

THE VOLUNTEER

Official Journal for The Country Fire Services South Australia

VOLUME 6

Winter Issue
June, 1980
Published Quarterly



Correspondence to the Editor

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

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



Fire Fighting Drill Elimination Competitions
and State Championships, pages 5 & 8

Letters to the Editor.

FIRE AT TIMBER MILL
from Roving Reporter.

It was a going fire and the fire crew went into action. It was a great pile of timber and the heat was so intense that they could not get within 100 metres of it.

The Manager was very concerned that it could burn down the mill and thought he should just advise the local CFS Brigade.

With all enthusiasm the local CFS turned out and came boring down the hill and stopped 30 metres from the fire.

The fog nozzle was immediately played on the unit and crew and the other 2½" canvas was played on the fire and brought under control.

The Manager was so delighted that the CFS had saved the mill he made out a cheque for \$300.

In presenting the cheque the manager said he was amazed that his super crew could not get anywhere near the fire and your crew went straight up and controlled the fire.

The captain in thanking the Manager said "with this 300 bucks we will be able to get the brakes fixed now."

*Appreciation to:
Members of Scott Creek
CFS and back-up people,*

Dear Sirs and Ladies,

This is a note to record our appreciation to all who risked their lives in fighting the tragic fire now known as the Ash Wednesday Fire. Without the untiring, selfless efforts of so many of you the fire would have been much worse and I am sure that the fact that no lives were lost is due in major part to the training and dedication of the CFS Units in the area.

After the fire was out several people set themselves up as "experts" to say what should have been done, while others have gone looking for someone to blame, neither of which is of any help and changes nothing.

Please accept our sincere and heartfelt thanks on behalf of all our people for your work in this fire and your continued work to save the hills people and environment.

I am most conscious of the excellent assistance given to the CFS by the members' families through priority back-up and care, and wish to pass on to them our thanks also.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. K. S. Maher

On behalf of the Stirling District Minister's Fraternal Uniting Church in Australia Stirling District Parish.

P.S. If you are in contact with units that came from places outside the Stirling Council area, would you please pass on to them this message.

THANK YOU MEDIA

If I may reiterate on the recent comments from the CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns and the Country Fire Services Board, "We are indebted to all the media and staff for the commendable community service provided, in alerting the public to the serious danger experienced in South Australia during the bushfire season just ended."

Once more the public's positive response to the Country Fire Services "Fire Prevention" programme, has been most gratifying and was in no small measure, due to the media's generous involvement".

Would you please convey our thanks to your personnel, reporters, camera crew, editor(s), journalists, and compositor(s) for their assistance throughout the season. We are most grateful for your continued support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Mills, CFS Publicity
and Promotions Officer

Radio Call Sign CORRECTION

Please note that the Glosop CFS call sign should correctly read VL5TM Frequency:163 090.

EDITORIAL

A Time to Ask Ourselves the Same Old Questions

The first Autumn rains heralded the loosening of a tight grip which has been held on this State since last December. I am sure many of you breathed the same sigh of relief at the sight of the country slowly changing from parchment to green. The fire danger season has been a bad one. It may well go down as the worst on record. And we must ask of ourselves the same questions that have been asked since the inception of the EFS—How did we perform; did our equipment stand up to it; were our tactics successful, what about communications, how can we improve, what must we do for the future?

The Autumn rains may have meant the passing of the last fire danger season but what about the next. More importantly, what about our increasing role in domestic and industrial fire protection, and accident rescue work none of which have seasonal boundaries. Are we ready and willing to accept the new challenges of our service to and for the community?

I sometimes wonder if the uniformed public think that the CFS goes into hibernation over the winter months, only to emerge when the green of the lands begins to turn back to parchment! But we all know better and to us autumn, winter and spring are not times for contemplation but for action—checking and re-checking, training, competitions, planning, organizing, refurbishing, replacing—and most important of all—still being ready and able to serve at the sound of the siren or the ring of the telephone.

Thank you firefighters of the South Australian Country Fire Services, you did a good job but you cannot afford to relax your vigilance for one moment.

LLOYD C. JOHNS, Director,
S.A. Country Fire Services

Notice to all CFS Brigades

Have you filled out your nomination form for the 1980 CFS Annual Competitions, and posted it in yet?

The form was on a tear off page of 'The Volunteer' Volume 5, March 1980. We need to be advised if your Brigade Team proposes to attend, as there are a lot of preparations to be made.

An early reply would be appreciated.

N.B. You don't necessarily have to enter competition events—come along anyway and have a good time. Talk with friends, meet new ones, eat... there's plenty to do, and generally join in the Fire Service Family Day.

See you there!... Editor.

Institute of Fire Engineers,
S.A. branch
Arson, Fire Investigation
and Forensic Science

An address is to be given by Sergeant Barry Cox, SA Police Department at 4.00 p.m. (1600 hours) in the CFS Theatre on Thursday, 19th June, 1980, followed by refreshments.

The institute extends an invitation to all.

A nominal \$1.00 per head will be collected to cover refreshments. Please contact Clem Concannon at Elizabeth Fire Station, Telephone (08) 255 1725 or Richard Hutchins at CFS Headquarters, (08) 297 6788 as soon as possible to confirm your attendance and number of guests.

R. O. R. H. Hutchins

Front cover:—

Fire Control Officers carrying out a 'Fog Attack' on a simulated running fuel fire at Happy Valley, while under the supervision of Regional Officers Peter Ferris, Russell Grear, Bruce Hogan and assisted by the Eden Hills CFS Brigade (pictured) and Morphett Vale and Happy Valley 1 CFS Brigade Units.

This practical training was part of a programme involving 50 FCO's during a 3-day Fire Control Officer's Training School held in Adelaide, at S.A. Country Fire Services Headquarters on Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th May, 1980.

Coonalpyn Council in Brief Fire Plugs

Following the Ash Wednesday fire at Coonalpyn, the District Council of Coonalpyn Downs forwarded a letter of concern to the Engineering and Water Supply Department regarding difficulty with operating fire plugs.

A letter was received from the Department advising that all plugs are checked by the district foreman at the start of each summer. Covers dislodged by farmers ploughing roadsides or inoperative plugs are repaired during routine patrolling of mains.

The Department suggested that plugs should be turned on for a short time before attaching a hydrant to flush away any stones or soil from the throat.

Editorial courtesy
"Border Chronicle" April 24.

We draw your attention to the article on "E & WS Hydrants for fire water," *The Volunteer*, volume 1, Page 3, March 1979, P. A. Malpas, Deputy Director, Country Fire Services.

Congratulations on "Volunteer."

L. C. Johns
Director
Country Fire Services
P.O. Box 312
Goodwood S.A. 5034

Dear Chief:

Just a note to congratulate you and your staff on the excellent Volunteer Annual just received. It still seems a bit strange not to see my "cousin" Fred's photo inside, but time does pass. I am grateful to be kept on your mailing list, I shall from time to time send along items that appear likely to be useful.

