

# THE VOLUNTEER

Official Journal for The Country Fire Services South Australia

VOLUME 3

Spring Issue  
September, 1979  
Published Quarterly



Correspondence to the Editor

"The Volunteer"  
Country Fire Services  
P.O. Box 312, Goodwood  
S.A. 5034. Telephone (08) 297 6788

Published with the endorsement and support  
of the Country Fire Services Board, South Australia

## SA COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES



**C.F.S. Plans Regions—page 5**

5th June, 1979

Dear Sir,

We would appreciate your inclusion of an article in *The Volunteer* concerning our longest serving member;

Mr. ALLEN J. HURST

Allen recently resigned as Supervisor, FCO's, and is currently serving as an active Fire Control Officer for the district. In recognition of Allen's exceptional service to fire-fighting in this area over many years, and to mark his resignation due to business commitments, a small dinner was held on 28th April, 1979, with members of the local CFS Committee and crew. At the dinner Allen was presented with a special certificate from Headquarters for "Commendable District Service" with a letter from Director, Fred Kerr. Trevor Greig, President, made the presentation. Allen was also given a small gift of wooden bookends to mark the occasion. Allen holds 10 and 20 year certificates in addition to the above and is currently applying at the suggestion of HQ for the Award of the National Medal. Details of service to Crystal Brook CFS by Allen J. Hurst are as follows:

"Officer-in-Charge" 9/6/47 to 4/4/62

F.C.O. 9/6/47 to date.

"District Officer" 4/4/62 to 1/5/66

Supervisor F.C.O. 72/73 to 78/79

At the small dinner function an additional presentation took place in the form of 10 year service certificates to crew members "Bob" Munday, Martin Broekx, and Brian Grossman.

Yours faithfully,  
D. C. Ellis

Secretary, Crystal Brook CFS

## Farewell to Wilmington Secretary

A dinner, arranged by the members of the Wilmington CFS, was held at Melrose on Saturday Evening 4/8/79, to bid farewell to our Secretary, Paul Brown and Family who are leaving the district.

The evening was held as a gesture of appreciation for services rendered to the local brigade by the Brown Family.

During the evening, presentations were made by Mr. Max Slee (President), L. Kairl and R. Shammall.

Paul received a Fire Chief's Hat, and a model Fire Truck, as a memento for his service to the brigade.

R. Shammall,  
Member of the Wilmington CFS

Front Cover—

Three Adelaide Hills women were presented with Australian National Medals on Friday, 22nd June, at a ceremony at CFS Headquarters in Adelaide by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Brian Chatterton. Pictured—Mrs. Val Davis, left, Miss Erica Gabb, Mr. Brian Chatterton and Mrs. Nellie Stephenson. Both Mrs. Davis and Stephenson have served on the Mount Barker CFS Ladies Auxiliary tirelessly for 23 years. Miss Erica Gabb, a Nairne resident, accepted her late father's Australian National Medal at the presentation ceremony.

The late Mr. Sesom Gabb, of Nairne, served with the local CFS for 33 years, from 1946 to 1979, and was awarded both the medal and clasp for diligent and continuous service.

Dear Sir,

... our branch congratulates you on the excellent publication of *The Volunteer* and requests that we be sent six copies of each issue for our FCO's. Our branch is currently building a new fire truck which will be ready for the next fire season. Our cab-chassis is an International ACCO MK III 4 x 4. I will send full details with a photo when it is completed.

Your sincerely,

Ian Ward,  
Secretary

Keppoch Fire Fighting Assoc.

July 23, 1979.

*The Volunteer* will be most interested in details of your Association's new fire truck, Ian ... Editor.

## Subject: Change of Title— Operations Division

Memo to: To all CFS Members and Staff

From: Acting Director

Date: 17th August, 1979.

Please be advised that the SA Country Fire Services Board has approved a recommendation that the title "Fire Co-ordination", as applied to the division within CFS Headquarters, be renamed "Operations", with effect from 14th August, 1979.

All activities, including control room functions, training, communications and field activities will now come under the ambit of "Operations".

LLOYD C. JOHNS,  
Acting Director

## 1979—A TIME TO PRESS FORWARD

Fred Kerr has gone—from his office perhaps— but not from our hearts or our thoughts.

As humble as the man is, he has achieved a greatness that only a chosen few ever reach. Fred is far from lost to the SA Country Fire Services and will continue to serve as consultant and adviser for some time to come. He hasn't retired—he's just taking his well earned rest. F. L. Kerr has set his successor a formidable task!

But even those who have never cast their eyes over the writings of the early philosopher Omar Káyam will be familiar with the verse:—

"The moving finger writes,  
and having writ, moves on  
nor all thy piety nor wit  
shall lure it back to cancel half a line,  
nor all they tears wash away a word of it."

So it is with our organisation. We can't go back, for that would be defeat. We can't stand still, for that would be failure. We have only one alternative—press forward.

Before we do this we must, however, take stock— What have we achieved; what have we learned; how can we use this knowledge against the common enemy.

On the eve of Fred Kerr's retirement I attended a CFS meeting. With the meeting in full debate one of the members addressed the chair from the floor—"After all," he said, "we are only volunteers." My blood pressure must have risen 20 points! To tender this assumption as an excuse rather than the greatest strength—the heartbeat—of our organisation is to passively accept the statements of our critics— that we are something less than the best!

But be warned! You don't get to be the best by leaving your fire truck in the shed and only bringing it out when the siren goes. You must train yourselves, maintain equipment, and be ever ready to serve the community and use your skills and courage to the utmost to combat fire and effect rescue, salvage, and search.

The demands on your services in the future will be greater than ever before. You can expect to receive more assistance and support from Headquarters but we can't instill devotion and dedication—that must come from your hearts and be foremost in your minds.

My career with the South Australian Country Fire Services has just begun; my career as a fireman has entered a new and exciting era. What I must do and what you must do is never to forget just what you are in the Country Fire Services for—to serve the people of South Australia.

The Editor,  
L. C. JOHNS,  
Acting Director,  
Country Fire Services

## Radio Communication

Further investigations are taking place into a radio communications network for the K.I. Fire Fighting Association.

Cr. Meakins told Kingscote Council that it should apply to Telecom for a frequency allocation for the proposed network.

This move was approved. Philips Telecommunications division has also been invited to send equipment and personnel to the Island to test the area for suitability and type of two way radio equipment.

The Islander, 8th August 1979.

Dear Sir,

Having received Volume 1 of *The Volunteer*, Country Fire Service, I am very impressed with the content of your Journal. I think that it would be of immense value to all volunteer Firemen.

Would you please be able to send me subsequent copies of *The Volunteer*.

Yours faithfully,

S. L. Hateley,  
Secretary, Region 17 (Victorian Rural Fire Brigades Association)  
30 Federation Avenue  
Horsham  
Victoria 3400

# REALISTIC ROAD ACCIDENT EXERCISE FOR CFS

Realism played a big role in a simulated emergency created at Hackham on Sunday, 12th August, to provide further experience for Country Fire Services personnel in the event of a major road accident.

Planned by CFS officers from Headquarters and local brigades, the exercise was considered valuable in testing the efficiency of the Morphett Vale, Reynella, and Hackham CFS brigades in this extended area of emergency service.

Regional Officer Richard Hutchins, who with other officers supervised the exercise said the role of the CFS was not concerned solely with fighting fires. "In areas such as this we are faced with heavy traffic flows, including lots of heavily-laden vehicles carrying flammable and other toxic products. There are also many buses with big numbers of passengers on board.

"Should a real emergency occur involving any of these vehicles, the CFS, along with other emergency services, would be expected to assist, and that is why we planned this particular simulated exercise," he said.

R/O Hutchins said the exercise also had its parallel in the recent collision on the Dukes Highway, near Moorlands, where five semi-trailers piled up.

The scene for the Hackham exercise was created in Chapmans Road, where supposedly there had been a multiple crash involving a petrol tanker (loaned by Mobil Australia), an enclosed van (a CFS unit) and a large transport (loaned by L. S. Booth, Wine Transport, Lonsdale), and which had lost part of its load of drums of "toxic" material.

Three young girls, Carolyn Ferris, 12, and her sister, Susan, 9, and Brigette Conlon, 10, all from Coromandel Valley, played the role of the "accident victims".

Summoned from their homes by the sounding of fire alarms, the 30 volunteer firemen from the three brigades, were told on arrival that the tanker had lost a lot of its fuel and was in a potentially dangerous situation.

The van, in which the three "victims" were lying huddled, had come to rest against the tanker, while a short distance away, was the transport with its load of toxic liquids. Some of the drums had fallen onto the roadway which had become contaminated by liquids leaking from damaged drums.

Whilst the first-aid crews went to the rescue of the girl victims and carried them to a treatment area clear of the danger, other firemen tackled the job of dousing the spilt petrol with foam. The area of the supposed toxic contamination was thoroughly hosed down.

R/O Hutchins said an assessment had shown the exercise to have been most worthwhile. "The response and turn-out by the crews was exceptionally good, and they appreciated the opportunity to gain further training in this type of emergency situation."

... but perhaps the last word should be that of one of the "victims"—Brigette Conlon, who, sitting up after the exercise, rubbed her cheek and said, "they could have laid me down somewhere else than on a patch of stinging nettles!"

## About "Hazchem"

by Trevor Conlon  
(R.O. CFS H/Q)

The basic principle of the "HAZCHEM" hazard identification system was described at some length in the 1978 CFS Manual.

A key to the operation of the system is a code to be displayed on all vehicles carrying hazardous loads. As yet it is not required that a vehicle be marked in this way, but HAZCHEM can still be of vital service to any CFS brigade attending an incident involving a hazardous load.

A code alone gives specific information such as the extinguishing medium, whether BA or full personal protection is required, and whether to wash away or contain any spillage. From these requirements some broad characteristics can be assumed, but a more detailed description of the hazard should be obtained.

Should your unit attend an incident where a hazardous load is involved contact CFS Headquarters Operations Room, either by phone or on Channel 2 (VL5 Oscar Charlie), and give the operator the name of the substance ensuring the correct spelling.

"HAZCHEM" information will be obtained for you to enable correct handling of the incident in a safe and effective manner.

Consideration should also be given to notifying police, district fire supervisor, CFS Regional Officer, district council and manufacturer or owner of the load. (Some manufacturers have specially trained teams to handle such incidents and this could be invaluable to you).

*continued page 4 . . .*



Setting the "stage", for a simulated accident/rescue operation. Vehicle collides with a petrol tanker. Tank is ruptured, vehicle occupants injured and a transport loses part of its "toxic" load.



Young girl "victims" wrapped in blankets receive attention from the first-aid and rescue team.



Foam Application at exercise.



Soil was used to block storm water drain (near opening) to prevent toxic fumes escaping, before being neutralized with water.

C.F.S. Volunteer Fireman K. Moyle had the task of hosing down the "contaminated" area of the roadway to neutralize the spillage.



Some basic precautions can be taken immediately on your arrival to protect your crew and the public.

1. Approach from upwind (and uphill if practicable).
2. Keep appliance, crew, and public clear of incident until the "HAZCHEM" report is obtained. This will reduce the likelihood of ignition or personal contamination.
3. Assess appliance back-up requirements.
4. Ask the driver for any information about his load.
5. Check cartnote and labels for chemical's name, dispatcher and destination.
6. Obtain "HAZCHEM" report.
7. While waiting for report locate adjacent water source, lay out hoses (at a safe distance), fit out BA crew.

