

## Melrose Fire Brigade

***Adelaide Observer (SA : 1843 - 1904), Saturday 2 November 1901, page 40***

A DESTRUCTIVE FIRE.

MELROSE, October 28.

A carpenter's shop, owned by Mr. S. P. Yates, was completely destroyed by fire early this morning. The outbreak was first noticed at 1 o'clock by Mr. Kinley, landlord of the North Star Hotel, but as there is no fire brigade here nothing could be done to check the flames. The fire burnt for three hours, and was the means of rousing half the residents from their beds on a wet morning. Not a stick was saved, and the damage is estimated at £300. Mr. Yates purchased the property 16 months ago from Mr. Lewis George, who has also lost some material in the fire. No insurances had been effected.

***Laura Standard (SA : 1889 - 1917), Thursday 24 January 1907, page 3***

MELROSE.

January 20, 1906.

A fire started near the lodge of the Mount Remarkable Station about 4 p.m. yesterday afternoon. There was a strong breeze blowing at the time, and as the feed is very thick and dry in the station paddocks, it soon got a strong start. Fire fighters came in from all quarters in quick time, and with every available appliance at hand what promised to be a big fire was soon subdued. The station has a regular fire brigade cart painted red, with tank, pump, and hose, always ready, and it was worked to perfection yesterday by Mr. Chambers, the overseer. The whole appliance for a grass paddock could not be beaten. A road leading to the station property was a great help in stopping the spread of the fire, and the bed of the creek was another good check. Some heavy gum logs caught alight and was of course of trouble., necessitating some one to watch them until all danger was over. There was only a very few acres or grass was burnt. A large windmill and tank was close by, and water was plentiful. If the fire had been allowed to jump the creek and get a start in some of the paddocks that are close to the country that is under wheat, most of which is reaped (but there is still some amount to reap) the damage would have been very great, as the wheat heaps and bags dropped by the harvesters were all very much exposed to a fire with a big wind on. There are always some incidents worth relating in connection with fires. Everything is dropped when the fire is mentioned For instance, several harvesters that were quietly doing their work on the station lands by farmers on halves were driven right across the crops and teams secured to the fences. Other farmers were in the middle of loading wheat wagons and stopped quickly, but one farmer had the most fun if the term is allowed. His young pigs got adrift in fallow and stubble paddocks and the chase had to be abandoned, and a hurried departure for the fire. When he returned the pigs, although quite young, were back to their home again.

***Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1895 - 1954), Saturday 9 April 1927, page 48***

A BUSH FIRE.

THE MOUNT REMARKABLE OUTBREAK.

## FIGHTERS EXHAUSTED.

Melrose. April 6.

The bushfire is burning on the northern end of Mount Remarkable, sending up dense columns of smoke. Messrs. Hiram Bros., of Bartygunyah, are considered to be out of danger, and the Baroota side is under control. The yacca tree country on the northern end of Mount Remarkable is burning fiercely, and the fire will probably be on the Melrose side of the mount by to-morrow, when the property of Messrs. Gordon Begg and Reardon, and the Government Forest Reserve will be in danger. The Mount Remarkable Agricultural Society showgrounds will also be menaced. Most of the firefighters are exhausted. About 200 men at least will be required to-morrow morning to burn breaks to save the blockers east of the Wilmington road from Melrose to Spring Creek. All the blocker's in the country at present menaced have mustered their stock. The loss of stock has been comparatively small. It is estimated that over 200 square miles of country, including some good feed, has been burnt. There have been some narrow escapes from being burned to death. Mr. Lidden Fry, Messrs. Bennett and Fisher's manager, and Councillor Stone, of the Melrose District Council, were surrounded by flames, and had to put wet bags over their heads to prevent suffocation. They were fortunate in being able to get to a piece of clear ground, and to have had the wet bags. There is a strong south-westerly wind. The flames are particularly hard to fight on account of the varying winds. Fresh firefighters are expected from the Orroroo district to replace the present volunteers. Much difficulty is being experienced in keeping up food supplies. Some of the men have been without sleep for a long period.



*State Library of South Australia - Bushfire, Mount Remarkable [B 35275]. Bushfire on Mount Remarkable, Melrose. 1927, Part of Melrose Collection.*



*State Library of South Australia - Bushfire, Mount Remarkable [B 35276]. Bushfire on Mt. Remarkable, Melrose. Approximately 1927, Part of Melrose Collection.*



*State Library of South Australia - Bushfire, Mount Remarkable [B 35277]. Bushfire on Mount Remarkable, Melrose. Approximately 1927, Part of Melrose Collection*

***Laura Standard and Crystal Brook Courier (SA : 1917 - 1948), Friday 23 February 1940, page 27***

#### MELROSE FIRE-FIGHTING COMMITTEE.

On Friday afternoon about 40 residents of the Melrose district attended a meeting held in the council chamber to consider the proposal to reform the Melrose Fire-fighting Committee. The chairman of the District Council of Port Germein (Mr. T. S. Bishop) presided, the district clerk (Mr. E. Foot) acted as secretary. Messrs. A. G. Grant, Forester C. B. Kay, of Wirrabara Firefighting Committee, B. J. Rose, hon. secretary Northern Firefighting Association and member Bushfires Advisory Committee were present. The chairman expressed pleasure at the large and representative attendance while that interest had been, as the consequence of a recent outbreak of a fire in the Melrose-Murraytown district.

Several years ago a local committee had been formed at Melrose but for some time had not been functioning. Mr. Foot in response to request of the chairman submitted a report which revealed a statement of receipts and expenditure and list of firefighting equipment of the local committee. On a resolution proposed by Mr. D. V. Blieschke and seconded by Mr. W. L. Arthur, it was unanimously resolved that the Melrose Firefighting Committee be reformed. Those present, with power to add to the number constitute the personnel of the committee, with local fire controllers as members ex-officio. Officers elected: — Messrs. T. S. Bishop, chairman; T. J. Slee and D. V. Blieschke, vice-chairman; E. Foot, secretary and chief intelligence officer. Forester C. B. Kay, secretary Wirrabarra Firefighting Committee, gave an interesting and instructive address on firefighting activities, in the course of which he referred to fire-fighting equipment, particularly adopted for firefighting in the Northern areas, the organisation of voluntry fire fighters, who act under the control of gazetted fire-controllers, stressing in his address the need of concerted and co-ordinated action on the part of members. Mr. R. J. Rose addressed the meeting on South Australian bush fires legislation giving a summary of the provisions of the Bush Fires Act of 1933-35 and the Bush fires Amendment Act of 1939, a knowledge of which legislation was necessary for all fire-control officers in particular, and to the public generally. Votes of thanks were accorded to Forester Kay, Mr. R. J. Rose, members of the Wirrabara Committee for their assistance. After a number of questions on firefighting organisation and bush fires legislation had been asked, answered and discussed, it was resolved that the committee meet in the council chamber on Friday March 1st., to put into effect, recommendations made for effective organisation of fire prevention and fighting activities.

Late 1980's

**Melrose Fire Station**



*Melrose Station, from the Michael Edwards collection.*

2002

**Melrose Fire Station**



*Melrose Fire Station and Council Offices – CFS Promotions Unit*

2006

Melrose Brigade moves into the new Fire Station

2007

Official Opening of the Fire Station and Group Base, Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2007.



