscribe to, depending on how often they want information.

Ms Geerts has since proposed a number of changes to Internal Communications, including the establishment of a toolkit for staff and volunteers, restricting the release of

information to certain day of the week and the introduction of an Internal Communications Panel. There have already been several people expressing their interest to be involved in this, they will comment on internal communications changes and help evaluate new methods.

If you are interested in being part of the Internal Communications Panel or giving feedback to current CFS communications, email CFS.CorporateCommunications@sa.gov.au



1
A Bushfire Ready event at Uraidla

CFS State Operations Officer HAZMAT Matt Davis.

Along with the ability to detect volatile organic compounds including diesel, petrol, carbon monoxide, enriched oxygen environments, hydrogen sulphide and hydrogen cyanide, the new units also have multiple user benefits.

"These models have a longer shelf life for sensors, with up to four years lifespan as opposed to one year for the units we currently use," Mr Davis said.

"They also have the option to be able to transmit read-outs to remote screens through wifi."

The staged roll-out of the monitors will see seven units per financial year distributed, with all CFS HAZMAT teams equipped with the new model by 2020.



3 Internal Communications Review

By: Ali Martin

A Communications Survey was mailed to all CFS volunteers and staff in July 2017 to gauge the current state of communications within the organisation.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

① Engaging the community in time of need

By: Ali Martin

CFS response to a major fire no longer only includes the operational side of things, but a large focus on information distribution in the form of warnings, community information and meetings.

During the Sherwood and Emu Flat fires earlier this year, community meetings were held while our crews were still on the fireground.

At the Sherwood fire, Region 5 Community Engagement Officer Megan Hurrell organised a Situation, Relief and Recovery meeting five days after the incident started.

"The meeting started with an operational update from CFS Regional Commander, Group Officer and SA Police, with the community able to ask questions," she said.

"We then turned the focus to Recovery with information on agricultural relief and recovery, health information and general recovery information."

People could then speak privately to representatives from different agencies about personal options available to them.

She said one affected landholder, Steve Jaeschke raised the frequency of fires in the area and the need for residents to become resilient and put preventative measures into place.

The meeting was attended by about 100 people and Ms Hurrell said although it was only soon after the fire, many residents said finding out about the recovery information quickly was a great help.

Sherwood Recovery Committee was formed after the meeting and continues to meet on a regular basis. Ms Hurrell is also continuing to work with the affected members of the community on a regular basis.

At the Emu Flat fire, Region 2 Community Engagement Officers Penny Kazla and Helen Hennessy organised a community meeting on the day after the fire started.

An Incident Management Team (IMT) had been established and when the meeting was set up it was likely to be a campaign fire, burning over several days in a reasonably populated areas.

"The Incident Controller gave an update and we also invited Local Council, SA Police and SA Ambulance to speak," Ms Kazla said.

With 24 hours' notice to arrange the meeting Ms Kazla called in Ms Hennessy as a Community Liaison Officer, organising mapping and a newsletter, along with key invites.

The main concern at the meeting was around road closures and the lack of access to the town dump, as that road had been shut due to the fire. Some residents were concerned about warning messages, but that wasn't supported by the majority.

"Certainly some people were still in shock and experiencing the early stages of grief, however most residents were happy to have the opportunity to ask questions and hear current information about the fire," Ms Kazla said.

After the meeting Helen has continued to work with the community, around what they can do to prepare themselves both physically and emotionally if a fire was to happen again.

"It is a perfect time to educate them – they really want to know what they should have done but you also need to validate their trauma without judgement," Ms Hennessy said.

② Huge drops from sky

This fire season has been a busier year than most for the aerial firefighting team. Overall 3,371,351 litres of retardant were dropped in an effort to support firefighters on the ground.

A total of 1,107 drops were made with over 1089 hours flown. The aircraft based at Mount Lofty Ranges being the busiest in the state.

In that Primary Response Zone (PRZ) 549 drops were made, with 1.69 million litres falling from the sky.

In the Lower South East PRZ there were 47 drops of 141,000 litres.

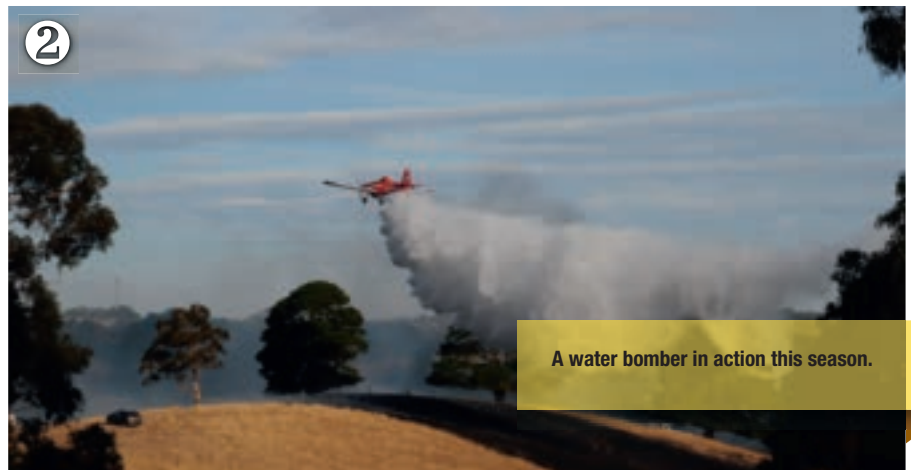
Then in the Lower Eyre Peninsular 93 drops using 297,000 litres .

Contracts for the Mount Lofty Ranges and Lower South East PRZs were both extended due to the extension of the Fire Danger Season in these areas and the unusually hot weather experienced through April.

Manager State Aviation Operations, David Pearce thanked those volunteers who helped load the aircraft throughout the season.



The scene of the Emu Flat Fire



A water bomber in action this season.

“Their work to load aircraft efficiently is paramount to getting aircraft back in the sky quickly,” he said.

“I’d also like to thank those fire fighters on the ground who gave good communication to the aircraft above, this makes for far more effective fire bombing and therefore more beneficial to those on the ground.”

③ Keeping our Frontline Firefighters Safe

By: Melissa Norris

The pager goes off. In minutes you’ve donned your PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and are heading in a truck to the incident.

Adrenaline pumping, you make mental checks in your head:

You know the truck will get you safely to your destination.

You trust your crewmates because they have the training and experience to get the job done.

You’re confident you have the right equipment, the right training, and the

right protective clothing.

But how do you know that structure fire you’re heading to will have enough space to get a truck up the driveway?

How do you know the property will have satisfactory water reserves if the mains get shut off?

Who can you trust to help ensure those basic expectations of access and egress will be met?

The answer: the CFS Development Assessment Service.

“Our mission is to increase safety for our volunteers and the occupants of buildings in bushfire-prone areas,” said Jason Druwitt, former Acting Manager Development Assessment Service.

“We hold a pivotal role in ensuring the safety of our volunteer firefighters. An example is if our crews are commencing an internal attack on a burning building, our team has ensured that basic resources such as sprinklers and fire hydrants are in place and are ready to be accessed by the crews.”

As the manager of a team of only six dedicated staff, Jason commends each member for truly performing well and

above what’s required to consistently meet their ongoing legislative deadlines 99 per cent of the time despite a 19 per cent increase in workload.

As experts in building development policies, including the National Construction Code and Minister’s Specifications, the team hold an important role in ensuring new buildings and renovations to buildings in bushfire-prone areas uphold the required safety standards.

They have the technical expertise to determine the building’s Bushfire Attack Level, which helps land and property owners to reduce the risk associated with living in a bushfire prone area.

It’s a difficult job, requiring significant training, and is not one Mr Druitt wants brigade members to undertake themselves.

“We’ve heard of a number of cases of brigade members providing unsolicited advice on construction in good faith, and under the law, that advice must be accepted as an official CFS response, even if it goes against Australia’s national building codes and specifications,” he said.

“Providing advice on construction is not our volunteers’ problem to fix. They need to push that problem back onto us and allow us to take the pressure off of them to make a decision.

“If our team isn’t able to assess those new houses and buildings in bushfire-prone areas, how can we guarantee 100 per cent that our crews will be safe when they get to the fire at the property?”

To contact the CFS Development Assessment Service and to find out more, please email CFS.DevelopmentAssessment.Service@sa.gov.au.



The Development Assessment Unit testing pumps with local brigade members.



Photo by Daniel Hamilton

Testing pumps with brigade members.

FRONTLINE SERVICES

1 Napperby in the Spotlight

Napperby CFS was showcased to thousands of viewers around Australia last year when Channel 7's Sunrise program visited the Region 4 brigade.

The Woolworths sponsored spot chose Napperby after the brigade's tireless work in the Bangor fires of 2014.

The brigade's cadets were featured hosing toilet paper from the trees, with weather presenter Sam Mac keen to have a go on the end of the hose. He managed to soak most of the community members gathered for the filming.

Captain Robert Bradtberg spoke about volunteering in the small town and what CFS can offer people. It was a great showcase of CFS talent, volunteerism and community spirit.

Those who made the early morning shoot were also treated to a breakfast supplied by Woolworths.



Sunrise weather presenter Sam Mac with CFS volunteers and community at Napperby.

2 Complacency Kills, an insight to this years Bushfire Ready Campaign

By: Neil Charter, Principal Communications Officer

Complacency Kills and *Why Risk It?* are the thought provoking campaign messages for 2017/18. The campaign recently won the 2017 SA Government Marketing Award for Best Campaign over \$200,000 for the second time in seven years.

Whilst the CFS continues to engage a multi-channel approach to campaign message delivery, but are targetting 18-39 year olds, who respond more and more to online and social media delivery. They are tipped as the next generation influencers many of whom have never experienced a major bushfire

Television, radio and press still play their part, but undeniably the appetite is for targeted, entertaining and personal messaging that talks to me, me and me alone. The dilemma is quite openly about whether people choose to do anything about the threat of bushfire, particularly when everyone leads lives full of demands and competing priorities and the only winners are convenience, personal needs right now or aspirations.

More than half way through the season and anecdotally the campaign seems to be working well. At the time of writing if you are interested in such things as click through rates, impressions and downloads across all our online digital platforms we have received over 5 million impressions,



An example of the Complacency Kills campaign.

over 500,000 video views and over 6,500 downloads of the *5 Minute Bushfire Plan*.

One thing's for sure in recent years nothing remains the same for too long. We live in a dynamic age where time

constraints and ever competing priorities challenge our need to prepare a bushfire plan. Planning based on an 'if' becomes harder when we are being conditioned to act on the now.

③ New fire reality training tool being researched

By: Dan Hamilton

Researchers at University of South Australia are trialling a new virtual reality program putting members of the public in the path of a major, but virtual, bushfire.

Since 2017 the research team has been working with CFS to develop a bushfire scenario to help people test their knowledge and decision-making when faced with dangerous bushfire conditions.

CFS Project Manager-Partners in Bushfire Safety, Peta O'Donohue said a prototype has been developed allowing users to become immersed in a scenario as a fire approaches a home, facing a series of decisions that may affect their safety.

"Through donning a virtual reality headset the new technology allows people to 'live through' a computer-generated scenario of a major bushfire in the Adelaide Hills allowing the replication of fire conditions and strong winds," she said.