Sincerely,
James W. Kerr, Director
Technological Hazards
Federal Emergency Management
Agency
Washington, D.C. U.S.A.
April 22, 1980.

Thank you for your letter Mr. Kerr, we are eagerly looking forward to your future contribution(s) ...
Editor.

GOOLWA NEWS

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Goolwa CFS held their AGM on 10th April. The new committee formed were Christine Newcombe, President; Joyce Hough, Vice-President, and Mary Wood, Secretary. The committee would like to thank all who helped to provide food and drink to the firefighters at the recent fire in the Mosquito Creek area.

BELAIR C.F.S RETAIN TROPHY

Dear Sir,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of the Belair Unit concerning an article that appeared on Page 10, Vol 4 of the Volunteer. This article was about the State Championships and taken from the Southern Argus.

The article did not mention the Portable Pump Alarm Race except to give the name of the runner up. The Belair team were disappointed in not getting a mention for their efforts in winning the event three years in succession and retaining the trophy in perpetuity. This team and the back-up teams have worked hard and long for their success. It is only natural that they wish to get some acknowledgement for their efforts.

Yours Sincerely
D. J. WICKHAM, Secretary
Belair Unit

Apology for oversight. Congratulations Belair, a splendid effort in winning the Portable Pump Alarm Race 3 years in succession and retaining the trophy... Editor.

Children with matches

Two boys aged 11 and another aged 13 from the Holzgreffe Street Housing Trust area, Millicent, were apprehended after lighting a fire on Saturday evening, March 22nd.

The fire burnt a small area of grass and timber to the rear of a home on Williams Road.

The children absconded on bicycles, but were followed by a Smith Street resident who had seen them leave the fire.

After being lectured by CFS personnel on the danger of playing with the matches, the children were cautioned further by Millicent Police.

Earlier in the afternoon, CFS personnel were called to a fire near the old butter factory on the corner of Mt. Gambier Road and Campbell Street.

It is believed this fire was lit by children.

Extract "The South Eastern Times", March 24.

"Passenger Transport—Emergencies and Disasters" Combined Emergency Services Seminar. 18-19 October

Following a very successful combined Emergency Services Seminar conducted by the Victorian Branch of the Institution of Fire Engineers in July, 1979, the Institution is planning another similar Seminar to be conducted on the 18th and 19th October, 1980. The 1979 Seminar dealt with the role of each emergency service in a disaster and was attended by approximately 250 people representing the spectrum of emergency services.

The theme of the 1980 Seminar is "Passenger Transport—Emergencies and Disasters" and it is intended to cover most aspects of passenger transport with the Speakers from local, interstate and overseas authorities and emergency services. The programme for the Seminar is:—

Saturday 18th October

Introduction
Official Opening
LP Gas Powered Vehicles
Operational and Training Aspects of a Metropolitan Rescue Unit
Overall view of the Victorian Rescue Services
Open Forum
Lunch
Railways Emergencies and Disasters
Emergency Procedures—Melbourne Underground Loop
Film—"Moorgate Disaster—London Underground"
Hospital Disaster Plans
Open Forum
Social Function (Evening)

Sunday 19th October

MICA
Management of Road Traffic Casualties
Police Accident Investigation Squad
San Diego Aircraft Crash—1978 (Deputy Chief W. Clayton)
Aircraft Emergencies and Fire Rescue Procedures

The cost of the Seminar will be \$10.00 per person per day or \$20.00 per person for both days. This includes Morning and Afternoon Teas, Lunch and refreshments plus copies of the Seminar Notes.

A Social function is being planned for the Saturday Evening.

Due to the fortunate lack of a major aircraft disaster in Australia, there is no one available, from any Australian emergency service who can relay to emergency service personnel, a first hand account of the traumas, destruction, resources required and general details of an emergency of this kind.

The Institution of Fire Engineers believe that Emergency Services personnel would benefit greatly from the experience of an officer of a service who has dealt with a major aircraft disaster and with this in mind, Deputy Chief W. Clayton, San Diego, Orange County, has been engaged to address the Seminar.

Deputy Chief Clayton was associated with a Boeing 727 crash at San Diego in 1978. He visited Australia in February, 1980 on holidays, and was the guest of the Country Fire Service of South Australia, Country Fire Authority of Victoria and the Melbourne Metropolitan Fire Brigade.

The 1980 Combined Emergency Services Seminar will be held at the Melbourne State College, Carlton, Victoria. This venue will cater for 500 people and it is anticipated that the Seminar will receive patronage from representatives of Police, Fire Brigades, Ambulance Services and other emergency organizations within Victoria and Interstate.

Further details can be obtained from Regional Officers Ron Keith or Rick McKay CFA, Victoria, Malvern, 3144 Tel.: (03) 20 2571.

Manufacturers and suppliers of emergency equipment have been invited to present trade displays depicting current and new releases of appliances and apparatus available to emergency services.

R. G. Keith, MI Fire E, Chairman,
Seminar committee

Footnote:—Cost of seminar is \$20 per person for both days or \$10 per person per day. Please forward application, with cheque/money order and a stamped addressed envelope for the return of tickets to:—

The Ticket Secretary,
IFE Seminar's Committee
31 Hadlow Drive,
Wantirna 3152 Victoria.

**To all Brigade Captains
Secretaries
Officers in Charge**

Distribution of "The Volunteer"

Reference: 'The Volunteer, Volume 5, March 1980, Page 24 . . .' unless a brigade has previously requested a specific number of copies of "The Volunteer" quarterly publication, 10 only will be issued.

- Did you receive your copies of the Autumn Issue?
- Do you read it?
- Does your brigade wish to increase their allocation?
- How about some contributions . . . it's your "Volunteer".

Copies of the "The Volunteer", Autumn Issue, are still available. Have *all* your volunteer members received their free copy? (ie each member is entitled to a copy)

We still haven't heard from the majority of the CFS Volunteer Brigades if you wish to reduce or increase your new allocation of 10 "Volunteers" each quarter.

The number of future copies of "The Volunteer" printed each quarter will be dependent upon each CFS Brigade's requirements as advised in writing or by telephone to:

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

P.S. To all Brigade Captains/Secretaries and Officers in charge: upon the receipt of copies of "The Volunteer" it is imperative that each volunteer in your brigade receives their copy promptly, as information contained within is of a timely nature, and as such is of value to the "Volunteer" only if received on time. Editor

**Have you read this before?
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?

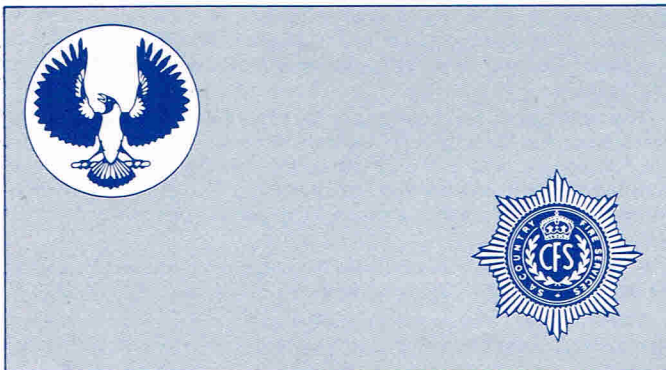
I would appreciate your early views and if you DO favour such a project we would like to receive your designs and suggestions. Editor.