If the code requires steps for which you are not correctly equipped call for appropriate assistance.

Be aware that there is additional risk involved in tackling such an incident, whether there is a fire or not, before a "HAZCHEM" report is obtained.

The "HAZCHEM" code will be highly beneficial to fire-fighting personnel provided that proper interpretation and action is initiated by the Officer in Charge.

Information concerning some of the types of hazardous loads you may encounter is found in CFS circular E10/6/77 available from CFS Headquarters.

### Spring FCO School 26th-28th September

A new draft syllabus has been prepared for the Fire Control Officers School, 26th-28th September, and consists of the following:

- Country Fires Act.
- Powers and Duties of FCO's.
- Radio in CFS.
- Chlorine.
- Principles of grass fire fighting.
- Hydraulics and hazardous loads.
- Leadership and command control of fires.
- Practical exercises.
- Working with Woods and Forests and National Parks and Wildlife.
- Map reading.
- Township fire protection.
- Research and fire protection.

Please note, syllabus is subject to alteration without notice.

## THE LADIES RESERVE by Mrs. Florence Hobbs One Tree Hill CFS Ladies Auxilliary

The house is now quiet the menfolk are gone  
We women are waiting the kettles are on  
We'll drink down a cuppa to sooth shattered nerve  
While awaiting a call for the ladies' reserve.

The telephone rings refreshments are needed.  
Do we have enough bread? The meal's left unheeded  
Thank goodness it's stew, put it back in the pot  
It'll heat up well later that's the fireman's lot.

Sandwiches are made refreshments are ready  
Load up the cars and please ladies drive steady  
The ladies' auxilliary is now on the job  
There's plenty for all when we get to the mob.

We'll bump over furrows get stuck in the mire  
We'll drive through the smoke right up to the fire  
It's worth all the effort to get through with a feed  
To see all our men and satisfy their need.

We'll stand proudly behind them those brave men and true  
With sandwiches cakes and a cuppa or two  
So watch out you demons way down in hell  
If our men do descend, expect us as well.

### MUNNO PARA CFS FAREWELLS RADIO OPERATOR



From left to right: Lance Walter, Florence Hobbs, Eldred Riggs.

Representatives from the Munno Para CFS Brigades held a presentation evening on 20th April, 1979 to mark the departure of Mrs. Florence Hobbs who has been a radio operator for 17 years. Mrs. Hobbs, known to all as Flo, has moved from One Tree Hill to Salisbury. Flo lived directly opposite the One Tree Hill fire station which houses the base radio for the Brigades of Virginia, Smithfield, Evanston Gardens, and of course, One Tree Hill. All these Brigades form the Munno Para CFS Incorporated.

Flo has spent countless hours over the years operating the radio and in appreciation of this the Brigades combined to make a presentation. She also received a gift from her home Brigade, One Tree Hill, and a certificate of appreciation from CFS Headquarters. Mr. E. H. V. Riggs, Munno Para CFS fire supervisor, made the presentation on behalf of all the brigades. The One Tree Hill CFS gift was presented by Station Officer Lance Walter and the CFS HQ certificate was presented by Mr. E. H. V. Riggs.

BEVIS J. DIXON, One Tree Hill CFS

## U.K. FIRE CHIEF VISITS S.A.

The president of the House Council (U.K.) Institution of Fire Engineers, Mr. James Anderson, C.B.E., Q.F.S.M., F.I.F.E. visited Adelaide from August 28th to 30th and inspected both Country Fire Services and S.A. Fire Brigade Headquarters.

Mr. Anderson as Fire Master (Chief Fire Officer) of Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade, Scotland, is responsible for the fire safety of the city of Edinburgh and surrounding areas. He gave a presidential address to the Institution of Fire Engineers at C.F.S. Headquarters, Tuesday 28th August, tendered a civic reception at the Town Hall and was a guest of local Fire Engineers at a dinner dance held at the Angus Hotel, which was well attended by officers of the Country Fire Services.

### Farewell to CFS Board Officer

#### Eldred Riggs retires

The Minister of Agriculture Mr. Chatterton, has paid tribute to the long and distinguished service of Country Fire Services board member Mr. E. H. V. (Eldred) Riggs, of Gawler. Mr. Riggs, along with Mr. R. E. Munro of Millicent retired from the board recently after many years service.

"Both men have given many years service in the protection of lives and property in their respective areas and have made a valuable contribution towards the high standards of fire protection now evident in this State.

"In addition, both were actively involved in the establishment of the Country Fire Services," the Minister added.

Mr. Riggs was a member of the former Bushfire Research Committee for many years, and was a member of the working party which investigated the establishment of the CFS.

He was a foundation board member of the new service and remains chairman of the publicity subcommittee. He has had a life-long association with fire-fighting: a fire control officer with the Munno Para District Council since 1936, council's fire supervisor since 1945, district officer, CFS for the Munno Para region. A former president of the Lower North Fire Fighting Association, Mr. Riggs is now vice-president.



left to right—C.F.S. R.O. Peter Ferris; C.F.A. C.O. Ian Jenkins, C.F.A. R.O. Ron Keith at C.F.S. Headquarters inspecting an Operations Room Console, manned by C.F.S. Control centre operator Trevor Modistach.

### CFA Officers Inspect SA Operation Centres

Officers from the Victorian Country Fire Authority Messrs. Ian R. Jenkins (Assistant Chief Officer) and Ron Keith (Regional Officer) currently involved in a programme of inspecting operation centres in all States of Australia, for the purpose of upgrading the CFA operations centre, visited Adelaide on 16th and 17th August, 1979.

CFS Regional Officer, Peter Ferris conducted the CFA visitors on an inspection of SA Country Fire Services Headquarters, Police HQ Operations Room, and control centres of the St. John; RAA; ETS; SAFB. Included in the itinerary was a

visit to the CFS Stations at Salisbury, Smithfield, Burnside and Mitcham Hills (Belair, Blackwood, Eden Hills).

The officers gained an appreciation of CFS activities from the CFS Brigades visited and were most impressed with all operation centres. In particular the CFS Headquarters operations room and the R.A.A.'s use of computerised messages for recording and dispatching of information, drew favourable comments.

Mr. Jenkins expressed the C.F.A.'s appreciation for the assistance and courtesy extended by all.

# CFS plans regions

CFS regional officers will be operating in the field in SA in three or four weeks.

But they may not have been permanently assigned by then.

The CFS Board plans to have an officer in each of seven regions, including the SE, and will decide on the location of regional centres soon.

Acting director Mr. L. C. Johns said in Naracoorte on Monday that the officers eventually would be permanently located in the centres.

Although the location of the SE has not been decided, the former director Mr. F. L. Kerr told the *Herald* last August that the choice was between Mount Gambier and Naracoorte. Personally, he felt Naracoorte was a more convenient location because it was closer to the Upper SE.

Regional officers now serving at CFS headquarters, Adelaide, include Mr. P. R. Ferris, formerly deputy district fire supervisor in Naracoorte.

Mr. Johns was visiting Naracoorte to attend the annual meeting of the SE Fire Fighting Association as part of an SE tour. He was accompanied by the CFS inspector (fire co-ordination), Mr. Peter Malpas.

The CFS Board appointed Mr. Johns acting director about a month ago following the retirement of Mr. Kerr.

Mr. Johns was appointed deputy director in April this year after two years in industry in Melbourne and 18 years' service with the New Zealand Fire Service. As a Churchill Fellow, he spent two months at the Fire Service Staff College in the UK and studied fire fighting and administrative procedures in Europe and the US.

He told the SEFFA meeting that the regulations under the new CFS Act were due to be tabled in Parliament this month and, once passed, the old Bush Fires Act would be repealed.

The Act and regulations would then become effective. Copies would be available as soon as they were gazetted.

Mr. Johns said Mr. Kerr and the CFS Board had drawn up the regulations. If they had called for submissions, the process would have taken about two more years. Of course, the regulations could be amended if necessary.

Mr. Malpas said the regulations would give councils more control and responsibility in issuing permits to allow certain types of fires to be lit in the open.

The captain and lieutenant of each fire fighting unit would become fire control officers appointed by the councils. This would be a positive way of ensuring their legal rights when fighting fires.

Regional fire fighting associations, such as the one in the SE, would be expected to advise the board on policy matters occasionally and would be asked by the Minister of Agriculture for nominees to the board.

Mr. Johns said regional officers would liaise with CFS units, headquarters, councils and the news media.

In operational situations, they would provide supporting services such as relief fire fighters, supplies and communications with other emergency services.

The officers would ensure overall co-ordination at serious fires.

In other points, the acting director said:

- CFS headquarters had made modest in-roads into bulk buying of insignia, transfers and other items. A sub-committee of the board was completely reviewing new uniforms.

- The SEFFA would ask a meeting of regional delegates in Adelaide on September 17 to seek co-operation from the Australian National Railways and the National Parks and Wildlife Service in reducing fire hazards.

- CFS headquarters had no objection to co-operation between the CFS and SES units or to volunteers being members of both, provided that in fire or potential fire situations the volunteers must remember they were CFS members first.

- In today's economic climate, more emphasis was being placed on voluntary service to the community. CFS units throughout SA could expect more community demands for help not only in fires but also in rescue, salvage and search work.

In the 11 months to June 30, the headquarters was advised of about 1800 calls to attend fires and other emergencies.

NARACOORTE HERALD  
AUGUST 2, 1979

## who's who at headquarters



TREVOR CONLON  
Regional Officer  
Communications Inquiries

Before joining CFS Headquarters Trevor worked for 12 years at ETSA in communications, personnel training, works co-ordination and educational television. He qualified in electrical and radio trades, and holds a SA Electronic Technicians Certificate. A member of Coromandel Valley CFS for 15 years, his interests revolve around his family, home and garden.



## Metal Cap Badges

Brigades and District Councils are advised that peel-off stick-on 3 colour CFS helmet transfers (48 mm diameter) are now available from CFS Headquarters, free of charge.

Silver finished metal cap badges, complete with red centre inlay (44 mm diameter) are also available, at a cost of \$1.10 each (postage extra).

Supplies will only be forwarded following receipt of a written

## Helmet Transfers

application for order from either the Officer in Charge or Secretary of the CFS Brigade, or District Clerk of the District Council responsible for the CFS Brigade.

Applications from individuals cannot be met. Orders for supplies to be addressed to:

Director,  
SA Country Fire Services,  
PO Box 312, Goodwood,  
SA 5034



Acting C.F.S. Director  
Mr. L. C. Johns

Press Release—August '79

## C.F.S. EVALUATING NEW STYLE UNIFORMS

*The Country Fire Services Board is reviewing dress regulations for officers and volunteer firemen firefighters.*

Currently a number of officers, based at Headquarters, are evaluating a new officer's uniform, in C.F.S. green, and made from material of 70 per cent wool and 30 per cent polyester.

Acting Director, Mr. L. C. Johns, said a special sub-committee was reviewing the style of uniform for volunteers, and it was possible that a new jacket, made from a summer/winter weight cloth would be introduced.