"This prototype will be tested on participants with outcomes compared to those from a face-to-face engagement process. The aim of this being to test the effectiveness of virtual reality technology as a teaching tool for bushfire safety."

The technology has promise and is eagerly awaiting more research findings into how viable it could be for CFS to use as a community-learning tool.

"Getting community members to think about how they might actually cope with a bushfire is difficult. They may think that they're ready, but if they haven't experienced a big fire, it's a bit of a grey area as to what their emotional and physical response will look like when it does occur," she said.

"We are continually on the lookout for ways in which we can help the public be safer in bushfire risk area and this could become a vital tool.

"I am really hoping that it will give people a reality check of what it means to be bushfire ready – and that it's as much about making sure we have the emotional skills to cope with a crisis as it is about physical preparation.

"Having said that, we'll be looking to the research to inform us whether virtual reality can do this, if it's worth the investment and if it will produce meaningful outcomes.

"We want to make sure that it's effective and not just not just a gimmick."



Despite this 'communication chaos' we live in a time where there has never been such opportunity in tapping into those productive channels that allow you to reach into people's personal space and

impact their lives with information that may well not only save them, but their family and loved ones also.

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

ANN DE PIAZ

Executive Director
Frontline Services
Support



“ We have had a low rate of injury this year, showing our training, processes and procedures are working. There is still much more to do though – one injury is too many. ”

Frontline Services Support is moving into a new way of thinking. Streamlining facilities and the replacement of equipment, along with changes in doctrine to reduce the number of documents we have.

The doctrine changes are moving swiftly, with two sections, (Command, Control, Coordination and Emergency Management along with Safety, Personnel and Welfare) released last year, and another six only just distributed.

This new doctrine will provide improved clarity and fit well with Risk & Capability Assessment.

We have had a low rate of injury this year, showing our training, processes and procedures are working. There is still much more to do though – one injury is too many.

It has been the busiest year in CFS training history with many members utilising online training options on the Volunteer Portal to up skill themselves and maintain their training. The State Training Centre also has increased capability, providing more courses at Brukunga.

A significant investment has been made to the professional development of CFS staff, which will have flow on effects to volunteers. Our staff work extremely hard to support our thousands of volunteers.

A Managers Forum was held at Region 1 Headquarters in March, which those leading teams in CFS were able to plan for the future. This will be used in the 2018/19 Corporate Plan.

Our Executive Leadership Team is also visiting regions each year, hearing from those closest to our volunteers about the successes, issues and changes necessary to increase CFS capability.

The new CFS uniform was released last year and we have had many comments on its professional look. We will now be providing field uniforms to senior volunteers, with a further rollout being looked at later. This includes a new female cut field uniform which is proving popular.

We've continued to update safety systems on our trucks and implement new initiatives, such as the asset management systems for equipment and streamlining our facilities planning.

As new trucks are delivered, I often hear the stories of the excitement of brigades receiving their new tanker.

One story stuck out to me when the Padthaway brigade received a new 34 Fleet Manager Andrew Plush commented that their old truck was handed back in pristine condition, with all original decals perfectly maintained. Thank you for taking such care with your old tanker and congratulations on receiving a new one.

OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

More online courses giving flexible edge to busy CFS learners

By: Dan Hamilton

CFS is one of the state's largest training providers with thousands of learners being professionally trained in various aspects of firefighting and emergency service work.

Although the state and regional trainers are continuing to provide person delivery options more CFS learners are increasingly given the opportunity to access aspects of those courses online.

Mitchell Fitzgerald is the organisation's first Online Training Coordinator and is seeing an increased interest in people accessing pre-course and full-course content online via the Volunteer Portal.

"More people want to be able to get access to the course content online," he said.

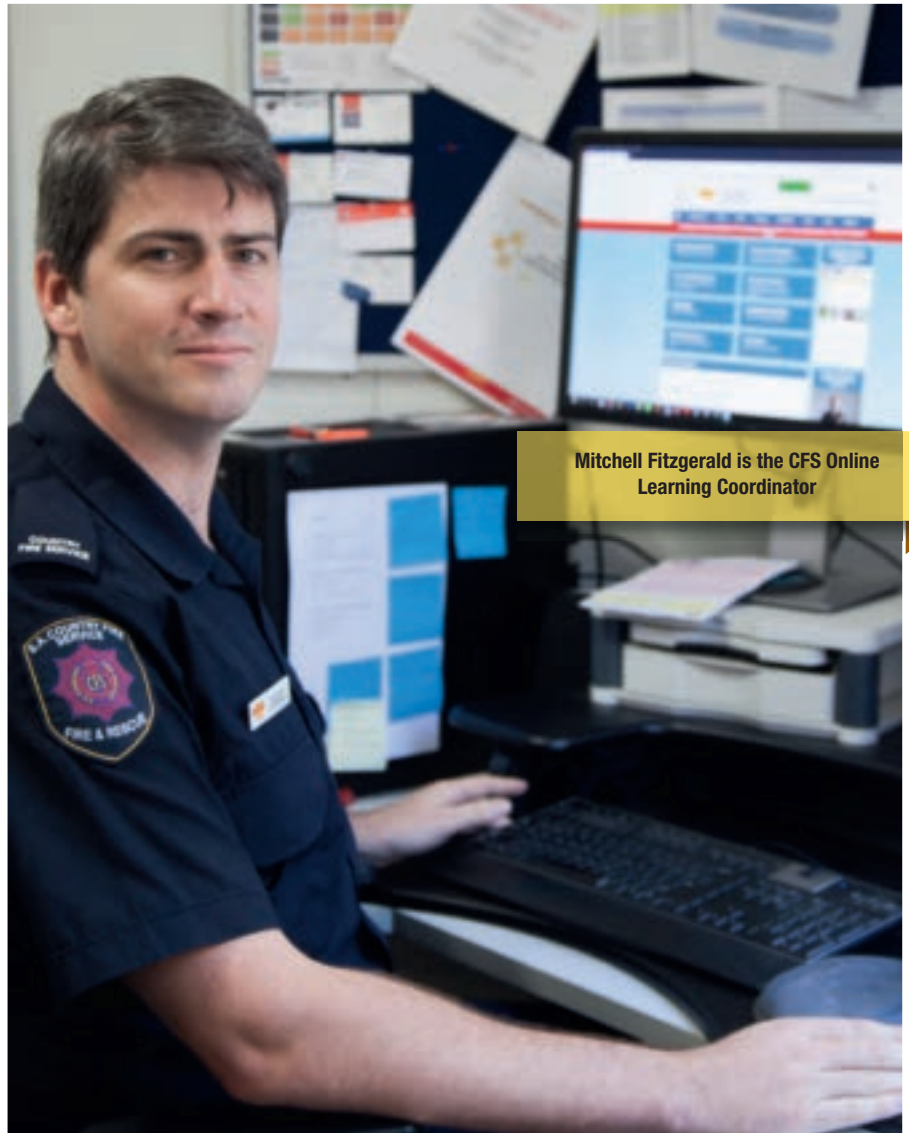
"We are very mindful this doesn't suit everyone so we will continue to offer hard copy resources and face-to-face training.

"The number of modules available online has been very effective for people needing to slot in their training requirements with their busy schedule."

Training for P2 masks is one course which saw a large number of volunteers access the online course.

"We saw 1,003 people take the option of doing it online, which was as simple as watching a video then working through a quick questionnaire."

Keep an eye on the online training module on the Volunteer Portal for upcoming opportunities.



Mitchell Fitzgerald is the CFS Online Learning Coordinator

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FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

① Generational change at Brukunga Mess Hall as trainees plump up

By: Dan Hamilton

A buffet of steaming tucker frequently silences the Mess Hall at the CFS State Training Centre in Brukunga when many take a break from training or sometimes deployment. For the last couple of decades the grub provided has been a big draw card to the centre.

But generational change is afoot as couple Tim and Abbey take over the on-site cooking duties in what is surely a tough act to follow.

Tim is son to long time Brukunga cooks Brett and Liz, and after years learning the trade he has stepped up from apprentice chef to take the reins and the Brukunga food offerings to a new level.

The trainees are raving, with course reviews often reflecting on the food as the highlight of the visit deep into the Adelaide Hills.

"We are doing more and more in the kitchen and looking to bring a creative approach to the menu and the food we offer throughout the day," said Tim.

Charged with delivering the sustenance of thousands of the state's emergency workers is potentially one of the most important jobs within the CFS, and Tim has learnt his trade in often trying conditions, most notably having to battle through long days during the Sampson Flat fire of 2015.

"I was holidaying in New South Wales when I got a call about needing to feed 150 people for dinner.

"We turned straight around and got back on deck at Brukunga for 3pm and managed to have dinner ready. We ended up working through until 11pm and then started the next day from 4am.

"It was full on but that's the nature of this job when we have to be ready to cook at a moment's notice."

Tim and Abbey have been working together for the last two years, with Abbey sometimes outshining Tim's kitchen creativity with an array of baking treats.

"People love the apple caramel crumble and the chocolate pudding which are always favourites, but people still really like a chargrilled steak too," said Tim.

Modern sourcing techniques are helping Tim and Abbey find inspiration too.

"We are getting a lot of ideas from social media with so many new trends in taste

OPERATIONAL TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

often inspiring us for ideas to keep the menu ticking along, but not so much the cooking shows which I find a bit unrealistic," says Tim.

So who has the biggest stomach?

"MFS recruits are by far the biggest eaters as they are often training really hard throughout the day, so we have to be sure to have the right food and they eat plenty of it.

"We are happy to take feedback too so if people attending the course have some constructive criticism then it would be great to hear.

"So far the response has been incredible and it's pretty satisfying to see a CFS cadet here for the first time go up for five or six serves"

Let's just hope Logistics are working on ways to strengthen the ladders for those plumping up on the superb Brukunga tucker!

② Hi-Tech training in the works

By: Dan Hamilton

The CFS State Training Centre is putting together a suite of courses for CFS volunteers to learn how to deploy and operate hi-tech equipment during significant or complex incidents.

Often larger incidents require greater coordination and an array of temporary infrastructure.

CFS State Training Officer Adam Shearer said some of the hi-tech training has been delivered as a trial and more course content is currently being developed.

"The trailers, equipment and those trained to deploy and operate them will play a pivotal role during incidents, some of which could be in remote areas," he said.

"Trainees will be taken through a course where each element of the equipment housed within the trailer will be made operational in a short space of time, and then learn how to troubleshoot without support."

Training resources will be developed and be made available in the future to cover a raft of equipment the CFS have at their disposal, which include:

Rapid Deployment Communications Support Trailer

This Rapid Deployment Communications Support Trailer provides communications support to remote locations to assist in

boosting communication abilities such as SA Government Radio Network (GRN) radio for those on the fireground.

Trainees will be taken through training on SA-GRN, High Frequency (HF) radios, Ultra High Frequency (UHF) radios, Very High Frequency (VHF) radios and satellite communications, and how we can repeat and extend their communication range.

Satellite Communications Support Trailer

Internet and data connections during complex incidents are vital for coordination of resources and delivery of information.