"ex 'The Volunteer' Page 6, Autumn Issue, March 1980."

Have you read this before?

ONE PERSON HAS!

Mr. Klaus. R. Stichel, Fire Party Leader, Lobethal CFS has presented the following contribution (below) for consideration and comment:



COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES FLAG

Background

Green, to symbolise our dedication towards the protection of nature from the ravages of fires.

State Emblem

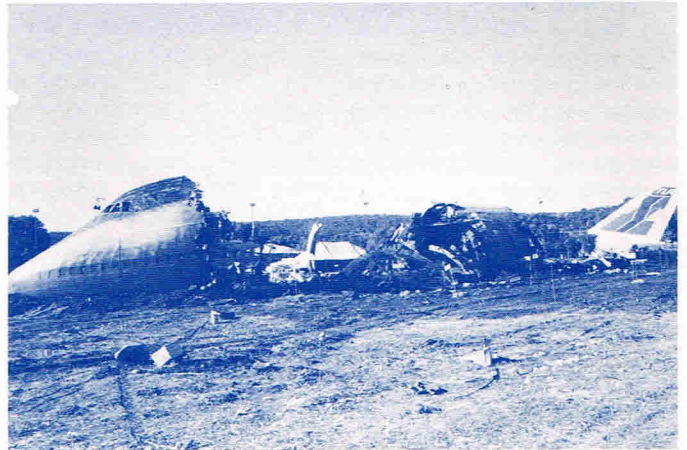
To symbolise our patriotism to our State's future and its protection.

C.F.S. Emblem

To symbolise our unity. Each member wears this badge as a recognition of the organisation he or she is a member of.

JUMBO "CRASH" ROCKS SUBURBS

By Police Reporter MARK BRUER



All passengers in a jumbo jet were "killed" when the plane crashed with a massive explosion at Pasadena, on the night of April 28th, 1980.

Flames and smoke rose in a towering mushroom cloud over the mangled wreckage in an open paddock facing the Pasadena Shopping Centre.

The blast rocked nearby suburbs and residents rushed into the streets to see what had happened.

The Translantic Airlines 747 was scattered into four main pieces over a large area. The only survivor was the pilot, David Keller.

While police cordoned off the area and firefighters played water and foam on the blazing aircraft, the Red Cross dispensed more than 1 000 cups of coffee.

After all, thousands of spectators and 250 police, firemen and film crew had been waiting more than four hours for the "crash."

Filming of a scene for the disaster film "Survivor" was delayed in freezing conditions until just after 9.15 p.m.

The explosion and fire, which people had lined the surrounding streets to see, lasted 13 minutes.

About 60 emergency units—including 20 police cars and S.A. Fire Brigade and Country Fire Services trucks—swung into action at the command of the first assistant director.

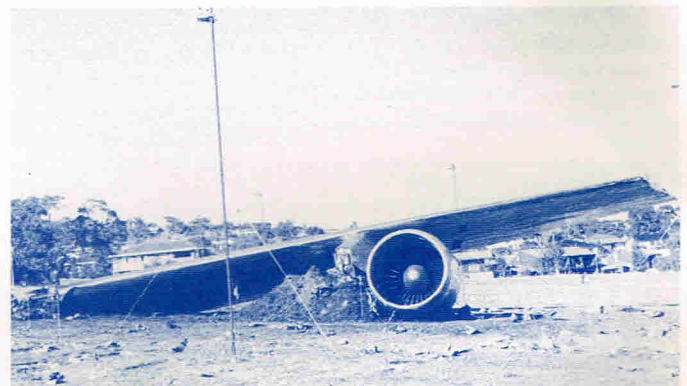
The fire was put out in about 10 minutes.

Unplanned

However, the cockpit unexpectedly caught alight and firemen had to cover the front section of the plane with foam to douse the unplanned blaze.

The explosion, engineered by the movie's special-effects man Chris Murray, was created with gas jets and diesel gel lying in trenches around the fuselage.

"Passenger luggage" was strewn around the wreckage for a disturbingly realistic touch, while actress Jenny Agutter displayed her horror at the crash before the cameras.



At first light the realism of the simulated crash of a jumbo jet for the South Australian Film Corporation's film "Survivor", was even more evident. Pictured is the remains of the wing that was ripped off upon impact. The replica jet engine's fan even rotates.



FOR SALE

**ECHUNGA CFS UNIT
1964 BEDFORD, 3 TON.**

COMPLETE WITH 1800 l (400 GALLON) GALV. TANK, ENGINE CONDITION—GOOD.

27 H.P., REX PUMP 10 M —PULL START, 2 HOSE REEL 30 m (100 FT.), GOOD TYRES.

\$2 500

**ENQUIRIES TO ECHUNGA CFS
(MR. K. ESSER (SECT.)) 388 8248
OR DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

Region 7 Competitions

“Waikerie C.F.S. Brigade extends an invitation to all Brigade members in Region 7 and the other Regions to visit the “Gateway to the Riverland” on Sunday, August 3rd and participate in the Drill Competition. As well as the excellent competition, we offer to all the usual country warmth and hospitality.

Due to the generosity of local business houses, the Competition Committee has organised a vast array of prizes to compete for. All facilities will be provided, e.g. Bar-b-que, booths, afternoon tea and, free to every person attending, toilet facilities and scenic cruises across the river on the Highways Dept. Ferry.

For those who are unaware of the location of Waikerie, it is a mere two hours drive from Adelaide via the Sturt Highway or 10 minutes by Concorde. The venue will be Town Oval which is situated adjacent to the River and next to the Caravan Park. (Book early to be sure.)

Waikerie is known locally as the “Gold Coast of the South” because of its brilliant sunshine and warm weather. Imagine you and your family basking in the brilliant sunshine on the banks of South Australia’s mightiest River and being entertained all for the cost of a Sunday Drive.

We will have plenty of excellent Garford Port, our own Bottling to warm you should the weather, through pure mischance, let us down. To ensure that the weather will be good, we have arranged for our local Rainmaker to be out of town in case he should suddenly get lucky.

Come to Waikerie for a day to remember, Sunday August 3rd.”

Garry Cleaver,
Competition Liaison Officer

First round of Annual CFS Competition

The first round of the 1980 CFS Annual Fire Fighting Drill Elimination Competitions will be conducted by the Director of Country Fire Services, Mr. L. C. Johns, at Penola, on Sunday 8th June, 1980, commencing at 12 noon.