The review will also cover possible changes in helmets, protective clothing, and a new



style uniform for women members of the service.

"With the women, the uniform will be for those who are actually fire-fighters and will also be available to others who are helping in an auxiliary capacity, but who, in fact, are very much part of our service," Mr. Johns added.

## For Sale 1972 Dodge Fire Unit

Happy Valley CFS have for sale one 1972 Dodge Fire Appliance fitted with Anderson Body and Magirus Pump.

The vehicle is being sold as it is now surplus to our requirements.

For further information please contact Neil Ellis (CFS HQ's or Happy Valley CFS, Box 207 Happy Valley 5159, or phone either (08) 381 3525 or (08) 381 1650).

Tenders close 22nd September 1979.

No tender necessarily accepted.

Neil Ellis.

# PAGES IN HISTORY

Future fireman visits  
Dads' former "Old" Brigade.



Future fireman, 2 year old Matthew Bryant, 2 years, attended Region 3 Competitions held at Yorketown, with dad—Winston. Winston Bryant C.F.S. H/Q Operations, drove "Little Flick"—an Austin Gypsy 4 w.d. Yorketown Fire Unit (pictured in background) as a former member of Yorketown for 8 years, before transferring to Salisbury C.F.S.



Emergency Fire Service, South Australian Government Cup. 1959.



Early Mitcham Hills E.F.S. Fire Units.

## "CALAMITOUS EVENT"

by R. Barrett

During the first days of February 1859 a number of small fires occurred in the valleys around Meadows. The people of Macclesfield, seeing them at a distance, paid little heed as they could not envisage how such fires would pose any threat to life or property.

On 2nd February, Sir Charles Todd ensconced in his newly built observatory at West Terrace, Adelaide, recorded that he saw extensive bushfires in the south. 48 hours later he recorded that the fires were still raging and that there was dense smoke over the hills from south west to north east.

At 6 p.m. on Saturday 6th February, the temperature in Adelaide was intense and extensive bushfires could be seen in the south and south east. At 9 a.m. the following day, the temperature at West Terrace was 101°F and the barometer stood at 29.818. A strong north wind was blowing. During the course of the day people in the City could clearly see that the fires were spreading rapidly but suffered no apprehension. It was assumed that the fires were burning in the many large areas of uncleared land which existed in the Mount Lofty Ranges and adjoining areas.

48 hours later the first sketchy reports from the fire ground reached the City. Not until the last week of February did the full details become known.

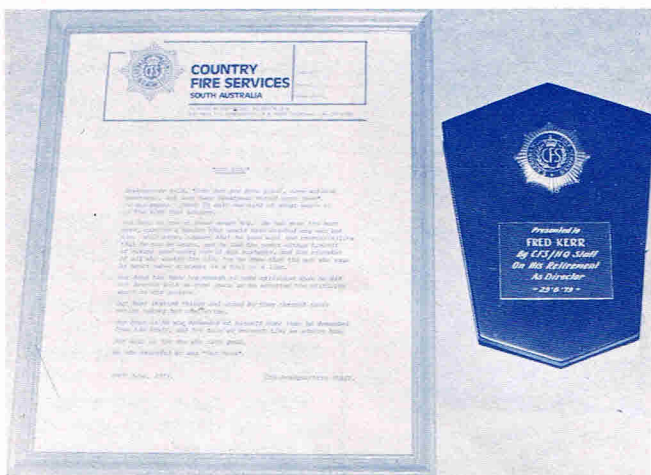
Between 2nd and 4th February small fires had sprung up in areas adjoining Meadows and in the hills North of Port Elliot. On Friday 5th the weather became oppres-

sively hot and a strong wind blew up. A ribbon of fire reached from Meadows to the edge of Crafers while further south a line of fire 6 miles deep and 20 miles wide reached from Mount Compass in the west to a point south of Strathalbyn in the east.

At Encounter Bay on the morning of Sunday, 6th February, a vicious north wind caused the fires to spread rapidly south into the recently re-settled Hindmarsh and Inman Valleys (they had been largely destroyed by fire three years earlier). Reaching the Hindmarsh Valley, the fire raced through tree tops and destroyed buildings, crops and flora in a very short time. It happened so quickly that no attempts were made to organise defences and a completely chaotic chain of events ensued which saw individuals displaying both courage and foolishness. The most descriptive record of that morning came some days later from a correspondent to the Adelaide Observer:

"Several instances of disinterested heroism have been related to me, as having been witnessed during the fire, of which the following deserves to be recorded. A widow named Clark is said to have fled with her children before the approaching fire frantic with terror. A farmer named McKenzie whose house and furniture, fencing, corn and other property was then in flames, saw the danger to which the widow's dwelling was exposed, and with immense exertions succeeded in saving it from the fangs of the destroyer. What he could not do for himself he succeeded in effecting for his helpless neighbour.

"The means taken by some of the settlers to save their property appear, in some instances, to have been dictated by mere impulse. Terror seems to have gained the entire dominion over their reasoning faculties. In some cases, articles of value were taken from the houses and placed in positions where they were most likely to be destroyed, on account of the straw, litter, or other inflammable materials with which the ground was covered. In other cases, the men were seen pulling down their dog-leg fencing and leaving it on the ground! I was even informed of property being placed for security beneath heaps of straw! Others, however, who were less terrified or more judicious, took all the precautions which prudence could dictate before the fire had reached their property, and succeeded in saving it from destruction. One of the farmers pointed out to me a large quantity of corn which he had saved by saturating the surrounding ground with water from a well. Some of the upper branches of a large tree which stands in front of his house had caught fire, and the wind was blowing the burning bark towards the corn; but he prevented any damage from this cause by ascending the tree with a handsaw in his mouth, and cutting off the burning branches; but this was rather an exceptional case. As a general



A Tribute to F. L. Kerr. "Our Boss"

## 15 YEARS AGO

Arno Bay CFS will begin daytime fire drill next week to familiarise all personnel with the various tasks necessary for the efficient operation of its two units in any contingency, particularly during the coming summer.

The seven-man crew of the fire truck and the six-man complement of the trailer unit will perform various operations

during the course of the drill.

A comprehensive map system is being prepared. Maps will show hydrants, tanks, standpipes, dams, telephones, access roads, and other information together with the names of property owners.

One map will be housed close to the unit shed and duplicates will be carried with the appliances.

**CALAMITOUS EVENT . . .**

rule it may be affirmed, not merely that "prevention is better than cure" but that it is the only remedy . . .

"In such an hour, no human power, The burning crops can save."

"It is most ardently to be desired that some preventative means may be devised and acted upon."

Such sentiments were undoubtedly shared by all the residents of the district, one of whom was an Edward Kennedy. His wife had, five days earlier, given birth to a child. Mrs. Kennedy was carried, on the back of a Mr. Nettle, into the middle of a swamp, closely followed by a nurse carrying the new born child. Mr. Kennedy, who had been rushing from point to point trying to save various parts of his property, returned to find his home a heap of ashes. It was some time before he learnt that his wife and child were safe.

Direct losses in the Valley totalled more than £9 500! The nearby Inman Valley escaped with only a tenth of that amount.

At Macclesfield shortly after 9 a.m. that same day:

"Flames were seen coming up the Adelaide road towards the town in a broad compact mass extending to a wide distance on both sides of the road and carrying everything before it. Many of the residents mounted their horses and rode towards the fire. As they cleared the township a strong North wind sprang up and the fire advanced along both sides of the road at a tremendous pace. The would-be fire fighters retreated to the township and to their utter horror, on looking round, saw the flames actually leaping over the hills which they had thought would be their protection. Glowing embers dropped in masses on the country all around the township. The inhabitants considered the town doomed. The whole line of country skirting to the right was instantaneously in flames.

"Fences and homesteads were consumed on all sides. After destroying everything to the brink of the main streets, the conflagration moved towards the Bugle Ranges, and the whole country between them and Macclesfield soon became one mass of fire.

"The flames had come on the township with such speed that one settler with a family of three children was obliged to throw his children over a fence, and the whole family had to run for their lives, the children wearing only thin night dresses. A settler, 'German John', lost his home and 10 000 bushels of wheat. An old German woman who made her living by making artificial flowers was at first feared lost when her cottage was destroyed in a matter of seconds. It was later learned that the local schoolmaster had in fact rushed into the burning cottage and saved her. The school house was used to house the homeless overnight."

**At Strathalbyn:**

"During Saturday, a large fire was noticed burning in the direction of Meadows and Macclesfield. On Sunday morning, during Church service, the alarm was given and the people rushed to Blackwood, the late residence of Dr. Rankine. The garden and out-houses were destroyed but the house saved. The fire moved on to Reed & Williamsons and Pendlall's destroying all their houses, barns, and crops. It then passed to the property of Mr. Hall, Sen. and destroyed a 70 ton haystack and a quantity of wheat. Next was Hampden, the residence of Dr. Walker, S.M., the residents fought hard and appeared to have saved everything except a paddock of lucerne. Leaving a guard, the residents moved on to Dr. Blue's which was in great danger. At Hampden the men left on guard watched in horror as a Westerly breeze sprang up and carried burning embers from high in a tree to a hay stack. Within five minutes, the stack, stables, house, and out-houses were all in flames. The westerly wind which destroyed Hampden saved the township (assisted by a strip of ploughed land of Mr. Sloane's)."

In other places the story was much the same:

**TALUNGA** (near Gumeracha)

"The fire was seen approaching from Malcolm's Flat in the direction of Chain of Ponds. The wind was blowing briskly at the time from the East, and the weather was unusually hot . . . Houses, sheds, fences, pigs, etc. destroyed at Chain of Ponds and North Gumeracha. At 2.30 fire was seen in the roof of the Macbeath Inn at Mt. Pleasant."

**TREVALE** (Barossa)

"Fire discovered in Lamb's Gully near Barossa, between 8 and 9 a.m. It soon crossed the road leading to the Chain of Ponds. The fire then went over the Mount Gould Range to North Gumeracha."

**MOUNT LOFTY**

"Two houses destroyed."

**BRIDGEWATER** (Cox's Creek)

"Fire on both sides of the Echungua road."

**ECHUNGA**

"Many trees still burning in Onkaparinga Valley four days later."



Reports came from many hamlets and outlying properties giving similar details. As far as is known no lives were lost but crop losses were enormous and many homes destroyed.

In just three short hours between 9 a.m. and noon that day, some 1 200 square miles of the Mouty Lofty Ranges were devastated by fire. By any standard, the fires were the worst ever recorded in South Australia and the fires of 1939 and 1955 pale in comparison.

## Strathalbyn CFS Remembers Don Ballintyne

At a special meeting recently the Strathalbyn CFS dedicated their newest unit to the memory of Donald Ballintyne who was killed in a car accident on the Strathalbyn to Macclesfield Road in November, 1978.

The unit, the new Holden utility hitherto known as Unit 9 was renamed the Don Ballintyne Unit.

Don, who was 20, had been a very active member of the Strathalbyn CFS and was Secretary of the Crew Committee at the time of his death.

After the naming of the unit by Jeff Moran, Station Officer, the senior crewmen stood to attention and all present observed one minute silence as a mark of respect.