The Satellite Communications Support Trailer is responded to incidents with Incident Management Team (IMT) setups and assists in providing a stable connection to assist in getting information in and out of a fire ground when the normal systems aren't sufficient or are out of service.

Portable Automatic Weather Station

Precise weather information can be critical to the response of an incident and trainees of the Portable Automatic Weather Station (PAWS) will be skilled in deploying and operating equipment.

The equipment provides specific weather information of a fireground critical for the management and decision making in battling a fire.

The roll out of the training will occur over the next twelve months with those suited to the course to be notified.





1
Brukungu Cooks Tim Leverington and Abbey Haines



2
Adam Shearer operating a radio on one of the trailers

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

Three focus areas

People, communication and resources will continue to be our focus in the 2018/19 CFS Corporate Plan.

We will concentrate on our people, continuing to work on our leadership and development skills at all levels. This will be helped with the introduction of new training and membership management solutions.

To better support the CFS (both operationally and volunteers in general), we need our staff to have modern employment terms and conditions. Work will start on reviewing what we have now, and what we need for the future.

Communication will also be at the forefront of our business, with work continuing on implementing new strategies and processes identified through the Internal Communications Review – read more on page 35.

The development of an assets register will help maintain, circulate and replace (when needed) all CFS assets, reducing workloads

OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY AND PLANNING

at all levels and getting value from what we have.

Changes to legislation may also mean all of our heavy vehicles need to be fully serviced on an annual basis, a process requiring a large amount of coordination across the state.

New look doctrine rolls out

By: Ali Martin

CFS continues to develop a new Operational Doctrine to provide a single point of reference for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Senior Operational Doctrine Officer Sam Quigley said the hard copy release in June means CFS members will have a few months to become familiar with the material and allow key training to be conducted before the Fire Danger Season.

“The new doctrine is a planned and approached with a clearer guide to where information will be,” he said.

This is the second release of the revised doctrine following the release of two

sections last year – Command, Control, Coordination and Emergency Management along with Safety, Personnel and Welfare.

The second release includes the following functional themes:

- Section 4 – Incident Management
- Section 6 – Operational and Public information
- Section 8 – Aviation Operations; and
- Section 12 – Operational Improvement

This release will rescind 30 existing SOPs and 20 Operational Management Guidelines (OMGs) currently in the old doctrine library.

“Before, the doctrine was more disjointed. This provides a better structure, and stronger guidance. It will be easier to see how much clearer the process is with this second release.

“A hard copy will be produced, but that doesn’t mean the doctrine will stay stagnant. Updates will continue to occur and we make informed decisions on how those changes are rolled out.”

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE COMMUNITY?

Examples of governance at CFS

- Brigade meetings • Group Meetings
- Social Committees • Finance Committees
- RVHC • COAC • I&L Committees
- Bushfire management committees

Remember public money deserves extra care!

THROUGH HAVING 'CHECKS & BALANCES' (AKA GOVERNANCE)

'Governance' is setting up norms for everyone to follow

HOW DOES IT HELP?

Increased accountability and better use of resources increases community confidence and better decision making

What's my role in keeping community trust?

- Attend your relevant brigade or group meetings
- Turn up prepared & ask questions
- Listen
- Represent your Brigade, Group, Region or CFS with integrity
- Pass information on - don't let it stop with you

Government of South Australia

CFS

One way these decisions are made, is through the debrief process. After the Fire Danger Season, debriefs were conducted, the insights and lessons obtained will be integrated into the lessons management review and implementation process should lessons be identified that will require a change to Operational Doctrine. These changes will be drafted this year and released before the Fire Danger Season.

On completion of the doctrine updates, Tactical Action Guides will be developed to help all CFS members use this doctrine.

Same Direction, clearer terminology

By: Nik Stanley, Manager Risk & Capability Assessment

In order to clarify the key processes we undertake within Standards of Fire and Emergency Cover (SFEC) we're changing our name to Risk and Capability Assessment.

Our key processes haven't changed. We still make assessments based on the risks faced in response areas by brigades, and that still determines what training and equipment brigades should get. Critical discussions often occur with the regions and groups to ensure local knowledge is utilised, and we're making sure we build that into the process update so that it's accurately reflected.

The Risk and Capability Assessment team is currently working on the old SFEC papers and combining them into the new capability areas and doctrine.

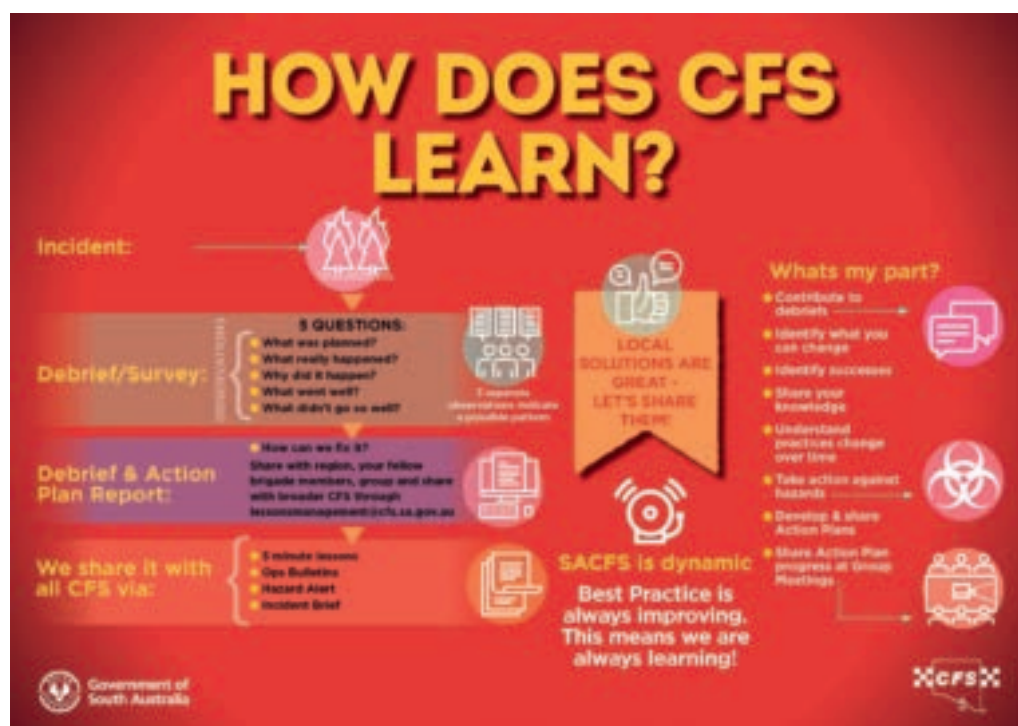
There are five themes currently being revised; Rural Operations, Aviation Operations, Rescue and Special Services, Urban and Special Risk Fires and HazMat and CBRN-E. The restructure means anything associated with the functional themes will be included in small statements of two or three pages, aiming to make it easier to understand and follow.

The team will also be looking into all prescriptions across brigade, group, region and state, and formulating a new template with more details on what is assessed in each area. The aim is to generate clear

visibility of what is required and to start the conversation on the needs of each area. The team will be out working in regions in conjunction with regional staff to initiate these conversations.

The team will be strengthened by the inclusion of the formally known GIS team which will become Risk and Capability

Mapping, undertaking the same mapping requirements we've always done, but creating greater links between our operational mapping requirements and our risk mapping products including BMAP mapping. These areas together will form the Risk and Capability section.



FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY AND PLANNING CONT.

Lessons learned continues to evolve

By: Melissa Norris

It's been another busy year for the Lessons Management team, with 252 observations, nine debriefs facilitated and 14 lessons identified during the past 12 months.

Publications released included two Case Studies, seven Operations Bulletins and three Hazard Alerts. The team has also

participated in a number of presentations both locally and interstate, including:

- National Lessons Management Forum in Melbourne
- New South Wales Office of Emergency Management Lessons Framework
- Australasian Fire Authorities Council (AFAC) Conference in Sydney
- Northern Territory State Emergency Management Committee Exercise evaluation

Following the Pinery fire in 2015, 99 per cent of our Project Pinery actions are now completed, in progress, or ongoing.

Manager Lessons Learned, Mark Thomason said in the spirit of continual learning, they are looking back on some of the most significant learnings we've gained throughout the past two years. For more information on these incident learning reports, or to view more, visit the CFS Volunteer Portal.

Grumpy's Brewhaus



Start Date and Time 16 December 2016, 11:08 am	Location Verdun
Situation on Arrival Building burning well with flames four metres above roof line	Duration 45 minutes to contain
Crews involved: Hahndorf, Bridgewater, Aldgate, Stirling, Oakbank, Mylor, Mount Barker, MFS Glen Osmond and Adelaide	

Summary:

Grumpy's Brewhaus was a popular pizza restaurant and microbrewery in Verdun, between Hahndorf and Bridgewater. Fire crews were alerted to the fire via a Triple zero '000' call, with the cause believed to be ash that had escaped from a pizza oven.

Hahndorf and Bridgewater crews undertook defensive and salvage actions, while crews from Aldgate and Stirling commenced an internal attack, which was reduced after 20 minutes due to extensive damage to the solar panels on the roof.

Challenge:

Limited training and tools available to CFS crews for incidents of this type. Crews had to rely on MFS to access the roof and evaluate the building's structural integrity.

Response:

SA Power Network and MFS Combination Aerial Pumping Appliance brought in to assess roof, identified voltage leaking onto the roof from panels, which were isolated by a solar specialist.

Recommendations:

CFS to look at additional options to deal with solar panels damaged by fire as existing processes cannot be safely applied when panels are leaking voltage onto the building.

Birdwood Truck Rollover



Start Date and Time 8 November 2017, 12:48 pm	Location Birdwood
Situation on Arrival Truck rolled over against guard rail, one person trapped	Duration 1 hr 15 min to rescue
Crews involved: Birdwood (fire and rescue), Lobethal rescue, Mt Pleasant rescue	

Summary:

Initial responders to this incident found the truck rolled upside-down against the guard rail with the driver's door against the road. The driver was trapped in the crushed cabin of the truck, and while he was able to speak with crews, he was unable to move.

Challenge:

Upon arrival and an initial size up, the response was upgraded to heavy rescue due to challenges including severely restricted access to the driver and lack of standard equipment required to respond to this type of incident.

Response:

As part of the heavy rescue response, a further two appliances were deployed. Lobethal rescue was added to the deployment due to the specialist equipment this appliance had recently obtained, and the assistance of the Deputy Group Officer was requested due to his road crash experience from the MFS.

Recommendations:

A review of heavy rescue kits was recommended, as specialist equipment was required for the incident that is not normally part of a standard stowage kit. A review of CFS road crash rescue training was also recommended, as responders who had trained in the MFS found their recent upskilling made a real difference to how they responded to the incident.

GIS team maps future

By: Ali Martin

The Geographic Information System (GIS) team continues to develop and expand its resources for CFS members.

They have developed nine applications on the CFS Portal for ArcGIS, a server based mapping and analytics platform.

Principal Analyst, Nick Cundell said the team is trialling the use to ArcGIS Pro that will eventually replace the currently used ArcGIS Desktop.