Host of the Region 5 (South East) Competitions is the Penola CFS. The Competition Liaison Officer for the Region 5 events is Mr. T. M. Rymill, Captain of the Penola CFS. The teams and contestants will be welcomed at the 12 noon parade by Mr. A. J. McArthur, Member of the Country Fire Services Board and President of the Lower South East Fire Fighting Association. CFS volunteer fire fighters from all parts of the State will take part in the Competitions, the Region 5 teams, and contestants will contend for the privilege to represent their Brigade at the CFS State Championships to be held at Kapunda on Sunday 21st September, 1980.

The successful teams and contestants will receive their trophies from Mr. R. D. Orr, Deputy Chairman of the CFS Board at the 4.00 p.m. Parade.

A feature of the 1980 series will be competition events designed to promote skill and speed in the use of fire fighting hose streams, ladders and vehicles. The annual Competitions form an integral part in maintaining the efficiency of the State’s Volunteer Fire Service.

To lead Penola fire parade



President of the South East Fire Fighting Association and member of the Country Fire Services Board, Mr. A. (Archie) J. McArthur will lead the opening parade at the CFS competition, Penola on June 8.

The opening parade begins at 12.15 p.m. following Mr. McArthur’s welcome speech to teams and contestants. Penola CFS will host the competitions which will decide which team will represent their brigade at the CFS State Championships, at Kapunda on September 21, 1980.

Reminder

The third (3rd) and fourth (4th) rounds of the 1980 CFS Annual Fire Fighting Drill Elimination Competitions will be conducted by the Director of Country Fire Services, Mr. Lloyd C. Johns, at Balaklava, Sunday 6th July and at Yongala, Sunday 20th July (respectively), commencing at 12 noon.

Host to the Region 2 (Lower North) competitions is the Balaklava CFS. The competition liaison officer is Mr. T. J. Gordon, Balaklava CFS. The teams and contestants will be welcomed at the 12 noon parade by Mrs. M. I. Gleeson, chairman, Balaklava Council. Mr. E. K. Russack, M.P., will officially open the competitions at 12.15 p.m. Trophies will be presented by Mr. R. K. Maxwell, president, Balaklava CFS at the 4.00 p.m. (1600 hours) parade.

Host to the region 4 (North-east) competitions is the Yongala CFS Mr. A. W. Morgan is competition liaison officer, chairman of the Peterborough District Council, Mr. R. N. Bailey will welcome teams/contestants at the 12 noon parade. Mr. C. R. Bailey, inaugural chairman of the Yongala and District CFS will present trophies at the 4.00 p.m. Parade.

We’re Out to Win

Enthusiasm is running high as the youngest competitors from the Jamestown Cadet CFS train for ‘C’ Grade Drill Hose Drill event, scheduled in the Region 4 Annual Fire Fighting Drill Elimination competitions to be held at Yongala on Sunday 20th July, 1980.

Their battle cry is “We’re out to win!”

The youngest all girls cadet team from Jamestown (eldest 11 years), comprises of ‘Captain Linda Polomka, Leonie Woitd, Melissa Clarke, Jodie Wells and Kym Marie Secker. Their best time is down to approximately 19 seconds, and that’s up hill—so I have been told.

Optimistic coach Regional Officer George Polomka is confident that “his team can win on one leg”—this has nothing to do with George’s recent mishap that resulted in a nasty broken bone in his foot.

George was last seen on a River Boat cruise with his wife Elaine heading out to sea . . . muttering, we’re out to win.

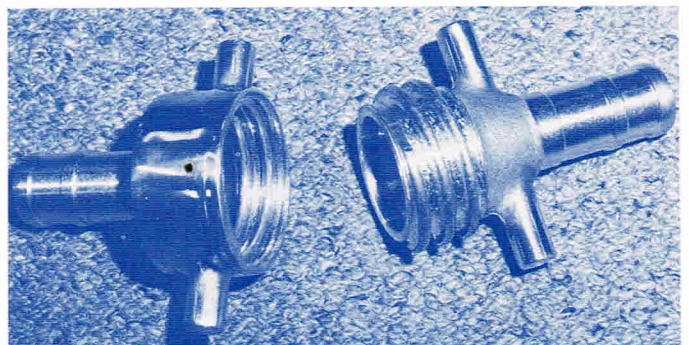
So watch out you young “C” Grade Cadets beware of the Jamestown Cadets, they are out to win! . . . Editor.

P.S. Team don’t forget to get that branch procedure correct . . . (telegram received from G. Polomka, c/o the Port Adelaide dock.)

NEW PRODUCT:

NEW LIGHT WEIGHT COUPLINGS COST APPROXIMATELY 10% to 15% LESS THAN THE CURRENT GUN-METAL TYPE.

For Information contact your local Regional Officer, or Country Fire Services Headquarters; telephone (08) 297 6788.



CAUTION

The Country Fire Services Board wish to advise members that the Country Fire Services are in no way associated with, nor have they authorized any advertising agency representatives to approach any business in the way of obtaining money for advertisements in Calendars or Almanacs.

P. A. Malpas, Deputy Director, S.A. Country Fire Services.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FCOs

Fifty (50) Senior Fire Control Officers from CFS Brigades and District Councils attended an intensive three (3) day FCO Training School, in Adelaide from Friday 2nd May-Sunday 4th May.

Senior officers from as far away as Streaky Bay, Penola, Warooka, Kangaroo Island and Wilmington, were selected from 180 applicants for the course, together with (2) representatives from the Army (1) Woods and Forests and (2) Tasmania Fire Service Officers.

The course commenced with a tour of Country Fire Services headquarters and facilities.

Subjects covered included map reading, first aid, the Country Fires Act, powers and duties of fire control officers and practical problem solving.

Practical work covered principles of grass fire fighting, liquid petroleum gas and flammable liquid fires, solving problems with pumping water, communications, research and fire protection, rural fire protection and hose and ladder work.

The Tatiara Fire Fighting Association's Tactics Board was used extensively during the course.

"Planning tactics for effective fire control", pictured are attendees of the FCO school, working with a tactics contour board under the supervision of RO's Brian Menadue and John Lloyd (absent).



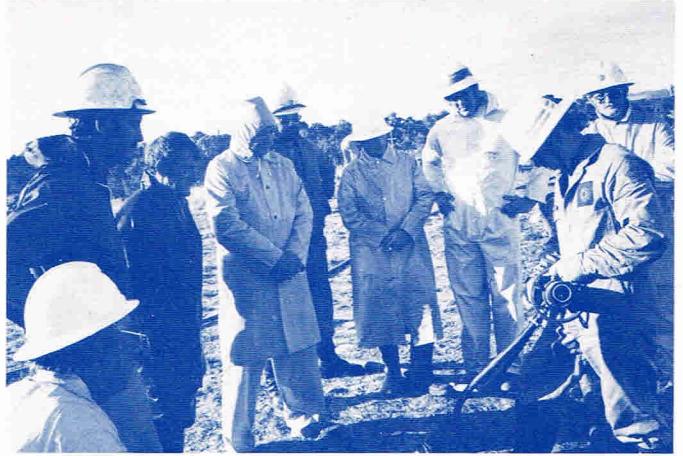
CFS Regional Officers conducted the school with guest speakers from Army (Captain Peter Dear) and St. John (Rex McMahon).