*The Southern Argus, 24th May, 1979.*

## CRAWL OR CROUCH?

(Courtesy of "Fire News" of the National Fire Protection Association of the USA)

A large number of queries have been received at the NFPA office questioning the statement published in one of the safety magazines which says that "crawling close to the floor in a fire may cause inhalation of poisonous gas. Tests show purest air is about four feet from the floor."

Laboratory tests of the 1930s are cited in support of this statement, although experience shows that tests which do not duplicate actual fire conditions may produce data which are meaningless for practical application.

Under actual fire conditions the movement of heat, smoke, and gases is unpredictable because of varying conditions of temperature, ventilation, and other factors. There is no "magic" level—at four feet or elsewhere—where the purest air is always to be found.

Firemen, who have more experience than anyone else, and observers of test fires in buildings, confirm that keeping the head as close to the floor as possible usually gives the best chance for survival.

Crawling rather than crouching therefore still remains the generally recommended escape procedure.

## Children heard of fire risks

Munno Para Primary School Grade 6 and 7 pupils had a welcome break from classroom routine last week when local firefighters arrived to talk about fire safety.

Local resident Wally Taylor, whose six-year-old daughter Nicholle is a pupil at the school, had been asked by principal Roy Williams to address students on the subject of basic fire prevention and suppression.

Mr. Taylor, a full time fire brigade officer, enlisted the aid of members of the Smithfield CFS who are responsible for the protection of the area.

Together they undertook the lecture and followed up with a lively question and answer session.

The degree of knowledge displayed by students was high and Senior Fireman Lamplough of the CFS said, "We were pleasantly surprised by the degree of knowledge displayed by 12 and 13-year-olds.

"That they know so much is a credit to them and their teachers.

"I only wish adult residents would display such interest in fire safety."

After the talk, students were given an opportunity to inspect one of the three fire appliances operated by Smithfield CFS and witnessed a demonstration of various items of firefighting equipment.

*Salisbury 'News Review' 13/6/79.*

## CFS door-knock

Coromandel Valley CFS held a door-knock appeal with a target of \$2 500 for much-needed equipment on Saturday and Sunday, 23rd and 24th June.

The local volunteer branch needs several major items including canvas and rubber hoses, knapsacks, power-steering, a foam generating branch and rescue equipment.

Helped by Coromandel Apex Club, the group contacted Coromandel Valley residents during the weekend and revisited those away from home during the following week.

A branch spokesman said there was a great need for residents to help replace and upgrade equipment.

"With the growing number of houses in both 'The Valley' and Acklands Hill area, the need for equipment and personnel effective against bush and house fires is increasing greatly," he said.

"The volunteer personnel who provide this service do so at any time, day or night, irrespective of their personal situation at the time of the call and need the support of residents."

Although ratepayers helped the CFS through insurance and government and council spending, this covered only running costs.

A circular explaining the appeal was delivered to houses in the area before the door-knock.

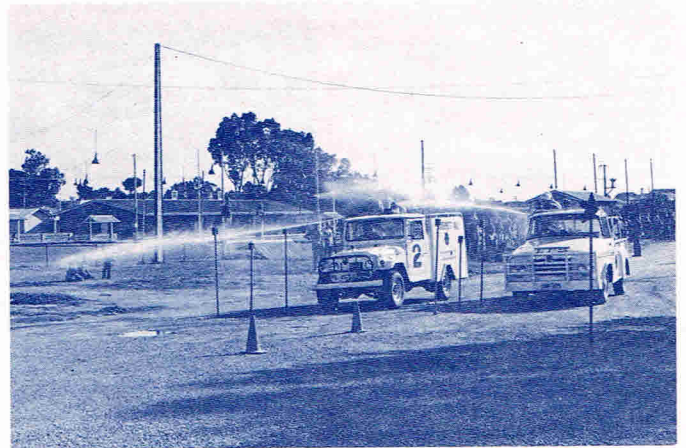


A stitch in time saves fire delay. Volunteer Firemen can't afford the time to be all fingers and thumbs when they're getting dressed for action.

So the C.F.S. helps train them by running competitions against the clock, in which they have to leap into overalls and helmets, dash to their fire truck, start the pump, drive a few metres and aim the jet of water at a set of bells.

pictured—David Isaacson, Hindmarsh Ward C.F.S. "dressing" in the Competitor "Alarm Race" visitors event, Region 4.

**Yorketown competitions, Sunday 19th August '79**



Alarm Race—Happy Valley verses Port Wakefield.



Cadell III "C" grade Ladies Dry Hose Drill, at Region 4 competitions.



left to right—Ray Collins and Barry Smith, Blackwood competing in One Man Hose Drill.



L. Butler, Yorketown C.F.S. completed one man dry Hose Drill in 18.7 seconds at Region 2 competitions.



Rex Burges, President C.F.S. Yorketown presenting award to Blackwood winners.



left to right—Fred Muzer (Kadina), Kevin French (Kadina), Lloyd Johns (H/O), Peter Malpas (H/O), Ross Ford, Dean Rodda, Colin Newbold (Kadina C.F.S. members)



# NATIONAL MEDALS FOR CFS MEMBERS

55 Country Fire Service Volunteers were recipients of the Australian National Medal, at a presentation performed by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Chatterton, at SA Country Fire Service Headquarters, Adelaide, on Friday, 22nd June, 1979.

The Minister said the service rendered by the CFS volunteers was often taken for granted, with those involved not being given due recognition. He wished to acknowledge the work done by the brigades and their members in providing fire protection over much of South Australia.

Mr. Chatterton also spoke of the retirement on 30th June of the Director of the CFS, Mr. Fred Kerr, who, he said, had had a distinguished 30 year term in office. He had given the service a much more tangible standing in the community.

The Deputy Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, has been appointed Acting Director.



Pictured on left, Mr. Chatterton, Minister of Agriculture, presenting the National Medal to Messrs. Angus Booberon (25 years), Mr. Chatterton; Mr. ... of Jam ... Officer, ... (Bob) ... James ... formerly S ... the C.F. ... Kerr.

## COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES



Mount Parker—from left, Messrs. John Hurling, 20 years, Kevin Stephenson (son of Mrs. Stephenson) 20 years; Ray Orr (who is Deputy Chairman of the C.F.S. Board), 33 years; Leon Shillabeer, 18 years; and Howard Rayson, 21 years.



Lobethal, Messrs. Des Stanbury, 18 years; Trevor Fox, 17 years; Brian Fox, 29 years; and Darrell Ellis, 25 years.

## C.F.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS TO INCLUDE TROPHY PRESENTATIONS Strathalbyn Oval, Sept. 16th

The family day atmosphere introduced last year as part of the annual fire-fighting championships of the Country Fire Services, will be extended this year to include the presentation of trophies won.

In the past the trophy presentation has been held at an Awards Night at Edmund Wright House. However, the innovation of the awards being presented immediately after the competitions has the strong support of many C.F.S. brigades.

This year's championships will be conducted at the Strathalbyn Oval on Sunday, September 16, and teams competing will be representative of the C.F.S. state-wide.

Announcing the inclusion of the trophy presentation in the day's programme, the Acting Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said the ceremony would be a fitting culmination to the months of training and effort by the volunteer fire-fighters.

He said that following the success of last year's fixture, held at Virginia as the first of the "family day" functions, it was obvious that more and more C.F.S. members, their families and friends would be keen to join together for these occasions.

The programme will commence at 10.30 a.m. with static displays by manufacturers of fire-fighting equipment, children's races and other novelty events, including "hay rides".

Full catering facilities, including a wide range of food stalls, will be available.

Official guests will include the Mayor of Strathalbyn Mr. L. F. O'Driscoll, and Members of Federal and State Parliament.

The Chairman of the Country Fire Services Board, Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger, will officially open the championships at 1 p.m. when he will review a parade of units and crews attending.

The top event—the 'A' Grade Hose and Pump Drill, will be competed for by teams from each of the C.F.S. seven regions. As winners in their respective regions, the teams will be Blackwood, Nuriootpa, Maitland, Clare, Millicent, Rudall, and Waikerie.

It is interesting that with the exception of Maitland (which had its regional win over Yorketown), the teams are the same as competed last year when Blackwood narrowly defeated Nuriootpa for the S.A. Government Cup and trophies.

Another spectacular event—the Portable Pump Alarm Race—creates considerable interest among teams and spectators alike.

Successful Regional competitors will be contesting the solo and team ladder drills, and the solo hose drill for State honours.

The annual sporting challenge between the Industrial Fire Services and a C.F.S. team

provides plenty of scope for friendly rivalry. This year's I.F.S. team will be from General Motors- Holden, Elizabeth, and the C.F.S. team recording the fastest time on the day.

A new event in the programme will be the ladies and cadets' dry hose drill. A number of brigades have women members and or cadets and this event will encourage them to take part in the annual competitions.

The programme will conclude at 4 p.m. with the closing parade and presentation of trophies.

Hosted by the Adelaide Hills Fire Fighting Association, the programme has been planned by an organising committee representative of the Strathalbyn, Murray Bridge, Monarto and Meadows C.F.S.

"That tree had been burning slowly inside for five weeks—ever since we did our burning off—and in the heat of yesterday it burnt through. When the top came down it showered sparks everywhere, and soon the whole paddock seemed to be alight." "We were lucky to save the house!"

Fires seem to lie low awaiting their chance—you cannot be too careful.

Days after burning off, we find smouldering logs, stumps and roots that burst into flame when exposed to a hot wind.

It always pays to "Go Around That Burn Again."

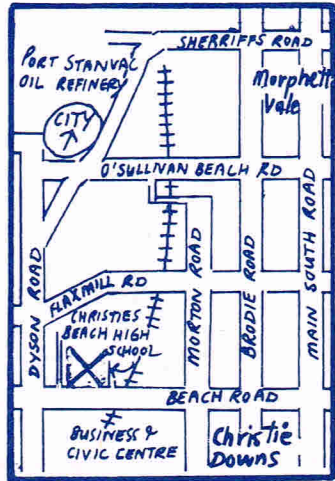
... see mopping up ...

## SURVIVAL IN A BUSHFIRE NIGHT 8 p.m. FRIDAY, 2nd NOVEMBER, 1979

The Morphett Vale-Reynella-Hackham CFS Inc., in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Noarlunga East, are to hold a "Survival in a Bushfire" evening, Friday, 2nd November, 1979, at 8 p.m. at the Christies Beach High School (Assembly Hall). The speaker, Mr. B. A. Green, Inspector of Research and Fire Protection, Country Fire Services will cover "Prevention, Protection, and Survival", and appropriate films will be screened.

This free night is planned to cater for the hills dwellers, many of whom have just recently established their homes and will require information on their new environment and the ever-present threat of bushfires. All members of the public are invited to attend, this evening that coincides with the commencement of the 1979-80 Bushfire Season.

Free refreshments include tea, coffee and biscuits.



# HYDRANTS CONFISCATED

It has been reported by the E & WS Department that the Department has had cause to confiscate two fire hydrants because of misuse. One had been used for watering an oval and for drawing water for business purposes and the other, in another part of the State, for construction purposes.

It is possible that the persons concerned in the illegal use of these fire hydrants may not have known of the laws governing their use—if not, they certainly do now.

The attention of all councils and CFS organisations is directed to the proper operation of un-metered hydrants and the conditions under which they may be used.

Officers of the E & WS Department have a difficult task in ensuring adequate

supplies of water for fire-fighting.