The applications are operationally focussed, covering information such as SACAD Beats, Emergency Service Zones, and appliance responses for those zones. It also includes fire history, hydrants, water mains, bushfire management planning and Bushfire Safer Places.

Mr Cundell said Risk and Capability Assessment are also using the system to identify risks, such as plantation and road crash risk.

He said there has been a change to mapping and analytics software, with all agencies in the State Government who use Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) Geographic Information System (GIS) software joining together to be a part of a whole of Government Enterprise licence agreement.

The team is also working on Emergency Services map books, CFS instigated these books but the Department of Environment and Water now produce them in conjunction with CFS.

They have recently completed map books for Eyre Peninsula and West Coast, Yorke Peninsula and Mid North, South East, Kangaroo Island, Riverland and Murray Mallee, and Flinders Ranges.

“All new editions include a Regional map, enlargements of a number of towns within map book coverage area, street index and rural addressing on maps where able to fit,” Mr Cundell said.



Principal Analyst Nick Cundell with map books produced this year.

Social Media rules explained

By: Ali Martin

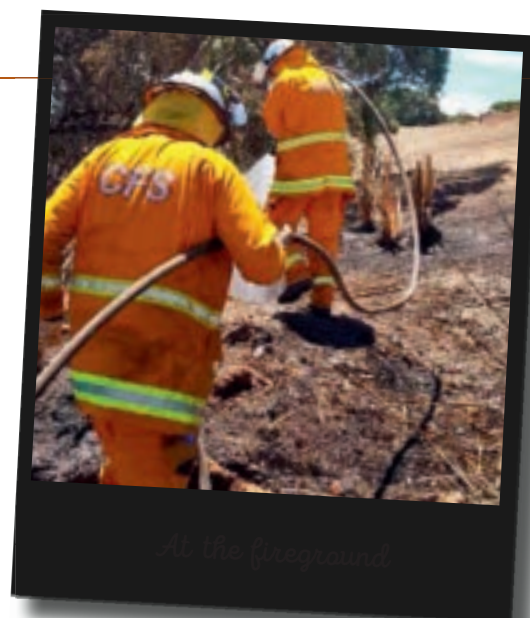
One of the changes to doctrine includes a more prescriptive approach to social media and taking photos or video on the fireground.

Social Media has become a powerful tool for CFS. It's used to inform the public about fires in their areas, promote events and volunteers, along with the CFS brand. It's also a platform where people can ask questions and share their opinions.

There's been a gradual increase in brigades using social media to promote their work and that has led to a change in doctrine. Now CFS members have a clear prescription as to what they can and can't post.

Even if you only have a personal social media account you must abide by this doctrine if you are identifiable as being a CFS member. Really these rules are simple, one example being, don't be offensive or share offensive material— see the full list in SOP 6.12.

If posting photos from an incident there is now also doctrine outlining what you can and can't do, below is a simple table outlining these rules.



At the fireground!

Can release images if	Cannot release images if
Permission is granted within chain of command before taking photo	Victims are identifiable
If on the fireground, must have appropriate PPC (SOP 2.02)	Registration numbers or other distinguishable features visible
All those in photos must have appropriate PPC	Images identifiable as coming from a specific private property – without permission of owner/occupier
Equipment and vehicles featured are being used appropriately	If you stand to make financial gain from content gathered.
	If images could be construed as inappropriate (discriminatory, threatening, breaching SOPs or CFS Code of Conduct)

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

PPC rollout continues

A State Budget promise of providing a second set of Personal Protective Clothing continues to be rolled out across the state.

Project Coordinator, Stephen Boucher said it has been a positive addition to equipment for firefighters, especially those who have structural PPC. They have a spare set to use while the other is sent away for cleaning.

So far 6,000 Rural sets have been delivered in what is the biggest rollout so far, 400 structure sets have been issued.

“The purpose of the extra set is to ensure gear is more regularly cleaned, especially because of the structural gear often has asbestos. It gives people the opportunity to rotate the PPC,” he said

“We encourage members to clean their PPC regularly to reduce contamination.”

Although he said some brigades already have cleaning opportunities in place, CFS offer a laundry service by multiple avenues. Structural PPC needs to be sent to contractor, LHD, to be cleaned, while rural PPC can also be cleaned by LHD, dry cleaned or simply washed in a washing machine.

“Cleaned PPC offers more protection from radiant heat.”



Meanwhile due to a surplus of funds to build purchase PPC, CFS is able to continue to rollout the new field uniform to all brigades, starting with Captains, Lieutenants and Senior Firefighters. This includes a new female cut available for the field uniform. CFS's Cassandra Curtis is shown in the new style.

Defibrillator rollout

All Road Crash Rescue and HAZMAT (hazardous materials) brigades now have an Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) on their trucks.

The rollout of these defibrillators started in June last year and also included a number of group cars.

Stephen Boucher coordinated the project and said those brigades were chosen as they are high risk first responders.

“If SA Ambulance cannot attend, or the incident is a long way away, road crash brigades may be first on scene,” he said.

For HAZMAT brigades, as members spend a lot of time in the suits they may need the defibrillator.

All members are already trained in the use of the defibrillators as it is part of the normal first aid course.

“CFS will look to further roll out the AEDs at a later date,” he said.





Ford Rangers with upgraded suspension have been fitted with IC pods

1 The evolution of the CFS light vehicle fleet

By: Brett Williamson

Changes in Incident Command, Outback Incident Command (IC) and Community Engagement vehicles are ensuring the CFS's fleet is keeping pace with changing demands.

Incident Command Vehicles

Incident Command vehicles (ICVs) can often be the administrative and operational workhorse of the light vehicle fleet.

The need for added communications equipment, mapping, planning boards and operational tools to be carried in one vehicle often ended in a domestic 4WD being loaded to the gills and not fit-for-purpose.

With many of the IC Pajeros and Land Cruisers mid-lease, Light Fleet CFS Projects Officer Andrew Horwood set about finding a new alternative.

Six Ford Ranger dual-cab 4WDs were given suspension upgrades to hold the custom-built roll-on/roll-off equipment pods.

"It's the first time customized ICVs have been built-for-purpose in the CFS," Mr Horwood said.

The pods are water, dust and smoke proof and have special-built areas for maps, whiteboards, a fridge, GRN and UHF radios, LED lighting and other equipment. The pods can also be transferred to new vehicles at the end of a lease.

"Effectively we have 15-20 years life on all of these boxes," Mr Horwood said.

The new fleet will be trailed throughout the regions until April 2019, with replacements rolled-out statewide if suitable.

Two custom-built Outback ICV Toyota Land Cruisers are also being tested in remote area operations through Region 4 and 6.



Community Engagement Caddy

Community Engagement Caddies

Community Engagement Officers commonly transport large signage, flip-boards and whiteboards for presentations.

The general bulk of their cargo meant a different approach was needed to the CFS's standard fleet of Subaru Forester and Ford Ranger vehicles.

With a low-wheel base, economical motor and three cubic metres of storage space, VW's Caddy van became a viable option for the team's needs.

The rear storage area has also been fitted-out with customised shelving and storage areas to hold promotional material.

"The feedback has been really good so far," Mr Horwood said.

All up 10 sign written VW Caddies will be issued to the Community Engagement staff this year.

2 Mobile comms and satellite trailers hit the road

By: Brett Williamson

The CFS's ability to operate remotely has been transformed this year with the addition of new rapid deployment satellite and communications trailers.

Three trailers are now operational from their bases at Port Lincoln, Port Augusta and Brukunga.

They are able to provide satellite connectivity, internet wifi, mobile coverage and VHF to SA Government Radio Network (GRN) to a 10-kilometre radius (dependent on terrain and conditions).

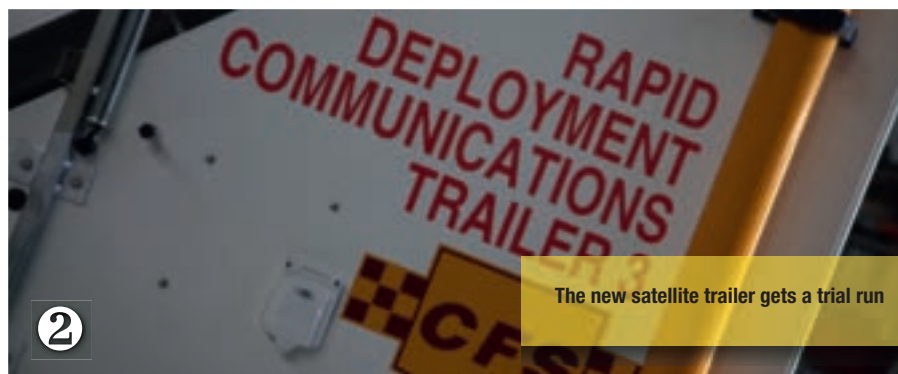
The communication trailers are self-sufficient, with battery banks, solar panels and generators enabling them to operate without mains power.

They prove to be perfect for helping to fill operational blackspots in remote locations, with several property owners showing interest in establishing concrete pads and permanent antenna masts locations in areas of limited coverage.

The satellite trailer has enabled staff to continue to operate Regional Command Centres or Forward Command Centres when mass telecommunication and electrical outages happen.

The satellite trailer is able to be parked near a Command Centre and quickly provide satellite connectivity and internet and phone break-out points for staff.

It is also able to use either mains or generator-fed power, and once the trailer is pointed north, the dish will automatically locate and lock on to the orbiting satellite.



The new satellite trailer gets a trial run

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS CONT.

① Retrofit continues

The CFS fleet continues to get a makeover in the form of retrofitted safety systems.

With each new build of appliances, the CFS has continued to make improvements including ways to protect volunteers from the hazardous environment they operate in. Historically, these improvements were never retrofitted to existing appliances because of the significant cost involved.

Following a number of significant fires, including Pinery, the CFS secured additional funding to allow the fitting of additional safety systems to existing appliances. This funding allows fitting of in-cab breathing, cabin deluge, in-cab pump start, under cabin heat shields, metal door handle surrounds, replacement pump metal air filter housings (some tankers) and fitting the current highly reflective striping.

A tender process was undertaken, and Moore Engineering in Murray Bridge were awarded the contract.

Presently 50 trucks have been retrofitted with a further 120 still to complete.

Project Officer, Peter Bonython said before an appliance is retrofitted, it undergoes a thorough mechanical and safety inspection, as well as a pump test. This is the first time the CFS has undertaken such an extensive assessment of its fleet.

A brake performance and suspension shake test are carried out, along with a safety inspection. A pump performance test is also undertaken, including pressure, flow and vacuum checks this includes identifying existing plumbing leaks. This process has revealed a number of items that, if not rectified, would have resulted in failure in an operational environment.

Chassis rust is proving to be an issue, which again, could result in the vehicle being certified unroadworthy. Unfortunately, the rust rectification process has extended the time a retrofit truck is away from a brigade.

“Having to use an older 'loan truck' while a brigade's truck is getting retrofitted has also been an experience. For some they've enjoyed reminiscing, but are really pleased to have their significantly improved truck returned.”

“Brigades who have had their truck retrofitted have been very impressed. It shows CFS is leading the way in crew safety around the country,” Mr Bonython said.