Mr. Brian Wiese (Deputy Supervisor, Tatiara Fire Fighting Association) said "The course had been very successful and well worth while," and he hoped one or two more FCOs could attend a similar school which is to be held on the 22nd-24th June 1980, and so be able to pass on information to other fire fighters in the district.

The first lady Fire Fighter from the first registered all Women's Volunteer CFS Fire Fighting Team, Mrs. Cheryl May from the Aldinga Beach and Area CFS Brigade, was also an attendee at the FCO School.



FCOs keeping their "cool" behind the fog stream.



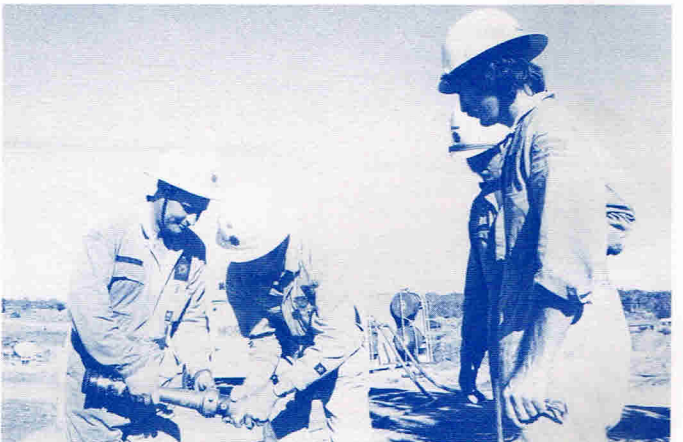
RO Russell Gear instructing Fire Control Officers on the correct use of the 'FB5X Foam Making Branch'.



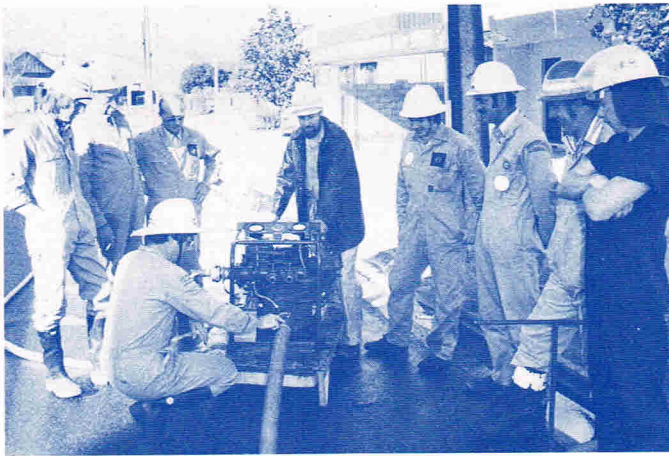
Taking time out—from training and instruction on handling a simulated LP Gas emergency.



"As you approach the LPG fire, make sure the fog patterns are interlocked near the ground to stop the fire from coming between the fog streams" explained RO Bruce Hogan.



... "If you remove your thumb from the coupling it might tighten up a bit more and stop those leaks."



"Pump operation" by RO Trevor Conlon.



"Cleaning Up". At the end of the days practical training, the CFS Volunteer's job had just begun.



Special Thanks: To the Eden Hills, Morphett Vale and (pictured) Happy Valley (1) CFS Brigade(s) for assisting in the May 3-4, FCO School practical training programme involving LPG and flammable liquid fires, conducted at Happy valley.

... Editor



Tasmanian Fire Control Officers attend F.C.O. School.

During a May visit to South Australia, Fire Control Officers Messrs. Mike Eberhardt and Phil Grant from the Tasmania Fire Service attended the C.F.S. Fire Control Officers School. They expressed to R.O. Bruce Hogan how impressed they were with the course and felt that their trip was most enlightening.

During their stay in S.A. they were accompanied by R.O. Hogan on inspections of the Hills Fire Area, Port Stanvac Oil Refinery, and the Stirling, Bridgewater, Salisbury and Nuriootpa CFS Fire Stations.



Pictured from left, discussing advantages in using audio visual equipment to assist training programmes, are CFS R.O. Bruce Hogan, F.C.O. Mike Eberhardt (Tasmania Fire Service) and F.C.O. Phil Grant (Tasmania Fire Service).

TRAINING SCHOOLS ON WEST COAST

The first of three fire-fighting training schools has been conducted on the West Coast at Streaky Bay on June 7-8.

Similar schools will be held later at Cleve and Cummins.

The Country Fire Services Board is arranging the schools in conjunction with local councils.

The Streaky Bay District Council co-operated in the running of the June 7-8 school, which was for supervisors, deputy supervisors, other officers and senior firemen from CFS brigades within the Murat Bay, Streaky Bay, Le Hunte and part of the Elliston District Council areas.

Regional Officers Peter Ferris and David Batten, from CFS Headquarters, conducted the training school at which fire-fighting techniques, embodying pre-planning and communications through to practical work, were undertaken by those attending. The practical fire-fighting activity included the use of foam equipment in fighting fires originating from L.P. Gas and other flammable fuels, i.e., petrol and oil.

There was also instruction in hose and pump work.

WINDS OF CHANGE

Members of the Strathalbyn CFS and SES had a busy and varied time in early April. At the beginning they were fighting a bushfire, by the end they were helping to rescue drowning sheep in a flooded paddock. In between they were clearing trees blown down round Milang in the mini cyclone.

On Saturday afternoon 19th April, the sky seemed to open up and tip out water in a solid mass. Reports of the rainfall ranged from 4½" to almost 10" in one hour, the whole area around Milang was like some vast lake.

On one property 100 ewes about to lamb were stranded in a paddock which soon flooded so high they were swimming and lambs were being born amid the rising waters. The mothers had to be floated out and dragged into trailers.

Fences throughout the area were destroyed.

Although the rainfall was not as heavy in the Hartley area it was sufficient to fill all large rain water tanks to overflowing and flood low lying paddocks.

FIRE CLASSES

A number of women in the Beachport area have commenced fire fighting classes.

In the Beachport District Council's monthly newsletter it was reported that the women decided to train since most of the regular fire crew were out of the town during the crucial summer months, leaving the fire truck without an effective crew.

Mr. Murray Kingdon conducts the classes which are held in Beachport every Wednesday commencing at 7 p.m.

Extract courtesy 'The Border Watch', May 1.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

SUNDAY 21st SEPTEMBER 1980

DUTTON PARK, KAPUNDA

COMMENCING 10.30 A.M.

STATIC DISPLAYS OF FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

CHILDREN'S AMUSEMENTS—NOVELTY RACES

OFFICIAL OPENING 1.00 P.M.

CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS

"A" GRADE HOSE AND PUMP DRILL

"B" GRADE DRY HOSE DRILL

"C" GRADE DRY HOSE DRILL

ONE MAN HOSE DRILL

ONE MAN LADDER DRILL

PORTABLE PUMP ALARM RACE

4 MAN (WET) LADDER DRILL

FULL CATERING FACILITIES ON GROUNDS

BARBECUED MEATS—STEAK/SAUSAGES, ETC.

PIES AND PASTIES—DRINKS—SWEETS

MAKE THIS DAY A FAMILY DAY

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CFS H/O.
(08) 297 6788 OR YOUR LOCAL REGIONAL OFFICER.

Bring the family and spend the weekend at Kapunda, one of Australia's oldest mining towns and on Sunday join the action and fun associated with the CFS State Finals Competitions.

KAPUNDA is one of the earliest Copper Mining towns, and a former mining "boom" city of South Australia. It boasts many fine examples of early Australian architecture, many of the homes in the area featuring excellent examples of cast iron lattice work, original slate roofing, etc.

The open cut mine areas can be viewed from the scenic drive routes and the old mine chimney can be inspected at close range.

Places of historic interest include the Old Courthouse and Police Station.

The Kapunda Museum (formerly a Baptist Church) contains an extensive collection of memorabilia from the town's past. Visiting hours 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Sundays. *Group tours can be arranged.* (085) 66 2326.

A Camel Farm complete with camels, donkeys, etc. is situated eight miles east of Kapunda off the Kapunda-Truro Road.

South Australia's only Spanish Dancing Horse complex, "Plaza de Cabalo" is located five miles from Kapunda on the Kapunda Eudunda Road. The complex boasts full catering facilities, for further details phone (085) 66 2097.

Kapunda is situated on the edge of the famous Barossa Valley and is only a stone's throw from those famous Wineries.

A leisurely game of golf can be enjoyed on the nine hole course which adjoins the Kapunda Caravan Park.

For accommodation the Caravan Park (which is incorporated in the Dutton Park Complex where the finals will be held) boasts 36 power sites, ample unpowered camping areas, and has a clean and modern amenities block with washing machine, dryer, public telephone, etc. Situated close by, at Dutton Park is a children's playground and tennis courts which are available to hire. For bookings phone (085) 66 2094.

Hotels offering accommodation are: Hutton's Sir John Franklin (085) 66 2106, North Kapunda Hotel (085) 66 2205 and Railway Hotel (085) 66 2305.

CFS APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Country Fire Services Board has appointed Mr. Peter A. Malpas., B.E.M., as the new Deputy Director.



Mr. Malpas, of Fulham, has had 29 years' association with the volunteer fire fighting services in South Australia.

Announcing the appointment on Tuesday, 27th May, the Director of CFS, Mr. Lloyd C. Johns, said Mr. Malpas was highly experienced in fire co-ordination and control, training and administration.

In being promoted to Deputy Director, he fills the position held by Mr. Johns prior to his appointment as Director late last year.

Mr. Malpas joined the South Australian Police Force (Mounted Division) in 1948 and transferred to the then Emergency Fire Services (EFS) in 1951. He was appointed a Senior Constable in 1961 as one of a small group of police officers seconded to the EFS.

When the CFS was established in 1978 he was made Inspector—and later Superintendent in charge of Fire Co-ordination and

Control and Service Training.

He is a member of the International Police Association and the Institute of Fire Engineers (U.K.).

Mr. Malpas holds the British Fire Services long service and efficiency medal, the Police Efficiency Medal, and the Australian National Medal.

Married, with one daughter and two grandchildren, his leisure interests are fishing, boating and sailing.

who's who at headquarters



BARBARA WILLIAMS.
Receptionist/Telephonist.

Prior to joining CFS Headquarters Staff, Barbara had worked several years with the State Emergency Service Headquarters.

Her interests include playing netball, basketball, softball and other sports.

V.H.F. Radio Test (on Lower Eyre Peninsula)

A comprehensive field test was conducted in the two Lower Eyre Peninsula Districts of Lincoln and Tumby Bay during April 15th and 16th.

R.O. Trevor Conlon of CFS Headquarters organized the six Mobiles and two bases to test communication for the large area, by travelling routes in a lattice work over the districts during the two days. On the first day the bases were set up on Chinmina Hill near Cockaleeche, and on North Block. Mobiles in the Lincoln area found about a 95% cover from the North Block base site, from Sheringa to Tooligie in the North, down South through Mount Hope, Coult and Coffin Bay. Some areas North and Northwest of Port Lincoln were out of reach to the North Block site, and a secondary base appears necessary for the Port Lincoln area.

Fate was indeed kind to the D.C. of Lincoln in positioning such a large hill in the centre of the district. It is within line of sight of Cummins, and many of the main centres.

The highest point in the D.C. of Tumby Bay was used as one base site on the second day. Being 322 metres (1058') A.S.L., Pillawarta Hill base proved to be capable of reaching about 98% of the Tumby Bay area extremely well, even though Pillawarta is nearer the Southern Boundary. This site also covered the blank spots near Port Lincoln found on the previous day from North Block. Bald Hill located between Wanilla and the Tod River Reservoir was also tested on the second day.

The D.C. of Lincoln observers on the test had considerable reservations regarding the limited mobile to mobile contact of VHF in hilly areas compared to the sets that they now operate on H.F. During a short test in a rather hilly situation, the operating range between the VHF mobiles at one stage dropped down to less than 5 km. The observers who live and fight fires in the hilly areas of the D.C. of Lincoln were very disappointed with this aspect of VHF. At no time, however, would any mobile have been out of touch with the base.

St. John Stalwart Honored

The Governor Keith Seaman presented a medal to Mrs. Joy Beal of Elizabeth West at a Government House ceremony last month.

Mrs. Beal was admitted to the Order of St. John as a Serving Sister of the most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem at an investiture ceremony.

She is superintendent of Salisbury/Elizabeth Nursing Division of St. John.

Mr. Seaman is a Deputy Prior of The Order of St. John.

Making the award, Mr. Seaman said the system was similar to the long-established British honors system and given to people who provided outstanding service to further the work of the St. John Order.

Mrs. Beal joined the division in 1967 and was a member of the State team which won the Australian championship in 1970.

A spokesman for St. John Ambulance said Mrs. Beal was faithful to her responsibilities and a devoted brigade member.

"She combines the necessary discipline with tact and understanding and administers her division at an exceptional standard," he said.



• Mrs. Joy Beal, superintendent of Salisbury/Elizabeth Nursing Division of St. John Ambulance Brigade, with her award.

Photo courtesy, Messenger Photo Sales
Salisbury, Elizabeth News Review, May 8, 1980

This reduced range of mobile to mobile contact in the hilly terrain has been one of the major objections when considering the changing to V.H.F. Consequently the Lower Eyre Peninsula area is the last large area of the State still remaining on the old H.F. mode. We are assured, however, that the mobile to mobile coverage of V.H.F. is found to be adequate in a practical sense, by other "hills" brigades.

About 80% of the formed roads in the settled areas of the District Councils of Tumbay Bay and Lincoln were covered both on the first and second day of the test to compare the alternative base sites. Some of the six cars travelled up to 600 km over the two days testing from every difficult position along the way.