CFS bodies and Fire Control Officers can play their part in this essential sphere of fire protection by an observance of the rules and advice of the E & WS Department, making hydrants available for inspection when requested and by maintaining a close liaison with the local Departmental Officer in both fire and training operations.

At the risk of being taken to task for repeating a previously published CFS message, the attention of all councils and CFS organisations; we draw your attention to the article on "E & WS hydrants for fire-water", *The Volunteer*, Volume 1—March 1979, page 3.

Acting Director  
Country Fire Services

## WATER FOG STREAMS

by Murray Sherwell, HQ RO Region 5.

Man has used water to extinguish fire, since fire was first evolved.

Every fire service in the world, still uses water as the principal extinguishing agent—whether the property protected is urban or rural.

From the humble leather bucket through to New York's super pumper capable of delivering 45 000 l/m water has continued to be the medium which has extinguished countless millions of fires, large and small.

We are all aware that whilst a straight jet of water will deliver more water in shorter time, use of a water spray, in certain applications is more efficient and less consuming of water supplies.

The theory behind breaking down the water stream to a spray pattern is that each litre of water applied as droplets in a spray pattern will provide a greater surface area of water exposed to the fire than the same amount applied as a solid stream; the greater the surface area exposed to fire, the greater will be the heat absorbed by the water.

Some years ago, experiments in the United States of America with very high pressures (up to 5600 Kpa) and specially designed branches heralded the era of "fog application"—the application of water droplets so finely divided, they appear as a "fog".

Further tests and trials have resulted in the development and adoption of fog application using pressures in the 1750 Kpa to 2800 Kpa range. The most common systems in Australia and New Zealand being a multi-stage pump to which is coupled twin 25 mm heavy duty hose reels and "fog nozzles".

## Application

The use of high pressure fog has been particularly successful in small property and liquid fuel fires.

In the past, our thinking on the use of water on liquid fuel fires has been governed by the sometimes disastrous results which have followed. However, the use of high pressure fog and even low pressure (560 Kpa) spray has proved to be an effective way to extinguish medium to heavy oil fires. This success is due to the lowering of the temperature on the surface of the burning liquid and, whilst the fog is over the surface, oxygen from the air is excluded.

One of the biggest problems facing CFS Brigades in fog application is that few of the pumps available are capable of providing the pressures required for fog production. At best most hose reels and hose lines with spray branches will produce an effective spray at, say 5600 Kpa to 7000 Kpa.

It is suggested the brigades wishing to pursue the possibility of fog application, conduct tests with their own equipment, using small scale liquid fuel fires.

The most important considerations are:

(a) that all personnel should be thoroughly familiar with the capabilities of their equipment—this can only be achieved through training and experience in the use of the equipment,

(b) that the equipment is not pushed beyond the capabilities for which it was designed and constructed,

(c) That the equipment is maintained in good operating condition, leaking glands and valves invariably result in pressure losses, with subsequent effect on discharge.

**If you have any queries relating to your equipment and its capabilities, do not hesitate to consult CFS Headquarters.**

# Mopping Up

by E. R. PFEIFFER  
Forest Protection Officer  
Woods and Forests Department

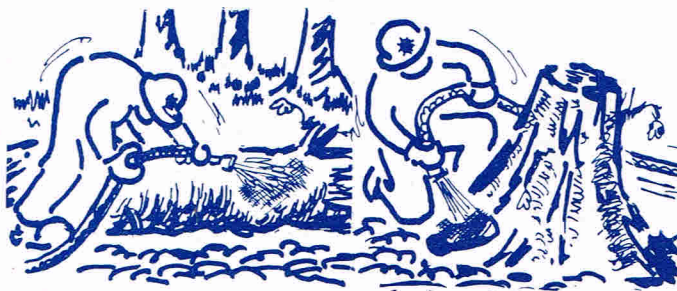
Fire-fighting in heat and smoke is hard and unpleasant work but it is exciting too. Man pitting himself against nature. Once a fire has been controlled there is a real sense of satisfaction and achievement, inevitably followed by a relaxing of taut nerves and an increasing relief that it is over. Crews tend to bunch up and talk about the hectic events of moments before or they want to see "just how much was burnt" and head off to have a look.

However, the job at that stage is far from over. The glory and excitement are gone to be replaced by the unspectacular grind of "mopping up".

How many fires have escaped after initial control because mop up was not quite good enough? Most of us can think of at least one fire which got away again after being thought to be out.

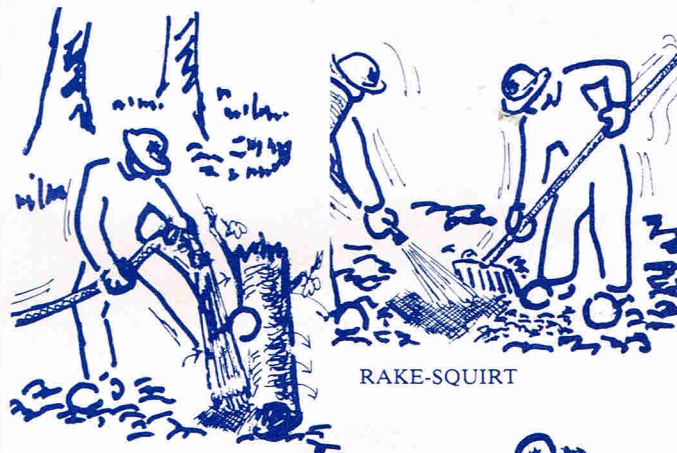
It is up to the local Fire Control Officer, or whoever is in charge, to direct mopping up activities and see that they are effective. There should be no hesitation in giving directions and telling men what to do and there are few persons at a fire who do not respond willingly to clearly given orders.

We tend to rely too much on our very good modern equipment today and forget that squirting water onto the fire edge is not enough. Mop up means working at close quarters turning logs and burning bits, feeling for hot spots and cooling them, keeping an eye open all the time and making sure that the edge is safe. Even in grassland country, fence posts, stumps and stubble can often be seen smouldering and sparking for some time after the fire has passed. It is a tedious, dirty, often cold, unpleasant, but very necessary operation, which in the end shortens the amount of work we have to do, so do it well.



WORK CLOSE

USE WATER ON ROOTS  
BURNING UNDERGROUND



RAKE-SQUIRT

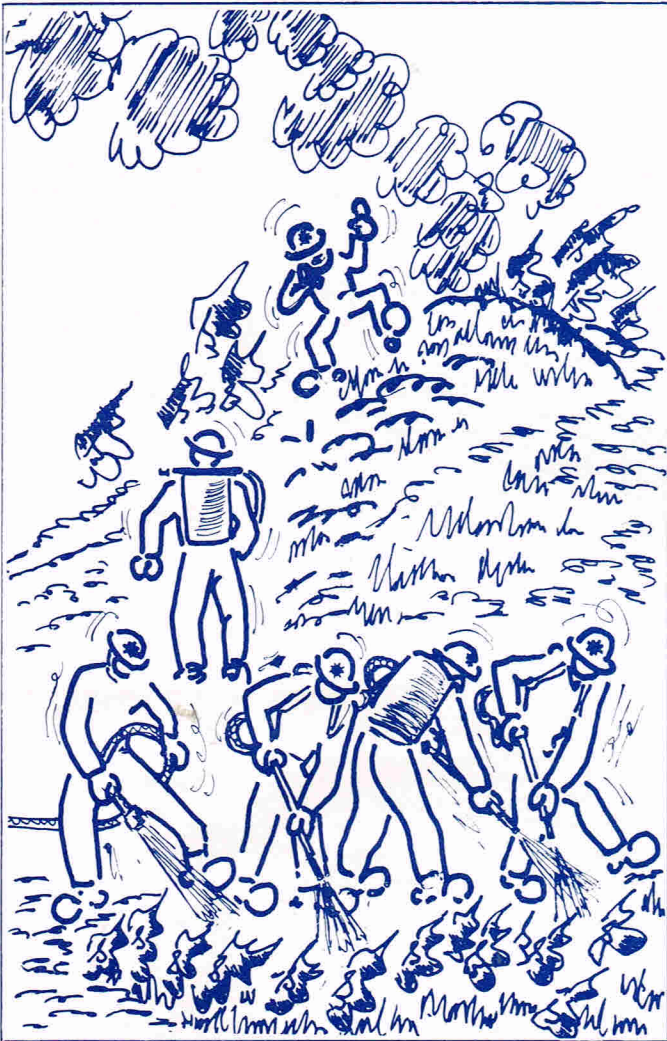
ROLL IT OVER



FEEL FOR HOT SPOTS



KICK UP AND  
COOL HOT SPOTS



At almost all fires there is a tendency for men to bunch together.

## REMINDER WAIKERIE CFS— GARFORD PORT

Waikerie CFS has had a special bottling of Port prepared by Thomas Hardy & Sons. The top quality grapes were donated to the group by Michael Arnold, and were picked voluntarily by brigade members, their wives and families.

The result of this endeavour has been an excellent Tawny Port which, although still a young wine, shows every indication that it will mature nicely with age. It is a wine which can be enjoyed now or put down to mature further.

The Garford Port, which bears a picture of Waikerie's Old Garford Engine on the label, is currently selling for \$3.00 per bottle. This very good port is being made available through Thomas Hardy & Sons for other CFS groups to sell to raise funds. A commission of \$6.00 a dozen is available to groups who wish to sell this port as a fund raising means, to obtain or update fire-fighting equipment.

For further information, contact: Deputy Station Officer Phillip Neilson at:

Thomas Hardy & Sons,  
D Channel Road,  
Waikerie, SA 5330  
Or, Phone (085) 41 2277 during  
business hours.

"There was quite a heavy shower of rain after we had done our burning off—but apparently it did not put out that one little heap of burning leaf mould—that was why we had a bush fire on our hands when the strong north wind sprung up."

... see mopping up ...

## Praise for fire posters

Children's posters entered in the school fire project at South East shows are excellent and are a positive promotion for fire prevention.

Judge for the last seven years Mr. R. E. Munro said that the posters create an awareness which is worth the effort.

"I would like to see this project continue, with new ideas introduced to ensure its continuity," he said. Mr. Munro also commented on the publicity gained by the parade of fire units.

MEMO TO: ALL CFS MEMBERS AND HQ PERSONNEL.  
FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR, COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES.  
SUBJECT: NEW ASSIGNMENTS FOR CFS. HQ REGIONAL OFFICERS.

DATE: 3rd August, 1979.

(1) Fire Prevention Officer/Relieving Field Officer, (Ops.):—

Regional Officer R. HUTCHINS is assigned to initiate and foster fire prevention activities outside of those normally related to bushfire danger. These include industrial and household fire prevention in country areas, advice to Councils and fire brigades and government departments. Mr. Hutchins will be assigned to the Research and Fire Protection Division, reporting to Inspector R. & F. P. Mr. Hutchins will also be required to undertake operational field officer relief assignments from time to time.

(2) Training Officer/Relieving Field Officer, (Ops.):—

RO P. FERRIS is assigned to review and revise all training notes and visual aids materials and to ensure standardisation of field training for volunteers, reporting to Inspector Fire Co-ord. Mr. Ferris will also be required to undertake operational field officer relief assignments from time to time.

