

# THE VOLUNTEER

Official Journal for The Country Fire Services South Australia

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Correspondence to the Editor

"The Volunteer"  
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# Letters to the Editor.

## COPTER ALERTS FIRE TEAM



27th January, 1980

What a real scoop was missed (*Advertiser*, Monday 28th January) when the scratchy report under that heading was edited. The chance to bring to the public on yet another occasion just how much work is being done voluntarily by the C.F.S. Organisation and those young and older members, that not only give gratis of their time, but their "property" such as petrol and wear and tear of vehicles, foods, drink and the like, to ensure the safety of certain areas of our State that are discriminately defined, as not to include them with the areas of fire protection by our S.A.F.B. from the comprehensively accepted "horror of bush fire," was not only missed, but incorrectly reported.

"There was no damage to stock or property".

I would suggest that the reporter should check on the word "property", for to me, pasture grasses, fence posts, fencing and the loss of production that has naturally occurred from the result of that fire referred to, is "property".

The area burned out on Sunday 27th January, was relatively small, however it could have been a lot worse should that copter NOT have been engaged on surveillance and given an early alert. I understand that the trial period of the use of this copter is nearly over. What will be the decision? Will the C.F.S. need to continue to share the cost of surveillance of fire over the Mt. Lofty Ranges, or will the authorities who choose to uphold laws instigated against discrimination, do the right thing and ensure that not only suburbia be efficiently protected from fire by modern up to date equipment and expertise, but also those residents who pay their State taxes to upkeep roads (which they have instead, tracks) and for water supply which they have none or need to lay pipes for long distances at their own expense to allow for a tricky of the precious liquid and endure the many other controls placed upon residents in Hills Face zoned areas, or will these residents of South Australia need to continue to rely upon the C.F.S. to afford them some mental peace, should a fire start or be started in or near their homes.

On Sunday, 18 units attended that fire, in all about 100 men were involved plus their ladies at home caring and preparing food and drinks to support them.

At or about the rate of pay of a "rooky" employee of the S.A.F.B. the hours these men put in voluntarily would have cost nearly \$5 000-00, to which you can add their "property", such as trucks, petrol and the tyres that are ruined on the job like they take on.

C.F.S. fire truck units are subsidised by our State Government, some councils assist with the other moneys required, some do not. Fire Insurance premiums include a percentage levy to assist support of the "fire service" of our State. Where and how are those moneys dispursed?

Council rates are paid by all, as guided by E.W.S. "property valuation" (even if you don't receive any water supply). I wonder how the money is raised by those councils who do assist C.F.S. units capital expenditure, and if it is similar to those councils that have a requirement for C.F.S. groups in their areas yet do not support their capital outlay.

Thanks to the extremely efficient devoted and highly dedicated men of 18 C.F.S. units the property damage on Sunday 27th was only minimal, and thanks to the Rescue 1 Helicopter the Mt. Lofty Ranges and all the "property" of "owners of land" within them, including the vast areas of State owned land and our national parks, can rest assured that should a fire start, "there's someone up there" sounding the alert.

The Director of C.F.S. Lloyd Johns needs that copter, and the men fighting the fires, deserve it.

Arnold C. Brown  
Reynella

### APPRECIATION TO FIRE FIGHTERS

The District Council of Yankiilla desires to record its sincere appreciation to all people who assisted in combatting the bush-fire at Deep Creek on February 19, 20, 21, 1980. Special mention is made of the efforts of all fire control officers the headquarters staff of the Country Fire Services, Personnel of C.F.S. units from outside the council area, and to the ladies and organisations who donated and prepared food.

Signed: T. G. Lyddon  
District Clerk and  
District Fire Supervisor

### CALL SIGN CORRECTION

Please note that the Kimba CFS call sign should correctly read VL 5 DF.

## almost EDITORIAL

Well we got through this Summer!

For some weeks before "Ash Wednesday" I had been thinking about the editorial comment for this issue of 'The Volunteer'. Even a "Ring in" from a country that "couldn't possibly know what a serious bushfire was", on watching Channel 9's Jeremy Cordeaux's 'Adelaide', Monday 25th February, could see that throughout the entire State, the situation was very, very serious and it needed only the conditions of that day plus ignition and there it is.

What many people don't realize is that the Country Fire Services, National Parks and Wildlife Services and private units were not fighting one massive fire on the 20th February 1980, but three (3). Deep Creek had been burning since the day before, and the Coonalpyn fire started at almost the same time as the Hills fire. For this reason, many SA citizens weren't even aware that valuable pasture land in the South East, 'just went up in smoke'.

Fred Kerr, not long before he retired, was accused of crying "wolf". But like Little Red Riding Hood, not just the Hills people, but many throughout the State have discovered that the wolf has big teeth.

I have now had time to wipe the blood off my nose, and start some serious thinking about the shortcomings of our Headquarters and field operations. You can be assured that changes must be made, if we are to continue to serve the community with the high degree of efficiency we aim for. But one thing has emerged with absolute clarity—I'm proud to be one of you.

LLOYD C. JOHNS  
Director,  
SA Country Fire Services.

### TECHNICAL INFO

Suggestions from Bordertown CFS. From contents of previous issues, list the technical data at least once a year as a reference and referral. Also prepare a yearly index on technical data available.

Thanks Bordertown, your comments have been noted . . . Editor.

### CORRECTION

To the Woodside CFS members children, please accept our apology for excluding you from the listing of attendees at the Mylor Region 1, CFS Fire Fighting Competitions held at the Mylor Oval on 10th June, 1979. As recorded in the photograph—front cover, summer issue of "The Volunteer" . . . Editor.

### UPDATE RECORDS

Dear Sir,

To bring your records up to date we point out that under Inter-District Volunteer Fire Fighting Associations our entry would be listed as follows—

Association	Region	President	Secretary
NORTH EAST	4	K. H. TRELOAR	R. M. Sangster Tepco Station. R.M.D. Cockburn S.A. 5440

Further under "Transceiver Licence Holders—Call Signs and Frequencies" we request the following listing.

NORTH EAST FIRE FIGHTING ASSOCIATION			
Location	Call sign	Frequency	
Headquarters (Wiawera)	VL 510	2660 Normal	
Western (Four Brothers)	8 SJP	2668 Administrative	
Eastern (Tepco)	8 SVM		
Operating on Broken Hill R.F.D.S. frequencies 2020 KHZ, 4055 KHZ and 6920 KHZ			
Four Brothers Station	8 SJP		
Mooleulooloo Station	9 KW		
Tepco Station	8 SVM		
Wiawera Station	9 SS		
			Yours faithfully R. M. Sangster Secretary North East F.F.A

## FIREWOMEN

Sir—My attention has been drawn to items in your newspaper concerning the issue of women becoming firemen in New Zealand. The comments made by both union representatives and senior officers of your fire department are laughable if not so serious. You may be interested to learn that here, in South Australia, we have women working side by side with men (no pun intended) in the Country Fire Services. The service is directed by Mr. Lloyd Johns, a New Zealander who, I am sure, would be the first to admit that attitude and aptitude are the only prerequisites for the job. The excuse "that women aren't as strong as men etc." is just not a legitimate argument, when you consider that firefighting (both bush and house fires) is a team effort and at no time a single-handed effort. Like any form of team-work it needs discipline—and even though we are volunteers and unpaid we are an effective, well-disciplined force. To fill you in a little more—we are situated in a heavily-timbered, closely-populated area of the Adelaide Hills (Mt. Lofty Ranges), in the driest State of the driest continent on earth.

FIREMAN WENDY TODD  
FIREMAN MARGARET  
ANNE KAT  
(Bridgewater  
South Australia)  
Gisborne Herald,  
N.Z., November 29, 1979

## WOMEN FIREFIGHTERS

Sir—Regarding the letter on women firefighters from two Australian women, I would like to deny that any senior fire officer or union officials in Gisborne have made any comments on the subject. In the letter signed by two women claiming they are volunteer fire fighters in South Australia it was inferred that senior fire officers and union representatives from the Gisborne Fire Brigade had made certain statements to the Herald. These concerned the role of women in the fire fighting arena. At no time has any fire officer or union representative from this brigade made any comments whatever. I should point out that there are already women members in various fire brigades on the East Coast, who already perform the same work as the two signatories to the letter. There are 10 brigades in this area many with women volunteers and we are quite happy

with the way they work. The letter could be considered as a slight on their efforts. At the East Coast fire brigade competitions held at Tokomaru Bay some two weeks ago eight competition teams comprised solely of women took part, and performed creditably. We like to think that the East Coast leads New Zealand in this respect."

A.P. BLACKMORE  
(NZ Fire Service,  
Gisborne area commander)

**FOOTNOTE:** *The comments referred to were contained in a report of a conference held in the South Island when a fire officer made remarks about the adverse effect women would have if they served in the Fire Service. Editor*  
Dec 1st, 1979.  
Gisborne Herald N.Z.

Dear Peter,

As discussed, I have attached what may be the basis of an article for "The Volunteer" titled "HOW DO YOUR PUMPS COMPARE?"

Please feel free to use, change or discard it. It may seem a little obtuse. However, it may give some gentle support to those at Headquarters suggesting that some brigades upgrade their pumps and who meet opposition in the form of "we don't need all this new, fancy gear."

12th February, 1980  
Regards  
Tom Millar  
Clarendon C.F.S.

## HOW DO YOUR PUMPS COMPARE?

Should your brigade be agonising over the pros and cons of upgrading its pumping capacity you may be interested in comparing your pumps with this equipment.

How about a pump capable of throwing 160 gallons of water per minute to a height of 165 feet? Richard Newsham built this pump in 1725. It was manually operated by two groups of men. The first operated pumping levers from the ground. The second group, mounted above the pump, hopped on and off foot pieces attached to the levers to boost the power.

... and Captain Cook landed at Botany Bay in 1770.

Or how about a 150 gallons a minute pump maintaining a jet height of 90 feet via a 1¼ inch nozzle? This was the world's first steam fire engine. It was built in London during 1829-30 by Braithwaite and Ericsson.

... and in 1832, Ericsson, a Swede by birth, moved to America and designed the famous ironclad battleship "Monitor".

Then there was the pump which could push 1 000 gallons per minute through a 2½ inch nozzle to a height of 166 feet. This was America's first steam fire engine. It was built in New York between 1840-41 by an Englishman by the name of Hodge.

... and in 1856 Van Diemen's Land became Tasmania while in 1900 the Australian States achieved federation.

Should this comparison still leave something to be desired you could consult Fire Engines and Firefighting by David Burgess-Wise (Octopus Books Limited) for further information on squirts, rivetted leather hose, airport foam tenders and super pumps.

A most enlightening article, thank you Tom Millar ... Editor.

## C.W.A. Contribution

The Secretary,  
Country Fire Service  
Women's Auxiliary,

Dear Madam,

During the recent disastrous bushfires in the Adelaide Hills, you and members of your organisation generously contributed services and help to those who suffered.

As Minister of Community Welfare, I wish to express my personal thanks and appreciation of your assistance.

The tragic effects of the bushfires were immediate and will have their impact on the people in the area and all South Australians for some time.

However, the disaster also showed once again the tremendous community spirit that comes from such tragedies. Your response reflected this community care for the welfare of others.

I am sure the victims of the fire, and my Departmental staff who were involved, would echo my thanks and appreciation.

Yours sincerely,  
John Burdett M.L.C.  
Minister of Community  
Welfare

## CONSTRUCTIVE COMMENTS

To demonstrate to all CFS Brigades that criticism and constructive comments are welcome in the Volunteer and also is looked upon by CFS Headquarters as a most valuable feedback of efforts to get the message across to both the CFS and the general public; the following letter has been included in this issue.

Dear Sir,

I have been requested at a recent meeting of the brigades members to contact CFS headquarters with regard to the poor quality shown in the design of this years bushfire prevention car sticker.

Our brigade members felt that the design did not give a true interpretation of the words "Give us a go, Bushfires Hurt", and in fact many of our members felt that it was an insult to the South Australian Country Fire Services.

I hope that when the 1980-81 car sticker designs are being considered that a lot more thought and care is taken to avoid the embarrassment felt by the members of this brigade as a result of these car stickers.

27th December, 1979.  
G. Congdon  
Secretary.

Munno Para/Smithfield CFS

*An open invitation is issued to any and all CFS Brigades or individuals within Brigades to submit designs for use in promoting future fire prevention campaigns.*

*Please forward all suggestions and/or designs to: The Director, CFS, P.O. Box 312, Goodwood, SA 5034*

... Editor.

News Item from H.Q.  
Fire Prevention Office

Australian Standards Association are currently amending the colours for portable fire extinguishers with emphasis on a standard colour for all extinguishers which can be used on electrical risks. A new standard is also being prepared on smoke detectors including the single point domestic type, which are currently receiving considerable publicity, and the Standards Association are giving this high priority.

R.O. Richard Hutchins  
Fire Prevention Officer

Dear Mr. Johns,

Your editorial in THE VOLUNTEER, VOLUME 3, September 1979 was discussed at a recent meeting of this Brigade. After much discussion it was unanimously decided to write expressing our disappointment and regret that you had to criticise a C.F.S. volunteer in print as a result of a conclusion you jumped to. The conclusion we hasten to add being totally incorrect.

There was no thought or intention by the member to derogate in any way the status of a volunteer when he made the factual statement "we are only volunteers". The statement was made after criticism had been directed at a prominent and very valuable member of the C.F.S. about his non-regulation dress. In our particular area we are often called to fires in circumstances where valuable time could be lost by going home or to the fire station to collect our uniforms instead of going directly to the fire and meeting our unit there. This inevitably will lead to the occasion when a uniform is not worn at a fire. This point separates us from paid firemen who wear their uniforms on duty and consequently are always seen to be correctly dressed.

We emphasise that we are proud of the C.F.S. and take great pride in the service we provide our community as volunteers. None more than the member who was guilty of making the blood pressure raising statement.

We look forward to the next issue of the Volunteer in which we hope to read this letter and your comments on same.

Yours faithfully,

L. R. WALTER  
Captain

B. J. DIXON  
Secretary

One Tree Hill C.F.S.

1/11/79

## To The One Tree Hill C.F.S.

Dear Sirs,

I have availed myself of the opportunity to meet with the members of the One Tree Hill C.F.S. to discuss and explain the intent of the material referred to, in my editorial.

I publicly apologise to the One Tree Hill C.F.S. members for any aspersions they feel were cast upon them. This definitely was not the intention of the editorial. If brickbats are ever to be thrown, then those concerned will be left in no doubt as to my intentions! I look forward to never having to do that.

There is no apology forthcoming from me for the purpose of the editorial. The circumstances which motivated me to frame the editorial in the manner it was

written, is that around the State there are a number of members who consider that because they are volunteers they are less than the best, and to the rest who have any doubts—cast them aside and stand as proud of yourselves, as I am of the C.F.S. movement throughout South Australia.

Standing proud in itself is insufficient—each and every one of you will at some time or other be called upon to prove yourself. You've got to be prepared to do just that!

The uniform questions was not mentioned in the editorial but I will comment on it. I am well aware of the difficulties of having your helmet and overalls in the right place at the right time, but common sense must prevail. Long trousers, stout footwear and long sleeved shirt (definitely not nylon!) are absolutely essential. To turn up on the fire ground in shorts, T-shirt and thongs is to jeopardise your own safety, compromise your officers and your colleagues who may have to suspend fire fighting operations to render first aid and casualty clearance procedures—on you!

Lloyd C. Johns

Director

Country Fire Services

## S.A. FIRE BRIGADES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dear Sir,

On behalf of my committee, I am writing to you to inform you of the formation of the S.A. Fire Brigades Historical Society.

Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the history of the Fire Services, that have ever serviced the State of South Australia. We feel that there could be many members of the Country Fire Services who may be interested.

We hold our meetings on the first Monday of each month at S. A. F. B. Headquarters, Wakefield Street, Adelaide, commencing 1900 hours. We would be grateful if you would circulate to your members the fact of the society's existence. Interested persons would be made most welcome. If any further information is required, please feel free to contact me at 7 Orana Street, Gepps Cross, 5094 or 'phone (08) 260 2196 any evening. I thank you for your attention and look forward to hearing from some of your members.

Your sincerely,

John McGee  
Secretary

5th March, 1980.

### Front cover:

Remains of the Bridgewater C.F.S. Brigade Unit destroyed in the "Ash Wednesday Holocaust", 20th February 1980. The unit was attacking a fire front on Longwood Road, Longwood in the Adelaide Hills, in searing 43°C heat, when a spot fire whipped up by fierce northerly winds enveloped both volunteer fire fighters and vehicle. Five C.F.S. Volunteer fire fighters took refuge in the truck's cabin to escape the fire and radiant heat. Three of the volunteers required hospitalisation for treatment for burns. The cabin saved their lives—as both the cabin and the petrol tank remained intact.

Dear Mr. Johns,

### Bushfire Disaster, 20th February, 1980, "Ash Wednesday"

I desire to convey to you and members of your Headquarters staff, the appreciation and admiration of the members of Council and residents of the district, for the manner in which the recent bushfire was fought and eventually brought under control.

