

# THE VOLUNTEER

Official Journal for The Country Fire Services South Australia

VOLUME 2

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Correspondence to the Editor

"The Volunteer"  
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**Autumn CFS & FCO Training School,  
Big changes in strategy—page 3**

# Letters to the Editor.

Dear Sir,

... We wish to express our compliments regarding the publication of such a fine journal as *The Volunteer* which fills a much needed role in keeping the service generally informed on current matters of interest and of particular value to remote brigades such as our own, in maintaining contact not otherwise possible.

We would like to distribute this to all our Fire Control Officers, hence please forward 32 copies of future issues.

Yours faithfully,

R. M. Sangster,  
North East Fire-Fighting  
Association

## HIGH FLYING REGIONAL OFFICERS

During a recent trip to the mid-north, an R/O suddenly found his vehicle almost airborne across one of those dips in the road which frequently appear from nowhere.

In the rear of the station wagon a box of CFS circulars and lecture notes experienced several of Newton's Laws of Gravity and spread themselves all over a slumbering newly-appointed R/O sitting in the back seat.

Not to be put out by the situation, the driver/colleague retorted, "That's how we impart knowledge to all our new R/O's!"

Dear Sir,

Congratulations on the first issue of *The Volunteer*. The quality is first class. I was pleasantly surprised to see that the cover photograph is of a One Tree Hill Fireman. A good choice!

I feel that a need for our own journal has existed for some time. The only way that CFS men have been able to exchange ideas, anecdotes and news has been by talking to other firemen.

Unfortunately, apart from neighbouring brigades, there has been little opportunity to communicate with other firemen because of distances between us.

Now I hope that *The Volunteer* will help to bring together all brigades by a mutual exchange of stories, news and any item of interest to firemen.

Yours sincerely,

Bevis J. Dixon,  
Secretary,  
One Tree Hill CFS

## A message from the Editor

### To all CFS Members

Today's postage costs regretfully prevent postage of *The Volunteer* to each individual brigade member. Instead, sufficient free copies have been sent to all CFS Brigades for distribution to their members.

If you have not received a copy of *The Volunteer*, Volume 1, March, 1979, contact your Brigade Secretary or Officer in Charge. Extra copies of *The Volunteer* are available if required.

Editor

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My husband's joined the Fire Brigade,  
The local Volunteers.  
To hear him talk you'd think he'd been  
Fighting fires for years.  
He hasn't had a call-out yet;  
But he's been to practise night  
And he knows just what he's got to do  
If the house should catch alight.  
He knows where every hydrant is  
In every single street,  
And what to do to females  
Overcome by smoke and heat.  
He's told me why the engine is  
Always painted red:  
"It's because it's always 'Russian'.  
To get there quick!" He said.  
He tests the wind direction  
Every time it blows,  
He's waterlogged the garden  
Playing with the hose.  
I had to stand up on the roof  
In nightie and dressing gown,  
So he could climb the ladder  
And hoist me safely down.  
He checks when he gets into bed  
That his torch is by the door,  
His keys and boots and trousers  
Beside him on the floor.  
But when he snuggles up to me  
And starts to sing my praises,  
Then nibbles at my ear,  
I say,—"You can go to blazes."

Reprinted from *Fire Service Review*—August, 1978  
(New Zealand).

## QUIPS and QUOTES

The first issue of *The Volunteer*, the official journal of the CFS in SA, says that volunteer firemen are a breed unto themselves.

"Who heard of a man who is willing to be on 24-hour duty without pay for the dubious privilege of protecting his neighbour's property?"

"Whoever heard of a man who will dash from his job and ride a fire truck to the scene of the alarm, ruining his clothes, neglecting his work, risking his life and exhausting himself physically, not for money, but because he believes in serving his community?"

*The Volunteer* says the CFS needs the help of every citizen to carry out its important work. It suggests anyone interested contact his or her local CFS.

Thank you "West Coast Sentinel" for your reference, Page 7, 25th April, 1979.  
Editor.

## MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA

Dear Sir(s),

On behalf of the South Australian Country Fire Services Board, I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all media and their staff for the commendable community service given, by alerting the public to the serious danger that faced South Australia during the bushfire season.

The media coverage given to the CFS Board's cause and to local CFS Brigades has greatly enhanced the public education programme for which we, 450 Brigades and 11 000 volunteer members are very grateful.

The public's positive response to the Country Fire Services "Bushfires Hurt" Fire Prevention Programme, has been most gratifying and is in no small measure due to the media's generous involvement.

Special thanks is also expressed for the valuable station coverage given to scatters and various local bushfire promotions.

I look forward to your continued co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

F. L. Kerr,  
Director,  
Country Fire Services

Dear Sir,

... I have just received the first copy of *The Volunteer*. My congratulations to you and particularly to Peter Mills, on a high quality publication which has collated worthwhile information in an easily referable form. There are two events forthcoming in Meadows which I will write up as articles when they occur.

Yours sincerely,

D. G. Sanders,  
President, Meadows CFS

## The Volunteer needs contributions!

What has happened recently in your local brigade or district council area? Has a brigade member an interesting story to tell? Has a new unit been commissioned, or some new equipment purchased?

Are you holding, or have you held any local activities or training courses lately? Exactly what has been happening? We would like to hear from you.

Get involved! *The Volunteer* is your journal, and its success depends entirely on contributions from you!

All correspondence is to be addressed to:

Editor,  
*The Volunteer*,  
Country Fire Services,  
P.O. Box 312, Goodwood,  
S.A. 5034

## Big changes in CFS strategy at Autumn CFS & FCO Training School

SA's bushland was not as expendable as in the past, Country Fire Services Board Chairman, Prof. Peter Schwerdtfeger said, at the commencement of the three-day CFS/FCO training, 4th April, 1979.

Opening the CFS's first autumn school for fire control officers, Prof. Schwerdtfeger said urbanisation had brought dramatic changes to areas protected by the CFS.

"Whereas in the past, the CFS and the former EFS were involved with the protection of rural lands and property, today we have towns and small pockets of urbanisation, which you are called on to protect," he said.

"Volunteer fire-fighters need to be trained in the fighting of much more complicated fires—chemical and petroleum—in country areas.

"The training schools, which are being held in autumn and spring, allow fire control officers to be brought up to date on the latest methods of fire control and suppression and CFS radio communications."

The CFS/FCO autumn school held on 4th-6th April, 1979, was attended by more than 50 CFS volunteers from all parts of the State and theoretical and practical training sessions were included in the syllabus.

### Removal of signs causing danger

Melrose—Vandals removing fire ban signs in Port Germein gorge are causing a danger to tourists unfamiliar with the fire restrictions according to District Clerk, Mr. Claude Foote.

Mr. Foote said vandals continually removed signs from posts and left them in the river, where they were retrieved and re-erected by Council employees.

However, the signs had been removed from the area completely during the last incident and were found hanging on a gate of a property near Booleroo Centre.

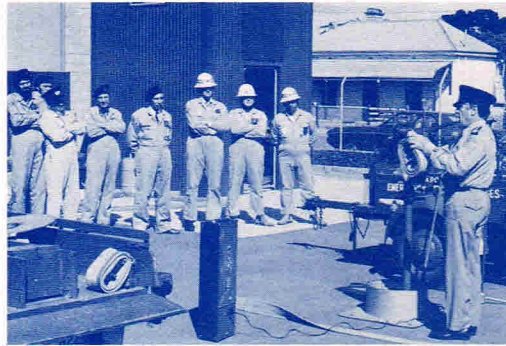
In the past no action has been taken but Mr. Foote said Booleroo Centre police had been notified and would be keeping the area under surveillance.

Although most people abided by the signs posted at each end of the gorge those inside were still necessary to remind people.

A total fire ban exists in the gorge from 1st November to 30th April and a \$400 fine is imposed on persons breaching the law.

Mr. Foote said one or two people each year disobeyed the law and had been apprehended.

Editorial courtesy *The Transcontinental Ranges Review*.



Inspector of Fire Co-ordination, Mr. P. A. Malpas (CFS H/Q), instructing FCO trainees on correct use and care of equipment.



Inspecting fire extinguisher—Left to right—Messrs. L. H. Brandon (Wilmington CFS), P. J. Malycha (Peterborough CFS), D. A. Cook (Yongala and District CFS).



Left to right—Messrs: D. F. A. Kilsby (D/c Mount Gambier), F. Ausey (Kalangadoo CFS), R. D. Clark (D/c Mount Gambier), R. G. Modistach (Naracoorte CFS), P. J. Bilney (Corp. of Naracoorte).



FCO Trainee testing a new hose reel gun.



Taking a lunch break at the FCO School.



FCO Attendees—left to right—Messrs. B. W. Jones (Port Wakefield CFS), S. J. Bird (Owen CFS), T. J. Gordon (Balaklava CFS).

## Reminder!

### SPRING CFS & FCO TRAINING SCHOOL

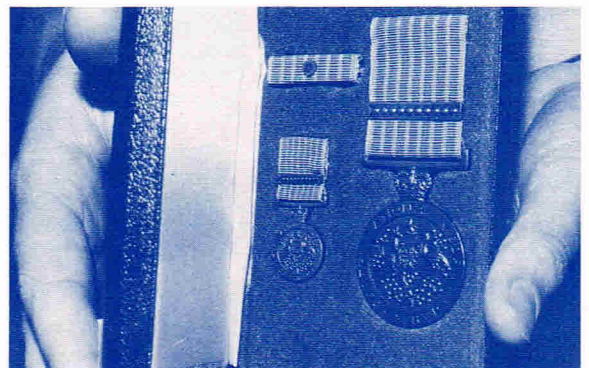
26th-28th SEPTEMBER, 1979

Details for nominations will be forwarded to local district councils in the normal procedure.

### In Recognition for Service to the CFS & Community

The Australian National Medal (pictured) is awarded in recognition for continuous and diligent uniformed service with the CFS.

Approved by the Queen, the medal is awarded after 15 years continuous service. And with a clasp (pictured above), is awarded after each further 10 years continuous service.



# SOME ASPECTS OF RATE OF SPREAD OF FIRE

BY D. R. DOUGLAS  
WOODS AND FORESTS DEPARTMENT

From the point of view of the fire suppression team going into action probably the most important factor having a bearing on the success of their efforts is the rate of spread of the fire.

Under mild burning conditions, fires tend to burn at a relatively constant rate, but when burning conditions are severe most fire characteristics tend to **accelerate with time**, and this applies particularly to the rate of forward progress and the rate of perimeter spread.