(3) Communications Officer/Relieving Field Officer, (Ops.):—

RO B. R. MENADUE is assigned to co-ordinate all CFS HQ communications, provide advice to Councils and brigades on communications requirements, facilitate the continuation of the State-wide VHF changeover, investigate and recommend on new developments in communications applicable to the Country Fire Service. RO Menadue will report to Inspector Fire Co-ord. and will be required to undertake relief field officer assignments from time to time.

(4) Assistant Communications Officer:—

RO T. CONLON is assigned Assistant Communications Officer, reporting to Inspector Fire Co-ord. He will assist the Communications Officer in his activities and concurrent with this will begin field training and continue with attendance at Fire Officer and related training courses.

(5) Field Posting Region 1—Central:—

RO G. A. KEAY is assigned to undertake field duties in Region 1 until further notice. Centre location—CFS HQ.

(6) Field Posting Region 2—Lower North:—

RO R. T. KEYNES is assigned to undertake field duties in Region 2 until further notice. Centre location—CFS HQ.

(7) Field Posting Region 3—Yorke Peninsula:—

RO D. J. BATTEN is assigned to undertake field duties in Region 3 until further notice. Centre location—CFS HQ.

(8) Field Posting Region 4—North:—

RO G. M. POLOMKA is assigned to undertake field duties in Region 4 until further notice. Centre location—Jamestown.

(9) Field Posting Region 5—South East:—

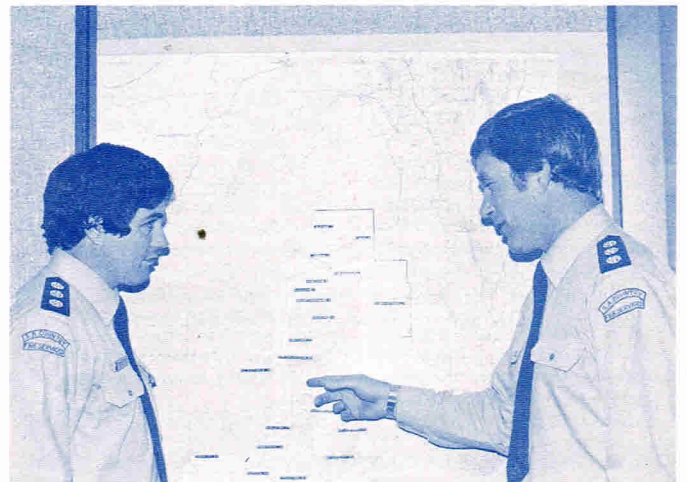
RO M. T. SHERWELL is assigned to undertake field duties in Region 5 until further notice. Centre location—Bordertown.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Regions not yet assigned will be covered by relief officers in the meantime. The assignment of field postings at this point in time are on a temporary basis only, and are intended to meet a pressing need to provide a service to the State CFS brigades and to demonstrate our field activities.

Field postings will have effect from 17th September, 1979—following the completion of the State Finals Competitions. HQ assignments are to commence immediately.

LLOYD C. JOHNS,  
Acting Director.



left to right—Assistant Communications Officer Trevor Conlon in discussion with R.O. David Batten who has been assigned field duties in Region 3, Yorke Peninsula.

Secretary  
Inter District Fire  
Fighting Association

Officer in Charge  
Country Fire Service

District Clerk  
**CFS ORGANISATIONS**

**PUBLIC RISK INSURANCE—**

I again draw your attention to the need to maintain adequate Public Risk Insurance which protects the brigade against claims which may be made in respect of death or personal injury or damage to property.

Section 63 of the Country Fires Act, 1976, provides immunity for any act done in good faith *and without negligence*, but injury, loss or damage claimed to have been caused negligently could become the subject of claim.

I understand that many brigades or councils have allowed the limit of liability under their Public Liability Cover to run on year by year without review. Notwithstanding quite dramatic escalation in Court awards, especially as regards personal injuries, there has also been a substantial increase in the costs of legal and Court fees.

Premiums for Public Risk Insurance are calculated on a sliding scale whereby for a small premium increase, substantially more cover can be purchased. A prudent limit under a policy depends on the location of the brigade and the character of the district which it services:—the closer the settlement, the higher the value of buildings and other improvements, and the greater the population density, the greater the need for higher limits.

Our advisers suggest that \$100 000 should be an absolute minimum, but nominate a figure of \$250 000 as being more realistic in today's circumstances. Brigades in the more densely populated areas may well be advised to insure for \$500 000 or even \$1 000 000.

Any decision as regards the effecting of Public Risk Insurance or

the Company with whom it shall be placed is entirely a matter for each brigade or council, but for a number of years, a facility has been available through the offices of the Board's insurance brokers, Stenhouse Wallace Bruce and Company Limited who advise current premium levels as follows:—

Indemnity	Premium (including charges)
\$	\$
100 000	20.46
250 000	30.20
500 000	39.85
1 000 000	67.55

The above premiums are most reasonable in the light of the indemnity provided, and under the policies issued through our brokers, the indemnity covers *all* activities undertaken by CFS brigades, i.e., fire, salvage, rescue, search and other special services. If brigades or councils have a policy already in operation, they are strongly advised to make sure that these CFS activities are covered. *I cannot over-emphasise the importance of this Public Liability protection.*

If any brigade wishes to increase its existing cover under this facility or if a brigade wishes to arrange a new insurance, it may communicate through this Headquarters, or directly with Stenhouse Wallace Bruce and Co. Limited, G.P.O. Box 514, Adelaide 5001, marked to the attention of Mr. Brian Wright. 24th August, 1979.

L. C. JOHNS,  
Acting Director,  
Country Fire Services

**RIVERTON PRESENTATION DINNER**

Riverton—The local Brigade of the Country Fire Services held their Presentation Dinner at the Riverton Hotel on Friday, 18th May.

Guest speakers were Messrs. Lloyd Johns (Acting Director), and Peter Malpas (Inspector Fire Co-ordination) from CFS Headquarters, Adelaide.

Mr. Malpas was the officer who helped Riverton CFS get started.

Mr. Peter Swann, Regional Officer of Region 2, Lower North CFS was another guest, along with Mr. C. Huppertz representing the District Council of Riverton.

President of the local CFS, Mr. Keith Hammond, introduced the guests and Messrs. Johns and Malpas made the presentations.

These men were congratulated and thanked for their devotion to saving life and property. Mr. Malcolm Bowman, Fire Chief, thanked all the uniformed members for their efficiency, and thanked the District Council for their support and finance, in particular Mr. T. Peek and Mr. I. Rohde. The council was responsible for the VHF radios which have improved communication.

Mr. Huppertz, District Council Representative, gave an apology for Mr. I. Rohde, Chairman of the District Council, who was unable to attend, congratulated award winners and said that the district was most grateful and proud of the CFS for what they do in the community.

Mr. Lloyd Johns congratulated the Riverton CFS for their 30 years official service, having started on 13th January, 1949.

He reported this service had a big increase in membership in 1964, and in 1971 a new fire unit was purchased, and in 1972 the District Council decided to build the Combined Services building, which was an exceptional step, with the "camaraderie" of the 3 services overwhelming. Riverton CFS, Mr. Johns said, is important to the Service, and duties to carry on with are (a) to continue (b) to train and (c) to improve efficiency. He urged members to compete in competitions to improve this efficiency.

In closing he paid tribute to Mr. Fred Kerr, Director of the CFS. Mr. Kerr, known as "Mr. Country Fire Services", has been an exceptional member of the CFS, who will be very difficult to replace, and Riverton CFS thanked him and wished him well on his retirement. This was endorsed by President, Mr. Keith Hammond.

**FIRE CALLS, CAUSES, AGENCIES & LOSSES**

**Fires reported and attended by CFS brigades:—**

Rural fires (scrub and grass)	1 229
Building fires	145
Vehicle fires	176

Total Fires Attended ..... 1 550

**Brigade Turnouts:—**

False alarms, malicious false alarms and justified calls	144
Special service calls (rescue, salvage and search)	91

Total ..... 235

**Financial Losses (Approximately):—** \$2 603 321

**Terrain Burnt:—**

Bush, grass land and crops	67 081 ha
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**Causes:—**

Unknown	336
Burn off	128
Rubbish	63
Children with matches	119
Incendiary	85
Electric faults	29
Incinerators	17
Rekindle	46
Vehicle (crash/defect)	61
Trains	15
Smoking/matches	15
Stove fires	22
Camp barbecues	17
Spontaneous combustion	22
Hot ashes	10
Machine defects	24
Power lines	29
Chimneys	13
Exhaust	33
Friction	15
Heaters/house	10
Lightning	43
Miscellaneous	21

*It is obvious that these figures do not signify all the fires and other incidents attended by CFS Brigades throughout the State. It cannot be over-stressed that in future CFS Brigades must complete and forward reports for every response they make.*

*A number of Brigades have expressed doubt as to what calls should be reported. The formula is simple, every time you turn out, be it for fire, rescue, search, salvage, inspection or any other type of special service, you must record the response on the official CFS FIRE REPORT FORM and promptly return it to CFS Headquarters.*

*Under the Country Fires Act, 1976, the Board is responsible for the administration of the Act, including funding. We can only prove our need for funds with such statistical evidence as the number of times the community calls on you for assistance.*

*In brief . . . help us to help you.*

Editor



Mr. Peter Malpas encouraged the Brigade to compete in competitions and stated some of Riverton's members were now eligible for the national medals.

He thanked everyone for an enjoyable evening which was a delight to attend and called Riverton Country Fire Service "a very happy Brigade of workers".

(left to right) Kevin Behn (20 years), Peter Malpas, Inspector Fire Co-ordination, DFS HQ, Graham Solly (20 years), the longest serving Riverton member, Lloyd Johns, the State Acting Director, and Lloyd Bowman (20 years).

*In the light of a recent decision in the Supreme Court, in which the driver of a CFS Brigade vehicle whilst responding to a call collided with a car. The driver was found to be 60 per cent negligent by the judge, which highlights the need for drivers to remember the safety hints outlined below:*

## DRIVING ADVICE TO CFS OFFICERS

The following advice is for the information of CFS Officers.

Section 40 (1) of the Road Traffic Act exempts certain vehicles from the operation of certain provisions of the Act, e.g. speed limits, stop signs, traffic lights, right of way, correct side of road, passing, right hand turns, stopping in case of accident, boarding or leaving vehicles in motion, carrying persons on bonnet or roof. This exemption applies to vehicles used by "fire-fighting organisations registered under the Country Fires Act, 1976, whilst being driven to any place in answer to a call for the services of a fire brigade, or is in use at a fire".

It is not intended that privately owned vehicles be exempt, notwithstanding that the owners are CFS members or Fire Control Officers.

Officers in Charge of CFS brigades should ensure that their fire appliances are driven only by trained and properly licensed drivers.

Vehicles should be 100 per cent roadworthy and clearly identified as fire fighting appliances.

Drivers of CFS appliances are warned that notwithstanding this exemption they have a responsibility for the safety of their crews, public and their vehicles. Exemption from the provisions of Section 40 is not in itself a defence against involvement in an accident or against civil action for negligence.

CFS brigades and organisations have now been given similar road privileges to the Fire Brigades and Ambulances. It is the duty of all CFS officers and drivers to ensure that this valuable privilege is not lost through inefficiency, carelessness or neglect.