Council, indeed the district, is well aware of the size and intensity of the fire and the difficulties which were imposed upon all units and voluntary personnel in combatting the blaze. The loss of a fire unit, damage to others and the unfortunate injury to some of the members of units, is real proof of the heroic efforts of the fire fighters.

Whilst the property loss sustained in the fire is understandably large, there is no doubt that but for the efforts of the C.F.S. Brigades, the loss would have been substantially greater and could have included loss of life.

I would be pleased if you could convey these sentiments to your staff.

It would be appreciated also if you could arrange for Council's appreciation and thanks could be conveyed to Brigades from outside of this district which attended the fire, as there are many which are unknown to Council.

Yours sincerely,

D. A. Beaumont  
Chairman

District Council of Stirling

"Thank you"

Dear Firemen,

We wish to say a big "Thank You" to all the fire fighters, especially those who were working so valiantly along Mountford Avenue. That our cottage and sheds are still standing, is entirely due to these marvellous and dedicated men.

Thank you, thank you, thank you,

Margarete & Rai Heiland  
Aldgate (Bridgewater)



### Fire Fighters Save House—Alight!

Dear Sir,

A week or so after the recent Adelaide Hills bushfire I wrote a short letter to the Editor of the "Advertiser" newspaper expressing my thanks to the fire fighters who saved my house after it had actually caught alight.

The "Advertiser" did not publish the note, so I would like to follow up with a note of thanks to the C.F.S. direct.

The point is, that if the C.F.S. unit had not come by when it did, or if they had not taken positive and efficient action the house and my possessions would not be there now. It was also very pleasing to see that the fire fighters had taken the trouble to move my big hi-fi speaker and TV set away from the water which they'd poured into the roof. Not only efficiency but sensitivity!

I understand that the unit may have come from Mylor and been manned partly by Mylor and partly by Aldgate fire fighters. But who ever was responsible for saving the house, I would like to thank the C.F.S. for its promptness, efficiency and maybe bravery, for I can't imagine it would have been any picnic on Wilson Road, on "Ash Wednesday".

In thanking your service generally, I would be pleased if you would find an opportunity of passing on my thanks to the Mylor C.F.S. in particular.

With best wishes,  
Christopher Symons  
Wilson Road, Mylor

## BE PROUD!

22/2/80

Dear Sir,

As one who stayed in our area last Wednesday with my fingers crossed, I would like to congratulate all the CFS personnel who had the difficult task of controlling the fires in the Adelaide Hills.

South Australia can be proud of our C.F.S. Organisation, and the efficient manner in which they carry out their duties. No doubt, not everything went according to plan, but that's life, and errors made, can be corrected in future. Fires can be very fickle!

For what it is worth, I have a suggestion to throw into the melting pot.—Maitland, Minlaton and Yorketown could be used to give advance information of pending wind changes from West-S.W. directions. (On Wednesday we had the cool change, i.e. change of wind about 2 hours before it reached the fire area.)

I am sure radio base stations could be on duty for any emergency situations, such as last "Wednesday".

Regards, yours faithfully  
S. B. Moody  
Supervisor D.C.C. & P.  
Maitland

## Boy Alerts Aldgate CFS of Bushfire

**Quick thinking by a Heathfield boy, Emile D'Andrea, aged 14, alerted the CFS and neighbours to a grass fire near his home early in the new year.**

Emile and his brother Richard were at home on Forbes Road about 11.30 a.m. on 2 January, when they heard a loud "pop" and saw fire spreading on a property opposite their home.

Emile ran to alert Mr. J. Gray in his house alongside the burning grass and then rang the Aldgate CFS.

Mr. Gray immediately began to put out the fire with water from his hose and the job was completed by the Aldgate CFS which arrived soon afterwards.

No damage was sustained to property and approximately one quarter of a hectare of grass was burnt.

Mt. Barker Courier, 16 January, 1980.

## GRATITUDE

Dear Sir,

I imagine that you will receive many letters about your fire fighters' efforts during the bushfires of last week. I should like to make some of my own comments out of admiration and gratitude.

I live at the end of Mountford Avenue, Aldgate, where there is a house on 6 acres of land. When the fire jumped the road and began making its way towards us I telephoned Aldgate C.F.S. and told them that there were many houses at the end of Mountford Avenue and informed them that a fire unit could, with safety, be parked on my lawn which is clear of trees etc., for that reason. I did this because I knew that many of the units were from other areas and, being unfamiliar with our area, would not know where some of the houses were.

Despite this it only took about 15 minutes for a unit to arrive. They parked on my lawn, turned off my roof sprinkler and diverted the mains water into the truck's tank, fighting the fire from this base and saving every house in the street.

I remember clearly the volunteer who, while fighting my fire, was telling me that he had lost his own house and belongings that morning. Another used the occasional quiet moments to check by telephone on the evacuation of his own house before returning to protect mine.

I was also very impressed by the efforts to which the fire fighters went to protect whatever they could. I had mown fairly extensive firebreaks between my young trees and had kept them green with sprinklers. When the men saw this they made every effort to work to the boundaries of my mowing despite their fatigue and a situation in which they could well have chosen to protect only my house and sheds. As a result I am extremely fortunate to have intact all the areas of my block that have cost me time and effort and I have learnt a lasting lesson about the need to maintain good, seasonal firebreaks.

There must have been men from at least ten units on my place that night. I don't know which ones they were and, as a result, I cannot write to the units concerned, but my wife and I are writing to you to express something of our gratitude in the hope that the fire fighters will know how much their efforts were appreciated. We thought they were magnificent.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Robert G. B. Morrison  
Stirling

## CO-OPERATION

Mr. K. Clark  
Smithfield C.F.S.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Commissioner of Police please extend my sincere thanks to your Fire Unit members for providing flood lighting, which greatly facilitated the Police investigations at the scene of the house fire at 38 Moulds Crescent, Smithfield, on 7/11/79, and to your Women's Auxiliary for the most welcome refreshments they so kindly supplied to our members.

Your members' co-operation and assistance were greatly appreciated by this Department and the members concerned.

Thanking you again.

Yours sincerely,  
R. K. GEUE  
Chief Superintendent  
Officer-in-Charge  
Region "D" Headquarters  
Para Hills Police Station

13th November, 1979

6th March 1980

Thanks for  
assistance

Sir—I wish to thank the following people, and also districts that sent units to assist with the bushfire in the Deep Creek Conservation Park:

Messrs. Wenham, Anderson, Connor and Balquhidder Ltd., who assisted with bulldozers and road graders.

Fire units from Waitpinga, Encounter Bay, Port Elliot, Strathalbyn, Yundi, Inman Valley, Hindmarsh Valley, Myponga, Aldinga, Willunga, Morphett Vale, Munno Para (Gawler) National Park, Yankalilla, Rapid Bay, Parawa and particularly the units from Stirling and Aldgate, of which at least one crew member lost his home while assisting the residents surrounding the park.

South Coast State Emergency Service, Salvation Army, and the many women in the background and those who contributed and distributed food.

Bob Martin,  
Deputy Fire Officer,  
Yankalilla District Council area

## TO HOST CONTESTS

**BALAKLAVA**—An invitation has been extended to the CFS to host Region 2 competitions at Balaklava on Sunday, July 6 and this has been accepted with the showgrounds main oval the venue.

## Admiration & Thanks

Dear Sir,

During the weekend of 15th and 16th December, 1979, I suffered the misfortune of a grass fire on my property near Gawler.

The fire was attended by the Concordia, Lyndoch and Williamstown CFS crews and their units.

I have nothing but admiration for the great skill they all displayed in difficult terrain and their diligence and concern in returning to the site after the main fire had been controlled, to extinguish burning logs and posts.

Their prompt and professional response was a credit to the Service.

I have written personally to the respective Captains expressing my thanks and I would like my appreciation recorded at Headquarters as well.

Yours sincerely,  
R. W. Law-Smith

## RADIO INFORMATION PLAN SUPPORTED

A suggestion by a Mount Barker resident for a radio station to broadcast regular information about emergencies, such as the "Ash Wednesday" Adelaide Hills fires, has been supported by the Director of Country Fire Services, Mr. Lloyd Johns.

The Mount Barker resident, Mr. R. W. Reeves, in a letter to "The Advertiser" (11/3/80), suggested that as Radio 5AN could be clearly received throughout the Hills area, it could be used to inform motorists and Hills residents about an emergency.

Mr. Reeves said the broadcasts could be made each quarter hour, with the information being that provided by the emergency service's official spokesman.

Mr. Johns said, that any plan which would provide accurate information to the public—and, in some situations, to emergency services—was worthy of consideration and implementation, where practicable.

"Besides informing the public, the information "spots" could be used to warn people of danger areas, and particularly to appeal to those not directly involved to stay clear and thus facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles and crews", he added.

## Women on the Fire Line!

The Aldinga Beach and Area CFS "Baptised by Fire" their new all Women Volunteer Fire Fighting Team at the "Aldinga Scrub Reserve Fire" on 5th March, 1980 at 1130 hours.

Their performance was remarkable reported Dave Ingram (Brigade Captain, Aldinga Beach and Area CFS). Due to the promptness of both the Aldinga Beach and Area, and the Sellicks Hill CFS Brigades the fire was restricted to approximately 4 acres. However with 2ft. high vegetation (wild oats, rye grass) and an abundance of dead sheoak, wattle, banksia on the reserve, if the fire had not been stopped in grassland just 2 metres short of the vegetation, we could not have stopped it, said Dave Ingram.

The Aldinga Beach and Area CFS protects well over 700 dwellings and is also responsible for the initial protection of the Aldinga Scrub Reserve. To ensure effective fire protection on a 24 hour basis to 2 500 residents, the Women Volunteer Fire Fighting Team was established.

This fully operative female crew comprises of:

Mrs. Cheryl May. (Lieutenant)  
Mrs. Jili Bolton.  
Mrs. Kerrie Ingram.  
Mrs. Lyn Cuthill.  
Mrs. Carol Johnson.  
Mrs. Anne Allingame.



Aldinga Beach and Area CFS Women's Fire Fighting Team hard at work refilling the tank after a controlled trial burn off.

All ladies have completed the 12 week Fire Fighters Training Programme which includes—Fundamentals of combustion, suppression and prevention, radio operation, hose drill, rescue, vehicle equipment association operation and maintenance . . . and they are more than ready to drop their household duties while their husbands are at work, to answer a call to the fire line.

Credit is also given to the Country Women's Association, Aldinga Branch, who have offered their services to the CFS to care for the children of the members during fire call outs, enabling maximum attendance at any emergency that may arise.



Now let's see, we've removed the cover plate, flushed the hydrant, sunk the stand pipe, now we insert the turn cock key, then connect the hose and wait for the order to turn on . . . simple!

Congratulations Aldinga Beach and Area CFS, we salute you ladies. Records show that you are the first all Women's Volunteer CFS Fire Fighting Team registered in South Australia, What a wonderful achievement.

To all you CFS Brigades out there let us hear your comments and stories . . . Editor.

## SHOULD THE CFS HAVE A FLAG?

It has been suggested that the CFS should have a flag which can be flown on special occasions throughout the State—to symbolise the unity and patriotism of the CFS towards the community at large.

What do you think?

I would appreciate your early views and if you do favour such a project let us have your design suggestions. Editor.

## RADIO, T.V. PERSONALITIES HELPED SMOKEY CELEBRATE

Adelaide's television and radio personalities joined together in helping to celebrate "Smokey" the Koala's birthday at the Adelaide Zoo, Wednesday, 30 January, 1980.

"Smokey" is the symbol of fire prevention in South Australia, and the Country Fire Services sponsors the annual birthday party to enable up to 3 000 children to visit the Zoo and join in the celebration with the T.V. and radio celebrities.

This years attendance was among the biggest ever.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, who was attending his first "Smokey's" party, said later he was astounded at the number of children, many with their parents, who watched the hour's entertainment.

"It is a tremendous credit to our friends in television and radio in coming together to help convey the message of fire safety and prevention to children", Mr. Johns said.

Coca-Cola, St. John, the S.A. Police, and Master of Ceremonies, Ron Sullivan (John Martins), must all receive a strong mention for their continued and valuable contribution(s).

An amusing sidelight to this years birthday cake candle lighting ceremony was that although there were no fire bans on that day, a steady breeze kept blowing out the candles as the Director and personalities attempted to light them. Possibly the candles got wet, when the Happy Valley CFS put the "Fire Demon" to flight, and doused him with water.

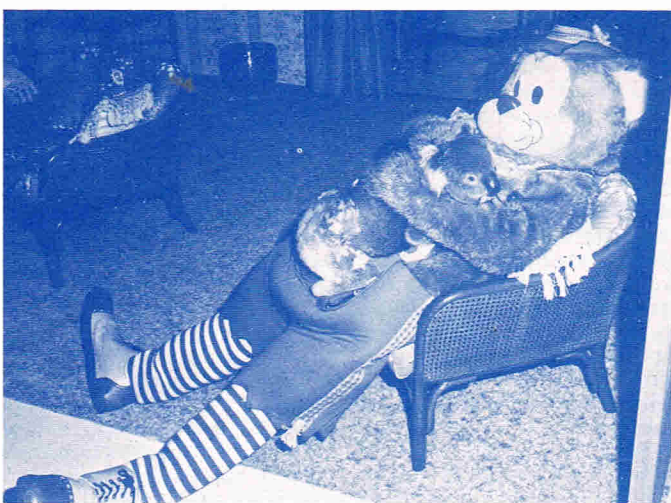


Earlier the same day, the Director and "Smokey" made a guest appearance on SAS 10s "Earlybirds" programme—arriving at the Channel 10 studios by the CFS Emergency Rescue 1 helicopter.

The Rescue 1 helicopter is seen leaving, after dropping off Mr. Johns and "Smokey", who were welcomed by Fat Cat (with birthday cake) and Channel 10 "Early Birds" personalities, Ian Wilson and Jane Reilly—for "Smokey's Birthday Party".



From right—S.A. Fire Prevention Symbol "Smokey the Koala", Keeper Bob Robbins (Cleland Conservation Park) and Lloyd Johns, about to board Rescue 1, for a visit to SAS Channel 10.



Taking a break—Fat Cat and Smokey Koala between segments of the "Early Birds" programme.

## COASTAL WATTLE A FIRE HAZARD

The Country Fire Services is to investigate the growth and spread of native Coastal Wattle (*acacia sopherae*) in parts of the South East following reports that it is a potential serious fire hazard.

The South Eastern Fire Fighting Association has asked the CFS Board for an investigation, as the Association is concerned about its spread along roadsides, particularly in the Coorong and adjacent areas.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said that following Board approval, the Service's Research and Fire Protection Division will now make a study and report on the wattle.

Mr. Johns said the Association had pointed out that the wattle bushes were highly flammable, and therefore created a hazard because of the volume of fire fuel in them.

## SENIOR F.C.O. AND BRIGADE OFFICERS SCHOOL AUTUMN 1980

Primarily aimed at Officers who have control at fires. This school will be held at Country Fire Services Headquarters on 2nd, 3rd and 4th May, 1980, for F.C.O.'s and Brigade Officers in senior positions.

Information has been sent to Town or District Clerks of Corporations or Councils and to Brigade Secretaries. Nominations close on Friday, 11th April, 1980.

Foundation Members attended the 25th Anniversary of the Longwood Bradbury Scott Creek C.F.S. unit on Feb. 16th in The Fire Shed.



Pictured from left—Messrs Keith Norsworthy (Bradbury); John Allen (treasurer); Harry Wright (Longwood); Les Lewis (foundation president and 1955-60 president); and Clive Williams (foundation secretary and 1955-71 secretary) ham it up with a 25 year old knapsack at the function.

On the evening members of the Ladies' auxiliary received awards for years of service since 1967. These went to Mesdames Roma Allen, Mary Allen, Margaret Rainey, Lois Allen, Margaret Lewis, Rae Bradbury, Dulcie Dibell and Dot Errey. photo courtesy "Mt. Barker Courier".

## SPECIAL THANKS

Each year in the months of August, September, the next seasons Fire Prevention Material is prepared. At the same time Volunteer Brigades, individuals and families are sometimes approached to assist in the production of the material.

By granting us permission to use them as models and cast, in real life situations, graphic fire prevention material is produced.

for background scenes at such short notice is no mean feat . . . to disrupt their family life whilst the camera was clicking away, and to be so patient and understanding during lengthy and drawn out TV production sessions.

To Mr. and Mrs. Rodney and Barbera Wood, and children Darryl and Karen and to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Gloria Wright, and children Christopher and Kerry, please accept the sincere appreciation of the Country Fire Services. Special thanks also goes to all the CFS Volunteers I have met to date who have assisted behind the scenes with the production of TV scatters, and for their involvement at competitions, displays, and fund raising activities—thank you for your generous contribution(s).

Peter Mills  
Publicity/Promotions Officer  
C.F.S. Headquarters



It was such a case, this fire season when both the Wright and Wood families of the Morphett Vale CFS assisted in production of posters and a television scatter. They soon discovered it wasn't easy working under hot lights to get the correct photographs for the posters, . . . to arrange vehicles

## LAURA

The new CFS building at Laura was officially opened by the former Director of CFS, Mr. Fred Kerr, at a ceremony at Laura recently.