Riverton's 34 was the first tanker in the state to receive the new retrofitted safety systems, the brigade shows them in action.

TIPS FOR KEEPING YOUR TANKER IN TOP QUALITY

- Only wash it with clean water (not from the tanker) and take it for a spin after you've washed it –that will help it dry out and avoid rusting.
- If using a pressure washer, be extremely careful around speakers, sirens and electrical connections. Electrical items are waterproof for low pressure water only, high pressure water easily penetrates the insulation and causes damage.
- For tankers with a Foam Spike System, wait until the foam system stops working before spiking a new drum. If a new drum is installed too soon the holding tank can overflow. The spilt foam can contribute significantly to chassis rust.

② Battery power for rescue

By: Ali Martin

CFS is trialling battery operated hydraulic rescue equipment for Road Crash Rescue (RCR). CFS is the first South Australian emergency service to look at using this technology in the state.

Project Coordinator Stephen Boucher said traditional RCR equipment includes pump hoses and hydraulic fuel lines. It is heavy and takes up a lot of space. It's also difficult to work away from the appliance.

“There's been a lot of research into battery operated equipment, so we wanted to see how it works in general application situations. We are trialling it with the Aldinga Beach brigade,” he said.



The new battery operated hydraulic rescue equipment being trialled at Aldinga Beach-
Photo by Stephen Boucher



CFS pagers currently in use.

③ Why do we still use pagers?

By: Brett Williams

In a world of smart phones and apps, push-notifications and SMS, many firefighters have begun to ask the question “why we are still using pagers?”

The answer is simple and no more prevalent than when mobile phone users experience failures and congestion in the area of a large fire or event.

But the reason to stay with base model pagers is multilayered according to the CFS Manager of telecommunications Mario D’Agostino.

The South Australian Government Radio Network (GRN) currently has more than 220 transmission sites around the state.

Our pagers use this network to receive our messages.

“The network is owned by the Attorney General’s department,” Mr D’Agostino said.

It was created as a response to Ash Wednesday’s findings, where a stand-alone communications network was recommended for emergency services.

The SAGRN operates at between 20 to 30 per cent capacity on average, unlike commercial carriers which are run at near-full capacity.

“As soon as there is a disaster, the first thing that overloads is the cellular networks,” Mr D’Agostino said.

In a wide-scale emergency situation this means the SAGRN is more reliable than app-based paging, with a Service Level Agreement of no more than a 12 second delay from paging send to receipt.

“Apps may provide more functionality on a day-to-day basis, but become less reliable during big events,” Mr D’Agostino said.

During a fire, cellular sites have between four to eight hours of battery back-up if mains power is lost.

SAGRN transmission sites are built to operate for 16 hours on back-up power.

As apps develop, so too does paging technology. Several models of new pagers are currently being trialled by CFS to see if they will suit our requirements and bring added functions.

Although some may see pagers as bulky and old-technology, Mr D’Agostino said in a field where communication and reliability to reach our 13,000 volunteers across the state is paramount, pagers are still considerably more reliable than any present day option.

“As the equipment is not governed by a pump, there are fewer limitations as to where you can use it.

“We need to ensure that any limitations, such as battery management, can be managed at the brigade level with on-truck charging.

“We do expect though that by taking the management of fuel out of the equation there will be a weight reduction and more space available on the truck.”

Mr Boucher said in the past new equipment has been trialled at the State Training Centre, however this time they wanted to see how the equipment functioned in the field to give a true indication of how long the battery will last.

Once the trial is over in September, the intent is for the battery powered tools to

be rolled out to dedicated RCR brigades – should it be deemed a success.

Brigades will require some training to use the new equipment.

Meanwhile, he is also working on the strategic replacement of RCR equipment through an overall Asset Maintenance Plan.

“The life expectancy on most RCR tools is about 15 years, so we need to better manage this so high usage brigades can have their equipment replaced sooner – say every five years.

“The equipment would then be evaluated and passed on to brigades with lower RCR call outs – this is the same way we manage our tanker fleet.”

FRONTLINE SERVICES SUPPORT

OPERATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS CONT.

① Fleet upgrades continue

As the upgrade and maintenance of our CFS vehicles continues, a number of brigades have taken ownership of new appliances this past year.

The 2016/17 Operational Vehicle Replacements will have a total of 48 new vehicles placed in brigades, with 27 of those taken out of circulation being refurbished and rehomed.

"It's all part of maximising our current fire-fighting fleet of around 800 appliances," Lee Watson, Director Operational Infrastructure and Logistics said.

The rotation system is a balance of refurbishing operational vehicles to extend their lifespans and replacing old-for-new where fit.

Mr Watson said there were several appliances currently being built from new that would be rolled out before the end of the financial year.

"We still have several pumpers, 34s and BWC11s being built as part of last year's program," he said.

A prototype 34URP (Urban/Rural Pumper) was also part of the new appliances being built.

② Facilities to be built quicker

By: Ali Martin

Currently the construction of a CFS station takes months, if not years - but this is set to change.

Previous builds were planned on design and construct principles so each build was interpreted differently and therefore so was the finished product.

CFS Infrastructure Manager, Sandy Pope said now the full-design documentation will be done beforehand, so we will have templates of the stations. Then when it comes to each build, the civil works will be tendered and can be conducted locally.

"For example, the Piccadilly brigade's two bay design plans will then be used for other two-bay station construction," she said.

"While the upcoming build at Tailem Bend brigade's plans for a four-bay station will be used as a template for other stations with four-bays in the future."

This means all planning and building approvals can be done in advance, meaning hopefully a quicker construction time and more



Marla's newly delivered tanker

standardisation across CFS stations.

Ms Pope said this will mean construction can start in a matter of weeks instead of months.

All of the templates will meet the Standards of Fire and Emergency Services Cover (SFEC) requirements.

Meanwhile, several brigades are celebrating the completion of their stations with Rockleigh in Region 3 completed and handed over on January 3. This was after years of work to secure appropriate land.

Montacute volunteers also had a long wait, with two decades until they unveiled their new station, only metres from the old one.

Yunta station was delivered on 19 February this year, while Farrell Flat

celebrated the opening of their new station last year. Stewarts Range was also delivered in May 2017.

Next on the build list are Picadilly and Tailem Bend.



Rockleigh's new station.

International supplier opens in Adelaide

For almost a decade Fraser Fire and Rescue Ltd and SA Country Fire Service (CFS) have worked closely to produce the current tanker and pumper fleet.

Based in New Zealand, the 55-year-old company is expanding to have a factory and technical support facility in Adelaide to continue fostering its relationship with CFS.

CFS Director of Operational Infrastructure and Logistics, Lee Watson said the move to have an Adelaide base shows the breadth of respect Frasers has for CFS.

“This move will allow CFS to attend to any warranty matters or other issues resulting from the vehicle through the manufacturer, so this will make things more efficient,” he said.

CFS builds about 40 new tankers or bulk water carriers each year. The build is made up of four components and all businesses awarded contracts for that construction are evaluated in accordance to government requirements.

“CFS Frasers builds the bodies for five types of rural tankers for bushfire fighting and specialised pumper trucks for structure fires,” Mr Watson said.

“Other CFS tanker bodies are manufactured at Moore Engineering at Murray Bridge. There, bulk water carriers and a smaller fleet of rural tankers are manufactured. They also have the contract to retrofit our older fleet with new safety systems.”

All cab chassis are procured through North East Isuzu, and the pump sets are supplied by Global Fire Solutions, both based in Adelaide.

The final piece of the truck build is stowage, which is sourced from Adelaide based company Fire Rescue Safety Australia – this includes all firefighting equipment and hand tools.

Fraser’s Adelaide factory and technical support facility will open in June.



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1 New ratings on the way

By: Ali Martin

Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic could be a thing of the past, as a new Fire Danger Ratings System is being developed.

The national project aims to design, develop and implement a new system to reflect conditions experienced on the ground, and provide clearer information to the community.

All fire and emergency services within Australia are behind the project, conducted with researchers and weather experts.

CFS Deputy Chief Officer Andrew Stark is part of the National Program Board leading the project. He said Fire Danger Ratings are an important part of managing fire in the landscape and as a trigger for people during fires and dangerous conditions.

The current ratings use research more than half a decade old. There were some changes after the Black Saturday fires in 2009, with the introduction of Catastrophic or Code Red, and changes to the indices for grassland areas.

However, the system is still sensitive to small changes in conditions and more often fires are being explained as 'off the traditional scale'.

"The new system uses the latest science and understandings of fire behaviour to build a better, more accurate assessment of the risk and deliver clearer information to the community," Mr Stark said.

The project has a broader range of inputs than simply weather conditions. These include vegetation types, community preparedness and the likelihood of a fire being controlled.

Extensive research and analysis has been conducted to build a research prototype prediction system. This system was piloted during the 2017-18 Fire Danger Season by the NSW Rural Fire Service. The research prototype will help test, prove and fine-tune the new approach.

"CFS is leading the community research, to ensure the new system is understood and delivers benefits and readily

comprehensible information to the community."

It will also help deliver more accurate messages to the community about the risk of fire that is reflective of the conditions in their area.

That research will look at a change in names and colours to assist agencies in all hazards to communicate with the community. It will lead to a truly National Warnings Framework.

The Project is overseen by a National Program Board and is managed by Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC).

2 YAC Firefighter Development Week

The Rural Firefighting Team held a week long training session with the CFS Youth Advisory Council (YAC) in the April school holidays.

Following on from a successful structure

firefighting course held last year, the YAC was keen to run the course again.

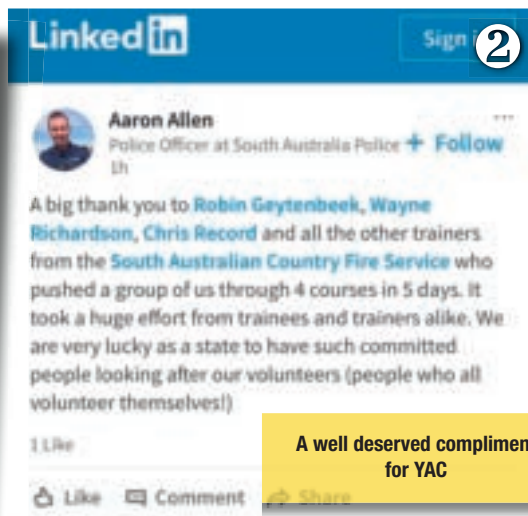
The week long block of training was used to enhance the skills of firefighters which traditionally would take a long time to achieve using the traditional weekend method of delivering the training.

Team Leader Rural Firefighting Training, Robin Geytenbeek said the rural team developed the program to give those attending skills and knowledge across all areas on CFS's business, not just Rural Firefighting.

"The program started off with Rural Fire Suppression to build on the knowledge and skills learnt in Respond to Wildfire and start them on the pathway of being a Crew Leader," he said.

They also learned how to operate the thermal imaging camera to show how this equipment can assist with tasks from the rural, and structure firegrounds, road crash or HAZMAT scene."

From there the trainees learned how to operate pumps, which built on their basic



pumping knowledge taught in the Basic Firefighter 1 (BF1) course.