Thus, under severe burning conditions, it is during the first 15 minutes of the life of a fire that suppression forces have their greatest chance of success. The need to stress this factor of minimum elapsed time, between first report and hard-hitting action, can never be over-emphasised.

The amount of fire which can be put out in a given time is dependent upon the efficiency of the suppression crew, and its equipment, relative to the rate of perimeter increase of the fire. Because the rate of perimeter increase may **accelerate** with time, it is usually wise to hammer the fire with an absolutely maximum effort, irrespective of water economy, in the first attack. For example 1 000 litres (400 gallons) of water on a fire in 10 minutes may catch the fire and put it out, whereas the same volume applied in 30 minutes may not be enough to suppress the considerably enlarged perimeter.

This example highlights the need for equipment capable of hard-hitting action but which at the same time is as economical of water as possible. The basic requirement for this is high-pressure pumps which enable greater effectiveness from smaller nozzles, particularly sprays and fogs.

The main factors dictating the rate of spread of fires are:

1. Temperature and humidity conditions.
2. Wind spread.
3. The condition and nature of the fuel.
4. The amount of fuel.
5. The topography.

There are other factors, too, such as upper air conditions, which may have a bearing on fire intensity, and hence the rate of spread, but the five factors mentioned are perhaps those most important.

The rates of fire spread vary quite widely as one or more of these main factors change relative to the others.

For example:

If the other factors are virtually constant, fires spread faster with increasing temperature and decreasing relative humidity (in other words fires move faster on hot dry days, than on cooler humid days).

- Higher wind speeds mean faster rates of fire spread.
- The dryer the fuels become, the faster the fire spread.
- The greater the volume of flammable fuel, the increase of spread and difficulty of control.
- Fire tends to run up slopes.  
A 10 per cent of slope will double the fire's rate of spread.
- Fires spread faster in grass lands than in forested country. This is because forest conditions can reduce wind speed by as much as one-fifth of the open country value.

The behaviour of fire is very variable indeed and there is no doubt that actual experience in fire suppression is the best teacher. Experience is also very humbling, and the wisest fire controllers always exercise a judicious balance of caution in carrying out suppression action based upon a mental evaluation of these complex variables affecting fire behaviour.

## Fire drill contests

**NARACOORTE will host the annual SE fire-fighting drill competitions on 3rd June.**

The Corporation and District Council will underwrite the competitions to a maximum of \$150 each. Corporation Overseer, Mr. P. J. Taubert, a member of Naracoorte CFS, is Liaison Officer for the competitions.

And the District Council will supply equipment for water for the wet drills.

Also on fire, both councils last month paid tribute to Mr. P. R. Ferris, who has been appointed Regional Officer with CFS Headquarters, Keswick.

District Council Chairman, Cr. Williamson said Mr. Ferris, the former Deputy District Fire Supervisor and SES Deputy Controller, was very dedicated and had done an excellent job.

He had also put a lot of work, time and drive into reforming the Naracoorte CFS.

District Fire Supervisor, Mr. R. J.

## REGISTRATION OF CFS BRIGADES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA—COUNTRY FIRES ACT, 1976

### Certificate of Registration of Firefighting Organization

This is to Certify that

A C.F.S. organization formed for the purpose of fire-fighting outside fire brigade districts, has been registered pursuant to the provisions of section \_\_\_\_\_ of the Country Fires Act, 1976, as a \_\_\_\_\_

The Registered No. of the Organization is No. \_\_\_\_\_

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman

Notes:—The signature may be made by the Board if the organization ceases to function otherwise.

Under the provisions of the Country Fire Services Act, 1976, it is necessary for CFS Brigades and Associations to be registered in order to qualify for equipment subsidies.

To save organisations already registered under the Bushfires Act, 1960-1972, the trouble of having to make application for registration under the new Act, CFS Headquarters will automatically register these Brigades.

Certificates of Registration are being sent to District Councils, and if brigades have not received their certificate within a reasonable time period, they should inquire through their local District Council.

This task is one of the many details the CFS Board has been paying attention to, in relation to the CFS Act.

From time to time information and advice will be despatched to Councils and CFS Organisations in respect to consequential administrative matters.

Director,  
Country Fire Services

## CFS MEMBER HONOURED

**MR. LEN MIEGEL has been honoured with the first-ever life membership of Biscuit Flat Country Fire Service.**

The award was in recognition of his long and active service to the association.

Prior to the influx of soldier settlers to the district in 1952-53 there was no organised fire protection.

In 1952 the Biscuit Flat and Comung settlers, together with landowners of the area—Alan Gould, Gordon Cameron, Gibbs brothers and Doug Ogilvie—formed the Konetta Fire Fighting Association, and at that time (for fire protection only) were affiliated with the District Council of Robe which gave every encouragement to the area.

In 1953, the soldier settlers across the range formed the West Avenue Fire Fighting Association.

The first meeting was held under a blue gum tree at Parker's corner. Chairman was Mr. Jeff Cowan.

In 1965 the gentleman's agreement between District Councils of Robe and Lucindale was terminated, thus initiating the amalgamation of the Konetta and West Avenue Associations.

The purpose of the amalgamation being that as one voice this end of the district could request Council to place a fire unit here where it would be so strategically based. Our pleas fell on deaf ears.

As foundation Secretary of the West Avenue Association, Len Miegel continued wielding the pen, as well as being a delegate for 19 years.

Ironically, the original Minute Book, which was also something of a "pioneer history" was destroyed in Len's house fire in 1973.

All members agreed that this small tribute was honourably earned and well-deserved.

The S.E. Kingston Leader, 14th March, 1979.

*Congratulations Len on receiving your life membership, it is a tribute to you . . . and well earned . . . Editor.*

Reynolds, said Naracoorte Fire-fighting Association was discussing the possibility of setting up five regions, each with a regional officer. In the meantime he would carry on without a deputy.

In **BORDERTOWN**, Mr. Murray Sherwell has also left to become a Regional Officer with CFS Headquarters. He was the Tatiara Supervisor of Fire Control Officers and spent nearly 19 years with Bordertown CFS (formerly EFS) and Tatiara Fire-fighting Association.

Naracoorte Herald, 2nd April, 1979.

## MITCHAM HILLS CFS VISIT NSW

A team of eight CFS volunteers representing Brigades from Mitcham Hills, Belair, Eden Hills and Blackwood recently visited the New South Wales Baulkham Hills Fire Brigade Headquarters at Castle Hill and the Warringah Shire Fire control centre, on a one-day tour to inspect some of the NSW Fire Brigade operations and equipment.

Mr. Lionel Smith, Fire Officer, Baulkham Hills Headquarters Brigade conducted the group, consisting of: Messrs. John Penno (Eden Hills), Russel Grear (Mitcham Hills), Bob Long (Belair), Graham Adams (Eden Hills), Ray Collins (Blackwood), Trevor Sprigg, David Edwards (Belair), Jim Drummond (Belair), and Peter Mills (CFS H/Q Publicity), on a tour of the headquarters, and equipment store.

Mr. Smith explained how the Baulkham Hills Headquarters controlled the 18 local Regional Brigades, and how the control console received the incoming fire calls, then by setting numbers on the console panel to correspond to the brigade fire call number required

and turning a key, the fire brigade alarm in that specified area would sound.

Within four minutes a light on the console would indicate that the volunteer brigade had turned out.

A staff of 7 (1 Duty Officer and 6 Staff Officers), man the Operations Room.

One person would monitor the location and progress of the brigade(s); one would chart the progress or control of the fire; another the wind speed, direction, etc. (weather gauges also located in operations room.)

The remaining staff would be communicating by radio, and/or phone to brigade FCO's at scene of fire, to other defence services and with the H/Q's back-up brigades if they were required, with the Duty Officer co-ordinating the proceedings.

The Baulkham Hills Headquarters amenities included a training room to accommodate 140 students, canteen facilities, a well stocked equipment store and back-up brigade vehicles

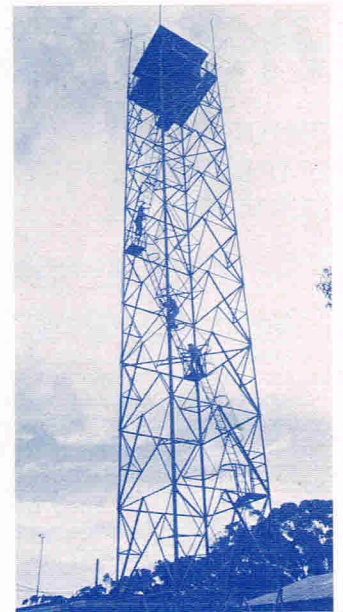
(separate troop and water carriers) and a mobile canteen.

Mr. Smith advised the group that the NSW Bush Fires Act previously under the NSW State Emergency Services jurisdiction had only just recently been transferred back to the control of the NSW Department of Services. That is, the organisation and structure of the Bush Fire Service returned to the form which existed at and prior to 1975.

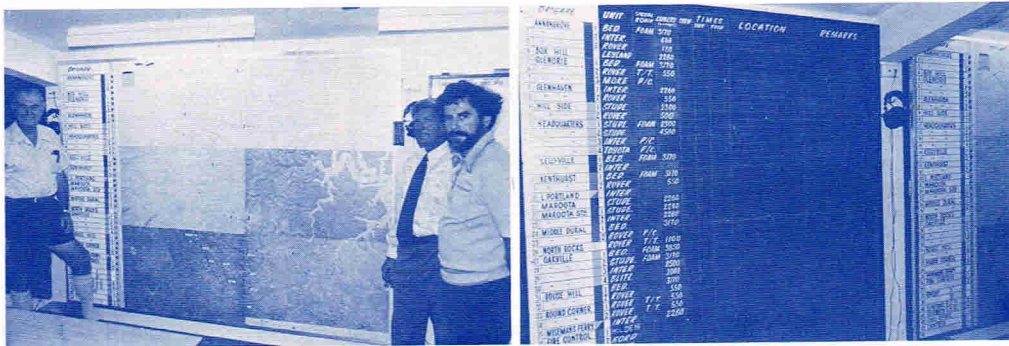
The highlight of the visit to the Warringah Shire Control Centre was meeting Mr. Brian White, Fire Officer, and watching "dare devils" Russell Grear, Bob Long and Ray Collins scale a 100 ft. observation lookout tower.

They reported that "the scene was well worth the climb", but I have my doubts, as they all returned to ground a little out of breath.