The building and a new fire truck was purchased by Laura CFS at a cost of approximately \$37 500, of which \$15 000 came from community donations.

## "A FIGHTING SPIRIT"

By Warren Carr  
Brigade President

The boys from the Tea Tree Gully Country Fire Service are used to being in the firing line—and coming out on top. Not only did they battle their hearts out as did many other CFS Brigades during the Adelaide Hills "Ash Wednesday" disaster, but on Sunday they stepped into a completely different firing line when they won both divisions of the tug o' war at the annual Highland Games on the Olympic Sports Field, Kensington.

Brigade president, Warren Carr, said that weeks and weeks of summer training paid off when they carried off the winners' trophies in both the lightweight and open divisions of the tug o' war competitions. He added that an unusual twist to both the wins was that both finals were against teams from the S.A. Police Force. "Normally", he said, "the police work side by side with us when

they are investigating bush fires. However, on this occasion they were well and truly on the other side of the fence!"

The CFS heavyweight team is also the current title-holder of the annual North Eastern Hotels "Tug o' War" competition whilst representing the Tea Tree Gully Hotel, and they have the winner's shield to prove it. They also successfully defended the title against local hotel teams at the Festival Gala Day at the Golden Grove Oval on Sunday, 23rd March. Warren explained that the training associated with the tug o' war had now become a traditional way of keeping their volunteer members "super-fit" during the summer months. "Naturally", he added, "running up and down hills whilst fighting bush fires demands a high degree of physical fitness and our tug o' war team members certainly qualify here."



Pictured posing behind their tug o' war championship trophies at the Highland Games on Sunday 2nd March, are both the successful "Lightweight" and "Heavyweight" teams from the Tea Tree Gully CFS.

Back row from left—Brian Leaney, Jim Sandford, Mike Sandford, Phil Griggs, Stig Larsen, Stan Simper, Geoff Herbert, Dave Marron. Front row from left—Dave Humphries, David Westover, Barry Griggs, Rob Buttery, Wayne Harris, Ted Wilkinson.

## CFS ASSESSING STYLE OF REGIONAL BUILDINGS

The Country Fire Services Board is assessing the suitability of transportable buildings as regional offices in country centres of S.A.

In announcing the letting of a contract for the first transportable office at Jamestown, CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said one of the advantages of this type of building was that it could be re-sited if there were need to relocate a regional office elsewhere.

The Jamestown office, serving CFS Region 4, will be situated at the rear of the combined CFS, St. John Ambulance and State

Emergency Services building.

Regional Officer, Mr. George Polomka, will have facilities for an office, a CFS meeting/lecture area which can be quickly converted to an operations room in the event of a major fire in the region, radio equipment, storeroom and kitchenette.

Mr. Johns said the 6.1 m x 8.5 m building was scheduled to be delivered by early April.

"Once the building has been delivered and is in operation we shall assess its potential as the type of office to be used in other CFS regions".



You've come along way Northfield C.F.S. Brigade.—  
A credit to the men  
24 hours a day

The Northfield CFS Brigade has a history which is as colourful and diversified as some of the characters who have graced its ranks over the years.

The Northfield Brigade was formally constituted on June 30th, 1963, as the "Northfield Emergency Fire Service—Prisons Branch" and operated from Yatala Prison, with sister units at Cadell Training Centre and the now closed Gladstone Prison, however its origins go back much further in time—to the late 1800's in fact. Records in this era are incomplete but it is known that a fire fighting team was operated by "The Stockade", as Yatala Prison was then known, to combat fires in the surrounding rural areas. An old hand-operated pump which was used by these fore-runners of today's Northfield CFS is believed to have finished its useful life in the hands of the Hindmarsh Fire Brigade. The present brigade was actually formed in 1959 under one Frank "Nigger" Whitefield to meet a need for local fire protection and was officially proclaimed in 1963. An aged Thames truck was acquired from Radium Hill along with a surplus Bedford from the Engineering and Water Supply Department and these were duly adapted for fire fighting and put into service.

A new Bedford truck was purchased in 1968 to replace the old Thames. This was designed and built as a fire appliance by the brigade members, as was a one ton Holden utility several years later. Northfield's Fire District has been gradually eroded away over the years by the expansion of the S.A.F.B. and Northfield today no longer administers its own area, however this has in no way dampened the enthusiasm of the members.

Northfield has on numerous occasions shown its keenness to serve, in attending fire calls from outlying Brigades, and has fought many fires throughout the Hills Zone, travelling as far afield as Gawler, Mount Pleasant, and Mount Barker when the

need arises. In addition to fire prevention and control, Northfield has been involved in several search and rescue operations in conjunction with Police and other authorities over the years—one such case involving a massive search for a murder victim in the Campbelltown/River Torrens region, Brigade members have provided lectures to a number of local schools and scout groups over the years on fire fighting and safety, and regularly instruct prison staff in all aspects related to fire control and prevention. Several years ago, at the height of the Mobil oil tank fire at Birkenhead, Northfield was the second CFS brigade to be placed on standby, and a full complement of men and equipment were ready to go at a moments notice.

In terms of experience and dedication the men of Northfield CFS are second to none, and between them the Officers have amassed many years of service to the South Australian public. One of the original foundation members of Northfield, Bruce Townsend, has been appointed District Officer on no less than three occasions and is still involved actively in the Brigade. Another well known and respected member is Barry Chapman, who has completed over 20 years of CFS service while both Dave Holmes and Colin Semmler each have over 14 years under their belts.

The Northfield Brigade of today exists primarily to provide much needed assistance and backup to any Brigade which may need help, and this of course happens frequently in South Australia. The Officers who man Northfield CFS are only too willing to provide this service to other Brigades, and take great pride in the fact that they are one of very few units that can honestly claim to be able to turn out two full crews at a minutes notice—at any time of the day or night.

*The Northfield motto is simply this: "We are available twenty four hours a day—for twenty four hours a day". What more can I say!*

MIKE DALE,  
NORTHFIELD CFS





1980  
**CFS ANNUAL  
COMPETITIONS  
NOMINATION FORM**

Please fill in details on back of sheet and return this nomination form

To:

THE DIRECTOR  
COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES  
BOX 312, GOODWOOD  
S.A. 5034

**No later than 31st May, 1980**

Please post me ..... copies of the **FREE**  
1979 "The Volunteer Annual", to the below address.

Name of Brigade .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Date .....



## 1980 CFS ANNUAL COMPETITIONS —NOMINATION FORM—

Please fill in and return the NOMINATION FORM to CFS Headquarters, Box 312, GOODWOOD 5034, NOT LATER THAN 31st MAY, 1980

Brigade..... Region.....  
DATE..... Signed.....

Please indicate by figures, number of teams, etc. competing in each regional event. If you require Drill circulars for the Competition events, please indicate by ticking the appropriate column.

### REGIONS

Events	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Drill Circular Required (Tick)
"A" Grade Dry Hose and Wet Pump Drill								
"B" Grade Dry Hose Drill								
"C" Grade Hose Drill (Cadets and Ladies)								
Portable Pump Alarm Race								
One Man Hose Drill								
One Man Ladder Drill								
Three Man and Captain Wet Ladder Drill								
Best and Most Efficient CFS Appliance and Crew (State Title)								

**COMPETITION ASSISTANCE:** Please indicate where you can give assistance to the Competitions.  
\*Judges and Timekeepers: Please show Region Nos. and names for each individual event where assistance can be given.

JUDGES	TIMEKEEPERS	REGIONS
"A" GRADE (Dry)		
"A" GRADE (Wet)		
"B" GRADE		
"C" GRADE		
P.P.A.R.		
1 M.H.D.		
1 M.L.D.		
4 M.L.D.		

## "Education Morning" for school children

State Emergency Service organisations joined in an "education morning" programme at the Paradise Primary School, Wednesday, 27 February, 1980.

Representatives from the "Australian Volunteer Coast Guard", "Surf Life Saving Club", "Country Fire Services", "Star Force, S.A. Police Department", "St. John", "Flinders Medical Centre Intensive Care Unit", "S.A. Fire Brigade", "Rescue 1 Helicopter and 5AA" attended, and set up their individual displays within the group on the school oval.

Throughout the morning equipment was demonstrated and the functions of each emergency service explained to 600 students, who were divided into groups of 50 with an accompanying teacher.

The children's attention was briefly taken away from the displays when called to assembly, to welcome the arrival by Rescue 1 5AA

helicopter of the Minister of Education, the honourable Harold Allison.

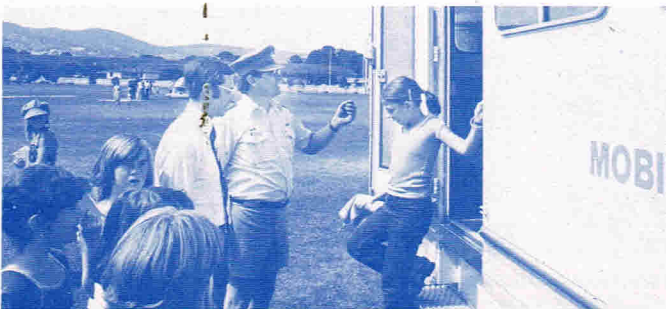
Mr. Allison highly commended the suitability of the helicopter for fire surveillance and control, and other rescue duties. 5AA organiser Mr. Phillip Styles was delighted with the response and the success of the morning programme, held under warm, blue skies and thanked all in attendance.

The Athelstone CFS Brigade then treated the children to a wet hose demonstration, and instructed them on the use of fire fighting equipment, while the Minister inspected the CFS display and Mobile Control Unit with R.O. Brian Menadue.

*Special thanks goes to Athelstone CFS crew—Des and Dean Packer, Ray and Diana Mengersen, John Lenton, Lorraine Willmott and Pam Silby, for their time and enthusiasm . . . Editor.*



Water anyone?—Athelstone CFS members from left Des Packer, Lorraine Willmott, Pam Silby, and Diana Mengersen (at back).



Minister of Education Mr. Harold Allison (left) with R.O. Brian Menadue awaiting their turn to inspect the CFS Mobile Control Unit.



Brian has the children's interest and attention.

## CFS Vehicle Colours "Standardization"

A number of enquiries have been received relating to the CFS Board decision to standardize on CFS vehicles colours and markings. Some individuals and organisations may not be aware of the background to the decision by the CFS Board, and the following may be of interest.

Some fifteen years ago an annual meeting of Volunteer Regional Officers and Fire Fighting Associations raised the question of the colour of CFS vehicles. There was a strong move at that meeting to paint all EFS emergency vehicles white and it was finally resolved that brigades be given the choice of either red or white.

If you were to travel throughout the State, you would observe that approximately 70% of CFS units are now painted white. Approximately 29% are painted various shades of red and the remaining 1% are cream, beige or yellow.

In the interest of uniformity, efficiency and cost savings, the CFS Board has resolved that a programme of standardization be embarked upon to cover all aspects of CFS appliances and equipment.

Colour is only one of the four specific elements that contribute to the identification of emergency vehicles, the others being audible alarms, special light systems and lettered signs and symbols. Research in Australia, United States and England has shown that **red** (and orange), often used by fire brigades, has both physiological and psychological disadvantages that make it the **most unsuitable colour for emergency vehicles**.

White is not the most suitable colour either, especially in areas where winter snow is a feature of the local climate, but in combination with appropriate audible warning devices and special lighting, rates well ahead of red as an emergency vehicle colour, especially where the requirements for identification of vehicles from the air and from a distance on the ground is important, as it is with South Australian CFS operations.

In point of fact, the most sensitive colours to the eye have been found to be those in the green/yellow region of the spectrum.

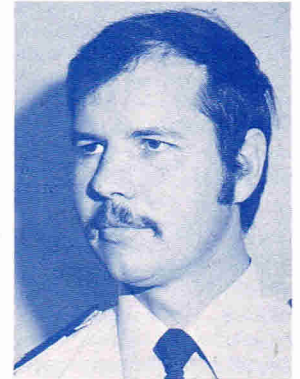
Had the Board adopted the findings of various researchers the colour adopted would have fallen in the yellow/green to yellow range. The Board considered other factors pertinent to the needs of S.A. Country Fire Service conditions and the other three factors involved.

It can be seen from the circular, No. J4276, the Board is recommending that in addition to white paint, CFS emergency vehicles should also be distinctively marked and lettered. The markings are designed to provide a high degree of reflectorization from the orange stripes during the day and from the white stripes at night.

It should be remembered that the reflective striping is not compulsory, but is highly recommended.

Lloyd C. Johns  
Director,  
Country Fire Services.

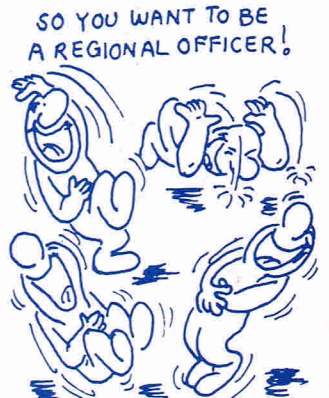
### who's who at headquarters



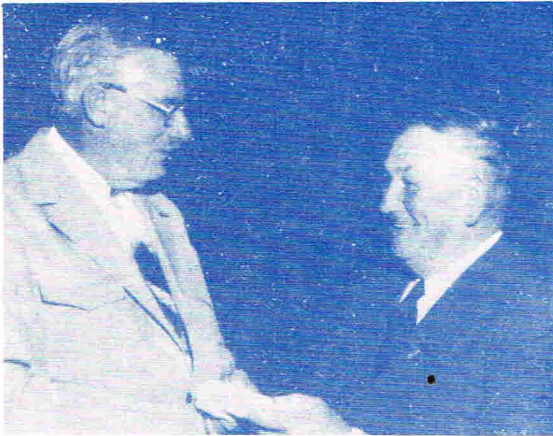
BRUCE HOGAN, Dip.T.  
Regional Officer

Prior to joining the CFS Headquarters Staff, Bruce had been teaching for 8 years as a Technical Studies Teacher in both city and country schools. He has been with the CFS for 3 years and was a 1st Lieutenant in the Bordertown Brigade.

He is married with two children and his interests include church activities, boating and tennis.



## 42 years' service to CFS honored



### A presentation has been made to Mr. Allan Higgins in recognition of his services to Goolwa/Port Elliot CFS.

Mr. Higgins resigned as fire control officer in September last year after 42 years of active service.

His appointment as a fire control officer took place at a council meeting on 1 October, 1937.

The presentation to Mr. Higgins was made by the chairman of Port Elliot and Goolwa District Council, Mr. Roy Galpin.

Extract courtesy Victor Harbor Times, 30 January, 1980.

## CFS Study Victorian Urban Fire Brigade Competitions

The Deputy Chairman CFS Board Mr. Ray Orr, Board members Messrs Mike Arnold, Peter Swann and Acting Deputy Director Mr. Peter Malpas attended the V.U.F.B. Annual Competitions at Bairnsdale, 8-10 March, 1980.

The S.A. party were warmly welcomed by Chief Officer Clarie Howe, officers of the Country Fire authority, and Chairman of the Victorian rural fire Brigades Board, Colonel Newell.

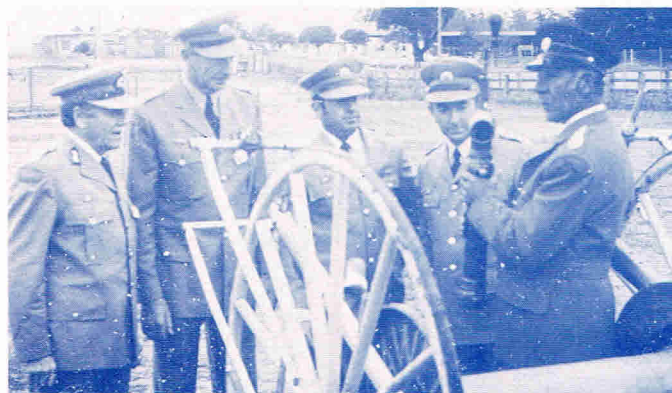
Over 1 500 Firemen attended and competed in various events.

Enthusiasm and dedication emanated throughout the competitions, particularly as events were held in drizzling rain. All events are electrically timed with digital readout. Competitions are held once a year, with brigades programming general fire drill activities with competition drill training. 106 Brigades fielded teams in all events.

The visit allowed for an interchange of ideas on how annual competitions are conducted in each State. Hose drill, ladder and appliance work was studied.

The CFS Regional competitions provide keen incentives to our 11 000 Volunteers in their training and maintenance of appliances and equipment.

The annual CFS State finals will be held at Kapunda, S.A. on 21st September, 1980.



From left—Messrs. Malpas, Orr, Arnold and Swann being instructed on the use of the ball-hydrant by Lieutenant K. G. Ridd of the Stawell Urban Fire Brigade during the Victorian Competitions.

## Fires burn 9 000 acres

About 200 volunteer firemen battled big stubble fires east of Ceduna for nearly 12 hours, on 12 February, 1980.

Some of the fires flared up following controlled burning of stubble and scrub.