“Here the learners gained knowledge of the pumping principles at play during pumping operations. These principles were then put into practice in numerous drills involving transitioning from tanker water supply to static and reticulated water supplies whilst continuing to deliver water to the fireground, relay pumping and the use of A and B class foam,” he said.

The last session was Defensive Fire suppression, where structure fire behaviour, electricity, flammable gases, flammable liquids and car fires were covered. This culminated in several response drills entailing a two tanker response to a structure fire, a car fire causing a grass fire and a live fire LPG gas response.

Conducted at the CFS State Training Centre, the extra time meant the trainees were shown the burn table to explain ignition patterns, fire behaviour and back burning operations.

“We also used a flashover/backdraught simulator to demonstrate structure fire behaviour and the Gleeson’s gas fired simulator to show flammability range and limits with a literal bang.”

Originally the course was only open to YAC members, but low numbers meant a late call out to all members to take part. One of those, a retiree commented the weeklong course also suited them as it allowed him to fast track gaining the knowledge and skills.

From the success of the week the CFS Training team will look at running the program again and open it up to all active CFS members. Other combinations of training are also being investigated.

3 New system a real gem

By: Ali Martin

CFS is moving to a new era for membership and training management.

As part of a sector wide change, SAFECOM has been working with each

agency to develop the new systems, due for release in September.

Going forward membership will be managed through the Emerald program and user acceptance testing is being carried out. This will also have web portal functionality so members can see their records via the portal.

Meanwhile the training management side of the project is ongoing, with complex functionality being created to ensure all training and qualifications are kept up to date, with reminders to those needing refreshers or when it is time to complete their skills maintenance drills.

The new system provides a modern and vastly improved data management interface for all into the future.

At the beginning of May the current training and asset database (ESOTAS) system ceased to exist, meaning a change in the way members view and update their training records.

The original plan was to transition seamlessly to our new database and system, but events beyond our control have meant the new system will not fully come online until September 2018.

All data and personal information was retained during the transition period until September when the new programs are launched.

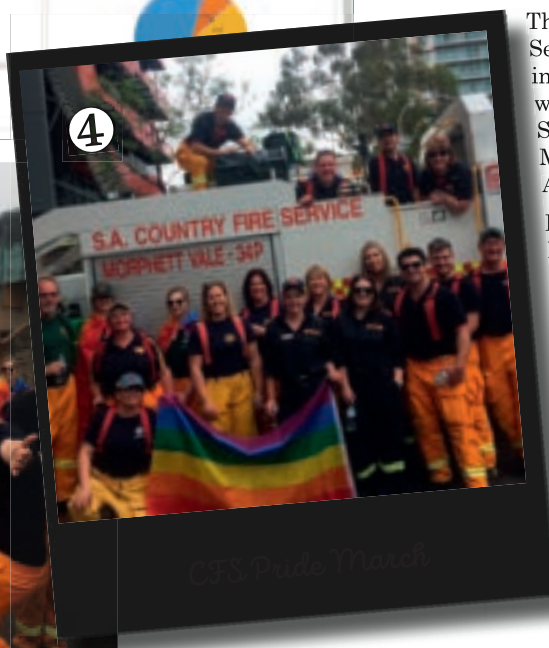
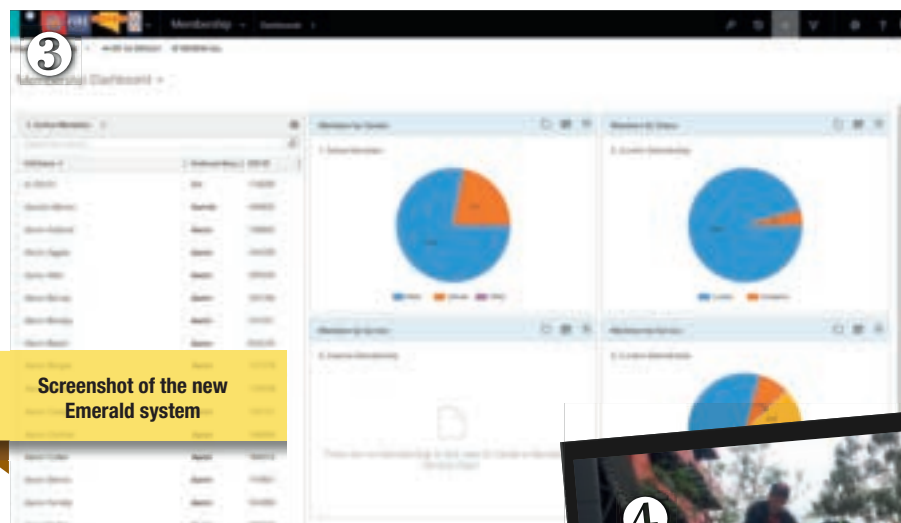
Any member needing to update their details in before the new system comes online should contact the Volunteer Services Branch on 1300 364 587.

4 CFS Proud at Pride

This year SA Country Fire Service (CFS) participated in the Pride March, along with our Emergency Services colleagues MFS, SA Police and SA Ambulance.

It's the first time CFS has entered a float in the worldwide parade, to celebrate the courage, solidarity, resilience and contribution of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (LGBTIQ) people.

It's a chance for CFS to show our support to the LGBTIQ community.



1 Fallen firefighters remembered

St Florian's day on May 4 is also International Firefighters' Day. This year Chief Officer Greg Nettleton attended a memorial in Canberra, where the names of the more than 500 fallen firefighters are written.

Then, on the actual day, he visited MFS headquarters for a minute silence, joined by MFS Chief Officer Greg Crossman and newly appointed Emergency Services Minister Corey Wingard.

"Each year our volunteers willingly leave the comfort of their home to put themselves in harm's way in an effort to protect their communities," he said.

"Their dedication puts their lives at risk and tragically CFS has lost 15 firefighters over the years, today we reflect on their sacrifice."

International Firefighters' Day also highlights the virtues held by firefighters including tact, loyalty, sympathy, explicitness, gallantry, dexterity, observation and perseverance.

2 Pine Point Progress

By: Jim Sandford

The Pine Point community on the Yorke Peninsula has a new resource in firefighting.

Thanks to the RAA Regional Safety Grants last year the Pine Point Progress Association bought a firefighting trailer.

It was used on May 14 to suppress a flue fire in the ceiling cavity of a local house.

The Ardrossan CFS was responded to the fire call and called in the trailer to assist. As a consequence of the quick action with the firefighting trailer, the fire was suppressed so when CFS arrived and damage was kept to a minimum.

The Ardrossan brigade Captain said the quick action helped suppress what would have been a much more intense blaze, which could have destroyed the house.

Thanks to RAA for providing the funding to build fire safety resilience within the community, along with local community members who have undergone some basic training in the use of the fire trailer.

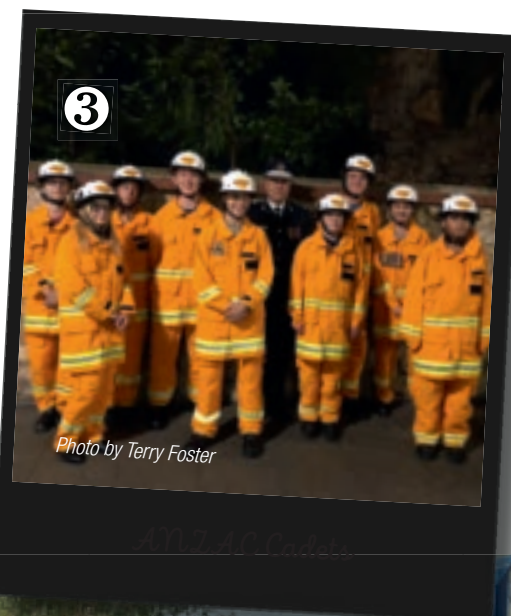
The incident also serves as a timely reminder to keep heater flues clean of debris.



MFS Chief Officer Greg Crossman with Emergency Services Minister Corey Wingard and CFS Chief Officer Greg Nettleton at the International Firefighters Day service.

3 Cadets honour diggers

Cadets around the state were part of the catafalque party in honour of ANZAC Day again this year. Region 3 cadets stood vigil at the National War Memorial on North Terrace, Adelaide, throughout Tuesday night until the dawn service. Pictured are cadets from Tailem Bend, Waikerie and Palmer brigades with Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.



Pine Point Trailer

HONOURS

Volunteers honoured with AFSM

By: Ali Martin

Congratulations to Doug Munn and John Edge for receiving an Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) in the Australia Day honours.

Malcolm 'Doug' Munn officially joined CFS on 21 February 1983 at Norton Summit/Ashton brigade. Active in the brigade from the onset, Doug was soon a senior firefighter and later held the captaincy until 1999. Along with his operational roles within the brigade, Doug was also a member of the brigade's management committee, commencing as vice president in 1987 and later president.

A keen fundraiser for the brigade, he was heavily involved in the works to fund and build the new Norton Summit/Ashton CFS station which opened in 1989. He also fundraised for a bulk water carrier built by brigade members and commissioned in 1991.

In 2008 he became the Deputy Group Officer in the East Torrens Group.

Apart from his brigade and group commitments with CFS, Doug has also been active in incident management teams, both within SA and also interstate developments.

Doug has participated on various bushfire prevention committees. Retiring from

full time work has also allowed Doug to further his passion for bushfire safety and community education by taking on a casual role with CFS in community engagement. This work has seen him travelling the state and presenting the CFS bushfire safety message to thousands of people, ranging from small local street community groups to large rural events.

Doug's fireground leadership, tireless energy and passion for the CFS are excellent examples to incoming members.

John Edge joined in CFS 2003 at Yankalilla and progressed through the ranks to become Captain and served as Group Communications Coordinator for Southern Fleurieu Group until recently.

His passion for education has seen him qualified as a trainer/assessor in various disciplines and particularly Road Crash Rescue (RCR). He has recently finished a paid staff position in the RCR area and made several positive changes to the delivery of this course, as well as directing a series of safe work practice short videos.

John has volunteered innumerable hours and effort in this field over a 12 year period and attended almost all of the RCR trainings sessions at Brukung and rural locations. He's also helped mentor new trainers in the area.

John was actively involved with Yankalilla Area School in annual session of both Basic Firefighter 1 and SES Basic Rescue to involve the community and



promote CFS ethics. The local brigade has benefitted with a steady number of younger members joining as a direct result of the presentations.

John has been involved in numerous committees and groups such as fireground VHF radio replacement, State Telco, group communications, brigade committees, Multi Agency Technical Advisory Group, RCR Representation at ARRO New Zealand twice.

He is committed to mentoring aspiring trainer/assessors as well as encouraging members to undertake additional skills training. He's a worthy recipient of this award.

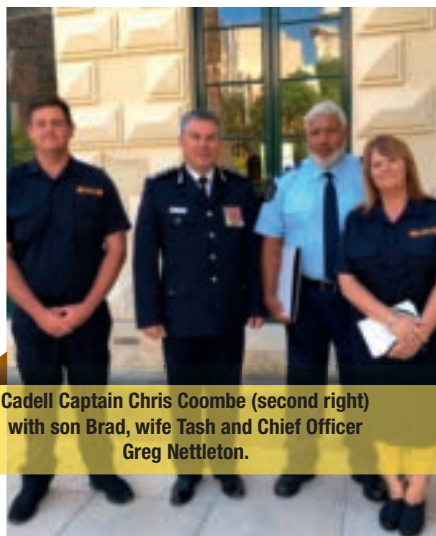
John's wife Nerida (Libby) was also recently honoured for her commitment to the community. She was named the Council of Yankalilla Citizen of the Year.