CFS Board Headquarters would like to express their appreciation for the assistance extended by Messrs. Smith and White, TAA, and their "tour guide" Mr. David Edwards

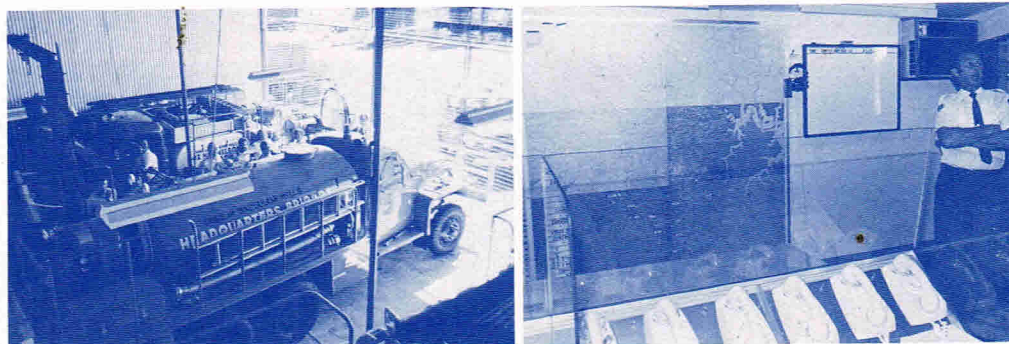


The 100 ft. tower at the Warringah Shire Control Centre being scaled by Messrs. Russell Grear, Bob Long, and Ray Collins. Owned and used as a communications tower by the State NSW Electricity Commission. The tower also serves as a fire spotting/lookout post, by the Warringah Fire Centre.



Photo—left to right—Messrs. Jim Drummond, John Penno and Ray Collins, in front of the Baulkham Hills Fire Control Centre Map.

Featuring a Brigade Reference Panel and a Control Centre Map, in the Operations Room of the Baulkham Hills Fire Control Centre H/Q.



Two of the Baulkham Hills Headquarters Brigade Reserve Units. Unlike SA Brigade units, the NSW vehicles are mainly used as fire water carriers, with no provision made to carry men on the tray. Instead some cabins are designed to carry between two to eight men; while other brigades may use troop/transport carriers to move the volunteer fire-fighters, or they are sometimes flown in to a fire scene by plane.

Mr. Lionel Smith, Fire Officer, Baulkham Hills H/Q Brigade, explaining the operations procedures. Note: Telephones on console in foreground and Brigade/Control Centre Map in background.

## Replacement of CFS Units

YORKETOWN—The District Council of Yorketown has accepted tenders for two new units for the Yorketown Country Fire Service.

One is for a four-wheel drive Toyota 1 tonne cab/chassis and the other is for a Dodge 10/11 tonne truck cab/chassis.

They will replace the present Gypsy and Austin fire units.

The two new units and fitting them out will cost in the vicinity of \$28 000. Half the cost is subsidised by the Government, and the other half will come from loan funds.

Editorial courtesy of the Y.P. Country Times, 14th March, 1979.



Newly appointed Regional Officer, Murray Sherwell, doing a regular maintenance battery check on a H/Q pump.

# PAGES IN HISTORY

## BRIDGEWATER EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICE INC.

The first Fire Unit formed in Bridgewater followed many serious fires in the area and was known as the Vimy Ridge Emergency Fire Squad. It was originally intended that similar squads be formed throughout the area. However, thinking broadened somewhat, and in 1950 the Bridgewater Fire Unit was formed and the nucleus of the present organisation evolved. At first much of the equipment was borrowed, and as there was not a fire station, it was stored at various readily accessible locations around the town.

In October, 1951, an ex-service tanker was purchased, and with slight modifications served the township and surrounding areas until July, 1966. During this time many other changes took place. In the same year—1951—the first constitution was adopted, and Mr. C. W. Rosewarne was appointed Chief Officer. Mr. Rosewarne held this position until 1964, when he relinquished his duties to inaugurate the Stirling Area EFS Training School (now known as the Mount Lofty Ranges EFS Training Centre) for firemanship and rescue training. In July, 1965, he was made the first Life Member of the Brigade. The year 1953 saw the Fire Station built, a project which posed some difficulties through the lack of available building material. The Station has since been altered and extended as time demanded.

Following the disastrous "Black Sunday" fire in the Adelaide Hills in January, 1955, the Stirling District recognised the need for better communications, and as a result the Unit purchased two-way radio a year later.

In 1962 it was decided that the advantages offered through becoming an Incorporated Body could not be ignored, and as a result the name of the organisation changed to Bridgewater Emergency Fire Service Incorporated.

The Brigade now boasts a new fire appliance purchased with the aid of a grant from the Stirling District Council, Government and insurance companies' subsidies, and its own money-raising efforts. A large proportion of the money raised resulted from the efforts of a very active Ladies' Auxiliary.

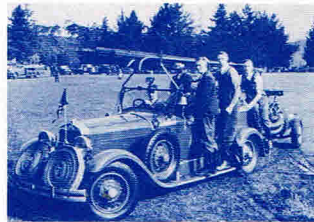
Complemented by a well-equipped small vehicle, the Unit offers sound protection to the District.

Extract from EFS Manual 1967.



Adelaide's Biggest Fire for years. At the height of the blaze.

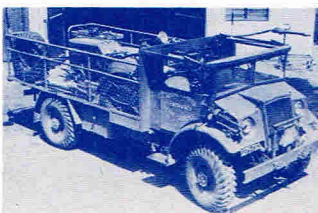
Smoke pouring from the burning building during the height of the fire in the warehouse of the Dunlop Rubber Co., Flinders Street. In the foreground are firemen sending thousands of gallons of water into the inferno. It was the second largest fire in the history of Adelaide—photo ex "Advertiser", 21st October, 1940.



**LOBETHAL—POWER TO SPARE!** This 1945 photograph shows the much modified V8 motor car used by the Lobethal Volunteer Fire Brigade to carry men and equipment to fire scenes. Just visible behind the car is a trailer pump made from the chassis and motor of a four-cylinder car.



**VICTORIA SQUARE 1881**—Members of the Adelaide Fire Brigade (formed by fire insurance companies) proudly display their equipment in Victoria Square. The building in the background is the G.P.O.



## CFS H/Q SEEKS COUNTRY HISTORY

Recently, the Jamestown corporation presented CFS Headquarters with a publication entitled *Jamestown—A Pictorial Study*. Also the books *Walking Tall* presented by the District Council of Millicent and *Beautiful Valley* presented by the District Council of Wilmington were gratefully received by CFS Headquarters, with our deep appreciation.

These well illustrated and written books outline the history of the respective towns, and CFS H/Q now plans to open a section in their Library on country town histories.

If such publications are available, it would be most appreciated if a copy could be forwarded to the Director, CFS Headquarters.

If payment for the publication is required, please enclose an invoice with the copy.

L. C. Johns,  
Deputy Director,  
Country Fire Services

## BUILDING FIRE PROTECTION

In 1812, Sir William Congreve obtained a patent for improvements affording security against fire in buildings, which consisted in arranging water-pipes throughout the building, so that, by turning a cock, all or any portion of the building will be deluged with water.

Sir Samuel Bentham, in 1797, proposed placing tanks on tops of buildings, connected with pipes laid all over the premises, to be protected, and throughout

continued on page 7 . . .



Early Austin "Gypsy" 4 wheel drive, Yorketown No 1. EFS unit.



Belair National Park Fire, Saturday, 7th February, 1970.

**Building Fire Protection continued . . .**

the various floors, with provisions at various points for the attachment of hose and branch pipes; so that in case of a fire breaking out, the pressure in the tank would furnish an immediate and powerful jet at whatever point it might be needed.

**who's who at headquarters**



**GEORGE POLOMKA**  
Regional Officer  
Training Inquiries

Joined Jamestown EFS in 1948, and held positions of Station Officer, District Officer and Council Fire Supervisor. In 1968 George was also appointed Controller of State Emergency Services at Jamestown. He was a volunteer ambulance driver since 1955 and with the St. John Brigade since 1969. As a member of the Jamestown corporation, he held the position of Mayor and Justice of the Peace. Married with one daughter, George's interests centre around the family and community.



**MURRAY SHERWELL**  
Regional Officer  
Training Inquiries

Previously employed by the District Council of Tatiara (Upper South-East) as a purchasing officer and stores supervisor. Murray joined the CFS staff this year. He has had 28 years service as a volunteer fire-fighter in SA and Victoria. In the South-East he held positions of Station Officer, Bordertown CFS; District Officer, Supervisor of Fire Control Officers and Volunteer Regional Officer. He is a life member of the Tatiara Fire Association, and has been a delegate to regional and State conferences and representative to the Australian Fire Protection Association conference.



**BRIAN BILNEY**  
Control Centre Operator

**who's who at headquarters**

A member of the EFS/CFS for 22 years, Brian joined Two Wells in March, 1957. Later transferred to Elizabeth North EFS, and when the SAFB took control, moved to Smithfield Brigade as Station Officer and FCO. Prior to commencing duties at CFS H/Q he worked for a fire-fighting equipment company (3 1/2 years), dealing with local councils and CFS Brigades throughout the State. Married with two teenage sons, Brian's spare time is devoted to training boy scouts in the art of camping, bushcraft survival, canoeing and fire safety/prevention. He has been a Scout Leader with 1st Gawler Troop (7 years) and also enjoys caravanning and gardening when time permits.

**BUSHFIRE POSTER AWARDS**

Ceduna-Thevenard CFS has presented awards to Ceduna Area School students successful in the recent Bushfire Prevention Week poster competition.

Station Officer, Bill Kavanagh, made the awards to Mandy Cope, David Nisbet, Louise Mudge and Richard Hofer at morning assembly on Monday.

The presentation was followed by a demonstration of fire-fighting equipment in the school playground for senior students.

*West Coast Sentinel.*

**Training Certificate for CFS Brigades**

The latest acquisition to encourage CFS Brigades to conduct local, authorised training courses is the "Training Certificate".

Measuring 148 mm wide x 210 mm deep, the "Training Certificate" is printed in blue ink on quality white parchment sheet, and "embossed" with the official CFS Badge.

The certificate would complement any CFS volunteer member's office or den, and is now available at no cost to CFS members who attend authorised training courses.

CFS Headquarters can advise you on training programmes, and assist with information and training.

Requests for "Training Certificates" with details on proposed courses are to be addressed in writing to:

The Director,  
Country Fire Services,  
P.O. Box 312,  
Goodwood, S.A. 5034



COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**Training Certificate**

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attended

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Officer in Charge

**Rotaract joins war on fire**

Blackwood Rotaract Club has helped the fire fight by donating \$100 towards foam equipment for the CFS.