Six CFS units from Ceduna, Smokey Bay, Nunjirkompta and Wirrulla were supported by about 30 private fire units.

The Eyre Highway was closed from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. between the Streaky Bay turn-off 6 km east of Ceduna and Puntabie because of poor visibility caused by dust and smoke.

No stock or buildings were reported lost in the fires but some fences were destroyed.

There were no casualties but St. John Ambulance volunteers stood by to wash grit from firemen's eyes.

The fires were fanned by strong winds during the afternoon when the temperature reached more than 40 degrees.

Area fire supervisor, Mr. Norm Fry, said all the fires were brought under control by 6 p.m. but a wind change to the south-west fanned them up again and it was another four hours before the situation was in hand.

Editorial courtesy West Coast Sentinel, 13 February, 1980.

## Bushfire threatens farmers near Cleve

A potentially disastrous fire threatened a large area near Mangalo on Eyre Peninsula, Feb 12, 1980.

Unconfirmed reports say the fire resulted from burning off operations the previous day. It was believed the fire broke out about 12 noon.

Country Fire Service units were called from Cleve, Rudall, Arno Bay, Franklin Harbour, Gum Flat and Mangalo. Several private units also attended.

The fire cut through four properties and threatened nearby houses. Strong northerly winds intensified its sever-

ity as it destroyed fencing, a small shed and threatened to burn into nearby scrub lands.

At times fire fighters found themselves "cornered" as winds changed before turning back into a northerly direction.

It was believed the area burnt was up to three kilometres long and in some places about one kilometre wide.

Fire breaks proved useless as winds fanned the fire into neighboring properties.

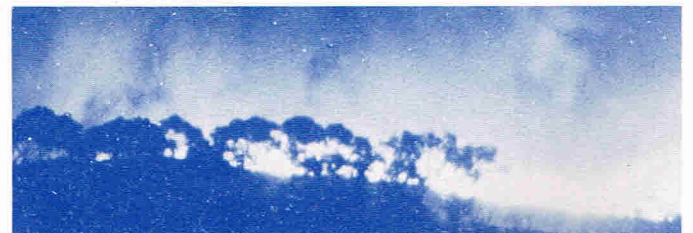
The outbreak was said to be the biggest fire in the area for many years.

courtesy—Whyalla News, Feb 13, 1980



## Australian Counter Disaster College Macedon—Victoria

Acting CFS Deputy Director Mr. Peter Malpas attended a Defence Force Officers Counter Disaster study period held at the A.C.D.C. College, Macedon, Victoria, 9-14 March 1980. The programme included: lectures, discussions, syndicate considerations related to the Australian Defence Force Organisations command and control; control and co-ordination of Civilian Counter-Disaster Activities; Role of Voluntary Agencies; Responsibilities of Commonwealth and State Governments. Pictured attendees of the course.



"Ash Wednesday Fire".

# The Warnings that weren't Heeded.

"The following Press Release was issued to all media in January 1980, warning of the impending fire danger, but was not heeded, until too late—"

## WHO WILL TAKE THE BLAME?

by A. T. Brunt, Regional Director  
Bureau of Meteorology.

What can be done about public apathy? How can it be stirred into action?

Every year or so when I was in Brisbane (prior to 1974) we would publish articles warning of the flood potential of the Brisbane River, pointing out that there was no reason why previous disasters could not be repeated. Yet houses continued to be built on flood-prone land and few people took the trouble to look at the available flood maps, let alone buy one; and practically no one had a plan of escape in an emergency.

I view South Australia's bushfire potential (particularly the Adelaide Hills) in the same light. At the beginning of every season, the Country Fire Services and other responsible authorities have warned of the bushfire danger, but because we have been spared a major holocaust in recent years one gets the feeling that the people who warn are being accused of "crying wolf". In recent years, the worst fire weather situations have not followed the seasons with abundant growth, but it is really only a matter of time before we experience another 1939 or 1955 bushfire disaster with even more serious consequences. And there will be such a public outcry. "Why weren't we warned?" will be the standard complaint, especially from those who took the least notice of prior warnings.

It behoves everyone living in a bush type of environment to set their house in order, making sure that there is no burnable vegetation or rubbish close to their homes. It is especially important to have a plan of action of escape if your home does start to burn. Check with your local CFS if you are in doubt about the safety of your home.

Everyone should pay particular attention to the fire ban announcements which are made daily during the fire season. The announcements are made on radio after 7 a.m. each day, but Adelaide people can obtain this information on the automatic telephone (Adelaide 1196) if they miss the radio announcements.

The State has been divided into 15 fire ban districts and it is obviously necessary to know in which district you are located, otherwise you could be listening to the wrong fire ban information. If you are not sure of your district name or boundary, maps of fire ban districts may be obtained by calling in at the Bureau of Meteorology (25 College Road, Kent Town) or Country Fire Services Headquarters (20 West Beach Road, Keswick). Country people may obtain a copy of the map by forwarding a stamped addressed envelope to either the Bureau or CFS Headquarters.

For people living in Adelaide, the map of the Inner Adelaide Fire Ban district is appropriate. It is important to remember that bans can be imposed in this district, although they are normally less frequent than in the surrounding rural areas. The boundary of the relatively safe Inner Adelaide district has been specially chosen to allow a buffer zone so that, in strong wind situations, burning debris cannot be carried on to the adjacent hills where a far greater bushfire potential exists. Adelaide homes which are not within the Inner Adelaide Fire Ban district are located in the Mount Lofty Ranges district.

A famous philosopher once said "Those who ignore history are doomed to relive it". We should never lose sight of the fact that devastating fires have occurred in the past and there is no reason why history cannot be repeated. It is expected that the consequences would be far greater than in past fires because of the increased population in heavily vegetated parts of the Adelaide Hills.

Although no description can portray the full horror and heartbreak of the 1939 bushfires in the hills region, the following brief extracts from January 1939 newspapers should serve as a vivid reminder of what has happened in the past:—

1. "Thousands fight the State's worst bushfires.
2. Numerous outbreaks in the hills. Widespread destruction of property reported.
3. The fires forged ahead at tremendous leaps. Control was almost impossible under a fierce northwesterly wind which at times reached 35 mph. Official temperatures reached a record 117.7°F (47.6°C) on 12th January.
4. Scorched by excessive heat, the tops of trees burst into flame hundreds of yards, sometimes up to a mile, ahead of the fire on the ground.

5. All traffic on the Mount Barker Road between Glen Osmond and Aldgate was stopped for some hours.
6. Many homes were destroyed, many with burnt out motor cars beside them.
7. The Crafrers and Upper Sturt districts suffered severely.
8. One fire reached the Glen Osmond tram terminus (near the junction of Portrush and Cross Roads). Another extensive fire burnt along Brownhill Creek. For a while, Springfield and the Waite Institute were threatened.
9. After the destructive fires which wiped out practically all their possessions, many homeless settlers spent the night in tents supplied by the Government."

Remember, the above are actual extracts, which anyone can read, from the January 1939 newspapers. I know I can be accused of scare tactics, but it seems the only way to draw the public's attention to the potential danger which exists. Surely there aren't any people foolhardy enough to say that we can't get a repeat of the 1939 bushfires. I maintain they could be even more devastating.

## PREDICTION?

### New bushfire outbreaks 'inevitable'

More bushfires like those which ravaged parts of SA yesterday were inevitable for the State this summer, the director of the Country Fire Service, Mr. Lloyd Johns, predicted today.

"This is potentially one of the most dangerous summers for fires were have had for some time," he said.

"Everything is there for fires to break out. So far we have only lacked the prolonged high temperatures which lead to the most dangerous situations," he said.

"All the conditions are right. We have plenty of fuel because of early spring rains, and there has been very little rainfall so far this year.

"We have had only five millimetres of rain since the beginning of January, compared with something like 44 mm at the same time last year.

"All it takes is a combination of hot weather, the wind getting up, and the relative humidity dropping. Things could become dangerous.

"It all hinges on the weather.

"So far we haven't had the prolonged high temperatures. Yesterday was the first really hot day we've had so far, but it gave us a taste of what can happen if this sort of weather really sets in," he said.

Mr Johns' warning follows yesterday's worst day for fires so far this year.

CFS firemen fought 13 bush, scrub and grass fires at Athelstone, Woodside, Ceduna, Lucindale, Ashton, Strathalbyn, Mangalo on Eyre Peninsula, Mount Lofty, Gawler River and Oakbank.

The largest fire yesterday swept about 60 hectares of prime country around Norton Summit.

By Murray Finlay  
"The Advertiser"  
February 13, 1980

MEDIA RELEASE  
19/2/80  
20/2/80

### 'RED ALERT'— EXTREME FIRE HAZARD TODAY

The Country Fire Services has declared today a "RED ALERT" day because of the extremely dangerous fire hazard conditions existing throughout South Australia.

The Director of Country Fire Services, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said this morning that the whole of the State—including the Inner Adelaide area and Kangaroo Island—was under a total "declared" fire ban prohibiting the lighting of any fire in the open.

The maximum penalty for a first offence for lighting a fire in the open on a fire ban day is \$1 000.

Mr. Johns said: "The total ban is the first for this fire season and emphasises the need for the utmost caution by everyone. Weather and fuel conditions forecast for today point to an explosive fire situation.

"Over the past few weeks we have experienced weather conditions which have quickly turned pastures, crops and undergrowth into highly flammable fuels. One careless act could cause a major outbreak".

CFS personnel and volunteers throughout SA are on full alert.

The Director said the extreme fire risk conditions today also pointed out the seriousness of the fire danger for the remainder of Summer and into Autumn. "We are now in a period when there can be little relaxation over the next three months or so. We neither want nor can the State afford the consequences of bushfires—even remotely similar to the disastrous outbreaks which have occurred in other States", he said.

**GIVE US A GO!  
BUSHFIRES HURT**

## South Australia Prepares to sizzle BIG BUSHFIRE PERIL

### Fire Fighters go on 24-hour alert

South Australia is set to explode in flames the Country Fire Services Chief, warned today. And he said the potential for disaster was as bad if not worse, than Black Sunday in 1955 when fires claimed eight lives.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns said all Fire officers around the State were on round-the-clock alert, and spotter planes would be in the air all day.

He said today's danger was the summer's worst.

### Extreme

Temperatures are expected to soar into the high thirties and low forties around the State, and a State-wide fire ban—The first for the summer is in force.

It is the second day of extreme heat. Adelaide recorded a maximum of 37.2C yesterday. At 8.00 a.m. today the temperature was close to 32C and a high of 39C was expected.

extract courtesy—

Murray Finlay, The News,  
Tuesday, 19th Feb, 1980

## A Blue Print for Disaster

Tuesday, February 19th, 1980, Adelaide, SA: overnight—

- (1) The Relative Humidity did not rise over 18%
- (2) Moisture content of the fuels remained very low.
- (3) Lack of any summer rainfall.
- (4) Strong dry Northerly winds.

The stage was set for a "Blow Up" situation, A Blue Print For Disaster.

## The Inevitable February 20th, 1980

Temperature, Relative Humidity, Wind Speed by the hour.

Time	Temperature °C	Relative Humidity %	Wind Speed km/hr.
Noon (1200 hrs.)	41.1	13	25.9
1 1300	42.0	"	27.75
2 1400	41.6	"	33.3
3 1500	41.7	14	33.3
4 1600	42.7	"	33.3
5 1700	42.9	"	27.75
6 1800	36.0	25	22.2
7 1900	35.1	"	11.1
8 2000	32.1	"	7.4
9 2100	27.5	43	16.7
10 2200	23.9		11.1
11 2300	23.4		5.6
Midnight (2400 hrs)	22.4		7.4

## Devastation by Coonalpyn Fire.

A Coonalpyn farmer (CFS member) received severe burns, 60 sheep died and 6 270 hectares of pasture and scrub were destroyed in a massive fire, south of Coonalpyn (South East of S.A.) on Wednesday, 20 February, 1980.

The fire covered an area of about 62 square kilometres or more than 6 270 hectares, burning an area of 12 km along a 7 km front. Eight landowners between them, lost pasture and scrub totalling 80 per cent of the total area. It has been estimated that a minimum of 140 km of fencing was damaged, 1 000 bales of hay burnt, 60 sheep lost, with a number of pigs and poultry.

Some people in the Coonalpyn area saw their livelihood . . . their pastures, fences and stock . . . go up in flames. At the same time worrying if those losses might include their homes, should the wind change. CFS units from Coonalpyn, Tintinara, Field, Colebatch and Coombe fought the fire with the assistance of 50 private units in temperatures over 40°C. As the fire worsened, units from Coomandook, Yumali, Meningie, Salt Creek, Keith and Bordertown were called in, together with three council graders and a private spotter plane.

The fire was finally brought under control just 6 km south of Coonalpyn.

## OBLITERATION OF DEEP CREEK

A fire broke out on Tuesday, February 19th, 1980 in the Deep Creek Conservation Park (about 80 km South of Adelaide) on Fleurieu Peninsula. It immediately became evident to the 200 fire fighters, there would be great difficulty in controlling the fire, because of the inaccessibility to the area, cloaked in 40 years of thick vegetation.

Fanned by strong and blustery north-easterly winds, the fire all but destroyed the Deep Creek Conservation Park, devastating more than 2 400 ha of brush and pastoral land. Flames were 100ft. (30 m) high, and crowning in the trees and the fire jumped 100 yards (83 m) at a time.

Altogether about 20 fire units from lower Fleurieu Peninsula with volunteers and 10 to 15 CFS units from the Adelaide Hills, lower north areas along with Woods and Forests, National Parks and Wildlife, State Emergency Services units and the Salvation Army with a local ladies auxiliary (supplying food and refreshments) attended. The battle raged on into the night when a drop in the wind enabled fire fighters to gain control on the eastern and western flanks, where fire breaks were established during the night. The blaze flared again on Wednesday, burning on several fronts in thick inaccessible bush between Delameter and the sea at Rapid Bay. Using heavy earthmoving equipment breaks were bulldozed to contain the fire on each side as it burnt its way towards the coast.

At first light the C.F.S. Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns and the National Parks fire officer Mr. John Fitzgerald were at the scene in the C.F.S. Rescue 1. helicopter to direct the fire fighting operations, in an air-to-ground control capacity.

Back burning was done by relief Adelaide CFS crews, mobilised from as far north as Evanston Gardens, who took over from the exhausted fire fighters. The fire was brought under control at 1700 hours.



Obliteration of Deep Creek Conservation Park, fire devastating 2 400 ha of brush and pastoral land.

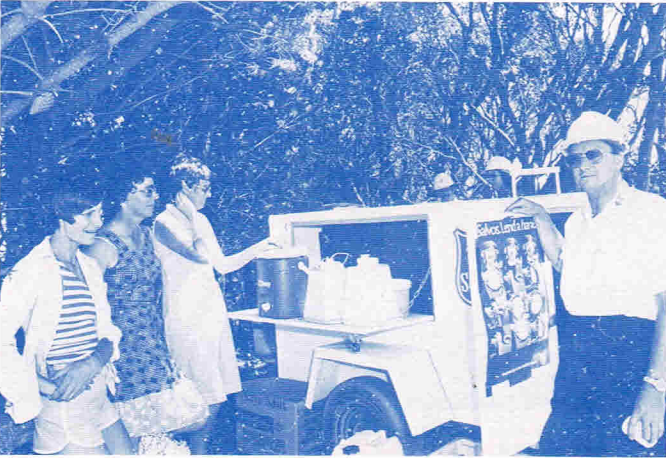


Weary local fire fighters, catch their breath after fighting the Deep Creek fire for 12 to 15 hours without a break.

## ASH WEDNESDAY HOLOCAUST



Aerial view of Aldinga Beach and Area CFS Brigade being deployed to combat the Deep Creek Fire on Fleurieu Peninsula.



"Thank God for the Salvos" and the Ladies, for their tireless efforts in providing refreshments to the front line fire fighters at Deep Creek.

### Bushwalkers Rescued



Pictured from left: Richard Armfield (17 years) Glenelg North; Russel Speed (17 years) Novar Gdns; Ronald Rowett (19 years) North Brighton.

These youths were bush walking and camping in Deep Creek on Feb. 19, 1980. They had left their car on the edge of the Deep Creek Reserve with a note on the steering wheel as to their intention. A search by Rescue 1 Helicopter was immediately instigated and they were found at the mouth of the Deep Creek

River, having experienced the fire burning and showering hot embers over their heads at they sheltered beneath a rock on the beach.

A total of 6 youths were rescued when 2 separate groups met under fire at the mouth. Undaunted after the rescue they all decided to continue their excursion, but in a much safer area.

*Moral to this story—  
"Don't go hiking in bushland on days of extreme fire danger."*

On a day of searing 43 deg. heat, fierce northerly winds and a humidity of 13% . . . began The "Ash Wednesday" Holocaust, Adelaide Hills Fire. 51 Houses were destroyed and the total damage to property and stock has been estimated at \$5 million.

With a temperature of 41.7 deg.-43.0 deg. and strong north east/north west wind gusts fire fighters were powerless . . . one fire officer radioed in "There's smoke everywhere, the fire fighters are doing the best they can, but all we can do, is hit and run."