Chief Officer Greg Nettleton, Sandy Taylor,
Doug Munn and wife Shirley
Photo by Terry Foster

HONOURS

Corrections medal for Chris



Cadell Captain Chris Coombe (second right) with son Brad, wife Tash and Chief Officer Greg Nettleton.

Cadell Brigade Captain Chris Coombe received an honour on Australia Day, the Australian Corrections Medal.

Chris is a dedicated member of the Cadell Training Centre in the SA Department of Corrective Services (DCS).

In addition to his regular role as a Correctional Officer at Cadell he also undertakes the voluntary role as captain of the Cadell Training Centre CFS. The brigade is corrections longest running prisoner program and he has been involved with the Cadell CFS since 1995.

Chris has performed various officer roles as part of this brigade, and took on the captaincy in 2007. He is also brigade equipment coordinator, communication coordinator and training coordinator.

His citation states Chris demonstrates the highest levels of professionalism and a positive attitude, becoming a mentor and role model to many of the prisoners and staff who are part of the brigade.

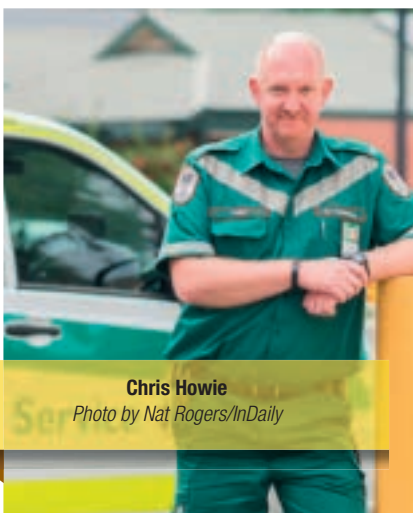
It is due in no small part to Mr Coombe's dedication and commitment to the DCS, and the prisoners at the Cadell Training Centre, that the Cadell CFS is highly regarded by other CFS Brigades, the South Australia Police, and the Riverland community.

Ambo award for Howie

Congratulations also goes to Athelstone Brigade's Chris Howie, who was presented with an Australian Ambulance Medal at the Australia Day Honours.

Chris has been a paramedic with the South Australian Ambulance Service (SAAS) for 19 years, and during this time he has held numerous positions on SAAS Board and as a Director of the SAAS Development Fund, and most recently as the Manager for all of SAAS' Staff Wellness and Assistance Programs.

Chris was instrumental in the award winning 'Keep your hands off our Ambos'



Chris Howie
Photo by Nat Rogers/InDaily

anti-violence and aggression campaign which resulted in a significant decrease in the incidence of violence and aggression incidents against SAAS staff.

He was involved in the Single Paramedic Response and Intervention Team (Sprint) and the Motorcycle Response Unit (MRU).

Mr Howie is a well-respected member of the SAAS community and is highly regarded amongst the members of the many working groups he participates in.

In his spare time as a CFS volunteer, Chris is part of Athelstone's Brigade Operation Support. He has volunteered for 30 years.

Andy Wood receives ES honour

Congratulations to CFS volunteer Andy Wood who has been awarded the SA Emergency Services Medal for distinguished and meritorious service of the highest order.

Mr Wood received the full-coin medal set and framed certificate at an award ceremony on November 22, presented by then Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Chris Picton MP.

Mr Wood was amongst 17 South Australians who were honoured at the ceremony for going above and beyond the call of duty, and was one of five members of the emergency services sector to be honoured with the medal this year.

He has been a volunteer with the CFS since November 2006, and has been with the American River Brigade on Kangaroo Island since September 2016.



CFS Volunteer Andy Wood receives SA Emergency Services Medal from then Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Chris Picton MP

Michael Kemp Awarded

Congratulations to CFS volunteer Michael Kemp from Millicent who was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) as part of the 2017 Queens Birthday Honours.

Mr Kemp's commitment and dedication to the community have been significant, having already received the Australian Fire Service Medal (AFSM) and the Premier's Certificate of Recognition.



Michael Kemp

Mike has been part of firefighting operations through all major fires and his expertise has been recognised by the CFS at both regional and state level.

"The State Government, South Australian County Fire Service (CFS) and the South Australian community are extremely grateful for your commitment to community safety", said then Minister for Emergency Service, Hon Peter Malinauskas.

"I firmly believe that the CFS embodies the true spirit of what makes our country such a great place to live, and your service is an inspiration not only to other volunteers and staff within CFS, but also the wider community".

Mr Kemp boasts a strong history with the CFS, joining 44 years ago and becoming local Group Officer shortly thereafter at just 22 years of age. Having held this position for decades, he remains an active volunteer firefighter with the Millicent Brigade.

Local Australia Day awards

By: Ali Martin

CFS members are often volunteers for other organisations as well. Therefore when it comes time for the Australia Day Awards there are often CFS volunteers honoured for their commitment to the community.

Phillip Earl has been a CFS volunteer for the past 46 years, joining the Mallala brigade as a cadet and continuing with Two Wells. He was elected as Light Group Officer in 2012 and still holds that position. His commitment to the local community has seen him announced as the 2018 Adelaide Plains Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year.

Orroroo CFS volunteer Trevor Laskey was recognised in the Orroroo Carrieton Council Awards where he received the Citizen of the Year. He has worked tirelessly for the Lions Club and local sporting clubs and has been a CFS member since 1991. He has held the captaincy as well as working for Region 4.

The Council's Young Citizen of the Year was also a CFS Member – Corey Finlay. He has been a CFS Cadet for the past six years.

District Council of Mount Remarkable's Citizen of the Year was CFS volunteer

Michael Wigg. Michael has been with the Wilmington brigade for many years. He also volunteers with the local ambulance station and Wilmington Progress Association – to name just some of his roles.

Mount Pleasant Young Citizen of the Year was Cassandra Barker (Priest) who began as a cadet and is now a senior firefighter and cadet supervisor with her local brigade. She's also contributed to the community in a range of other ways.

Kingston Council's Citizen of the Year went too Lacedpede Deputy Group Officer Brett McLaren for his commitment through volunteering for CFS.

Spence Captain Lindsay Dreckow was awarded the Naracoorte Lucindale Council Citizen of the Year. Young Citizen of the Year for Grant Council went to Port MacDonnell Brigade Lieutenant 3 Jason Watts.

Wattle Range Council's Citizen of the Year was Trevor Schultz who has volunteered with Mount Burr brigade for more than 30 years.

Nerida 'Libby' Edge was awarded Citizen of the Year for the Council of Yankalilla for her various volunteering roles, including CFS. Her husband received the AFSM in the Australia Day Honours.



Light Group Officer Phillip Earl was announced as Adelaide Plains Council Citizen of the Year. Photo by The Bunyip

STRESS PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT (SPAM)

Mental Health a priority

By: Ali Martin

The safety of our people has always been a goal for CFS, whether it is physically or emotionally.

The Stress Prevention and Management Team (SPAM) is there to help those in need of mental health support, but now there's a move to train more people to assist in the role.

A Mental Health First Aid training course is being rolled out across CFS to those at a brigade level identify some of the signs of stress, giving them tools to help their fellow volunteers.

The course is being facilitated through SAFECOM's Mental Health and Wellbeing Project Officer Louise Hincks along with CFS and SES staff.

"People working in emergency services are at a higher risk of suicide and mental health conditions, such as anxiety. However volunteerism does offer a bit of a protective factor," she said.

Ms Hincks said, as the volunteering aspect does help those in this sector, it is important people know how to talk to each other about these issues and look out for one another.

The course also aims at removing the stigma of mental health – Louise said although it is decreasing, there still needs to be more conversations about it.

"The two day course will teach volunteers to provide initial support to adults who are



The Stress Prevention and Management Team recently held a training day at Brukunga. Pictured are five Peer Support Officers who were awarded with a Haigh's 'SPAM' Frog due to their efforts and activity in conducting Pre-Incident Training sessions. They've also assisted with Group Sessions and phone calls following major incidents in the past six months.

developing any mental health problems, experiencing mental health problem or mental health crisis," she said.

Mental health crisis could include suicidal thoughts and behaviours, non-suicidal self injury, panic attacks, traumatic events, severe psychotic state; severe effects from alcohol or drug use or aggressive behaviour.

The first course was held at the Mawson Group in March.

"Those attending the course got information on spotting the symptoms of mental health, how to approach them and have those sometimes difficult conversations."

The course is half funded by the National Disaster Resilience Project (NDRP) Grant, with CFS and SES making up the other half. The course will run for just under two years, until 30 June, 2019.

The course is available to any CFS, SES or Volunteer Marine Rescue and can be run at a group, brigade or unit level for up to 16 members.

It's aimed at captains, lieutenants and senior fire fighters, as they are often the ones in brigades dealing with those issues.

For enquiries contact Louise on 8115 3996 or email louise.hincks@sa.gov.au

CFS women involved in study

Several CFS employees were involved in a study about the impact of on call work for women in emergency services last year.

Dr Sarah Jay, Senior Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Central Queensland University, said the aim of the study was to understand women's experiences in the emergency services (ES), particularly the impact of being on-call and related coping strategies.

She said two Emergency Services, including CFS, took part with 24 women being interviewed or participating in focus group.

The study identified two major themes the first being the impact of on-call for themselves and the impact for their

family/household. The second was management – support, planning and preparation.

Dr Jay said the negative impacts of on-call work on women's sleep and fatigue support existing knowledge in the broader on-call area.

She said another theme not previously reported in the literature was the relentlessness of the role. The disruption that results from actual calls and/or call-outs is important, but is only part of the story.

"Policies and procedures (informally) treat the 'between calls' period as 'non-work,' but our research suggests that this largely unacknowledged period may also have

significant, but less tangible, impact on factors such as sleep and daytime function/activities, this is particularly over significant periods of time," she said.

"There was an overarching sentiment of a desire for participants to help their communities and to do so with a pride in what they were doing, and a determination to make everything 'fit'."

"Participants found ways, largely through support and planning, to make unpredictable aspects of their role fit with their daily lives."

Dr Jay hopes this study's findings will inform the direction of future research.

SA VOLUNTEER FIRE FIGHTERS MUSEUM (SAVFFM)

Museum's singing to success

The SA Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum (SAVFFM) held a Country Music Concert in April to raise money for construction of the museum.

Held at the Naracoorte Town Hall, the concert was an outstanding success with more than 200 people attending and enjoying a great night's entertainment.

The Mayor of the Naracoorte Lucindale Council, Erika Vickery, and renowned artists from across the state provided a great night's entertainment. ABC South East's Stuart Stansfield hosted the event.

Museum Chairman Rex Hall said the concert also provided an opportunity to launch a major fundraising raffle for the future development of the Museum.

The raffle will be drawn on Father's Day (2 September) at the Naracoorte Hotel

during a luncheon.

"On behalf of the SAVFFM, may I thank all who assisted in any way in making the Raffle and Concert such a great success," Mr Hall said.