The club's donation enabled Blackwood CFS to purchase a \$280 foam-maker to combat petroleum fires.

Club President, Vern Williams, presented the cheque to Blackwood Station Officer, Ray Collins.

"We've had the foam unit installed already but fortunately haven't had occasion to use it," Mr. Collins explained.

"Equipment such as this is essential for a fire-fighting unit.

"With petroleum fires in the past, we've been rendered almost useless.

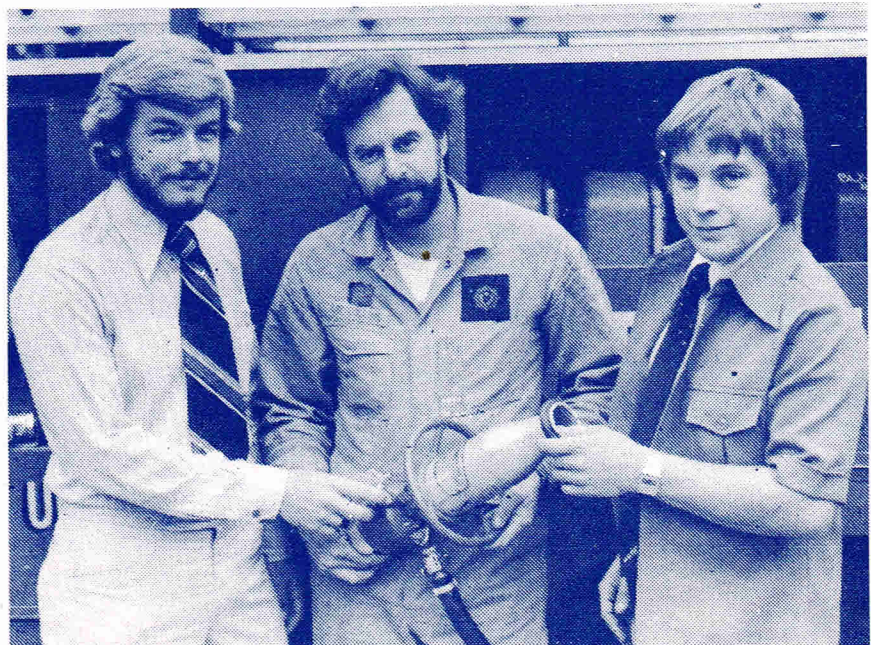
"But this new equipment will make us capable of fighting any fire.

**Important**

"The equipment is so important that in one successful operation it will pay for itself."

*Hills Gazette, Wednesday, 7th March, 1979*

• Blackwood Rotaract President, Vern Williams (left), examines the new foam pump unit donated to Blackwood CFS by the Rotaract Club. With him is Blackwood CFS Station Officer, Ray Collins, and Rotaract Club Director, John Pargeter.



# Reflections on a Distinguished Career

*F. L. Kerr.*

*M.B.E., F.I.F.R.C.E.*



**DIRECTOR OF S.A.  
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES.**

Reflections are the mirror of a man's image—they tell in retrospect, of his life, his career and the contribution he has made to his profession and to the community.

*The Volunteer* takes pride in this issue in honouring our Director of Country Fire Services, Mr. F. L. Kerr, on the eve of his retirement on 29th June, 1979.

In reflecting on Mr. Kerr's career and leadership of South Australia's large volunteer fire-fighting organisation over the past 30 years, we pay tribute to a "true leader of his troops".

His career has always been as a fire-fighter, and his earlier years from 1936 to 1949 with the South Australian Fire Brigade, set the seal on his future when he became Director of the former Emergency Fire Services in March, 1949.

From an organisation, still somewhat in its fledgling days in so far as manpower, units and equipment, Mr. Kerr has guided its development to where today, the CFS is acknowledged throughout Australia and abroad, as one of the most efficient volunteer fire-fighting organisations in the world.

South Australia's topography and climatic conditions

have made the State an extremely fire-prone environment and therefore, the need for a well trained and equipped fire suppression organisation has been vital to the State.

In his position as Director, Mr. Kerr often faced limitations and restrictions on his vision and plans for expanding the EFS . . . but he never accepted defeat. There was always another way of extending progress—even if the pace had to be curtailed for a time.

He has always enjoyed the most cordial relationships with the Government, the Ministers he has served under, and the instrumentalities and services. In particular, the facilities and services made available by the South Australian Police Force which assisted greatly in enabling Mr. Kerr to operate the EFS from the Police Barracks at Thebarton.

In the field, among his men, he has enjoyed considerable rapport, and his concern for their welfare and safety when engaged in fire-fighting activities, have been evidenced repeatedly over the years.

Reflecting on some of his achievements, Fred Kerr can

be proud of these and other milestones . . .

- The establishment of the Country Fire Services, South Australia, and the opening of the Headquarters Building, named in his honour.
- The Bushfire Advisory Committee acting on behalf of the Minister of Agriculture, requested assistance from Mr. Kerr, in suggesting revisions for the Bush Fires Act.

His recommendations contributed immeasurably to a better understanding and more workable Bush Fires Act of 1961-1976.

- Established the first EFS Volunteer Training Schools in SA in 1951, and since then through his assistance and encouragement of CFS Brigades has helped develop FCO Training Schools, Regional Competitions and State Championships.

Just one more positive step towards improving fire-fighting suppression techniques and procedures.

- He has been Chairman of the Fire Prevention Week Committee, since its inception. This Committee

brought together various bodies concerned with fire prevention and public education.

His career and service has been honoured through being awarded the MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 1962. Last year he received the Australian National Medal to mark his 42 years continuous and diligent uniformed service (with SAFB, EFS and CFS).

He is also the holder of the Meritorious Service Decoration of the British Fire Services Association in 1957, and the Association's 20 years service and Efficiency Medal in 1960.

Mr. Kerr's leadership during the past 30 years is truly mirrored in the acknowledgement that "Action speaks Louder than Words", and in paying *Mr. Kerr's Tribute, The Volunteer*, speaking for over 11 000 members of the CFS and for the many hundreds of former members; also sincerely records the loyal support given to Mr. Kerr and the service by his dedicated wife, Mrs. Kerr.

To both, go the warmest wishes of all, for a long and happy retirement.

## SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES



Being presented with National Medal for 42 years fire service by Mr. B. A. Chatterton, Minister of Agriculture, looking on—Mr. R. D. Orr, Deputy Chairman, CFS Board.



Responding to opening of CFS H/Q and unveiling of plaque (left) by the then Deputy Premier, Mr. J. D. Corcoran (seated far right).



*Reflections  
on a  
Distinguished  
Career*

*Reflections  
on a  
Distinguished  
Career*

*F. L. Kerr.  
M.B.E., F.I.F.R.E.*



Mr. F. L. Kerr—left, with representatives from Interstate Brigades/Associations attending CFS Opening. CFS Chairman, Professor P. Schwerdtfeger—centre.



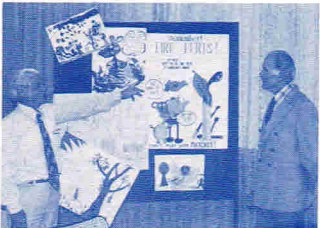
Karina Fuller (CFS H/Q) receiving a surprise 21st Birthday Gift from her "boss", F. L. Kerr.



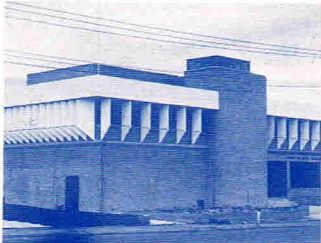
EFS FCO School, 25th June, 1963. Instruction being given by F. L. Kerr, standing far right.



Above—"There is a right and a wrong way of doing everything", says senior Fireman Kerr. "We do it the right way because it is the easiest." His section is intent on his instructions—photo ex "The News", 1st November, 1947.



Inspecting winners of 1979 Children's Poster Competition for Smokey's Birthday Party prizes.



"F. L. Kerr Building", Headquarters for the Country Fire Services, West Beach Road, Keswick.



One of the judges (second from right) at the Annual Industrial Fire Service Competitions 1959.



Firemen presented with diplomas by the Governor (Sir Malcolm Barclay-Harvey) at SA Fire Brigade Headquarters Station, Wakefield Street. Fireman, F. L. Kerr, pictured second from right. Photo ex "Advertiser", 4th January, 1940.



AFPA 1978 Regional Conference. From left—Messrs. G. Joseph (Lord Mayor, Adelaide); F. L. Kerr (Director, CFS); Noel Thompson (Chairman, AFPA)—addressing delegates.



Dignitaries who attended the 1979 Smokey's Birthday Party held at the Adelaide Zoo. From left: Ron Sullivan (Master of Ceremony), John Martins; Fred Kerr (Guest Speaker), CFS H/Q.; Les Cookesley (Entertainer).



The Hon. The Premier of South Australia, Sir Thomas Playford, GCMG, MP, presenting the Meritorious Service Decoration of the British Fire Services Association to Mr. F. L. Kerr, Director of SA Emergency Fire Services in 1957.



Inspection and march past of CFS Brigade Units, on Parade, 21st October, 1978.



USA Foresters visit EFS H/Q, 6th March, 1975, far right foreground F. L. Kerr.



Inspection of CFS H/Q equipment (ex Norwood EFS), at Kintore Avenue, Adelaide 1952.

## FIRE SERVICES IN CHILE, SOUTH AMERICA

By Bevis J. Dixon,  
One Tree Hill CFS

A population of 1 600 000 people, large factories, embassies, two airports, underground railway, houses and skyscrapers up to 25 floors.

This needs the best fire protection available.

It has but one big difference, all the firemen are volunteers responsible for an area in the capital city of Chile, Santiago.

In Chile there are no paid firemen. There are 250 fire brigades with 28 000 volunteers who choose their officers the same way as we do, by elections.

In the area of Santiago mentioned above, the fire-fighting force numbers 300 volunteers and 20 fire stations housing 38 modern appliances.

The appliance fleet consists of one ambulance, six personnel vehicles, two rescue vehicles, two control vehicles, four turntable ladders, five ladder trucks and 18 pumping appliances.

The alarm centre has modern communications equipment and connects headquarters to all the fire stations and fire appliances. The 300 firemen have alarms at home or at work.

The brigade is kept busy with an average of seven turnouts per day.

The first volunteer brigade was organised in 1851 after a huge fire caused great damage to property and merchandise in the Port of Valparaiso. It took the deaths and injuries of 2 000 people in an overcrowded church fire, to prompt the formation of the Santiago Brigade in 1863.