Tall pines exploded in the flames. Houses—some newly built burst into flames when surrounded by the fire and farm sheds collapsed in crumpled blackened heaps. Police and residents rushed to cut fences, to allow horses and cattle to escape. Countless sheds, tractors, cars, a C.F.S. unit and a bus were destroyed.

Flames 20 metres high and thick smoke engulfed Bridgewater, Echunga, Aldgate Valley and Hahndorf areas.

The C.F.S. Headquarters Research and Fire Protection Branch have reassessed the area burnt, as being 3 700 ha.

The fire also burnt, the Anglican church, part of the Post Office at Longwood and damaged other buildings including the Mylor School.

More than 600 people fled their properties, or were evacuated by police during the peak of the huge blaze, setting up water sprinklers and filling gutters on roofs before leaving.

In the early stages of the 12 hours of terror 600 or more C.F.S. Volunteers and numerous Emergency workers battled the several massive fire fronts. St. John, treated over 107 firefighters/public, for minor burns, eye problems and smoke inhalation. Weary C.F.S. Volunteers, many from as far away as Maitland and Port Wakefield later joined the ranks, after having first spent the previous night and Wednesday morning fighting the Deep Creek Fire. The fighting force now totalled over 108 C.F.S. Brigade Units. Other assistance came from our own C.F.S. Ladies Auxiliaries and community groups who provided food and refreshments to the weary fire fighters, and from the St. John crews and Police who entered fire areas to rescue burnt fire fighters/public, thus preventing further injury.

The Rescue 1 helicopter was urgently called to attend the Hills Holocaust, to evaluate the situation and to advise of fire direction(s) and of spot fires.

Control Centres established at the outbreak of the fire, using a spotter plane for aerial surveillance now had additional assistance with Rescue 1.

Later in the afternoon the Armed forces were called in and cement trucks and milk tankers were used to ferry water to the fire units. A sudden temperature drop and change in wind direction swung the fires towards Bridgewater and Hahndorf, but fire breaks were burnt around Vimy Ridge, Aldgate, Bridgewater and Hahndorf areas . . . the fire was contained . . . "The Fire was under Control" . . . light intermittent rain began to fall in the devastated areas, easing the risk of flare ups.

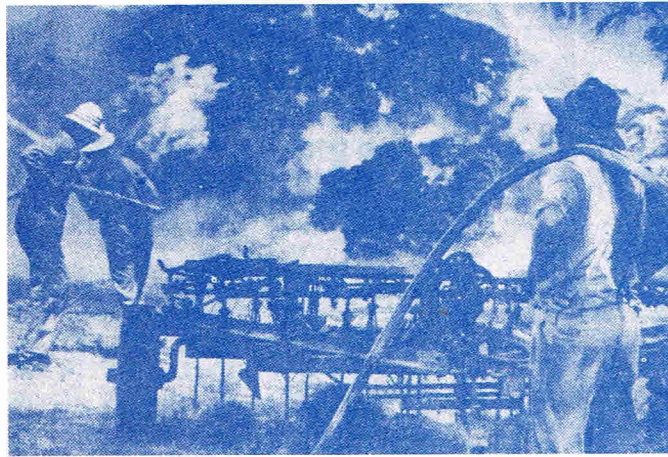
### Assistance Acknowledged

Assistance came from the SA Police, St. John Ambulance, Red Cross, State Emergency services, Army and Air Force, Department of Transport, numerous Councils (equipment and water tankers) SA Fire Brigade, State and Commonwealth instrumentalities, R.S.P.C.A., Salvation Army, Department of Community Welfare, Readymix and other bulk cement vehicles, Amscol and Mobil Australia (for water tankers), Roche Bros. and other earthmoving forms of heavy machinery.

### A Picture Tells a Thousand Words



Vegetation along the Aldgate Valley Road about to be ignited by the approaching fire front.



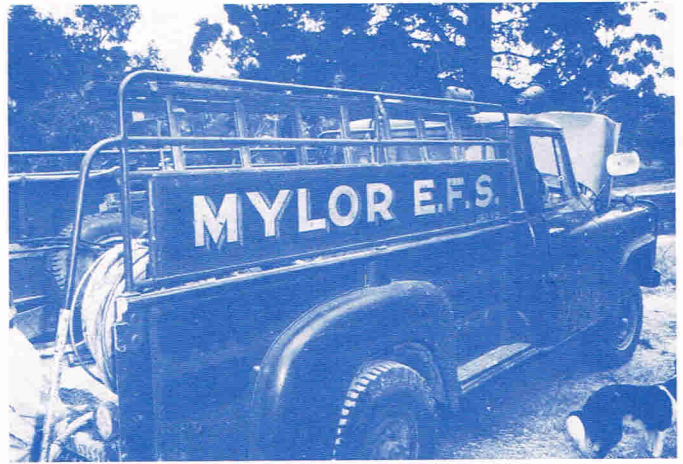
Mr. Lance Wakefield watches C.F.S. Fire Fighters attack a blazing haystack on his property near Strathalbyn. His house was saved but the fire destroyed sheds and implements. (photo courtesy "The Advertiser".)

He had nothing but the highest praise for the efficiency of the Strathalbyn C.F.S., how they were able to save as much as they did is remarkable.

Spectators at the Strathalbyn race meeting felt the ground shake as several drums of petrol exploded. When C.F.S. personnel rescued the tractor the heavy plastic cabin was running down like toffee.



*Pictured:* At the Longwood Post Office that sheltered ABC News/TV crew, and C.F.S. Volunteers from the fire; after the mopping up had been done by the Cherry Gardens C.F.S. Unit, is the Upper Sturt C.F.S. Unit preparing to again do battle with the foe.



The Mylor CFS Truck was burnt, but equipment remained functional, when the battery failed and the unit could not be moved from the fire path.



R.A.A.F. forces about to make a stand following directions from Stan Crook (left) F.C.O. Stirling CFS.



Local CFS Women's Auxiliaries and local citizens worked long in to the night providing food and refreshments to firefighters.



Longwood Post Office (in background) protected C.F.S. volunteer Fire Fighters and ABC TV film crew and reporter from the Ash Wednesday Fire. Fire ravaged the area around the Post Office which caught alight on one side and the roof. People sheltering inside the Post Office were protected.



# “Survivors”



In the darkness it looks like fairyland. In the daylight it looked like hell. As I drove through the devastated area last night the scene was one of awesome beauty.

Hills looked like giant birthday cakes with a million candles glowing on top of them.

The air was still and smoke hung like a mist over the towns of Longwood, Bradbury and Mylor.

The only sound to break the silence was the occasional wailing of a CFS fire truck siren with men in uniform looking anxiously towards the blaze. Or the thunder of trucks laden with water speeding along the roads.

On street corners in these small towns people were talking about how their houses had just escaped the fire—or how they had lost everything.

It was then that I remembered the scene in daylight yesterday afternoon.

It is one of almost total devastation.

Everywhere it seemed, there were crumbled ruins of burnt-out houses, sheds and farm outbuildings.

The once-beautiful countryside, around Heathfield, Longwood and Mylor is now a black, barren waste.

Editorial courtesy Chris Brice (Police Reporter) “The Advertiser.”

*The full enormity of the holocaust, the worst since 1955’s Black Sunday became apparent at first light . . . when the smoke cleared on Thursday, 21 February, 1980 . . . and the fire fighters were mopping up . . .*



House, property, shed and family car were all destroyed in the “Ash Wednesday Fire”



A ruined forest . . . within minutes flames changed a scenic green tangle of bush into a nightmarish mass of charred limbs, scorched earth and white ash.



Pictured Brian Nicholls (Unit Leader) and Dave Wilson (sitting)—nursing burnt hands/arms survivors of the Bridgewater C.F.S. Unit that was gutted by fire. (absent Peter Stoddard and John Dennett).

Here is their account of the incident.

**Dave Wilson:** “We pulled up to arrange a back burn on Longwood Road, but before we could get organised a spot fire occurred at the high side of Longwood Road. . . . So we raced up with the hose, but had to pull back to the vehicle as the fire was spreading too quickly.

I was in the back as the vehicle was reversing . . . I remember the pump stopping when we hit a low bush while reversing. Apparently the bush pushed the throttle closed then bent the throttle lever . . . I was trying to start the pump, pulling on the throttle with flames around. It was cranking over but just wouldn’t give. When it got too hot I just had to give it away . . . at that stage I went to the rear of the truck, then when I heard Brian Nicholls sing out “All in the cabin”, I dived off the back straight in the cab followed by the others. We discovered there was one missing Jay Richards—shocked that we might have lost him . . . as we later learnt that he had raced off with the ABC TV camera car and crew. (behind us filming the fire) who soon after got caught with R.O. Dave Batten (C.F.S. H/Q) and Stan Crook (F.C.O. Stirling), at the Longwood Post Office and they experienced their own hell when hit by the same fire—Thankfully all survived.

Anyway by this time Peter Stoddard, Brian Nicholls, Ron Driver, John Dennett and I ended up one on top of the other in the cabin. We thought No Panic, keep calm we’re okay, but after a while Brian became worried that we might be overcome by fumes coming up from beneath the floor. “So everybody out.”

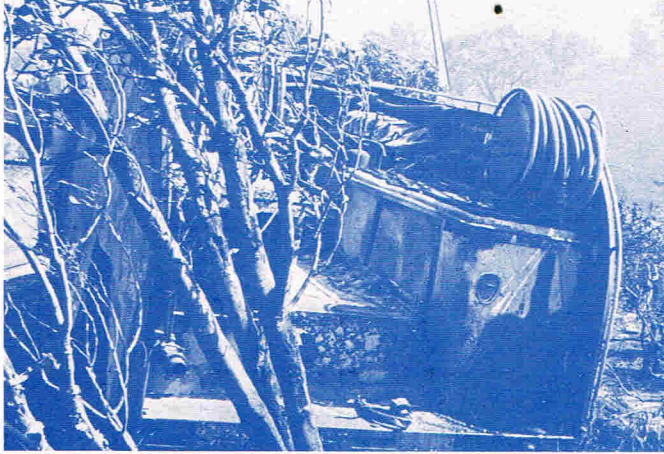
We had trouble opening the door so we calmly wound the window down. We went out backwards to avoid the flames coming from beneath the truck and from the tyres, with the last two guys, the door opened okay. Once we got out on the road we just trotted up the hill. Brian did another head count and luckily the Upper Sturt Vehicle was in front and we cooled ourselves down with the water. Then one of the fellows went back to the burning Bridgewater Unit, put out a couple of small fires with a B.C.F., but it was too late to save the truck.

The vehicles petrol tank and cabin had remained intact.”



### Brian Nicholls comments—

... “the vehicle started to reverse mainly to get the reels in and pick up the crew who had tried to attack the spot fire . . . actually the spot fire was what drew our attention to the important 30 seconds of being in the clear and being in bad trouble. At that stage we had committed ourselves to reversing. We never did get the left hand reel in. I was racing along the left hand bank with another chap, the left hand cabin door was open. The chap was trying to guide the driver, I was trying to hold the hose clear. The vehicle got a bit close to the left hand bank—it was pretty steep in that area, we could see the tyre going over so we ducked under the door, all of a sudden we found ourselves standing in fire, so we took a jump into the cabin and the vehicle braked. The sprinkler system was doing its job until the little shrub knocked the pump out.



... I was very aware of the smoke in the cabin, it was getting harder to breathe and it was hot, there was a plastic burning smell coming from under the vehicle, so I ordered everybody out and did a head count up the road.

## Brave Deeds

On Wednesday, 20 February, 1980, many people from many occupations were brought together with a single purpose, to fight one of the most feared of nature's phenomena, fire.

Personal sacrifices were made and various acts of bravery were performed by many to achieve this single purpose. These brave deeds, by those so humble, never reached the news desk or the public's ear, but they are known by many of your colleagues and others who attended, or were at the fire(s) . . . and will be spoken of often . . .

If an attempt was made to list such deeds we would just scratch the surface. Instead, to those who fought at any fires in S.A., to those who assisted behind the scenes, to the ladies auxiliaries, to those who gave donation(s) . . . attended an appeal . . . or gave of their thoughts . . . **AUSSIES . . . STANDUP, and FEEL PROUD.**

It is fitting to mention two fire fighters however, who received such serious burns, as to be hospitalised:

Coonalpyn farmer Mr. KEN LUTZE, (CFS member), attempted to plough a fire break around his property, and was caught in the flames. Mr. Lutze received severe burns to his body. He climbed into a sheep trough to escape the fire, but was not found until 4 (four) hours later.

Senior Constable JOHN DENNETT was one of the five CFS volunteers trapped in the Bridgewater CFS Unit. Mr. Dennett suffered burns to more than 40 per cent of his body. He had been on holidays when the call came, and was on the back of the unit when the fire struck, he then jumped the truck's side and sought shelter in the cabin, with four other volunteers.

To these courageous fighters goes our thoughts and wishes for a speedy recovery.

## Aims to Lift Fire Protection

### C.F.S. SURVEY AIMS TO LIFT FIRE PROTECTION

The Country Fire Services has instituted a special survey among residents and property owners in the Adelaide Hills area devastated by the “Ash Wednesday” fire, as part of a plan to encourage greater fire prevention and protection measures throughout the Hills.

The Research and Fire Protection branch have distributed a lengthy questionnaire to householders and property owners, to enable the collation of information.

“Following the fire and the inspections made during the aftermath, we believe that if we can help in advising on further fire protection methods, it will be to the benefit of all Hills' residents and the community as a whole,” Mr. Johns said.

C.F.S. officers have visited all properties within the area of the fire, conducted person-to-person interviews with residents or left the questionnaire form to be completed and returned to C.F.S. Headquarters. The response to date has been very good.

The Director said the questionnaire seeks information on losses suffered; damage to homes, other buildings and fences; fire protection measures which helped in saving property; and the possible reasons why some properties were destroyed or damaged.

“We shall also be seeking information about vegetation, such as trees, shrubs, lawns, pastures, etc., and its closeness to dwellings and other buildings; and also if the local residents had their own fire-fighting equipment such as knapsack sprays, pumping equipment independent of electric power supply, available and used during the fire.

“We would also like to know if the people intend to remain as residents of the Hills.”

And, to assist with C.F.S. planning the survey will seek to establish the assistance received from local fire brigades, community organisations, and people.

“Our survey will be all-embracing as we believe if we can have the support of the people at this time, we will be able to plan for greater preparedness by all concerned for the future,” Mr. Johns added.

### HAZARD CLEAN-UP URGED IN UNSCATHED HILLS AREAS

The clearing of undergrowth and other ground ‘fuel’ is one of the main safeguards which residents of those areas of the Adelaide Hills—untouched by

the recent bushfires—should take to reduce the fire hazard for the remainder of this fire season—and for their future safety.

In giving this advice, the Director of the Country Fire Services, Mr. Lloyd Johns, says that March, April and even into May must still be regarded as dangerous fire periods.

“Even with early rains, there will still be a considerable volume of tall, thick undergrowth and other ground fuel and rubbish which will still burn fiercely and rapidly, given the right weather conditions”, the Director said.

“With the clearance of this hazardous material, the fire risk is reduced, and people should certainly consider undertaking this work before chopping down trees”, he added.

In the main, the undergrowth comprised yakkas and weed species such as African Daisy, broom, and annual grasses.

Mr. Johns said the eucalypt tree with its combustible oily leaves and, in some species, its fire-prone bark, was considered by many to be the ‘bogey-man’ of bushfires in the Hills.

However, the heavy concentrations of undergrowth of both native and introduced species, was the real fire risk. By eliminating this through hazard reduction clearing, a safer fire situation was created with the trees acting as an effective barrier for the protection of buildings from the radiant and wind-carried heat of an oncoming fire.

The CFS Research Branch, under Superintendent B. A. (Bill) Green, is currently conducting a comprehensive survey of the areas ravaged by the February 20, bushfire.

One aspect, being closely looked at is the fire behaviour pattern in areas where trees surrounded buildings—as opposed to those areas where trees were not an influencing factor.

Supt. Green said it was still too early to make any predictions on the results of the survey, although there was guarded optimism that trees would be shown to be an asset in a correctly prepared environment.

“This good ‘housekeeping’ of grounds around a home also applies equally to the dwelling itself. Most common construction materials, such as brick, stone, and asbestos and steel deck sheeting have good fire-resistant qualities, and even weatherboard walls, if well cared for, have a satisfactory fire resistance”, he said.

One of the hazards of Hills' homes was the large picture-type windows. “If houses were built without windows the

## C.F.S. COMPETITIONS 1980

Competition work is beneficial to the efficiency of firemen, and rewarding because it strengthens the common bond of comradeship inherent in all Fire Brigades throughout the world, that of saving life and property from fire, and rendering a humanitarian service.

Country Fire Service Annual Competitions will commence at Penola (Region 5—South East) on Sunday 8th June, 1980, (see venue below in this issue of The Volunteer).

A number of Brigade members have enquired to C.F.S. Headquarters as to the possibility of hiring buses to transport members, families and interested persons to each of the Competition venues. As an example, the cost per member to travel to Streaky Bay (Region 6) Eyre Peninsula is approximately \$20 per head, with the bus or buses leaving Adelaide, Saturday and returning Monday morning, in time for work.