The Electricity Trust supplied the resources of two vehicles and five technical staff to combine with the CFS and E & WS personnel to test the suitability of the proposed sites. This enabled a more comprehensive test to be made, which no doubt will be advantageous to both ETSA and CFS. The CFS is grateful of this type of co-operation and appreciate the ETSA assistance over the two days of the test.

On the lighter side, Colin Metcalf (ETSA), was ensuring that he wouldn't be going hungry if he happened to be miles from the nearest cafe or hotel at dinner time; he ordered Weetbix and trombone sandwiches! Had he not checked his lunch before leaving, he probably would have been hungry by the time he got back to the Cummins Hotel for tea, as his packed lunch would have been rather hard to digest. (Thanks to local cafe for co-operation). R.O. Trevor Conlon finished up at Nowhere Else on his circuit, but wouldn't have realized he was passing that test point if his observers hadn't reined him in. (The solitary limestone building on the expanse of a limestone plain is almost completely camouflaged in the surrounding environment).

After a couple of rather hectic days observing a very well organized test, the observers and operators of CFS radios on Lower Eyre

Peninsula will now await the detailed results from CFS Headquarters. With the manufacturers quote, specifications and recommendations, they will have a good basis for considering the feasibility of changing the present mode of communications for firefighting.

The two District Councils appreciate and thank those who supplied equipment, vehicles, personnel, time and organization, to check out this locality for VHF radio operation.

Reg Robinson,
CFS Radio Communications
Officer
for Lower Eyre Peninsula

More authority for fire chief

The director of Country Fire Services, Mr. L. C. Johns, is to be given State Government authority to co-ordinate the fighting of all future major bushfires.

The Minister of Agriculture Mr. Chapman, said the Country Fires Act would be amended to allow the director to assume the power and duties of supervisor of all fire control officers and principal fire control officer in any area of the State.

Mr. Chapman said experience during bushfires this year had shown that overall control

was needed during major outbreaks when a fire extended across the boundary of a council area, or when additional manpower and resources were needed to control a blaze.

"The present system depends to a large extent on the inter-district co-ordination of fire forces by mutual agreement of volunteer district supervisors," Mr. Chapman said.

"There is nothing in the present Act which allows any one person to take direct command of the country fire services in any major fire.

"This rather loose arrangement does not always provide the most efficient or effective fire control and suppression activities, particularly when fires involve more than one council area and Government reserves."

He said a graphic example of the need for overall co-ordination was the Ash Wednesday fires in the Adelaide Hills when four district council supervisors were involved in the fire-fighting operations.

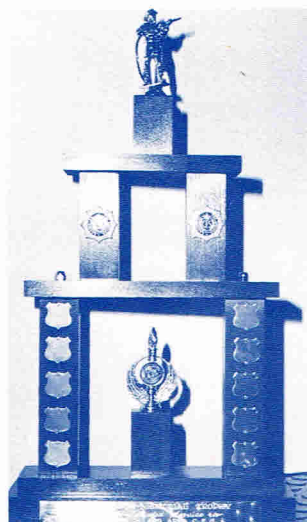
While they had worked hard and at times heroically, the fires had not been brought under overall control until a plan of attack had been co-ordinated by the CFS director, Mr. Johns.

Another situation arose outside local government areas, Mr. Chapman said.

While the director was empowered to obtain items such as earthmoving equipment and spotter aircraft for fires in pastoral areas, he technically had no power to direct how and where the equipment was used.

The Act would also be amended to give the director control in these circumstances.

PETER SUTTON MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR DEDICATED SERVICE.



The trophy (pictured above) is in memory of Peter Sutton, who was a past station officer of the Aldinga Beach and area CFS. Both Peter and his wife Lena were very devoted to the cause of the Country Fire Services, and it is fitting that this Trophy be in memory of such a dedicated volunteer.

Today Lena Sutton is still active and arranges all the donations for the MONSTER Christmas stocking, each year.

The ten (10) year perpetual trophy was specially designed and manufactured by Action Trophy Wholesalers, 405A Marion Road, Plympton. Using the latest 'Fireman Statue' available, the three (3) tier trophy made of Tasmanian Myrtle Beach Wood, and finished in Rose Wood, incorporates a CFS lapel badge centred in a victory torch and CFS cap badges on the tier uprights.

The trophy will be awarded to the Aldinga Beach and area CFS Brigade's 'MOST DEDICATED MEMBER OF THE YEAR', for volunteer service based on the following criteria:—

- Training and parade attendance.
- Contribution to the Brigade's objectives.
- Presentation.
- Personal Involvement.
- Community Responsibility.

Welcome to **Gail Voardouw** a new addition to the all Women's Volunteer Fire Fighting Team of the Aldinga Beach and area CFS.

The word is out that the ladies are currently in training, and intend to enter a team in the Portable Pump Alarm Race at the Region 1 Competitions, on 22nd June, at the Hackham Community Oval . . . Good luck, Editor.

New Fire Unit

Yorke town—Edithburgh CFS is to receive a new fire unit.

The District Council of Yorke town has included in its 1980-81 budget the replacement of the present unit, which is of 1940 vintage.

The new eight tonne unit, complete with pump is expected to cost \$33 000.

Peter Ferris.
Regional Officer.
Field Assignment
Region 6.



R.O. Peter Ferris has been appointed the responsibility to service Region 6—Eyre Peninsula, following a decision by the CFS Board to locate a transportable office and operations room complex at Wudinna to serve as a regional headquarters, which is planned to be ready by mid July 1980. The office will be located at the existing CFS complex in De Latour Street, close to the CFS base. It will contain an operations room, general office, storage area and facilities.

Initially the CFS officer(s) will fly to Wudinna regularly and use a vehicle to be based there to visit other centres when required.

Three (3) CFS officials, Deputy Director Mr. Peter Malpas, Superintendent Administration Mr. Nat J. Cooke and R.O. Mr. Peter Ferris, flew to Wudinna recently to make final preparations for the siting of the building.

Mr. Burfitt, District Clerk said that the LeHunte Council was in favour of the headquarters at Wudinna. At least one Government Department had acknowledged the town's central location and the services which the District of LeHunte could offer.

R.O. Peter Ferris' assignment will be to fulfil a long awaited need for the CFS on Eyre Peninsula and to provide yet another CFS Headquarters support service.

A considerable amount of time will be spent by Peter attending the Region, until Peter and his Family relocate themselves at Wudinna in January 1981.

GAS LIGHTERS

Dear Sir,

I have enclosed a short article on "Butane Gas Lighters" which could be incorporated, if found suitable, in a future issue of "The Volunteer".

I am very concerned about the lethal aspects of these lighters and wish all our volunteers to be made aware of these facts. I am a volunteer of the CFS myself, and have, since reading of these fatalities, ceased to carry a gas lighter to fire calls.