Since then 33 firemen have been killed in action.

Undoubtedly the Chile Fire Services have their share of problems, but I think the country can rightly be proud of its volunteers.

## "Council for a Day" Macclesfield

To coincide with the International Year of the Child, the Meadows District Council held a special event "Council for a Day", Wednesday, 11th April, and Karen Wilson of Macclesfield Primary School was elected Mayor.

The day started with the swearing in of the nine young councillors "elected", in the Meadows Memorial Hall.

Using the theme caring for children, Mr. Geoff Simpson, Mayor of the Meadows District Council said that the day was his Council's and the community's way of saying how much they care.

He asked people to care for each other and for the things that belong to the community; the parks, buildings, trees and to respect other people's property.

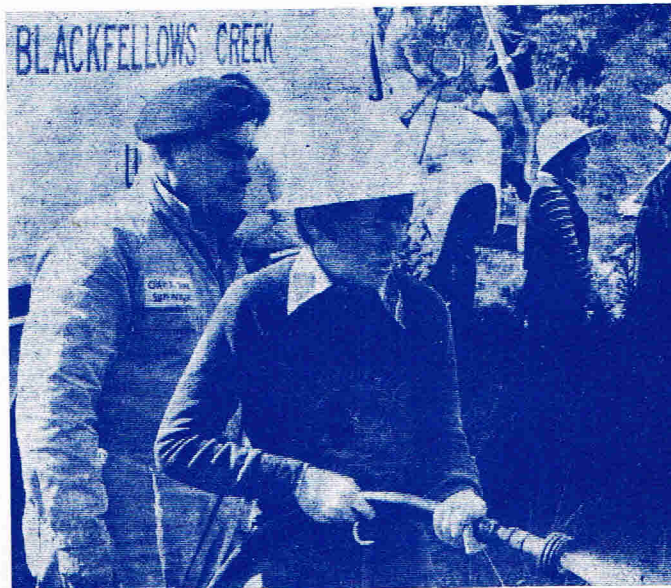
Following the robing, and chaining by Mr. Simpson a presentations of a small

wooden medallion was made to each "councillor" present.

To mark the event, one of the activities of the day was a mimi bus trip by the children "councillors" and Councillors to the Kuitpo forest to take part in burning off scrub and debris.

Here they were under the care of Councillor Charles Dunn who is also Superintendent of all CFS units with in the Meadows Council District.

Trees were planted afterwards at the entrance to the Angas River Youth Camp in Macclesfield, by the "Meadows District Council for the Day"; Gordon Hay (Flagstaff Hill), Paul Sowerby (Kangarilla), Jamie Forgan (Clarendon), Garry Wotherspoon (Echunga), Susan Caddy (Meadows), Karen Wilson (Macclesfield), Brenton Kluske (Ashbourne), Steven Nolan (Braeview), and Matthew Sirenko (Happy Valley).



"Councillor" Paul Sowerby of Kangarilla School dowsing the fire under the watchful eye of Councillor Charlie Dunn, Superintendent Meadows CFS District.

Photograph courtesy *The Southern Argus*, 19th April, 1979.

Pages in History continued . . .

## EARLY SETTLEMENT

by R. Barrett

To many early settlers arriving in the Gulf of St. Vincent, the first view of the Mount Lofty Ranges must have been rather frightening. Writing in the *South Australian Magazine* in 1842, one early settler said, "On my first arrival in this Province, in midsummer, I was struck with horror, in viewing from the deck of the ship, the first evening we cast anchor, large masses of fire extending over the beautiful semi-circle of hills to the south of Adelaide."

"How, I exclaimed, can a country subject to such casualties be the residence of civilised man? How can property be preserved and protected, where it is subject to such visitations? On taking possession of my land I found almost all the grass burnt down, and this renewed and increased the feelings of danger and insecurity I had formerly experienced."

The man who made these remarks expressed the feelings of many of the settlers who arrived between 1836 and 1838. The summer of '38/39 brought high temperatures and resulted in many bush fires blackening the hills near Adelaide. Settlement of the Hills areas had only just begun in earnest and direct losses from the fires were minimal.

In the early 1840's the Colony's finances recovered and the settlement of country areas progressed rapidly. Bushfires became an accepted part of a settler's way of life during the summer months. Beaters and back burning developed as methods of fire attack and suppression. Although these were of great use for controlling a blaze little thought was given to prevention and protection. A few voices were raised in the cause of protection suggesting ploughed or burnt "fire breaks" to prevent fires reaching buildings and crops.

The relatively mild summers of the '40s and early '50s failed to produce fires which would offer any large scale threat to settlement and a subsequent development of fire prevention measures. While no major fires occurred, a number of minor ones in the 1840's caused the government of the day to pass the first legislation in respect of

### PLEASE NOTE CORRECTIONS TO PHONE NUMBERS FOR CFS FINALS COMPETITION ACCOMMODATION

#### LANGHORNE CREEK

Bridge Hotel, Wellington Road, Langhorne Creek 5255. Telephone (085) 377. Manual Exchange: 20.

#### MILANG

Pier Hotel, Daranda Terrace, Milang 5256.  
Telephone: (085) 371. Manual Exchange: 6.

Milang Caravan Park, Milang 5256.

Caretaker: (085) 371-91.

90 Van Sites, 7 On-Site Vans. Tent area available.

Early Settlement  
continued . . .

bushfire prevention. The Act, No. 19 of 1847, came into operation on 15th December, 1847, and made it an offence for any person to endanger the property of others by "Wilful or Negligent Burning of Stubble and other Produce", and provided for a penalty of Five to Twenty Pounds.

Nine days after the commencement of the Act, on 24th December, a strong north wind fanned a small bushfire north of the Hutt River. Travelling at a speed of 8 to 10 miles an hour, the fire had a front of three to four miles when, in the early afternoon, it overtook a shepherd and his flock. Shortly afterwards the shepherd was found stumbling along in great pain from the burns he had received. He was placed on a horse and taken to a homestead where he died 24 hours later. Thus, twenty-six year old William Baker became the first recorded victim of a bushfire and his flock of 960 ewes and 850 five month old lambs the first major stock loss.

Act No. 14 of 1854 was assented to on 15th December, 1854, and was to form the basis of the Bush Fires Act as we know it today. It prohibited the burning of stubble, hay, or grass during the summer months except at certain times and under certain conditions. It also placed restrictions on smoking near stables and certain produce and required camp fires to have a clear space of at least 10 feet radius.

Six weeks later a bushfire occurred at Echunga Creek when a bullock driver failed to extinguish his camp fire on the morning of Thursday, 25th January, 1855. The fire produced a serious threat to the property of settlers in the district and was not brought completely under control until the evening of Sunday, 28th January. One hundred and fifty men worked day and night to contain the fire and prevent damage to houses and produce. They were fairly successful but were unable to save a large amount of feed and fencing.

On the Monday morning, District Council Chairman, George Sanders, writing as a private citizen, informed the Acting Colonial Secretary of the events of the preceding days. He attributed the minimal losses to:

*"... the Mercy of God, and His blessing upon the great and continued and voluntary exertion of the people generally."*

Having outlined the work done by the volunteers, Mr. Sanders went on to say:

*"Under the circumstances and with a strong sense of that the men who so readily and without stipulation gave up their time and labour day and night to prevent further waste of property, have a fair and strong claim for compensation for the same . . ."*

He then went on to ask the government to provide sufficient funds to pay the volunteers at the rate of seven shillings per day for day work and ten shillings for night work.

The government agreed that the volunteers should be rewarded for their efforts but felt that any such reward should be subscribed by those benefiting from their labours. In reply, George Sanders made three very important points to which no reply was received:

*"No doubt the settlers in the district are benefited, but I add, together with every other individual in the Colony who eats bread and beef.*

*"... I fear, should another fire occur, we shall not have the same ready and voluntary assistance as on the late occasion, if the people find they are not to have any pay for their labour.*

*"Would it not be desirable to lodge in the hands of responsible parties in each District, the power to call upon all settlers therein to assist in cases of Bush or other Dangerous Fires? But this necessarily implies a promise of payment for such assistance."*

Ten months later the Association of District Council Chairmen asked the government to prepare a new Bush Fire Act incorporating both the 1847 and 1854 Acts together with amendments and additions in respect of prohibiting burning periods, and requiring all properties to have a nine-foot ploughed fire break.

## Salisbury fire-fighting service honoured

. . . and a gift  
for retiring  
CFS Director

More than 100 attendees, representative of invited guests and uniformed personnel from the Salisbury, Tea Tree Gully, Northfield and One Tree Hill CFS Units shared in a recent double celebration at Salisbury Fire Station.

Twenty-five local CFS members from four units were presented chevrons and certificates in recognition of their years of service with the CFS, by retiring CFS Director, Mr. Fred Kerr, MBE.

Mr. Kerr who will retire on 29th June, 1979, in turn received a "surprise gift" presentation of a silver tray and goblets, for his 30 years service and leadership as CFS Director.

The presentation to Mr. Kerr was made by Station Officer, F. Dunn (Salisbury CFS), Station Officer, D. Sanford (Tea Tree Gully), and Station Officer, D. Holmes (Northfield CFS).

Salisbury Mayor, Mr. R. T. White, introduced Mr. Kerr, and congratulated him on his long service.

Mr. Kerr paid tribute to the support of fire units and volunteers in the northern areas.

He said there had been splendid co-operation and co-ordination from the units supporting the main Salisbury Brigade.

continued on page 12 . . .

# CFS DEPUTY DIRECTOR VISITS NORTHERN COUNCILS

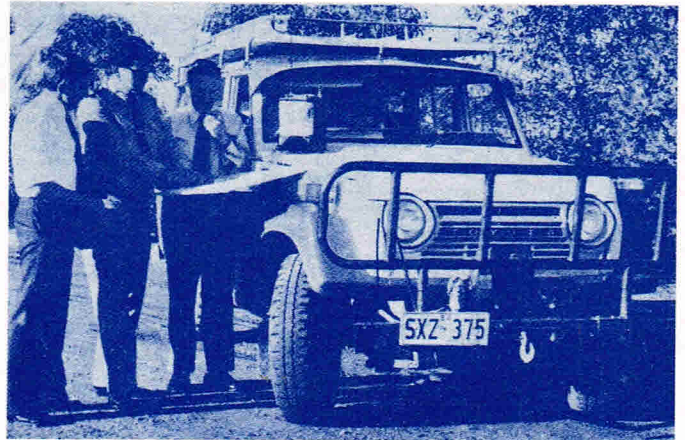
The recently appointed Deputy Director, and officers of the Country Fire Services visited the North on 17th-20th April, 1979.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with Town Clerks, Fire Control Officers and CFS Brigade personnel throughout the region, and to check radio communications facilities. Lectures were conducted at Georgetown, Melrose and Port Pirie on the subjects of communications, fire control and co-ordination, and the powers and duties of Fire Control Officers.