### EMERGENCY VEHICLES, SIRENS, BELLS, WARNING LIGHTS:

Regulation 1.04 of the Road Traffic Act reads:—

"EMERGENCY VEHICLE" means—any motor vehicle used by the Fire Brigades Board or by a fire brigade registered under the Fire Brigades Act, 1936-1976, or by a fire-fighting organisation registered under the Bush Fires Act, 1960-72, while it is being driven to any place in answer to a call for the service of a fire brigade or proceeding to or is in use at a fire."

### Regulation 3.03 reads:—ACTION ON APPROACH OF EMERGENCY VEHICLES:

"A driver shall give way to and make every reasonable effort to give a clear and uninterrupted passage to every emergency vehicle which is sounding a siren or bell, or is sounding a warning instrument in conjunction with a visual warning signal."

### SAFETY HINTS FOR CFS DRIVERS AND FIRE CONTROLLERS TURNING OUT:

- (1) Know exact location of fire and nearest route.
- (2) All equipment secure.
- (3) Crew safely mounted.
- (4) Avoid any possibility of collision.

### DRIVING AT FIRES:

- (1) Observe all safe driving practices. Drivers have a responsibility to crew, other road users, and to the persons calling for their assistance.
- (2) Maintain a positive safety margin in speed, judgement of distances and braking.
- (3) Wherever practicable, work from burnt or clear ground—or at least don't stray too far from it and keep it in mind. Realise that with a change of wind, the "safe" flank of grass or scrub can become the new front.
- (4) When travelling in smoke or dust—reduce speed, switch on lights—sound horn.
- (5) A petrol motor under "hot fire" conditions, has a good chance of being stalled and may not re-start readily. If you are driving in a hot spot or have to make a quick get-away keep to low gears to maintain engine revs. Avoid changing of gears and any chance of stalling—maintaining revs reduces chance of motor stalling.
- (6) If truck stalls or breaks down in path of fire and there is no fire escape avenue, then the shelter of your cabin or car or vehicle is safer refuge than trying to make a run through the fire. Whilst it can be quite safe to jump over the "Knife edge" small fire in grass burning against wind, it is an entirely different matter with a fire

travelling with the wind. Although you may not be able to see it through the smoke, there will be a moving broad pattern of fire, perhaps a half chain or more in depth.

Vehicles don't generally burst into flames instantly and after the fire has swept past, the vehicle could be vacated to the shelter of a burnt area—hot and mightily uncomfortable, but a better chance of survival.

- (7) If your crew has to leave their vehicle to work on foot in scrub or hills fire which is otherwise inaccessible, leave the driver and radio operator with the truck, turn the truck around so that it is facing the escape route ready for a quick get-away—park vehicle on bare or burnt ground.
- (8) Fire Controllers should not permit vehicles to jam up access or escape routes, particularly hills tracks—make the drivers line up vehicles on safest side of clearing, preferably, again, facing away from the danger area ready for that always possible need for speedy retreat.
- (9) Don't drive a vehicle towing a trailer into a danger area or a one way track. Attempting to back out in a hurry could be fatal for yourself and any others trying to escape.
- (10) The emergency signal of the Fire Service is THREE BLASTS ON A WHISTLE which is the signal to alert all firemen of a dangerous situation. At building fires, this signal is the order for all men to evacuate the building, immediately, and report to the Officer in Charge. At bush fires, this signal could be given by a whistle, car or truck horn, as a series of three blasts and recognised by bush fire-fighters as a danger signal or distress signal.
- (11) If seat belts are fitted to vehicle—use them.

## Equipment and Vehicle Maintenance

### "Before the Fire Season"

by RO Richard Hutchins, CFS HQ

Now is the time for all CFS Brigades to give due regard to service and maintenance of all appliances and equipment as the fire danger season draws yet again ever close.

A thorough inspection of every item carried on appliances and stored in reserve should now be made to ensure its efficiency and readiness.

Certain items are subject to specified maintenance procedures and defined in the relevant Australian Standard, such as AS 1851 "Installation and Maintenance of Portable Fire Extinguishers and Fire Hose Reels". When were your portable extinguishers last tested? Was the hose cleaned and tested after its last use? Do your knapsack pumps work properly?

Typical of problems found are leaking glands, rusty and corroding metals, seized valves and controls, rotting canvas hose, portable extinguishers which have lost pressure.

Ensure now that your Brigade has a routine schedule clearly defined to keep breakdown to a minimum and help guarantee your community will receive efficient fire protection with equipment performing at its peak. Make the following appliance and equipment check at a Saturday or Sunday "Special Effort" Exercise before the Fire Danger season and immediately after.

### APPLIANCE

The appliance itself should, prior to the fire season be given a major service, all lockers emptied, cleaned and equipment restowed, making full use of brackets, clips and straps to keep small gear, branches etc. correctly in its place.

### EQUIPMENT

Most items of fire equipment should be subjected to regular "standard tests" to ensure not only their efficiency but their safety during future use by fire-fighting personnel. This would apply particularly to rescue lines, ladders, breathing apparatus and resuscitation equipment. If you haven't already done so adopt a weekly test and check procedure for your appliance and equipment.

### RECORDS

Dates of tests and maintenance should be recorded in writing. Any defects found in equipment should be noted and appropriate action taken to remedy fault again noting when the defect is rectified. Recording an equipment defect is important—rectifying it is absolutely essential.

Strip-down servicing should only be entrusted to competent people as faulty adjustments can seriously affect performances and even cause complete failure. In short, the benefits of first grade efficiency will only be ensured by applying first class servicing.

# NEW CFS FIRE UNITS LUCINDALE FIRE TRUCK READY FOR ANYTHING

LUCINDALE last week took delivery of its first new fire truck since the District Council and District Fire Fighting Association agreed on an upgrading scheme.

The \$23 000 truck, of which half will be subsidised by the CFS, is now based in the township and the old "white truck" will go to spence.

District fire supervisor Mr. T. E. Legoe (right) collected the truck in Adelaide, where A. J. Stock built it up for about \$8 000.

The truck had its initial service at Truck and Implements Pty. Ltd., Naracoorte, last week and Mr. R. S. Walmsley (left) handed over the keys.

It has a VHF radio and is equipped to fight fuel fires.



NARACOORTE HERALD,  
AUGUST 13, 1979

## The Mt. Bryan CFS recently took delivery of a modern Fire Unit.

Previously, Mt. Bryan's unit was an old Ford truck which was being increasingly hard to maintain and due to its age, a little unreliable.

The District Council of Burra made available a Bedford seven-ton truck cab chassis, and had a new fire-fighting tray constructed and equipped to fit on to the truck. This allowed a straight change-over.

The new truck has fire-fighting equipment such as a 600-gallon

'Northern Argus', June 6, 1979

water tank with its necessary pump, hoses for grass fires, plus provision for fighting house fires. There is also an auxiliary hand pump in case of failure of the water pump.

The unit is fitted with VHF radio which matches the rest of the fleet of the district, and it is expected to give good service for many years.

The cost of the construction of this Unit was included in the Council's budget for 1978.

YORKETOWN. Yorketown CFS has a new fire unit, replacing the 17-year-old small Gipsy unit.

On a Toyota Landcruiser cab and chassis, it was designed, built and outfitted by Vaughan Motors of Yorketown, in conjunction with CFS members.

Pumping equipment is a Honda Davey; the unit has a 130 gallon tank and the usual radio, siren, spotlight, knapsack spray, extinguisher, hose reel and side hose equipment.

YP Country Times, Wednesday, May 30, 1979

'Northern Argus', Wednesday June 6

**AUBURN—On Thursday morning, 17th May, the Country Fire Service Committee received official notification that their tender of \$12 500 for a fire unit for sale by the Morphett Vale CFS had been accepted.**

The District Council of Saddleworth and Auburn had agreed to provide bridging finance, and with a cheque from the Council Vice President Malcolm Allen and Treasurer Peter Kelly travelled to Morphett Vale and took delivery of the truck.

The arrival of the truck in Auburn was most timely.

A barbecue tea and Barn Dance had been planned for Saturday 19th May before the advertising of the truck, and to have the unit on display on an occasion when a large number of the community were supporting this local fund raising entertainment undoubtedly helped to make it such a huge success.

The profit of about \$1 200, together with other planned fund raisers, should leave only a small debt by the end of the year.

The old flax mill came alive with a large crowd who were out to enjoy themselves. There was no shortage of food or drink and the floor shook to the beat of the old style dancing. Less energetic patrons warmed themselves by the bonfires and the glowing forges.

The CFS are indebted to Ross Adams for making the Old Flax Mill available. All the meat was provided by Ross and Terry Stephens free of charge. Hedley Barber and John Williams gave sheep to be cut up. All the salads were provided by the Auburn Women's Agricultural Bureau. All raffle prizes were donated.

The evening certainly was a resounding success and proved that the community spirit has not died in the

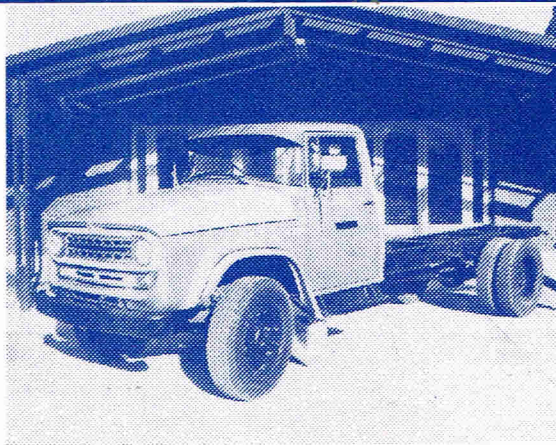
town of Auburn. A number of handsome donations were made by people unable to be present.

President Brian Byrne thanked helpers, the community and patrons from surrounding towns for their support.

Crew members were pleased to show the features of the new unit to all who were interested.

Built on a 1967 KGL 7 ton Bedford chassis, the unit is capable of carrying 650 galls of water in two saddle tanks made of three-eighths inch plate. The pump is a Pacific Mark 11 multistage, powered by a Wisconsin 10 HP electric start motor. The unit is equipped with 2 line reels, a monitor, and wheel sprays and is ready to go.

Members of the Auburn CFS are pleased to obtain a unit better than they could have ever dreamed of getting for the money.



## Truck Purchased for Replacement Fire Unit

It was decided at a special meeting of the Lameroo CFS that the Brigade would purchase a truck cab-chassis, to be built up as a replacement fire unit.

The District Council has submitted a budget for the cost of building the unit and purchasing the pump and other neces-

sary equipment, at a cost of approximately \$12 000. The fire unit would be in service for the coming fire season.

Brigade members have raised money toward the purchase of the cab-chassis and are grateful for donations received from Lameroo Apex Club \$1 077, Fire Fighting Auxiliary \$400 and Wilkawatt Gun Club \$280.

The Brigade will still need further support from the district, to ensure that the cost of commitments are met, and would be grateful for any donations.

Pinaroo Border Times, 14 June '79.

## who's who at headquarters



TONY CRICHTON

Regional Officer  
Bushfire Protection  
Prescription Burning  
Inquiries

Joined the Research Section, CFS this year, after having worked with the National Parks and Wildlife Service on ecological surveys. Tony previously spent a year in Queensland as a forester. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry. His interests are music, golf and tennis.