With the cost of petrol etc. a bus is a cheap method of group travel, which enables travellers to see the country in a relaxed atmosphere.

Headquarters would like your comments and will be pleased to discuss group travel to any or all of the 1980 Regional Competitions. Our Headquarters telephone number is 297 6788, enquiries to any Regional Officer.

*N.B. You don't necessarily have to enter competition events—Come along and have a good time, talking, eating and generally joining in a Fire Service day. See you there!*

# CFS 1980 FIRE-FIGHTING COMPETITIONS

## DATES AND VENUE

Region	Date	Host Brigade	Venue
5	8th June	Penola	Penola Oval
1	22nd June	Morphett Vale/Reynella/Hackham	Hackham Community Oval
2	6th July	Balaklava	Balaklava Oval
4	20th July	Yongala	Yongala Oval
7	3rd August	Waikerie	Waikerie Oval
6	17th August	Streaky Bay	Streaky Bay Oval
3	31st August	Price	Price Oval
Finals	21st September	Lower North F.F.A.	Kapunda Oval

You are cordially invited to enter teams from your brigade in the annual Country Fire Services Fire-Fighting Drill Competitions.

New brigades and competitors may obtain Drill Instructions by request when returning their Event Nomination Form (attached).

Elimination contests are arranged in each Region and the Finals will be conducted on Sunday, 21st September, 1980.

The travelling and accommodation expenses of Competition Liaison Officers and members of the winning "A" Grade Hose and Pump Drill event from each region are paid by the CFS Board whilst visiting Adelaide for the Finals and Conferences.

### Events

"A" Grade Hose and Pump Drill—The winner from each Region enters the finals.

"B" Grade Dry Hose Drill—The winner from each Region enters the finals.

"C" Grade Hose Drill (Cadets and Ladies).

Portable Pump Alarm Race—1st and 2nd from each Region enters the finals.

One Man Hose Drill—1st and 2nd from each Region enters the finals.

One Man Ladder Drill—1st and 2nd from each Region enters the finals.

Three Man and Captain Wet Ladder Drill—The winner from each Region enters the finals.

Best and Most Efficient CFS Appliance (State Event).

## CFS 1980 Fire Fighting Competitions continued. . . .

All competitors are eligible for either "A" or "B" Grade Hose Drill events but no competitor can compete in both grades in the same competition. Teams **MUST** compete in the grades nominated on their entry forms.

Teams not having submitted nomination forms may compete with the approval of the Chief Judge who may nominate the grade in which such teams compete.

### Visitors

Brigades or members who wish to visit regional competitions as guests or visiting competitors, are assured of a warm welcome. Visitors are unable to win regional titles or trophies, but where possible, CFS "Visitors" or "Open" trophies will be arranged.

### Invitation to Fire-Fighting Associations

A cordial invitation is extended to Fire-Fighting Association members, Fire Control Officers and any other interested persons from the district to attend their respective district CFS demonstrations.

Members with private fire-fighting units are invited to take part in a Parade of Fire Appliances and any special events for private vehicles, which may be arranged. (Enquiries to CFS H.Q. or your C.L.O. welcomed.)

### Judges

It is evident that previous delays at the commencement of CFS competitions occur because of the lack of trained Judges to adjudicate at the various points as laid down to watch for penalties. **Brigades are requested to train and supply at least one or more Judges** who are proficient at any of the following positions—viz. Standpipe, Hose Trailer, Centre Couplings, Branch End, Portable Pump Alarm Race, One Man Hose Drill, Ladder Drills. **The Judges nominated should preferably be non-members of a team.** Please include the names of members on the nomination form, who will be available for judging or timekeeping.

### Competing Conditions—Applicable to all CFS Competitions

1. *Bona fide Competitors*—Competitors shall be registered members of Country Fire Services and subject to the following Regional Officers' Conference ruling, viz.—

"That members transferring from one brigade or Association or joining a further brigade or Association, shall be required to have three (3) months registered CFS membership with the new unit before permitted to take part in CFS organised competitions, unless approved otherwise by Officers in Charge of both units."

Officers in Charge of brigades will be responsible for the *bona fide* qualifications (membership and grade) of their competing members.

2. *Regulation Competition Uniforms*—All competitors shall wear approved pattern CFS uniform, including head-dress (i.e. officers' blue peaked cap, beret or helmet). Footwear is essential, type optional sprigs, spikes or special attached aids must NOT be worn (this does not include golf or basketball type rubber pattern soles or sandshoes).

3. *Hose*—(Specifications)—Official hose will be available for ALL hose drill events except when competitors elect to use their own hose. Teams using own hose will be responsible for its length and specifications. If hose supplied by competitors for own use: it **MUST** be 30 m (100') LENGTHS of 64 mm (2½") CANVAS FIRE HOSE-COUPPLINGS TO BE CFS STANDARD. Light alloy couplings ARE NOT PERMISSIBLE. **Minimum** of ONE FULL TURN (360°) on branch and couplings, from marrying to handtight. "Wet" (3-man) Ladder Drill requires 38 mm (1½") hose.

*Metric Conversion*—Drill Instructions Circulars have been converted to the Metric System and to the nearest practical measurement, viz. 30 metres will represent the previous measurement for the 100ft. lengths of 64 mm (2½") and 38 mm (1½") canvas/synthetic fire hose.

Official competition event hose which has been made available by CFS Headquarters for all Hose Drill events, will be provided as in the past, in 100ft. lengths.

It is proposed at the present time to use existing 100ft. length hoses for competition purposes. CFS officers are advised not to cut their 100ft. length hoses to the precise metric measurement.

**NOTE:** The term "canvas hose" in drill circulars includes cotton/synthetic type weaves, used in present-day manufacture of 64 mm (2½") fire hose.

4. *Hose/Equipment Ready to Compete*—Teams/Competitors **MUST BE READY TO** compete when called upon.

5. *Judges' Decisions and Supplementary Penalties*—Drills must be carried out as laid down. Additional penalties may be added by the Chief Judge for any irregularity in drill procedure. Crews not adhering to Regulations and Drill Movements as laid down may be disqualified. The Officer in Charge of a team may enter a protest with the Marshal not later than five (5) minutes after the conclusion of the event concerned. The Chief Judge shall have the power to re-run any competition he deems necessary, and his decision shall be FINAL. The Chief Judge shall have the power to limit the number of competitors.

6. *Disputes Committee*—The Chief Judge Marshal, Team Captain and Assistant Judges from the point where the dispute occurred. The Chief Judge may call on any other person to assist him. None other than those above shall be present at the discussion. In all disputes the decision of the Chief Judge shall be final. Offensive behaviour or language, may cause disqualification of any member, or team he represents, from all events in any competition.

7. *CFS Headquarters Advice*—Do not hesitate to contact CFS Headquarters, or your Regional Officer in connection with any queries on competition drills and regulations.

8. *Ladies Auxiliary*—Uniformed members of the CFS Ladies Auxiliary may take part in any of the drill events, with the approval of the Officer in Charge of their brigade.

The Officer in Charge is responsible for ensuring that the Ladies do not participate in events which may subject them to undue strain or injury.

losses through bushfires would drop considerably but as such a house is unacceptable, we must, therefore, look for means of protecting the windows".

Perhaps the cheapest and most effective way of protecting windows from heat is to install metal flywire screens and where large windows are involved, an outside roll-up type flywire screen (on a principle similar to a roll-up blind) should be installed for each window.

These screens could be lowered and fastened down before leaving home or should a fire threaten. It was essential that metal flywire be used as synthetic flywire had no worthwhile heat resistance.

Supt. Green said it was also commonsense to shut all windows and doors before leaving home. Even internal doors should be closed as these restricted the progress of a fire should one occur in part of the house.

Another danger spot was roof gutters, and even where leaves had been cleared from the gutters the previous day, the high winds of an extreme fire danger day were likely to blow sufficient dry leaves into the gutter to start a fire. A gutter fitted with a watertight plug in the down pipe and completely filled with water should provide an all day barrier against flying sparks.

Another essential fire protection measure was an ample supply of water for fire-fighting. Most Hills' homes were supplied with water from one or more tanks, and these should be fitted with external taps—not reliant upon electric pressure pumps.

Supt. Green cited one sad case history of the February 20 fire where firefighters noticed a fire on the roof of a hurriedly-vacated house. Although tank water was available, there was no outside tap fitted to the tank, and the only container that could be found was an empty ice-cream bucket. Needless to say, the fire-fighters fought a losing battle and the home was destroyed.

Because most homes are reliant on the electric pressure pumps their value in a fire is severely restricted as during a bushfire the electricity will either be cut off or installations destroyed by the fire. Therefore, an alternative (or independent) means of supplying water was needed. Where outside taps were fitted to tanks it was a good precaution to leave several buckets close by.

Supt. Green said that in a fire, as devastating as the "Ash Wednesday" holocaust, there was always the possibility that some of the homes lost, may have been saved had someone been at the dwellings immediately the fire had passed, to extinguish small fires that were smouldering, but which eventually destroyed the houses. One house smouldered for three hours before it burst into flames and was burnt to the ground.

The decision on whether people should evacuate their homes had to be made by the appropriate authorities and the people themselves, at the time the fire was approaching. It would be most inappropriate to advise people otherwise.

Whilst a number of evacuated homes were lost in the Hills' fire, there was no loss of human life. "Had there not been an evacuation programme instituted, the risk of lives being lost would have been much greater.

"For those who choose to evacuate, I suggest you seek the closest safe evacuation area and, once it is safe, make every effort to return to your home so as to carry out a close scrutiny of your home and other buildings for any small fires or smouldering embers. Be sure to check roof eaves and gutters and any openings underneath the house", he said.

Supt. Green said good planning of property fire protection provided the best chance of its survival in a bushfire.

Similarly, people should pre-plan—and even rehearse—action necessary for their own personal safety.

Should they need expert advice on fire protection, officers of the Country Fire Services were available, without cost, to inspect properties and advise on the best possible measures.

## The Heat's not off us yet!

As we are in April, and the first month of Autumn the danger of fire is still very real.

We have had very little rain during the summer, as a result road side and country vegetation is prolific. Under the Country Fires Act the "fire danger" season does not end until 30th April 1980, so we have still a way to go, and there is no room for complacency.

# PUBLIC'S HELP SOUGHT IN CATCHING 'FIREBUGS'

The Country Fire Services, concerned about the number of deliberately lit fires which are occurring, has appealed to the public for assistance in curbing these outbreaks.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, says it would appear that recent fires in the Penola district, in the South-East, and in the northern fringe suburbs of Adelaide, were deliberately started.

"There is considerable evidence to show that these fires were the work of some person or persons, and we are appealing to the public to be on the alert and to report any suspicious activity immediately to their nearest police station.

"It may be that they remember seeing a car parked in the area; a person moving suspiciously. We want them to report the information and if they are able to provide a description of the person or vehicle, or its registration number, so much the better."

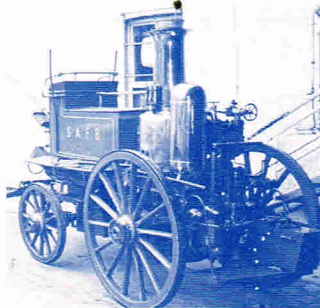
Mr. Johns said arsonists could range from people who hastily started a fire along a roadside to others who used more sophisticated methods. "Therefore, even if something or someone was noticed up to several hours before a fire occurred, it is valuable to the police and CFS to report it," he said.

The Director said there was always the possibility that property—homes and other buildings—could be destroyed or even lives lost through the senseless and criminally-intent activities of those starting the fires.

To date, CFS volunteer firefighters had quickly quelled the outbreaks before they spread, but there was always the possibility that a fire could get out of control and cause considerable damage. "This is what we must avoid", Mr. Johns said.

## Bushfire Relief Appeal by S.A.F.B. March 1 & 2, 1980

Taking a step back into history for the Bridgewater Bushfire Relief Appeal held at South Australian Fire Brigade Headquarters, and all hitched up to go are pictured standing, from left—Dick Rowe (Senior Superintendent S.A.F.B.); Colin Morphet (Deputy Chief S.A.F.B.); Lloyd Johns (Director, CFS); sitting from left—Fred Kerr (former CFS Director) and Charlie Rosewarne (Group Captain, Bridgewater CFS) aboard the ol' Shand Mason Steam Fire Engine.



The Shand Mason Horse Drawn Steam Fire Engine was commissioned in Adelaide in 1880. It took 10 minutes to get up a head of steam, so on turn out, the fire box was lit, and by the time the engine arrived at the fire, they had steam to power the pump, which had a capacity of 300 gallons of water/minute.

Other activities included: Demonstration by "C" shift fire fighters. Combination hose & ladder drill (wet), Breathing Apparatus, Snorkel demonstration, introduction to Sky-Jet appliance, car on fire, Jaws of Life, rescue, resuscitation equipment, foam drill, jump sheet, appliance turn out.

All H.Q. South Australian Fire Brigade, "C" Shift were contacted by Mr. Colin Morphet on Saturday our first day shift. He suggested a two day demonstration on 1st and 2nd March 1980 to assist the Bridgewater C.F.S. to replace their unit. The response from "C" Shift was so enthusiastic that they were running through the Drill Sequences voluntarily until 2230 hrs. on their two night Shifts. H.Q. "D" Shift were also contacted. They gave equally enthusiastic support by manning the appliances, crowd control, selling drinks etc. I have been told "A" and "B" Shift Firefighters also "came on strong" volunteering their services.

On the first day Chairman George Joseph gave the opening address for the demonstration and Lloyd Johns, Director of C.F.S. gave the reply. On the second day Mr. Dick Rowe welcomed the spectators and Mr. Charles Rosewarne Group Captain for the Stirling Area C.F.S. replied.

On both days the crowds were most responsive to the display material because we had a number of new appliances on display. Two "Skyjets" arrived on Wednesday prior to the display and one was demonstrated along with the new breathing apparatus appliance. The Shand-Mason circa 1880 was also used for the first time in a display. A special thank you to the Gerlack and Carr stables for the use of the horse to draw the Unit. I believe the horse and driver are about the same vintage as the pump.

A sum of \$2 000 was collected on the two days, including cheques and donations that were sent in. The money was handed over in a small ceremony around the burnt out Unit outside H.Q. Station.

I feel the display went off so well because all the firefighters gave "everything they had" towards it because it felt like "Brother helping Brother" in a common cause. FIREFIGHTING. . . . M. Smith South Australian Fire Brigade.



S.A.F.B. Officers demonstrating resuscitation equipment to an audience on the Bridgewater Fund Raising Days.



The turn out of S.A.F.B. trucks caught the audiences' attention as they stood around the remains of the burnt out Bridgewater CFS Unit, on display.

## CFS UNITS TO BENEFIT FROM DONATIONS

Country Fire Services units, which had equipment lost or damaged during the 'Ash Wednesday' bushfires in the Adelaide Hills, will be assisted in replacing or repairing the items.

The Country Fire Services Board has received donations from companies and the public who felt that the local brigades should be helped in this manner.

The spontaneous response to a community suggestion of assisting the brigades, had

been greatly appreciated by the Board.

(The donations made to the re-equipment scheme were additional to donations made to the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal with its primary objective of assisting people who had suffered losses in the fires.)

In the coming weeks the CFS Board would establish priorities for the distribution of the money to brigades, and a detailed account of replacement equipment purchased will be recorded in "The Volunteer", future issue(s).

## Bridgewater Replacement CFS Standardises on Fire Trucks

The country Fire Services Board is considering designs for three standard types of fire fighting vehicles for CFS brigades throughout South Australia.

The first of the new designs—a vehicle for urban/rural fire protection—is being built as a replacement for the fire unit lost by the Bridgewater CFS during the "Ash Wednesday" holocaust in the Adelaide Hills.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said that the Board's policy was to rationalise the design of CFS fire units.

The unit being built for Bridgewater is a fast, compact, short wheel-base vehicle capable of carrying 2 000 litres of water and with pumping facilities to draw water from mains and other sources.

The other prototype designs approved by the Board are for a four-wheel drive vehicle mainly for use in sandy country; and a large 3 000 litre tanker unit.

The fully-equipped Bridgewater unit will cost \$45 000 of which approximately \$7 000 has been received from donations to the replacement appeal.

Built on a heavy-duty International chassis, the new unit will have an American-style half-cab, which means that seven firefighters can be transported under cover, and with additional men travelling on the protected high-sided platform at the rear.

The half-cab principle allows the fire-fighters to enter and leave the unit by two side openings. This part of the vehicle has a drop-down fire proof blanket for extra crew protection.

"The vehicle is very compact, being only 6.5 m long, and with a short wheelbase of 3.43 m this makes it ideal for fire-fighting in areas like the Hills where there can be severe off-road conditions," Mr. Johns said.

Painted in the new CFS colour of white, with appropriate markings, the unit will have radio, a p.a. system, flashing lights and siren.