The Country Fire Services, established under the new Country Bush Fires Act is expanding its activities throughout the State, to provide practical support to Councils and Brigades in the areas of fire suppression and prevention.

Before the next Fire Season commences it is planned that a permanent Regional Officer of the CFS will be located in the North. This officer will provide day-to-day liaison, expertise and training for fire suppression authorities.

Extract courtesy *Review-Times-Record*, 26th April, 1979.



Country Fire Services Deputy Director, Lloyd Johns, with Regional Officers, Brian Menadue and George Polomka, check maps and communications.

## Fire Reports

One of the most important services rendered by volunteer fire officers is that of forwarding to Headquarters written reports on fires.

These reports are essential for compiling statistics on the incidence and causes of fires and for recording losses. They play a vital role in research, so that preventive action can be taken and better fire protection measures developed.

The prompt return of fire reports enables Headquarter's staff to advise the publicity media, which in turn uses the information to promote fire prevention.

Without the return of the written reports from the volunteer fire officers these important objectives cannot be achieved.

Will all CFS Officers and Fire Control Officers please make it their duty to forward to Headquarters reports on all fires, large or small which they attend?

No matter how small the fire or attendance, even if only an inspection is made, the reporting of the incident makes a contribution to the science of fire protection and to the fire services.

Report forms are available from CFS Headquarters on request and will all be acknowledged in the yearly CFS Manual.

Salisbury Fire Fighting Service honoured,  
continued . . .

"I also congratulate the men who have been presented the service awards," he said.

"These are not given out lightly, they are a reward for diligent service given to the public."

The presentation ceremony provided a night of reminiscence for many guests including Salisbury CFS President and former Mayor, Mr. H. L. Bowey, who welcomed the Director, the recently appointed Deputy Director, Mr. L. C. Johns, and the Mayor of Salisbury, Mr. R. T. White.

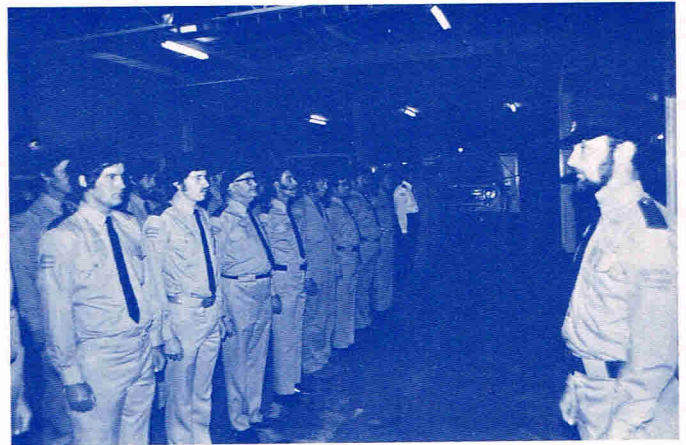
In his address Mayor White commended the tremendous work

put into the CFS by the volunteer members, and of the "feeling of protection against bushfires", provided for a large area of the north-eastern area by the service.

Salisbury Town Clerk and CFS Supervisor, Mr. J. Bormann, also paid tribute to the work done by the local units.

"Salisbury Council recognises that citizens owe a great deal to the volunteers who have provided such magnificent fire service over many years," he said.

The Salisbury Ladies' Auxiliary served supper.



Members of the Salisbury and surrounding districts CFS Brigades at attention before the presentation of chevrons and certificates.



CFS members' wives from the Salisbury Ladies' Auxiliary preparing supper for guests.

Pictured left to right—Mrs. Jan Gulin, Elizabeth Bowey, Miss Connie Craig, Mrs. Gail Elliot, Marie Odwyer, Sarah Gray, Lyn Potter.



A "surprise" presentation of trophies followed the presentation of service chevrons and certificates at the Salisbury CFS.

Mr. F. L. Kerr—Guest of Honour (Director, CFS)—pictured second from left was presented with trophies by the respective station officers from left to right—Messrs. F. Dunn (Salisbury CFS), F. L. Kerr (Director, CFS), D. Holmes (Northfield CFS), D. Sanford (Tea Tree Gully CFS), in appreciation of Mr. Kerr's assistance to the respective brigades throughout the years.

**TO ALL MEMBERS  
OF THE COUNTRY  
FIRE SERVICES**

Often have I put pen to a blank sheet of paper with the report ahead like a heavily laden wheelbarrow, but on no occasion as formidable than this moment.

Countless thoughts fleet by and if I paused to grasp them all, *The Volunteer* would never go to print.

A persistent sense manifest is one of disbelief and that I have first class administrative and operational facilities, have air-conditioning and sit in a carpeted office as the official representative of a prestigious fire service, seems far beyond the most extravagant dreams of yesterday years.

The enactment of the County Fires Act, 1976, with the appointment of the Country Fire Services Board and the establishment of the CFS Headquarters complex are the fruition of a generation of inspired endeavour by many fine people implemented by a devoted staff with the help of associated government departments. Thus the well proven

though fragmented volunteer Emergency Fire Service was consolidated and constituted as the S.A. Country Fire Services with its volunteer character preserved and its service future assured.

Let not the younger, well equipped volunteer brigade members forget the pioneer members of our service, the men and women of the land and townships who spared no effort in setting up the fire-fighting teams and associations which were the foundation of today's State volunteer service.

My task was made a simple and happy experience by the many devoted people who were but to be asked to respond to any call on their labours and support.

So many names come readily to mind that it is not possible to record them all here and it would be unkind to record some and omit others equally worthy. Each can be assured that he (includes

"she" according to the Acts Interpretation Act!), is remembered and his contribution to the Service gratefully recognised at this time of acknowledgement.

Some, regretfully, have passed on but their names and records of service remain.

I still wonder with pride at the magnificent response to the demands made on them—whether to fight a fire which would keep them from their families for days on end, to raise funds (mostly out of their own pockets), build fire stations and appliances, compete in training events under the most severe winter conditions, attend meetings when the rest of their communities were home by the kitchen fire; they unsparingly gave of their best.

I pay full tribute to the volunteer fire-fighter and his family.

Au revoir,  
Fred L. Kerr  
(Director CFS)



# Burning Off "Fact!"

# Failure to Comply with Bush Fires Act causes Concern

## Two Fires

**RIVERTON**—On Tuesday, 6th March, the Riverton Fire Service attended a small grass fire on a Riverton property.

The Tarlee Fire Service extinguished a small grass fire at Tarlee on Monday, 5th March.

Police ask that property owners who intend to burn off, strictly adhere to the rules and regulations required for the burning off of stubble.

## Concern at fire rules breaches

Kimba District Council has expressed concern at the number of landholders carrying out burning operations without complying with the provisions of the Bushfires Act.

District Clerk, Mr. John Cameron, said the main complaint was that there had been instances of this on fire-ban days.

It was decided to draw the attention of Kimba police to the matter and seek closer surveillance.

*Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 22nd March, 1979.*

## Burning off starts fire on Thursday

TEN to 15 ha of grass at Wrattenbully was burnt when burning off got out of control Thursday afternoon.

The fire started on a property alongside Wrattenbully Road, about 1.6 km from the Penola Road junction, at about 3 p.m.

It jumped the road into another property and burnt towards a block of Woods and Forests Department pines.

Units from Wrattenbully CFS, Woods and Forests and the Department of Agriculture as well as about a dozen private units had the fire in a safe condition in about an hour.

800 m of fencing was lost in the fire. No stock were burnt.

That the local CFS boys had to go to put out a couple of fires this week—both occurred on Friday. A small fire was found burning on the side of the Undalya Road and set a few posts on fire—could have been a cigarette butt from a car going to the Dispersal Sale. On the same night there was a turn out by the boys to put out a burning Telecom pole on the railway line about 3 km south from the station. Some five other small blazes, mainly burning sleepers were also extinguished at the same time. The ANR staff did a very much delayed burning off of the line on the same morning and afternoon.

*Northern Argus, 4th April, 1979.*

At April meeting of the District Council of Barossa deep concern was expressed over the failure of many people to comply with the provisions of the Bush Fires Act.

Although no police action was taken against offenders it was agreed that during the next prohibited and conditional burning periods (November 1st to April 15th) fires in the open will be checked and persons failing to comply with provisions of the Act will be prosecuted.

Penalty for a first offence can be as high as \$400 and any subsequent offence can be \$800, six months imprisonment or both. This surely indicates how serious Parliament views the offence.

The District Clerk of Barossa, Mr. K. H. Davis, said that many new residents were probably not aware of the real dangers of lighting fires in the open or if they were, they ignored the possible consequences.

He said that every person in the district receiving a rate notice had also received an advice concerning the lighting of fires in the open. Many heeded the advice whilst others didn't bother to read it or just ignored it.

Council will make concerted effort at the beginning of the next fire season to again bring to the notice of all residents the need to understand the requirements of the law and the need to comply in all respects with the provisions.

*The Leader, Angaston, April 26th, 1979*

## Fireman dies, 2 hurt in burn-off

Sydney—A volunteer fire-fighter was killed and two others were badly burnt when a fire raced through dense bushland at West Head, north of Sydney yesterday.

The fire was part of a National Park and Wildlife Service "hazard reduction" which got out of control in strong winds in the Kuringgai National Park yesterday afternoon.

The dead man, Grant Steele, 22, of Seaforth, was one of a party of five taking in refreshments.

One of the group, Mr. Brian Starr, lying on a hospital bed with soot-blackened face and still wearing singed overalls, spoke of the accident.

"We were going down through a fairly inaccessible part of the bush," he said.

"We heard the flames coming and hid under a rock ledge until they passed and then ran for it.

"We heard a couple of screams and that was the last we heard of him."

*The Advertiser, 23rd April, 1979.*

*Our man's on the job. David Batten, CFS Regional Officer, is pictured checking some new breathing apparatus equipment.*



*When burning off be sure to have the equipment to protect against spotting.*

## SAFE BURNING OFF MUST BE A PLANNED "ONE BOSS" OPERATION

The latest CFS report showed 109 cases of burning out of control in SA after "burning off" operations commenced.