The following day a CFS Memorial Service was held at the SAVFFM Memorial. Mr Stansfield again was MC and the keynote speaker was Stuart Ellis, CEO of Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC).

After the Memorial Service and reflection time a number returned the Naracoorte Hotel and took the opportunity to catch-up and enjoyed a buffet lunch.

"I am lost for words to acknowledge and thank the relatives, friends, family, the public, and all CFS and other Emergency Service representatives who attended,

assisted or took part in any way," Mr Hall said.

"The Memorial Service was an extremely moving and emotional service."

Work on the Museum continues with ongoing ground maintenance and the, installation of culvert at the exit of car park. Preliminary earth works in car park area have also been completed, along with installation of flood light at the Memorial site.

The business plan is in development and the building plans have had some final changes.

"This now paves the way for final application to council and future grant and sponsorship applications."



Dignitaries at the memorial service including Rex Hall, Chief Officer Greg Nettleton and AFAC CEO Stuart Ellis

CFS FOUNDATION

A year of firsts for the CFS Foundation

By: *Natalia Colombo*

Major Sponsors

2018 kicked off with a great start for the CFS Foundation with SA Power Networks (SAPN) providing a \$100,000 contribution to the Volunteer Support Fund.

“We recognise the CFS and all volunteers and that they are all putting their livelihoods on the line every time they go out, so I think it’s a great initiative to build up this fund – we also hope it’s never used,” said SAPN CEO Rob Stobbe.

SA Power Networks regularly works on the front line alongside CFS during fire and storm events, so this partnership reflects the existing relationship on the ground between the organisations.

ElectraNet also showed support for the work of the CFS Foundation by not only donating to the Volunteer Support Fund but helping to fund fellowships and the purchase of four defibrillators.

The Terowie Brigade was a recipient of one of these defibrillators. CFS volunteer Chris Parry said, “On behalf of the Brigade Captain, Mr Ross Haustorfer, and each of the members, please accept our most sincere thanks and appreciation for the kind efforts made by yourself, the Chairman and all members of the

Foundation in making this essential emergency device available to us, and to every member of the community whose life may be saved by this device in the future”.

The CFS Foundation was also fortunate to have businesses from varied industries making generous one-time or ongoing donations this year. This included Australian Gas Networks, RedArc and Stewart & Heaton Clothing, as well as William Buck and The University of Adelaide who contributed via the Workplace Giving Program.

Fundraisers & Events

This year saw many unique and heartfelt fundraising initiatives as multiple business owners and organisation’s stepped up to raise money for the Volunteer Support Fund.

On Wednesday, 16 August 2017 The Advertiser Foundation hosted a ‘Famous Male Faces’ Luncheon at Hilton Hotel Adelaide. Sporting legends such as Tony Modra and Graham Cornes, and other well-known personalities including Sunrise’s David Koch and fashion designer Paolo Sebastian attended in their best attire, whilst digging deep in their pockets, and raising \$40,763.

To acknowledge the amazing work of our CFS volunteers, the Tea Tree Gully, Modbury, Golden Grove and Makin Edge Rotaries joined forces on Australia Day to fill bellies through a sausage sizzle, whilst raising more than \$1,000 for the CFS Foundation. We are fortunate that Rotary clubs around Adelaide have a long history of fundraising for the CFS Foundation, as well as local brigades.

In commemoration of the Ash Wednesday fires, a northern suburbs mechanic kindly



Port Adelaide Football Club fundraisers.

donated all labour charges that day, which consisted of a total amount of \$1,025 – which included an additional \$100 donated by a charitable customer.

Summer Reynolds, a generous little girl whose father is a CFS volunteer for the Piccadilly Brigade, opted to forgo presents for her 8th birthday, asking her friends to donate to the CFS Foundation in lieu of a gift. Summer's goodwill this year touched everyone at the CFS Foundation.

Various brigade members and the CFS Foundation staff also took to the streets armed with raffle tins and parked themselves out the front of the Port Adelaide Football Club on 23 July and 13 August 2017, raising a total of \$3,474.

New initiatives

'Shout Out', the first statewide campaign to thank CFS volunteer firefighters was launched this year on Friday, May 25 2018.

Participating businesses and schools were to wear yellow, just like our volunteers, to show their appreciation for all their dedication and service to our community, over the 2017/2018 Fire Danger Season.

Vince Monterola, previous Chief Executive Officer of the CFS and Founder of the CFS Foundation is a strong supporter of the event.

"Volunteer firefighters choose when

they don their 'yellows'. They are either responding to an emergency in our community or they are training to maintain their skills," he said.

"When we choose to wear something yellow on May 25 we will be giving a shout of support for the incredible men and women who protect us every day of the year."

The CFS Foundation received a tremendous response from businesses willing to participate, particularly National Pharmacies who on the day, and encouraged donations from customers in stores across South Australia.

In this technology driven age, the CFS Foundation conducted their trial of the first ever app, with the purpose of providing timely, and relevant offers to CFS volunteers, family and friends.

The trial took place across nine CFS brigades, including Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, One Tree Hill, Dalkeith, Clare, Morphett Vale, Happy Valley, Seaford and Mt Barker. The permanency of the app will be determined in the new financial year.

As CFS volunteers are attending constant road crash call outs, a Trauma Teddy campaign was launched in an effort to raise funds for the purchase of these Teddy's to be given to victims of incidents by the CFS volunteers.

This campaign meant that local brigades don't have to do additional fundraising for these items outside of their normal volunteering hours and was an initiative the CFS Foundation felt strongly about – further perpetuating the already selfless spirit of CFS volunteers.

If you would like to be part of the CFS Foundation Facebook community and view our handy tips, news, events and competitions, then type in 'CFS Foundation' and click the 'thumbs up' icon.

We at the CFS Foundation always love to hear about what is happening in local brigades and the experiences of the CFS volunteers, including sharing that news in our Meet our fabulous volunteers' segment. If you would like to feature on our page, or know anyone who deserves the recognition, please email natalia@cfsfoundation.org.au for more information.



SAPN CEO Rob Stobbe presenting cheque to CFS Foundation Chairman Rob Snowdon and CEO Mark Howells.

Dean Sandford

by Jim Sandford

Long-term Tea Tree Gully Brigade member Dean Sandford passed away recently aged 85 years.

Dean joined the Emergency Fire Service (EFS) in 1957 and served with the Tea Tree Gully Brigade for 30 years with 14 of these years as Tea Tree Gully and Districts Group Officer.

During this time, Dean oversaw the change from the EFS to CFS and the move of the MFS into the district, as well as managing several large fires including one on Ash Wednesday.

Dean was well respected by all and will be sadly missed.



Mary Eglinton

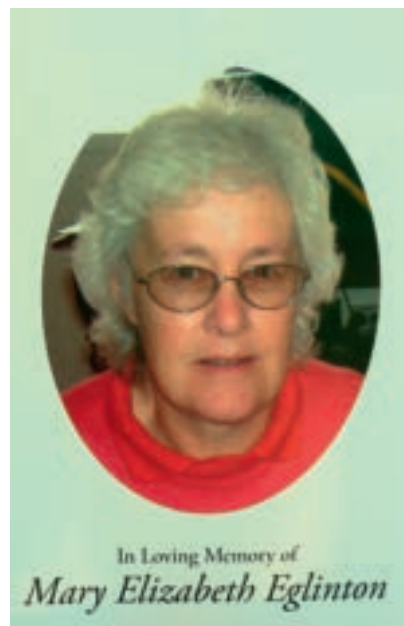
Mount Pleasant brigade is mourning the passing of long term member Mary Eglinton, who passed away in December, following a recent illness.

Mary joined the brigade 1991 as another way to help out the community and ended up becoming a firefighter, going out to all sorts of fires in the district.

Mary served as a firefighter from 1991 to 2006, then held the position of Senior Fire Fighter from 2006 until 2009. During this time she also served six months as the Brigade Administration Coordinator.

After this Mary dropped back to being a firefighter again and was a Cadet Supervisor in 2011. In 2015 Mary transferred to Operational Support status where she would operate the radio in the station, and still helped as often as she could.

Mary will be missed by all who came in contact with her, especially her friends of the Mount Pleasant CFS brigade.



Providing vital and immediate financial assistance, to CFS volunteer firefighters and their families, should they come to harm in the line of service.



Les Smith

by Megan Robinson

Les Smith was a part of the Kingston SE CFS for more than 39 years, serving as Brigade Captain several times, Deputy Group Officer for the Lacepede Group and was deployed many times to help other communities.

With great sadness we have lost a great, remarkable, wonderful person in our group, community and our family.

Les Smith will be sadly missed. He was a mentor

for many of our members.

He always put in 150 per cent, in anything he did. Not only was he a fantastic member, he also did a lot for his community. He was part of the Lions club, he drove the Red Cross car plus much more.

Our heart goes out to his family, friends in this sad time. Les you will be in our heart forever your boots will be hard to fill.



Roy 'Scobie' Ruediger

by Sally Fox

1932 – 2017

Truro CFS lost its founding member and much loved larrikin Roy 'Scobie' Ruediger last year.

When the Truro Emergency Fire Service (EFS) brigade was founded in 1951 Scobie functioned as one of two scouts who would head out on bikes when the alarm sounded in order to report back to the crew. He served as a firefighter for many decades, and continued to participate in the life of the brigade until almost the end, passing on his wisdom, anecdotes and humour to generations of firefighters.

During the very bad fires through the Truro hill in the early 1970s Scobie single-handedly saved a homestead and stock. He used a grader to create fire breaks and only discovered when finally able to leave the fireground that the soles of his feet were badly burnt from the heat of the

grader. His wife Dawn still vividly recalls the relief she felt when she finally learnt where he was. There were no radios back then.

Truro's first fire station was built by the volunteers and housed a truck that needed a push to start. Scobie always did his darndest to make sure he was first one there so he could jump into the driver's seat.

We could always count on Scobie coming to the station during a serious incident, just to see what help he could offer. We treasured him greatly. He was awarded CFS life membership, and this year received the CFS National medal at a special presentation by Region 2 Acting Commander Nik Stanley with the brigade present at the nursing home where Scobie spent his final weeks.

He is greatly missed.

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



Government
of South Australia



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Email: CFSDevelopmentAssessmentService@sa.gov.au

Country Fire Service Volunteer Association (CFSVA):

Suite 3, Transport Training Centre,
17 Wirriga St, Regency Park 5010
Telephone: 08 8244 6500
Postal Address: PO Box 2359, Regency Park SA 5942
Email: admin@cfsva.org.au
Website: www.cfsva.org.au

Community Engagement:

Telephone: 08 8212 9858
Email: CFS.CommunityEngagementSupport@sa.gov.au

Volunteer Support Branch - Volunteer Recruitment:

Level 6, 60 Waymouth Street Adelaide 5000
Telephone: Head Office: 08 8463 4102
Recruitment: 1300 364 587
Postal Address: GPO Box 2706 Adelaide 5001
Email: volunteernow@safecom.sa.gov.au

Bushfire Information Hotline: 1800 362 361

CFS Foundation

Telephone: 1300 270 278
Email: office@cfsfoundation.org.au