The extensive fire-fighting equipment will include:

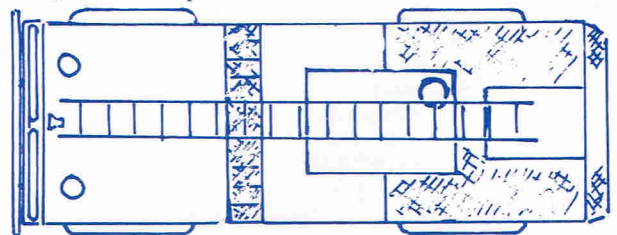
- a main pump with a 2 250 litre per minute capacity;
- a large 100 mm diameter suction hose for drafting water from dams, swimming pools and rivers;
- 300 m of 64 mm line hose, and also two hose reels each with 60 m of high-pressure 25 mm hose for extinguishing small fires;
- a long extension ladder;
- breathing apparatus; and
- eight knapsacks, plus large storage areas.

The unit will also have two monitor points and four short hose lines for use in crew and vehicle protection.

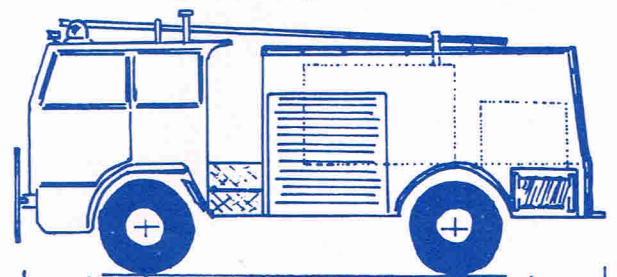
Fitted to the front of the chassis will be a line of high capacity sprays for use when moving through burning country.

The vehicle will have a ground clearance of 600 mm.

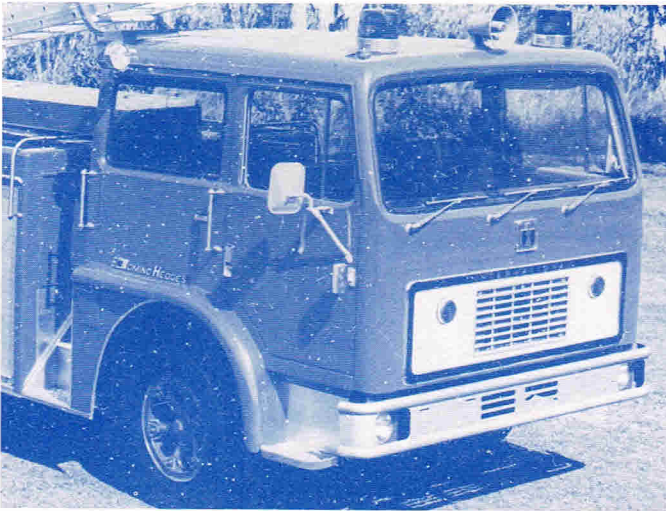
Mechanically, the vehicle is equipped with a large capacity V-8 motor with a 5-speed Allison automatic gearbox; a full air brake system, and a no-spin differential.



Plan View—of fittings for new Bridgewater CFS Unit.



Side Elevation—Prototype design of new Bridgewater Fire Unit.



An American style half-cab, similar to the designs for the new Bridgewater CFS prototype units, cabin.

## Double charity act

A CFS unit attending a charity concert for the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Appeal came to the rescue when a Chinese restaurant caught fire at Henley, Adelaide, 8 March, 1979.

The Aldgate and Bridgewater CFS unit was making an honorary appearance at the concert in Henley Square when the fire broke out.

The unit battled to control the blaze while reinforcements rushed to the scene from the Adelaide fire station, and by the time they arrived, the fire was extinguished.

The fire began in the kitchen of the Henley Palace Chinese Restaurant. Damage is estimated at \$15 000.

The proprietor of Moby Dick's restaurant, Mr. Fernando Martin, situated above the Henley Palace, said the entire building would have been lost without the prompt action by the CFS unit.

"I think God must have been on our side," Mr. Martin said.

"The concert was about to begin outside the restaurant when the flames were noticed. The flames were leaping almost to the top of the building".

"If we had had to wait until the fire unit came from town I dread to think what would have happened."

As well as saving the building, the Aldgate-Bridgewater crews also collected \$45 in donations during the afternoon!

The small Aldgate unit, with three members each from Aldgate and Bridgewater—was carrying only 100 gallons of water.

## OBITUARY

### Fredrick William CLARKE—Port Wakefield CFS

The Volunteer pays tribute to the memory of CFS member, Fredrick William Clarke, who passed away, on 26th January, 1980.

A foundation member and life member of the Port Wakefield CFS Brigade formed in 1947, Mr. Clarke was for many years the officer in charge. His absence will be sadly missed. The sincere condolences of our service have been expressed to his family.

### Stephen GRANGER—Montacute CFS

It is with deep regret, we must announce the passing of a young Montacute CFS Cadet, Stephen Granger, 16 years, who was killed in a tractor accident at Montacute, on 21st December, 1979.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to his parents and relatives.

## Lost Everything For the Third Time

**Mr. Tom Nyman of Longwood has lost everything three times in his life. This week he was still in doubt over benefits he may be entitled to from bushfire funds.**

The first two occasions were in his native Finland in times of war. The most recent was in the Ash Wednesday bushfire when 1 000 chickens, ducks and turkeys were killed and many of his sheds burnt down.

The caravan in which he and his wife lived on the rented property in Longwood also burned and with it all of their clothes and most of their possessions. None of it was insured.

However this week Mr. Nyman, who at 62 survived a major heart attack late last year, is about to start again.

When the "Courier" called, he was looking on the bright side.

"When I first started out I did not have thousands of birds," he said, "only a few."

"I still have some birds left

that survived the fire. In fact, enough to start again. My problem is that I do not have enough sheds to keep them in. Most were burnt down."

Mr. Nyman explained that before the fire he was the only remaining breeder of turkeys in S.A. All the others have gone bankrupt.

Mr. Nyman and his wife are living in a small asbestos house at Callington, at present, on a property in which they have half-share. They hope to re-establish their business there.

At present he is anxious to start work on building up his flocks again as fast as he can, but is in great need of any brooders or incubators that anyone may have perhaps tucked away" in sheds, which they may no longer need.

These would give him a help to start again—for the fourth time.

Courtesy, Mt. Barker Courier, March 5, 1980.

## Officer Assignments

Effective until further notice the following officer assignments shall apply:

- Superintendent P. A. MALPAS—Acting Deputy Director.
- Regional Officer G. A. KEAY—Acting Superintendent Operations.
- Regional Officer R. T. KEYNES—Region 1 and Kangaroo Island.
- Regional Officer B. R. MENADUE—Region 2 plus the Riverland area of Region 7 (Morgan, Waikerie, Barmera, Berri, Paringa, etc.)
- Regional Officer D. J. BATTEN with assistance from Regional Officer P. R. FERRIS—Region 3 and Region 6.
- Regional Officer G. M. POLOMKA—Region 4 plus Flinders and North East Pastoral area.
- Regional Officer M. T. SHERWELL—Region 5 plus Murray and Murraylands, (to include Pinnaroo, Lameroo, Brown's Well and Peake).

Headquarters officers who have recently joined the staff will from time to time be assigned to both assist and gain field experience in the various regions.

### CFS Headquarters Positions Retitled

Effective 12 February, 1980, the title of Inspector has been changed to Superintendent in order to more clearly reflect the job functions of the positions concerned and to bring the names into line with those recognised in fire services throughout the nation. The changes are as follows:—

- Inspector Operations to Superintendent Operations
- Inspector Research and Fire Protection to Superintendent Research and Fire Protection
- Administrative Officer to Superintendent Administration.

It should also be noted that the title of Administrative Officer now becomes Superintendent Administration. This position will remain a non-uniformed one.

16/1/80

LLOYD C. JOHNS,  
Director, Country Fire Services

## State Finals of CFS Competition at Kapunda on 21 September, 1980

# Visit by Officers of the California Dept. of Forestry, U.S.A. to South Australia

by Peter Mills (Publicity/P.R. Officer CFS H/Q)

The red carpet was truly laid out for our overseas guests, or as the Hawaiians call them "Mainlanders". Division Chief Bill Clayton and Battalion Chiefs Greg Pisano and Art Hastings were coming to Australia for a holiday, but their vacation instead became a rapid yet enjoyable (we hope) indoctrination into the S.A. Country Fire Services and the rural people of S.A. There was only one slight mishap that I can recall . . .

It happened on Saturday 9th February, at 1025 hours . . . upon arrival at the Adelaide Airport to collect the U.S.A. visitors I discovered that they were not on the scheduled Sydney to Adelaide flight, and one can look mighty foolish walking around an airport with a card that reads "BILL CLAYTON WELCOME TO S.A." . . . poking it in front of people alighting from various Sydney flights.

Fifteen minutes passed and with weary arms from holding the sign, a hoarse throat from inquiring and an information counter echoing through their intercom "Bill Clayton where are you?" A vaguely familiar figure emerged from behind closed doors leading to the baggage collection area—"so that's how they fight fires", I thought "sneak up on them and scare them to death". At least I now won't have to report to the Director that the Americans are listed as missing.

After fighting my way through a barrage of women they had already made friends with, I was introduced to the other broad grinning, tall, blue eyed Americans.

Welcome to . . . the word slipped my mind . . . America? No that wasn't it, the Islands? . . . there were plenty of beautiful women . . . but no palm trees, so it must be AUSTRALIA . . . South Australia . . . that's right "Don't Rubbish South Australia".

I asked them where they had been, quickly came the reply "Hey Pete, we've been fighting fires, saving lives . . . you lit em, we fight em!" (I don't remember the rest, just the grinning.) "Give Us a Go" I replied, "Bushfires Hurt" came a faint reply from behind me.

The next few hours and days were very enlightening.

**Day One—** Sat, 9th Feb., 1980: The Americans visited and inspected Brigades, Equipment and met fire fighters from One Tree Hill CFS and surrounding districts, visited station with Mr. E. Riggs, met R.O. Brian Menadue and the Salisbury CFS, discussed history, function, service of CFS and took a helicopter ride over the Mount Lofty Ranges from Cape Jervis to Mount Crawford.



Sat, 9th Feb, 1429 hrs: C.F.S. Volunteers and Appliances from One Tree Hill, Evanston Gardens, Munno Para and Smithfield, turned out to greet the American Fire Fighters to the One Tree Hill C.F.S. Fire Station.



Sat, 9th Feb, 1437 hrs: met members of the one Tree Hill C.F.S.



Sat, 9th Feb, 1622 hrs: Following an inspection of the Salisbury C.F.S. Station with R.O. Brian Menadue, the group caught up with the Salisbury Volunteer Fire Fighters returning from a call out to a grass fire.

**Day Two—** Sunday, 10th Feb: With Peter Swann (CFS Board Member, Kapunda) as guide, visits were made to CFS Brigades at Kapunda, Riverton (arranged with Trevor Peake D/Clerk/Supervisor), Nuriootpa (arranged with Les Hampell) and the Barossa Valley. (courtesy of the vintners).



Sunday, 10th Feb, 1043 hrs: Visited the Riverton C.F.S. Station with Peter Swann.



Sunday 10th Feb, 1151 hrs: At Nuriootpa, Bill Clayton got his wish to ride a "high sided" C.F.S. Fire Brigade Unit. Designed for running type mobile attack on fires.

**Day Three—** Monday, 11th Feb: Visit to CFS H/Q met all personnel, inspected building and operations Room/Control centre, held press conference, visited Mount Barker CFS (Arranged with Ray Orr, Deputy Chairman CFS Board; Chairman, Mt Barker District Council.)

**Day Four—** Tuesday 12th Feb: Attended the Ashton-Norton Summit Fire as observers.

**Other Venues:** Visited Cleland Conservation Park, met Rangers and "Smokey the Koala", C.F.S. Fire Prevention Symbol. Tour of Bureau of Meteorology (arranged with Mr. Allan Brunt and Lyn Mitchell.) Visit to Alice Springs and the Northern Territory Bushfire Council.

Attended a Sunday cricket match between CFS H/Q's staff and the Doctors and Nurses (Flinders Medical Centre) at Belair Recreation Park.

Greg Pisano scored over 8 runs in his first ever cricket match . . . he took the bat like Ian Chappell but without the protective padding . . . "Is it my turn to bat again?" was the question raised by "Captain" Greg, thereafter every 15 minutes or so.

Visit to Victorian Country Fire Authority H/Q and Brigades.





A visit to South Australia just wouldn't be a visit, without meeting "Smokey the Koala", S.A. Country Fire Services Fire Prevention Symbol. And of course Mr. Bob Robbins, Smokey's keeper and friend at Cleland Conservation Park (right) and Peter Malpas, Acting Dep. Director CFS (holding Smokey).

*"South Australians are much more fire safety conscious than North Americans. If the country areas in S.A. in which we have travelled, over the past three days were back in California, you would find them marred by blackened fire scars. Your C.F.S. and Forestry people obviously have a good fire prevention and public education program." Comment by Bill Clayton.*

## U.S.A. FIRE FIGHTERS PORTRAIT



**BILL CLAYTON, B.A., M.S.**  
DIVISION CHIEF  
FIRE OPERATIONS OFFICER

Holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration and was awarded the Meritorious Award for Bravery in Fire Rescue (2nd highest bravery award in the United States of America).

Responsible for the protection of 1 500 000 acres in the county of San Diego, Bill commands 7 Ground Battalions and 1 (one) Air Battalion. The Air Battalion consists of 4 to 5 aircraft, 1 Heavy Helicopter, and 60 pieces of apparatus.

Total man power assigned to the division is approximately 500 men, comprising of 32 engine companies, 4 bulldozer companies (tenders), and 14 hand crews (18 men/crew).

### "Development of a Wildfire"

"Oneway . . . there's a lot of static electricity, and the convective type Santa Ana winds blow out of the desert at over 60 mph, humidity will drop to 2 or 3 per cent with a temperature of over 95 degrees . . . and you get a fire like the one in the film "Count Down to Calamity San Diego County 1970." I was a captain then, but was assigned as Acting Battalion Commander, and took 6 fire trucks down to the fire—when the fire broke out, the lookout reported that the wind was blowing at 90 mph . . . and the rate of spread of the fire, was about 7 000 acres an hour . . . we lost 1 000 buildings and vast areas of land . . . houses were burning . . . we saved some—lost some . . . shingle roofs caught alight . . . nothing could stop the timber frame homes from going up. The fire claimed 12 lives, damage was estimated at \$200 million. We were at a place called Harvesters Canyon and the fire came down on a 4 mile front and hit five of our engines.

On the whole fire we had 3 000 men and 250 engine companies (500 trucks and 26 aircraft). The fire came in, we backfired . . . but the fire hit us and we lost 102 houses in 15 minutes, butane

tanks were blowing up around us . . . of the remaining trucks three caught fire . . . dome lights melted on the vehicle roofs and the wind was just howling.

### "Recollections"

" . . . August 1st, 1978 'The Marble Cone Fire' occurred in a wilderness area. In the winter before came a freak snow storm which broke a lot of oak pines, leaving a lot of dead fuel amongst the pines, that survived—and with the rains flashy fuel developed. Come summer because it was a wilderness area, ecologists would not allow us to put in access tracks . . . or fire breaks . . . well it caught fire.

We ended up committing on the fire 6 000 men, over 100 engines, 67 bulldozers and 40 aircraft. As a result 700 men were injured and one man was killed fighting a fire which lasted 22 days.

We had to prepare 180 miles of fire breaks by bulldozers in front of the fire line, to backfire.

Burnable fuel in there was 90 tons an acre . . . and too hot to handle.

We used the helicopter to fly in men, supplies to ground troops and those who were crazy enough (i.e. brave enough) would go in to support the backfiring operation by throwing napalm grenades out of the helicopters . . . which is extremely dangerous because if a grenade gets caught in the updraft of the rudder you get an explosion, which could ruin your afternoon tea."

### Comments on "Rescue 1 Helicopter"

"The way the Country Fire Services deploy the Rescue 1 helicopter in fire detection, observation, and as a command platform at fires, is excellent.

I also think that there is a possibility that if you had a drop bucket on the helicopter you could hold some fires that occur in the canyons (gullies) until engine crews (brigades) could lay hose lines down to put it out.

A drop bucket on the Rescue 1 could carry about 80 gallons of water. Here's how it works—on the pilot's control stick is an electric gun switch, on being pressed opens a circular plate at the base of the bucket (suspended from the helicopter) releasing the water on the fire. A further press of the switch closes and seals the plate ready for refilling the bucket."

### "CFS Volunteers"

"The thing that has impressed me the most with Australians apart from the friendliness of the people is the Volunteer Fire Fighters.

I have seen their fire stations (in rural areas of S.A.), seen them in action—on a small size fire that was causing problems where structures were concerned at "Ashton-Norton Summit Fire" 12 February 1979 (north of Mount Lofty).

*The Volunteers are well disciplined, interested in their work, equipment is well maintained and they have a high esprit de corps. They look better uniformed and fitted out, than some paid departments I have seen in the world. The maintenance of their apparatus is as good as any paid crew I have seen.*

I am very impressed, the volunteer programme is an excellent one. Also in an area of rural type population, the "Volunteer" is the only answer."