Below are 15 pointers which should be read and digested by anyone wishing to undertake SAFE burning off. If adhered to, these points will assist greatly to reduce the potential danger involved, and subsequently the number of "burning off out of control fires", for the next summer season.

- Have only one boss—strict discipline.
- Ensure everybody knows plan of operation and individual job.
- Order all personnel to "take post" before lighting up.
- Get burning done early in season—less risk and longest protection.
- Use knapsacks and hand tools on the fire line to save tank water.
- Appoint reliable spotters to watch the open country—not the burn.
- Rake the fuel away from hazards, trees, posts, stumps—saves time when "mopping up" later.
- Burn away from hazards, not towards.
- Use a spray or water-fog to quieten fire near hazards—more penetrating when used properly.
- Post traffic "wardens" and controllers near highways, equipped with walkie-talkie radios, either coloured flags or large letter signs.
- Have pre-arranged danger signals—three blasts on a whistle, car horn, etc., repeated several times, is the recognised fire service danger signal.
- Be prepared for a wind change—check with the Bureau of Meteorology several hours prior to burning, giving them relevant details.
- Patrol until safe for as long a period as necessary.
- Comply with the law—insure against "public risk".
- Work to a safe rate of burn—not to the clock.



**A Tribute to  
Mr. R. E. Munro**  
M.S.E.S.A.,  
**C.F.S. Board Member**



The retirement is announced of Mr. R. E. (Bob) Munro, of Millicent, as a member of the Country Fire Services Board of South Australia.

Mr. Munro, who has been a member of the Board since its inception in June, 1977, will retire as from 18th May, 1979.

He has been the south-east's representative on the Board.

Mr. Munro, whose fire service record has covered 48 years, from 1931 to 1979, was also a member of the special working party set up by the State Government to investigate the State's Country Fire Services—and which lead to the establishment of the CFS.

He has had a most distinguished career as a volunteer fire-fighter and administrator as testified by the resumé published hereunder on his service.

Attended first forest fire in 1931 at the age of 16, as an employee of the South Australian Government Woods and Forests Department at Kuitpo Forest Reserve.

Transferred to Mount Burr Forest 1933 and became a member of No. 1 Fire Crew for three years.

1936—took part in bush fire-fighting in the Naracoorte district and other lower south-eastern areas until 1940.

Three years at South Australian Railways Workshops, Islington and became a member of Civil Defence.

1943—Joined Cellulose Australia Limited and became a member of the mill fire brigade.

Appointed Chief Officer of Cellulose Brigade in 1947 and retained this position to 1975.

Captain and instructor of Cellulose CFS competition squads for 28 years. During this period the squad was successful at many competition events, including 12 wins in region 5 and three State titles and two seconds. Captain of squad which defeated the inter-factory squads, Royal Adelaide Show, Wayville, 1962 and 1971.

Held position of Fire Controller for Millicent District Council for 24 years, including Chief Officer and Supervisor for 22 years of this period.

Chief Officer on the Committee for the suppression of peat fires in the Millicent and Rendalsham districts in 1955.

CFS District Officer appointment in 1953—position still held.

Member of Fire Officers School, Adelaide, 1954.

Member of Civil Defence School, Mount Macedon, Victoria, 1957.

Delegate to South Eastern Fire Fighting Association Conference on 11 occasions.

Delegate to CFS Regional Officers Conference, Adelaide on 22 occasions.

Member of South Australian Country Fire Services since foundation.

Long standing member of District Fire Fighting Committees and lecturer on many occasions.

Appointed as Liaison Officer for Civil Defence in Millicent District, 1962.

Holder of EFS and British Fire Services Long Service and Efficiency Awards—10 years and 20 years.

Holder of CFS Meritorious Service Award, and Life Member Award.

Staff Officer appointment, Cellulose, 3.12.62—Fire Safety and Security.

3 Weeks Rescue Instructors Course, Civil Defence School, Mount Macedon, 17th February-8th March, 1963, Certificate.

Secretary Millicent District Fire Fighting Assoc. since 1964, nine years.

President Millicent District Fire Fighting Assoc. since 1973, five years.

Secretary Millicent Town Brigade since 1964, 14 years.

President Millicent Town Brigade since 1976, two years.

Delegate to First National Conference on Fire, Melbourne, 1965.

Delegate to Regional Conference on Fire, Melbourne, 1966.

Delegate to Regional Conference on Fire, Adelaide, 1967.

Delegate to Second National Conference on Fire, Sydney, 1968.

Delegate to SA Industrial Safety Convention, Adelaide, 1965 and 1968.

Delegate Lower South Eastern Fire Fighting Association since 29.5.67 (Foundation Member, Executive Committee).

Appointed Country Fire Services Regional Officer, August, 1968 for the Lower South-East of South Australia, appointment renewed, 1971, 1974, 1977.

Appointed a member of Working Party set up by Minister of Agriculture to investigate the Country Fire Services in South Australia, 1971.

Judge at Mount Gambier and Millicent Shows, of School Children's Fire Protection displays, 1971-1978.

Marshal Fire Appliances, parades and shows.

Appointed a member of the Country Fire Services Board, June, 1977.

Recipient of National Medal, December, 1978.

**Munro's Memoirs**

*Some thoughts  
by Bob Munro  
on his career*

... The first bushfire I experienced was a forest fire actually at Kuitpo Forest, SA, at a very inexperienced age of 16. We had only one truck, so of course a young fellow never got on that, so we had to do our fire-fighting per "shanks' pony". The only communication was by horse or pony, nobody heard of two-way radios.

The main equipment consisted of knapsacks and rakes. The knapsacks were very heavy being five-gallon ones . . . with a knapsack you became a two-legged fire unit.

... I remember on the occasion of just purchasing a straw hat for the "princely" sum of two shillings and six pence. I was rather proud of this hat because it at least gave me the appearance of looking a little older . . . at this fire either my hat blew off or caught alight on my head, I'm not quite sure which, but I know I lost it in the fire at the time when it was my most proud possession.

... food supplies were non-existent and if anything did come along, you had to take what you could get . . . refreshments consisted of water out of the knapsack on your back irrespective of where it came from.

There was some technology . . . the telephone, although few and far between. We often used fence lines or a single wire running through the bush . . . which often got burnt down.

The mechanics available at the time consisted of trucks and pumps, but nothing like the sophisticated pumps and vehicles used today . . . to get a ride on a truck you had to be pretty important.

To carry water a lot of vehicles had drums or small square tanks with a 100, 200 or 300 gallon capacity . . . most were fitted with a double-action hand pump which was harder to work than the knapsack spray.

I met a lot of wonderful people . . . and the occasional "character" which was typical of the Australian bushfire fighter, and they all helped to make that time of life very colourful. And with my 48 years of service a "few" interesting things have happened . . . and these characters I have remained friends with, right up to this present day.

My advice to the young people is to get more physically fit and more mentally attuned to the job . . . modern training today is great . . . become educated in modern practices and technology so you can use it to its full advantage.

... I am proud of CFS volunteers, . . . of having been one, and of having served on the CFS Board, my best wishes to you all.

R. E. Munro, MSES A

**RESCUE  
EXERCISE  
AT  
TOWN  
HALL**

**Last Sunday afternoon members of the Strathalbyn State Emergency Services and St. John held their first ever combined rescue operation exercise. Six boys from the CFS Cadets acted as the injured.**

Three of the boys were placed in awkward positions which required considerable co-operation between the first-aiders and the rescue squad. One was on the roof of the Town Hall with apparent back and leg injuries necessitating the use of a cradle which was lowered down the side of the building. Another suffering a fractured femur and scalp injury was lowered down the front of the building on a stretcher. The third was on the balcony of the hall. He also required lowering over the front. The other cases were supposedly minor injuries and after treatment were able to walk.

The whole operation took about an hour and a half from start to finish.

After a debriefing by Mr. Gene Ferrarese of St. John and Mr. Jeff Moran for the SES, the participants and their families joined in a barbecue lunch at the Fire Station.

*The Southern Argus, Thursday, May 3rd, 1979*

*Bob,  
The Country Fire Services Board, all of your officer colleagues and members of the CFS and quite a few of those characters you affectionately mention in your memoirs, heartily congratulate you on your long and distinguished fire service career, and wish you all the best in your retirement from official duties.*

*We have no doubt that you are only kidding yourself about actual retirement—as a young fellow in olympic condition you will be on the job at Millicent at the first smell of smoke.*

F. L. Kerr



## Physical Fitness For Fire-fighters Can You Measure Up?

Jim Abbott

Fighting wildland fires is one of man's most strenuous jobs. Working on steep terrain and in a hot, smoky environment demands maximum energy output. Fire-fighting working conditions exceed most jobs in sheer energy expenditure. Couple these conditions with a contemporary American lifestyle, which is long on labour-saving devices and short on physical demand, and you can easily recognise the need to measure physical fitness. (See table 1.)<sup>1</sup>

### FITNESS COMPARISON\*

SUBJECTS	COUNTRY	MEN	WOMEN
Untrained Young (age 20-30)	USA	43	30
Untrained Young (age 20-30)	Canada	49	36
Untrained Young (age 20-30)	Scandinavia	59	43
Active Young (age 20-30)	USA	52	39
Active Young (age 20-30)	Canada	55	—
Active Young (age 20-30)	Scandinavia	59	—
Champion Distance Athletes	USA	82	68
Champion Distance Athletes	Scandinavia	82	68
Untrained (40-50 yrs.)	USA	36	—
Untrained (40-50 yrs.)	Canada	39	30
Untrained (40-50 yrs.)	Scandinavia	45	34
Trained (40-50 yrs.)	USA	58	—

\*ml of oxygen consumed per kg of body weight per minute.

What has been done about this? The Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, now requires minimum physical fitness standards for fire-fighters. Standards have been in effect in some areas of the Forest Service for two years, however, in 1975 the requirement became mandatory nationally. Department of Interior agencies have co-operated in this effort and are in the process of establishing identical physical fitness standards.

### Test is Fair

It is important to measure fitness fairly and without discrimination. Specific physical requirements of various jobs must also be recognised. Chin-ups for example, would not be an appropriate measurement of a physical requirement if the muscles used to do chin-ups are unrelated to a specific job task. The duration of a particular task must also be determined. For these reasons, simple calisthenic exercises, while healthful, are not necessarily a measure of fitness. The testing procedure was designed to be safe and easy to administer, fairly and consistently. The five-minute step test is within the capability of the average person to accomplish and does not require unusual agility or skill.

The most obvious physical requirement for wildland fire-fighters is endurance. Fire-fighting duties generally do not require great strength but do require physical stamina. The ability to continue work after long hours is critical. How is endurance measured?