## First-Aid hints for fire emergencies

by courtesy of

Chief Training Officer, St. John Ambulance Brigade

In the case of injured persons, these are the objectives—to save life, to obtain as rapid and complete recovery as possible, and to relieve suffering.

The first-aid attendant must always recognise his limitations, and be reminded of the old proverb which warns us so truthfully, that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing".

The following first-aid hints are not intended to constitute the entire therapy required, but will assist you and the patient until he can be placed in more experienced hands.

### RESUSCITATION

Everyone should be able to perform artificial respiration. The mouth to mouth or mouth to nose method is the one of choice.

### BURNS

- (1) *Superficial*—Where there is reddening and minor blister formation—Wash with cold water. Apply a sterile dressing and bandage firmly.
- (2) *Deep*—Remove or cut away clothing over the burnt area, but leave clothing that is stuck. Wash liberally with cold water. Cover the burned area with a sterile or clean dressing and bandage securely. Do not apply any lotions, ointments or oily dressings. Do not break blisters. Refer to medical aid.

### BLEEDING

All breakages of the skin should be covered to minimise infection. Apply direct pressure. The application of firm pressure directly to the wound controls haemorrhage by compressing the blood vessels leading into the wound and by retaining blood in the wound long enough for it to clot. Pressure is applied by placing a large dressing over the wound. This extends well beyond the edges of the wound and a firm bandage holds it in position. Act quickly, every drop of blood is important. Elevate the part. Rest the casualty. Rest the injured part.

### HEAT EXHAUSTION

Place the casualty at rest in a cool place. Sponge with cold water. Give plenty of water (containing a teaspoon of salt to the pint) to drink.

### FRACTURES

Immobilise fractures before moving the casualty unless danger to the casualty or rescuers prevents this. Warn the casualty not to move. Control haemorrhage if present. Support the injured part of limb in as natural a position as possible without using force, and maintain this support until immobilisation is completed. Support and immobilise with slings, bandages, and splints when necessary. Support in the elevated position when possible.

### STRAIN

A strain is the result of overstretching of a muscle or tendon. Prevent further damage, and treat by:—

- Controlling haemorrhage and reducing the swelling;
- Preventing further overstretching and damage;
- Supporting the injured muscle with pressure;
- Encouraging gentle exercise to reduce painful spasm and shortening;
- Avoiding all massage.

### SPRAIN

Caused when the ligaments which binds the opposing bony surfaces together are forced beyond their normal range. Rest the joint in the most comfortable position. Elevate the limb. Expose the joint and apply a firm bandage. Apply ice packs or cold compresses over the joint. In all doubtful cases, treat as a fracture.

### EYE INJURIES

*Heat Burns*—(common in bushfires)

- Irrigate the eye with cold water.
- Place an eye pad over the affected eye or eyes.
- Seek medical advice.

*Smoke*—

- Irrigate freely with cold water.
- If symptoms relieved, duty may be resumed.

*Foreign Bodies*—

- Are often washed out by tears or irrigation.
- If not, get a wisp of cotton wool or the corner of a clean handkerchief moistened with cold water, then gently draw

the eyelid away from the eye ball. This may expose the foreign body which can be removed with the wisp of cotton wool or the handkerchief.

### FIRST-AID KITS

The attached list is the suggested contents for First-Aid Kits to be carried on CFS vehicles and appliances. The material should be kept in a clean portable container which can easily be carried to injured person.

Maintenance of the Kit is vitally important.

1. Prior to the fire season check the Kit and replace used and damaged items.
2. Prevent unauthorised or improper use of Kit.
3. When the Kit is used note amount of materials consumed for replacement.
4. Keep an inventory of the Kit inside the container for ease of operation and use.

*continued page 16 . . .*

## CFS Board Appointments

The appointments of Mr. Peter J. Swann of Kapunda and Mr. Archie McArthur of Rendelsham was announced by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Brian Chatterton.

The two new members were appointed for four year terms to the Board to succeed recent retirements. They replace Mr. R. E. (Bob) Munro, of Millicent, and Mr. E. H. V. (Eldred) Riggs of Gawler River.

Mr. Chatterton said that he, as Minister, and the CFS Board gratefully acknowledged the long and distinguished service given by Messrs Munro and Riggs.

### Local Fireman Appointed

Mr. Swann, an engineer, has been associated in the Kapunda district since 1960 when he joined the SA Fire Brigade as an auxiliary fireman.

In 1965, he joined the Kapunda EFS. Mr. Swann, involved with Fire Services for approximately 20 years, at present holds the position of Volunteer Regional Officer for Region 2, Fire Supervisor for Kapunda District Council, District Officer—Kapunda Country Fire Service, Life member of the Country Fire Service, Vice-president of the Lower North Fire Fighting Association, member of the Australian Fire Protection Association.

He has received the British Fire Service Long Service Medal and last year received the Australian National Medal.

### South East Board Member

Mr. McArthur is a well-known grazier, who has had many years association with fire fighting organisations in the South East.

As a member of the former Bushfire Research Committee (which he joined in 1962), he was closely involved with fire protection and public education programmes.

## Physical Fitness For Fire-fighters Can You Measure Up? continued from Page 16. The Volunteer Volume 2 . . .

*Jim Abbott*

### GOOD HEALTH—A BENEFIT

The greatest benefit of the physical fitness requirement has been the encouragement for people to begin exercise programs. Forest Service, USDA personnel, from novice firemen on part-time crews to Regional and Washington Office Fire Management leaders can be found running or otherwise exercising on a regularly planned basis. Careful breathing exercise periods at training heart rates for 15 minutes or more a day are common. One measure of training heart rate is 80% of maximal heart rate. Exercise need not be maximal to elicit an aerobic training effect. Training heart rate indicates a safe but effective intensity of exercise. The other benefits, weight control and general good health resulting from an exercise program, accrue naturally.

### THE PAYOFF

The big payoff for the job is in the health and safety of the individual. We anticipate less accidents of all types due to fatigue. The ability to handle a chain saw safely, or simply walk in rough terrain should improve. Besides safety, an appreciable effect on production and morale is expected. The crew that is totally spent physically should be uncommon, and the ability to work hard for extended periods should improve.

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

## Prepare for Fire Prevention Week. October 19th—26th, 1979.

The Country Fire Services is again supporting Fire Prevention Week, and asks that local C.F.S. Brigades, and Associations draw attention to their communities during this week, of the present dangers in the coming Bushfire Season.

**Prepare now for your local fire prevention promotions.**

Fire prevention information and advice/assistance can be obtained through the R.O. assigned to your region, or direct from C.F.S. Headquarters.

**Suggestions**—Advise proposed activities to local press, television for coverage, hold open house at your local C.F.S. Fire Station, static displays, school lectures, evacuations—are a few methods of getting the message of *fire prevention* through to the public.

### Programme

Day/Date	Function	Organiser
Friday	Official Opening—	Fire Prevention Week
19th October	Chrysler, Tonsley Park.	Committee/S.A.F.B./C.F.S.
Saturday	City Parade of Fire Units.	Country Fire Services.
20th October		
Sunday	I.F.S. Competition—	Industrial Fire Services.
21st October	Tubemakers Oval, Kilburn.	
Monday	Pyre Lighting Ceremony—	S.A. Fire Brigade.
22nd October	S.A. Fire Brigade H/Q's	
Tuesday	B.P. Creative Arts & Crafts	A.F.P.A.
23rd October	Competition Prize Presentation.	
Wednesday	Seminar (C.F.S. Lecture Theatre).	A.F.P.A.
24th October		
Thursday	Launching of Fire Prevention	Country Fire Services.
25th October	Publicity Programme.	
Friday	Evacuation Exercise.	S.A. Fire Brigade.
26th October		

### FIRST-AID KIT

(Revised 16/5/79)

Quantity	Description
2	Triangular Bandage
1	Bottle Antiseptic—Betadine
2	10 x 9 cm Combined Dressing
2	20 x 9 cm Combined Dressing
2	20 x 20 cm Combined Dressing
3	5 cm Conforming Roller Bandages
2	10 cm Kling Roller Bandages
2	15 cm Kling Roller Bandages
1	Constrictive Bandage
1	Pkt. Disprin (24 tablets)
1	Pkt. Band-aid
1	Universal Shears
1	Card Safety Pins
2	Pkt. 10—Cottonwool Balls
4	Pkt. 20 ml Saline Solution
1	1/8% Neosynethrine Eye Wash
1	Adhesive tape 2" x 1"
1	Adhesive tape 4.5 m
1	Elastoplast Dressing, roll
1	Cotton buds
1	Forceps 12.7 cm (5")
1	Mercurachrome—bottle
1	Kidney dish or bowl 10 cm (4")
1	Salt/Dextrose tablets

### OBITUARY

It is with regret *The Volunteer* announces the passing of fellow CFS member Frederick McDonald (Rex) Brinkworth—18th August, 1979. A member of the Stirling CFS.

Rex had recently been awarded Life Presidency of the Stirling CFS Brigade, and received the Australian National Medal for 24 years of continuous and diligent uniformed CFS service.

A member of the Industrial Fire Service Executive Committee since 1955 and also active member of the local Lions Club and Bowling Club, Mr. Rex Brinkworth's absence will be truly missed. Our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

## C.F.S. Operations and Radio Room (Article 3)

### THE FIRE SITUATION BOARD

The function of the "Fire Situation Board" is to show a brief, up to date summary of all incidents to Control Room personnel in the Operations Room during the co-ordination of fires or Special Service incidents.

The initial report is received either by telephone or radio in the Radio Room and the "Initial Fire Report Form (E4/1/73)" is completed where possible.

From the information obtained the nearest C.F.S. unit is alerted.

The information from this report is then transferred to the "Fire Situation Board", e.g. location, size, type, condition, time, initial call received, and number of units attending.

Following the initial report, all actions taken, or reports received either by telephone or radio are recorded on duplicate message forms (E4/2/73).

Fire situation Board

Each fire/incident is given a number which is shown on the left hand side of the board.

Written messages relating to each incident are collected on separate clip boards which are numbered to co-incide with the "Fire Situation Board" numbers. (i.e. clip board No. 3 detail relates to "Fire Situation Board No. 3").

Each fire/incident location is marked on a topographical 1:50 000 scale map and numbered appropriately.

At the completion of incident, a "sit rep" (situation report) is compiled and attached to the appropriate clip board and "Fire Situation Board" altered accordingly.

At the completion of each 24 hours (day) completed incidents are removed from the "Fire Situation Board" the detail recorded in the "Fire Message Log Book" and messages filed.

## Fat Cat to appear at Strathalbyn CFS Fireworks Display

Channel 10's Fat Cat is to be one of the main attractions on October 20th.

Also appearing will be spectacular display's by the Findon Skid Kids, involving 35 members, with 30 to 45 minutes of Dare Devil Feats.

The very popular Moonwalk, which has been reconstructed to cater for both children and adults, will be available for entertainment.

Entrance fee for the evening will be \$2.00 adults 50 cents children. This fee has not risen for the last three years. Although inflation has caused a steep rise in the cost of Fireworks, the committee's aim is for a low cost family evening.

The Southern Argus, 16 August, 1979.