### "Brigade Units"

"The use of high sides on CFS brigade vehicles is a completely different concept to what we use. We mobile pump just the same as you, but our men get out in front of the truck and walk along hose in hand, and we only move as fast as the men can walk. Only when we are being over run, or making a pumper stand on a road, to take a fire head on do we fight off the trucks with fog nozzles, but this is not a regular practice.

"With our very rough topography, if a truck hits a bump, a man could be injured falling from the truck. I would like the chance to see how fast the 'high side' trucks can move on hilly terrain. Your trucks are set up perfectly for a running type mobile attack on fires—where a truck has a monitor for heavy fires, a pick up line on each side and a reel line on the back."

## "Timber Homes"

The fire officers viewed with concern the building of timber homes in the heavily timbered Adelaide Hills. "In the hills of California, this type of construction, was one of the main reasons why so many houses are lost in big fires. Homes of solid construction, i.e. brick, and with properly cleared ground around them, stood a much better chance of survival in a fire."



**GREG PISANO**

BATTALION CHIEF FOR CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FORESTRY  
EMERGENCY COMMAND CENTRE CHIEF

Obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Forestry, Northern Arizona University, 1974.

Greg is responsible for Telecommunications, Telecommunications Planning, Dispatch, Status, Record Keeping, season Fire Fighter Hiring, with a staff of four Captains and one Dispatch Clerk, all full-time permanent at the Santa Clara Ranger Unit, Region V, (south of San Francisco). Covers an area of 6 Counties, consisting of 13 fire stations, 1 helicopter base/crew, 6 State controlled battalions (and 2 County owned Fire Districts administered by the Santa Clara Ranger Unit.)

### "Comments"

The 4 Captains under my control, man on a roster basis, the 'Command Centre' 24 hours/day; 365 days/year. At the centre we can dispatch 19 State engines plus the 2 country owned fire district units.

The terrain is similar to that in South Australia—light flashy fuel, grass 3 to 5ft high, scrub, bush, rolling hills and a lot of dead fuel. Even similar weather conditions influenced by ocean breezes, and similar temperatures.

Our fire season runs from May to November, with minimal rainfall and temperatures in the 40° celsius range. On 'High Fire Risk Days' we take weather readings every 2 hours and every 2 hours we set out proposed dispatch levels (i.e. program in event of fire the necessary fire suppression equipment that would be required/area/fire hazard forecast—to be on the ready), at either Low; Medium or High levels.

Low—Deploy 2 or 3 engines and crew; 1 (one) Battalion Chief and 1 (one) Bulldozer to the fire.

High—Deploy initially 6 engines (or more) with crew; 1 (one) Battalion Chief; 2 Bulldozers; 1 (one) Helicopter and 2 Aerial Tankers—suppression force dependent upon the weather and type of fuels/fire hazard forecast/area etc. . . .

'Fire Hazard Areas' are determined by local jurisdiction as to where fires are likely to occur, and are classified into levels according to a formula which integrates information on fuel; weather; topography into a point system that can be measured in numbers—to obtain the probability of fire occurrence and the suppression equipment required to combat such a fire in that specified area."

### "on the lighter side" How to make a 'Taco!'

"First of all a Taco starts as a Tortilla (say: tor-tee-ya), which is flour, water and lime salt and you make a pancake crepe which is about 10" circular. Then you deep fry this tortilla. Next fold it into a semi circle with a 1/2" to 3/4" space at the top of the shell in which you place beef or chicken or pork, add tomato, cheese, avocados, hot sauce, alfalfa sprouts and or fish . . . then bite into them.

The tacos are delicious when served with mashed kidney beans".



**ARTHUR (ART) HASTINGS**  
BATTALION CHIEF  
HEAD STATE FOREST RANGER 1. (BIG TREES DISTRICT)

With an Associate of Arts Degree in Fire Science, Art, an ol' U.S. Navy man commands The Touloumne-Calaveras Ranger Unit (central Eastern California.)

Responsibilities include the administration of 2 fire Stations, 1 (one) Fire Lookout, 16 men and 3 Fire Engines to cover an area of 250 000 acres. Other duties include Public Relations, Fire Prevention Techniques, Fire Road Improvement and Forest Practice Work (over see Timber Harvest Operations.)

"Comments from Art Hastings/Bill Clayton"

### "Structure of Rank/Authority in forest Service U.S.A."

. . . Starting from the Bottom—A Fire Fighter on the truck, next is a Fire Apparatus Engineer who may have crew of 2 or 3 men. If he is on one of our structural engines, will have a Captain with him. The Engineer then drives the truck, runs the pumps while the Captain directs the crew of 3 to 5 fire fighters.

A Captain is in charge of a Fire Station and trucks. (A bigger fire station will have 2 fire trucks and 1 bulldozer.)

The next rank is Battalion Chief, who controls anywhere from 2 to 5 Stations in a geographical area, and his responsibilities/control is similar to a C.F.S. Group Captain.

Next a Division Chief depending on the area, will control 6 or 7 Battalions and possibly an air base (as a suppression-division chief.)

Next is a Unit comprising of 1 to 3 counties, controlled by an Operations Division Chief and an Administrative Chief.

The Administrative Chief handles communications finance, administration and supply of automobiles/personnel, and is also a qualified fire officer. When the Operations Division Chief is off duty the Administrative Chief can handle his responsibilities.

A Unit Chief is in charge of both the Administrative and Suppression/operations section.

At a Regional Level (3 to 5 Units/Region) a Regional Chief with assistants and staff (25 to 30 staff), is responsible for fire control and prevention. The 5 Regions in the State report to Sacramento.

Most command fire fighting even on larger fires is handled by a Battalion or Division Chief, unless there were several major fires burning tens of thousands of acres where on under the "General H/Q Command Structure" a Unit Chief and or Regional Chief would control the situation. A Battalion Chief may normally have 20 men in his battalion, but with a big fire he may have 500 men under his control. Californian Fire Fighters have at their disposal 40 air tankers, numerous helicopters (11 in San Diego County), 600 fire engines and 90 bulldozers.

Footnote: The CROYDON HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS AND STAFF, are to be commended for their very fine effort in raising \$225 (obtained from fund raising and personal efforts) for the purchase of Fire Fighting Equipment, as distinct to the Bushfire Relief Appeal.

## BUSHFIRE THREATENS ASHTON Hectic Period for CFS

Numerous homes and properties were threatened as a fire swept through the Ashton area on Tuesday, 12 February, 1980.

In the ensuing five days, fires were reported in at least six other areas, to make it one of the most serious bushfire periods in the Hills for a number of years.

Fires occurred in Woodside, Oakbank, Strathalbyn, Macclesfield, Mt. Lofty, Forest Range and Mt. Barker.

Several properties at Ashton including the Masonic Hall were in serious danger when fire swept through scrub land towards the town.

At one stage, flames were licking the fascia of the Masonic Lodge, but due to the efforts of the CFS volunteers, the building was saved.

The fire started at about 5.45 p.m. near Woods Hill Road, between Ashton and Norton Summit.

Shortly afterwards, power went off in the district, making it impossible for some brigades to sound their fire sirens.

High winds swept the fire in a north easterly direction, across the Lobethal Road and towards Ashton.

A total of 60 hectares was burnt out.

CFS units from Norton Summit, Summertown, Carey Gully, Montacute, Cherryville and Basket Range attended the fire initially, with the CFS Headquarters calling in Athelstone, Burnside, Stirling and Onkaparinga units soon afterwards.

Firefighters who attended state that the fire was the worst seen in the area for many years, with the worst potential for disaster.

The speed with which the fire swept towards Ashton gave no time for homes to be evacuated.

CFS Director, Mr. L. Johns, watched the blaze from the CFS helicopter which also carried the district supervisor who directed the men on the ground by radio.

Editorial courtesy Mt. Barker Courier, 20 Feb., 1980.



C.F.S. Volunteers beside the Ashton Masonic Hall, that was threatened by the fire. photo courtesy "The Advertiser"



Tuesday, 12th Feb, 1840 hrs: from left Lloyd Johns, Director, C.F.S., (dressed for Helicopter fire surveillance/control) with Art Hastings, Greg Pisano, Bill Clayton discussing strategies used at the "Ashton-Norton Summit Fire." photo courtesy "The Advertiser".

## New Fire Stations/New Brigade Units. New fire truck proves mobility

Three days after taking delivery of a new \$22 000 four wheel drive fire unit the Morphett Vale, Reynella, Hackham Country Fire Service had used it on six fires in steep country.

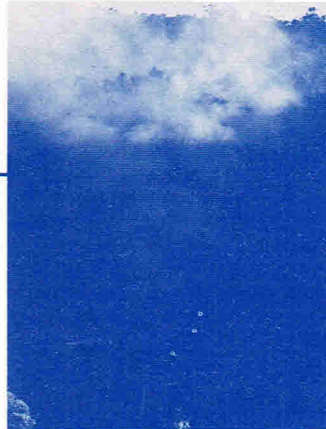
The new V8 powered International 510A vehicle, known as Morphett 3, replaced a 1973 Bedford 3000 litre two wheel drive unit sold last year to Auburn Country Fire Service.

Morphett 3 proved its mobility in areas which have been inaccessible to other vehicles.

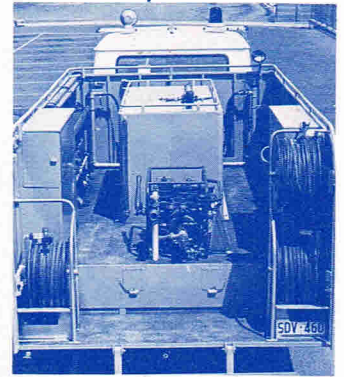
The fires were near ranges east of Morphett Vale.

The new vehicle will be housed at Morphett Vale Fire Station with two existing units, and one unit each at Reynella and Hackham.

Morphett 3 is fully equipped carrying 1 600 litres of water, hose reels, boom spray, fire extinguishers, knapsacks, foam making and sundry equipment.



The Ashton Fire—Smoke billows out of a gully as fire cuts a path of destruction—photo courtesy "The Advertiser"



## Millicent unit commissioned

The Millicent C.F.S. now has its third commissioned fire fighting unit.

For some time the need for a smaller unit for initial attack and officer patrol purposes had been a concern.

Now that has been met with the addition of this further unit to complement the other two larger units already being used.

The latest unit is a Toyota 4-wheel drive with a 500 litre (110 galls) water tank, hose

reel, and pump, together with all the necessary CFS accessories of radio, flashing lights and siren-PA system.

This unit has already proved its value and manoeuvrability when used at recent fires, and will certainly increase the efficiency of the Millicent CFS.

The unit has been built up and prepared by members of the Millicent CFS during the winter months.

The South Eastern Times, December 13, 1979.

Thank you Rev. John Follett, for your continued contributions ... Editor



## Gawler River

### Establishment

Two years ago a couple of people approached me and asked if we could set up a CFS unit. We had a meeting at the hall, formed a steering committee and before we had even registered there was a fire unit up for sale at Onkaparinga . . . we purchased it.

At nights we rebuilt it to suit our terrain, needs for fire fighting . . . now where to house it. We had a half acre of land donated by Mr. Harrison, Dawkins Rd. We acquired a very old shed 40 x 20 x 9 from a chicken firm, put the frame up, put new iron on it and sold the second hand iron and timber. We had a shed. Christmas barbecues raised money to finance our unit.

### Area Coverage

We service three council areas, because we are in the west corner of Light, Mallala and Munno Para Districts, bordering our District of Light.

### Firecall

Last year we were called out to 25 fires, this season 5. We have a membership of approximately 50; and every Monday night at least 8 to 10 members attend the meeting.



### New Fire Station

We now have a new Gawler River District Fire Station, which was officially opened on 9th February, 1980, by the chairman of the District Council of Light, Cr. Brian Anders. This station has been acquired through the generosity and time given by our members and community.

Geoff Harris  
Captain

Gawler River District C.F.S.

*Congratulations and Good Luck! . . . Editor.*

## GOOLWA

**Goolwa CFS's new fire truck was commissioned at a ceremony at the Goolwa fire station on Sunday, 24 February.**

It is an extra unit for Goolwa CFS, which has one other unit and a water tanker.

The cab and chassis of the new unit, which is now estimated to be worth at least \$15 000, were

purchased by the CFS and council at an ex-government vehicles sale.

Goolwa CFS members then built up the unit, a member, Mr. John Yard, doing all of the bodywork voluntarily.

The unit is fitted with foam-making equipment, breathing apparatus, and all of the usual fire-fighting equipment.

## Narrung

**Narrung CFS now has its new \$26 800 fire truck commissioned by Agriculture Minister, Mr. Ted Chapman, on 16 December, 1979.**

The truck, designed in Victoria, was bought with contributions from Narrung residents, the Point McLeay Aboriginal community, Meningie District Council and a State Government subsidy.

The vehicle is equipped with all necessary equipment for town and country use and carries 500 gallons of water.

**A new fire-fighting unit, to be based at Mount Jagged, was commissioned at Victor Harbor on Sunday, 2nd March.**

The new unit has been purchased by the Hindmarsh Valley Fire Fighting association at a total cost of \$26 000.

The new vehicle is an International ACCO 510. A four-wheel drive V8 and has been fitted with an aluminium body by Alufarm, of Goolwa.

Equipment includes a 500 gallon tank and 16 h.p. Gaam pump in addition to many special features, including an exhaust primer which provides almost instantaneous pick-up to the pump.

## New Home for CFS

Kangarilla Country Fire Service is looking forward to using its new premises this summer.

The building was donated by the Anglican Church, and a new wing added. A three-metre doorway has been cut and a lift-up door fitted.

A new siren, with a seven-mile range, is being installed and the present siren located nearer Clarendon.

C.F.S. volunteers are completing the cementing of the floor.

The telephone has been connected and the fire call number is still 383 7000.

## ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

*As this issue goes to print, South Australian Hills Dwellers experience yet another bush-fire.*

**"The Horsnell Gully Fire"  
Sunday 13th April, 1980  
Monday 14th April, 1980**

A thick pall of smoke resembling rain clouds was visible high over the Adelaide Hills when a bushfire started at 1.43 p.m. (1343 hours) on 13th April, 1980, 1½ km east of White Rock Quarry in the Adelaide Hills. 50 C.F.S. Units were called to Ashton and Norton Summit areas when local fire fighters became powerless to stop the blaze, in the gullies. The fire roared through tinder-dry bushland, jumped numerous roads and threatened over 15 homes. The homes escaped serious damage but fire destroyed over 400 hectares of the Horsnell Gully Conservation Park, and adjoining scrub/pasture land.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Ted Chapman and Minister of the Environment, Mr. David Wotton, visited the fire scene and surveyed the situation from the C.F.S. Rescue 1 Helicopter, with the Director of Country Fire Services Mr. Lloyd Johns, and Mr. John Fitzgerald (National Parks and Wildlife). Fire Supervisors coordinated fire operations from Rescue 1. Back burning operations were pretty ferocious due to 30 knot gully winds. Flames leapt up to 40 metres high, several spot fires broke out and jumped the Horsnell Gully firebreak as mopping up operations were underway, but were quickly brought under control.

## ANGASTON

**A new 4 wheel drive mobile fire fighting unit valued at about \$9 500 was officially handed over to Angaston Country Fire Service at a ceremony at Angaston Fire Station on Monday, 10th Dec.**

Mr. Richard Keynes spoke for region 2 of the S.A. Fire Fighting Organization. The new unit is especially equipped for dealing with bush fires and has a two-way radio, a 100 gallon capacity tank with pump capable of refilling from nearby supplies, a siren and P.A. system and design has been kept as compact as possible so there is room for fire fighters on the unit.

**ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!** *continued . . .*

Two outbreaks south of the main fire occurred on Monday, and were extremely difficult to contain because of the inaccessible terrain. Large spot fires that developed from the outbreaks caused some difficult moments for the 300 fire fighters, 39 C.F.S. Units, 12 National Parks and Wildlife Units, Police and private units, who on numerous occasions found themselves confronted by flames, but fought valiantly on . . . as a result six volunteers were admitted to hospital for treatment for injuries, smoke inhalation and burns. Many firefighters received first aid treatment from the St. John Ambulance Brigade for burns, smoke inhalation and eye injuries. Back burning continued and the fire front was again brought under control . . . "but the area was very hot." Fresh crews remained on patrol, and undertook mopping up operations. It was expected that flare ups would occur for several days.

## Distribution of "The Volunteer"

Previously 11 000 copies of each issue of "The Volunteer" were printed to ensure that all registered volunteer members, Fire Fighting Associations, Co-Emergency Services, etc each received a free copy through their individual Brigade Secretary or officer.

However various brigades have since indicated that 10 copies of "The Volunteer" would be sufficient for each brigade.

As a result—with this issue and all future issues, unless a brigade has previously requested a specific number of copies, 10 only will be issued.

Should your brigade wish to reduce or increase the standard allocation, please address your written request to:

The Editor,  
"The Volunteer"  
Country Fire Services,  
P.O. Box 32, Goodwood, S.A. 5034