There is a direct correlation between the ability to continue to work and the amount of oxygen utilised by the body. The combination of food and oxygen to produce energy is accomplished by aerobic or oxygen-using enzymes, tiny sub-cellular particles within the muscle fibre.<sup>2</sup> The ability to take in, transport, and utilise oxygen is basic to physical working. This aerobic capacity is well explained in Dr. Brian Sharkey's book, *Physiological Fitness and Weight Control*, as well as Cooper's book, *New Aerobics*. This article is not a discussion of exercise physiology. Interested readers should study these books to gain a basic understanding before undertaking a programme to measure physical fitness.

Scientists have long been able to accurately measure man's oxygen consumption in laboratory tests. The development of a simple test which can be conducted in normal surroundings was essential to the success of this programme. The Forest Service Equipment Development Center at Missoula, Mont., and the Human Performance Laboratory of the

James R. Abbott is Fire Management Specialist, USDA Forest Service, Washington, D.C.

University of Montana developed a submaximal step test based on concepts developed by Swedish physiologists and later checked in laboratories throughout the world.<sup>3</sup>

### The Test

The test consists of stepping up on a 15 1/4 inch (13 inch for women) bench for five minutes at a pace of 90 beats per minute. (See directions, figure 1, and equipment needed, figure 2.) The post-exercise pulse rate is taken, and through a calculation which adjusts age, weight, and sex factors, the aerobic capacity is determined. The final readout is a millilitre of oxygen consumed per kilogram of body weight per minute (ml/kg/min).

Since the test measures an individual's capability to take in, transport, and utilise oxygen, it is non-discriminatory. The endurance requirement for arduous duty is the same whether young or old, male or female. While the physiologies of men and women differ, the aerobic capability of each must be sufficient to meet the physical demands of the specific job.

### directions

- 1— Have subject rest a few minutes before the test (do not take test after exercise, meals, coffee, cigarettes)
- 2— Start the Metronome (90 beats per minute).
- 3— Have subject step up onto bench and back to floor keeping time with the metronome beat.

If subject can't keep up with the beat because of poor condition, stop and retake after several weeks of conditioning. Change the lead leg if it becomes tired. Stop the test if the subject shows obvious physical distress or cannot keep pace with the timer.

- 4— After five minutes of exercise, stop metronome and have subject sit down.
- 5— Count subject's pulse (at wrist or throat) for exactly 15 seconds, starting exactly 15 seconds after the step test exercise.
- 6— Use post-exercise pulse count and body weight on calculator below to determine fitness score.

Figure 1. Directions for carrying out the Step Test.

### Men and Women Must Meet Same Level

The fact that different stool heights are used for men and women often raises questions, usually from men who feel they are taking a harder test. The reason for the difference in stool heights goes back to the origin of the test and the data upon which the test was developed. People should also note that different scales are used to calculate the aerobic capacity, too, and that women must meet the same levels as men for the same jobs. This means a woman's aerobic capacity must be 45 ml/kg/min to qualify for a line job just as a man's capacity must be 45. The difference is in the means of calculation.

The step test is a simple, submaximal test, hence safe and easy to administer. If someone has trouble with the test for psychological or coordination reasons, however, an "aerobic" run of 1 1/2 miles can be substituted. Comparable levels are:

- 1 1/2 mile 12 minutes or less = 45
- 1 1/2 mile 12-01 to 14-00 min. = 40
- 1 1/2 mile 14-01 to 16-45 min. = 35
- 1 1/2 mile more than 16-45 = Below 35.

### equipment needed

Sturdy bench:  
15 1/4 inches high for men;  
13 inches high for women.

Stopwatch.

Metronome or other audible signaling device such as a tape recording, set for 90 beats per minute.

Chairs.

Scale accurate to ± 2 pounds.

Thermometer.

Quiet room 65-75° F.

Forms for recording age, pulse rate, etc.

Figure 2. Equipment needed to carry out step test.

continued on page 16 . . .

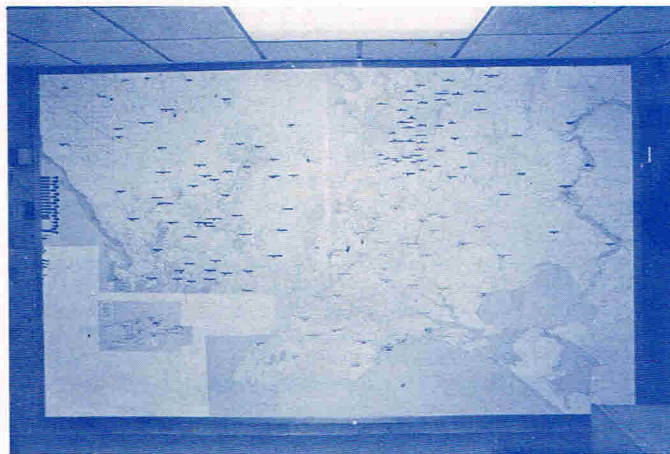
# 1979 Fire Prevention Week Provisional Programme 19th-26th October, 1979

Day/Date	Function	Organiser
Friday 19th October	Official Opening (venue to be advised)	Fire Prevention Week Committee/AFPA
Saturday 20th October	Parade of Fire Units through Adelaide	Country Fire Services
Sunday 21st October	IFS Competition	Industrial Fire Services
Monday 22nd October	Pyre Lighting Ceremony SA Fire Brigade Head- quarters	SA Fire Brigade
Tuesday 23rd October	BP Creative Arts and Crafts Competition Prize Presentation	AFPA
Wednesday 24th October	Seminar (CFS Lecture Theatre provisionally booked)	AFPA
Thursday 25th October	Training and demonstra- tions at Mount Lofty Training Centre	CFS
Friday 26th October	Evacuation Exercise	SAFB

## Continuous Projects

1. Radio/TV Programmes.
2. Signs on STA Buses.
3. Regional SAFB Activities.
4. Supply of Banners for Country SAFB Processions.
5. Promotion in *The Volunteer* of CFS Brigades, local activities.
6. Shopping Centre Display.
7. Rundle Mall Display.
8. CFS Regional Activities.
9. Fire Prevention Named Races at Victoria Park (suggested only).

Please note: The above Fire Prevention Week Programme is a provisional one only. Full details will be recorded in "The Volunteer", September, 1979 Issue . . . Editor.



Region 1 and 2 Resource Board.

## Physical Fitness for Fire-fighters continued . . .

The run is a maximal exercise and hence requires caution before undertaking. A physical examination and good health may be sufficient precautions for those under 35 years old. Those over 35 are required by the Forest Service to have a stress EKG within three months as well as a physical examination before undertaking such a run. The Forest Service prefers the step test but will accept the run as an alternative.

The requirements for wildland fire-fighters are set at 35, 40, and 45 (ml/kg/min), depending on the nature of the job. Generally, the arduous front line positions require 45 while support and administration jobs require lower levels.

## Exercise Programme is Necessary

A basis for judging how appropriate any programme might be is to compare the requirements with the population as a whole. Levels of 35-45 are not unreasonable, but will not be automatically met by the average American without an exercise programme.

The next phase of the physical fitness programme for wildland fire-fighters is to determine specific strength and agility requirements and the feasibility of test to measure them. While endurance is the most important, there probably are some minimum muscular strength demands which a person should have to work safely and efficiently.

To be continued next issue

# CFS Operations and Radio Room (Article 2)

by B. R. Menadue

The centre is staffed 24 hours a day.

Direct telephone lines to the SA Police Communications Centre and SAFB H/Q are part of the Emergency telephone system installed in the Operations Room.

**CFS H/Q Emergency Fire Call telephone number is (08) 297 7000.**

The After Fire Call telephone number is 297 6788.

## RADIO PROCEDURE WITH CFS H/Q

The VHF-FM Radio Communications Frequencies

State Channel 2 frequency 163-120 kHz

State Channel 3 frequency 163-240 kHz

are monitored 24 hours a day for emergency interbase communications with CFS H/Q, Adelaide.

Prior to the 1979-80 Fire Season additional Base Station equipment will be operational from a remote site in the Mount Lofty Ranges which is expected to enable direct emergency interbase communications with the majority of District Council areas within the State.

The procedure when contacting CFS H/Q (VICTOR LIMA 5 OSCAR CHARLIE) is initially through State Channel 2 (Position 2 on Base Station sets).

After contact is made and to enable the local Base to minimise the time away from their local channel, the local Base will return to position 1 on the Base Station set (local area frequency).

CFS H/Q will select the local area frequency on the H/Q consoles and then converse direct, thus leaving State Channel 2 free for the Emergency Traffic.

CFS H/Q will only use local frequencies as described above or when telephone contacts are delayed or fail. H/Q Radio Consoles have not been designed for continual monitoring of local frequencies.

## OPERATIONS ROOM

The Region 1 and 2 Resource Board as shown in the photograph comprises Topographical maps of 1:50 000 Scale mounted on a metal backing.

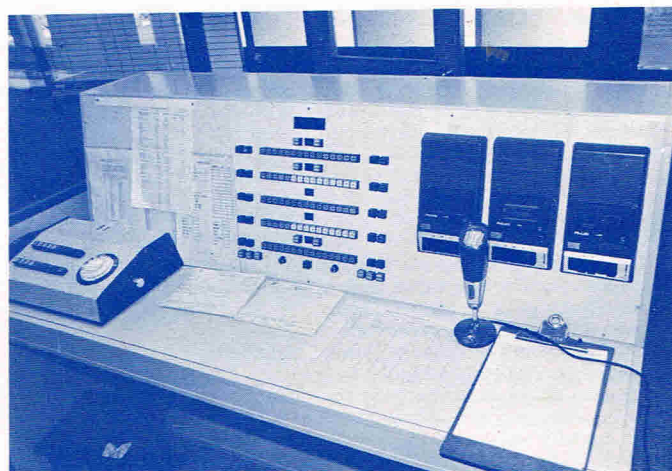
Each registered CFS Brigade is clearly identified by name and location.

Colour coded magnets indicate the number of registered units and approximate water carrying capacities (light —180-540 litres) (Medium —540-1 600 litres) (Heavy—1 600 plus litres).

Regions 3 to 7 will have similar Resource Boards but the 1:250 000 Scale topographical maps will be used.

## PRACTICAL APPLICATION

With the improved VHF Communications Network, Resources and Situations recording facilities used in combination with the functions of the Regional Officers in the various regions, fire control co-ordination and situation recording can be effectively achieved throughout the State.



CFS Headquarters Operations Room Console.