Yours faithfully,

Klaus R. Stichel, Fire Party
 Leader.
 Lobethal Country Fire
 Services

Subject: **Butane Gas Lighters**

Two fatalities, caused by exploding gas filled cigarette lighters, in an Overseas organisation, have made me aware of the danger and I am deeply concerned that many of our volunteers could be walking "bombs" when attending fire calls.

The lighters exploded when hit by sparks from welding machines. The sparks pierced the lighters' plastic bodies, triggering blasts as powerful as three sticks of dynamite.

Although these two fatalities occurred on construction sites in the last 12 months, a fatality occurring during a fire call should not be dismissed as impossible. Take, for example, hot sparks being whipped up by strong winds from a burning log. These sparks could fall into a volunteers' pocket without his immediate knowledge. The hot spark could melt through the lighters' plastic casing and ignite the gas.

For their own safety and of others, CFS volunteers should be made aware of these potentially lethal gas lighters.

As yet there have been no similar accidents in Australia, but clearly there is an ever present danger to fire fighters particularly when carrying plastic bodied lighters, in a bushfire situation, where hot embers and sparks are flying around.

However slight the risk or how small the chances of stray sparks getting into your clothing, is it worth, taking that risk, when it would be easy to avoid it?

RO Richard Hutchins.
 Fire Protection.

LPG is safe, but . . .

Next time you light a cigarette with one of those popular disposable lighters stop—and think a second—about the fact that you're carrying a potential bomb capable of blowing you to bits.

Only two deaths have been recorded, so far. Both men were welding, and each had one in his pocket. The intense heat from the welders' torches was sufficient to cause the lighters to explode.

This, and several other interesting facts about Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), came to light at a special seminar for Murray Bridge combined emergency services personnel, Thursday evening 20th March.

Representatives from local branches of CFS, State Emergency Service, police, ambulance and fire brigade heard Mr John Stone, Training Officer (Technical) with the SA Gas Co, speak on all aspects of LPG, including hazards and safety measures.

The evening was organised by Mr Geoff O'Sullivan, Deputy Councillor of Murray Bridge SES.

Mr Stone said propane gas (one of a family of gases commonly known as LPG) was becoming increasingly popular as a petrol substitute in cars.

Accidents involving LPG-powered cars in Australia were minimal because of Australia's stringent regulations which were strictly enforced.

However, nine out of ten accidents that do occur were the result of over-filling at service stations. Cylinders should only be filled to 83 per cent capacity.

'Motorists who hear or smell gas escaping from tanks in their boots should drive immediately to a place away from traffic in its path when one of these tankers explodes.

Fortunately, in Australia, this would be a highly unlikely occurrence due to laws laid down covering transport of LPG.

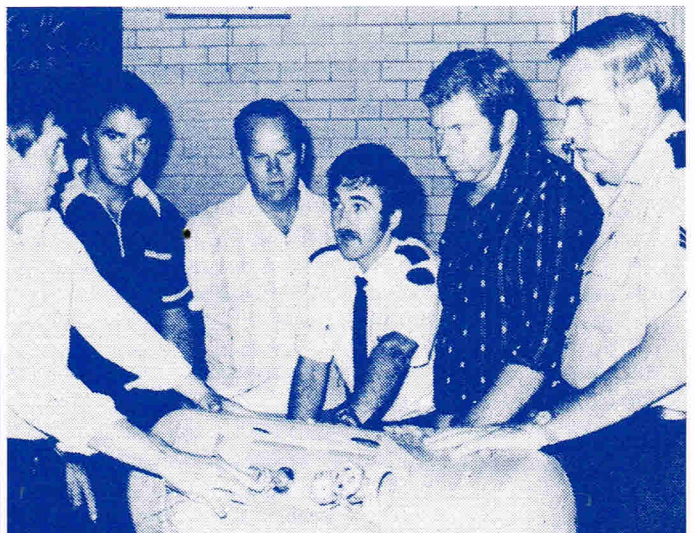
Road tankers faced similar problems and, in both countries, there could be explosions caused by accidents such as leaking gas.

Propane was heavier than air and flowed 'like water' into depressions, and along the road for considerable distances before reaching an ignition point and exploding.

When it does, a sheet of flame flashes back to the point of escape incinerating everything in its path, and finally exploding upon reaching its source.

'LPG is quite safe to use, and people need have no worries if it is handled correctly and safety codes are followed,' Mr Stone said.

Editorial courtesy M.V. Standard, March 27, 1980.



Listening intently as Mr John Stone (left) explains the workings of a car LPG cylinder were from left: Trevor Heitmann (SES), Tim Overall (CFS), Kym Skripal (St John Ambulance), John Stratford (Murray Bridge Fire Brigade), and Sgt. Brenton Boothby (Murray Bridge police).

69 men hurt in last season's fires: CFS chief

By Police Reporter MARK BRUER

Sixty-nine Country Fire Services firefighters were injured last summer in one of the worst fire seasons in S.A. history.

The CFS director, Mr. L. C. Johns, said the number of volunteer firefighters who had made claims for workers compensation as a result of fires between November 1 and April 30 probably was the highest on record.

Forty-eight firemen were injured in Ash Wednesday's Adelaide Hills bushfire and the Horsnell Gully bushfire on April 13.

"These figures concern us very much—they show the great hazards involved in the job," Mr. Johns said.

One firefighter, Mr. Ken Lutze, a farmer, was still in hospital recovering from burns suffered in a fire at Coonalpyn on Ash Wednesday, he said.

Others had been released from hospital only recently and would not be able to return to work for several weeks.

"The figures show it was certainly the worst fire danger season for the past five years," Mr. Johns said.

In the 1976-77 season, 171 000 hectares of land had been burnt out by bushfires, causing property losses of \$1m.

This had been followed by a decline in the number of major fires in the next four years.

But in the last fire season, nearly 198 000 hectares of land has been scorched by fires with damages—excluding Ash Wednesday's Hills bushfire—reaching \$2 756 000.

Mr. Johns said the figure for the Ash Wednesday fire had not been included because a Coroner's inquiry is still in progress.

However, S.A. Government estimates of the damage have been around \$5m.

"It all came in a rush," Mr. Johns said.

"From July 1 to November 1 we had recorded only 12 hectares of land lost and damage of \$388 000," he said.

"But by the end of April we had received 1 573 fire calls, which would be an all-time high."

Although the fire danger season officially ended on April 30, there was still a threat of more fires breaking out because of recent weather.

"It has been a bit freakish and unusually warm for this time of the year," Mr. Johns said.

"It would only take a week of warm, dry weather and we would be back to square one in terms of a fire hazard.

"Although we relax a little more with each fall of rain, we are still keeping a weather-eye open."

He said the CFS would embark on a "vigorous" public-awareness campaign before the next fire season.

"We don't want anyone to make the same mistakes as they did this year," he said.

"We urge people to keep trees clear of their houses and to clear away ground foliage to a reasonable extent to keep their homes safe."

He praised the work of CFS firefighters, who dealt with 161 house fires and 78 vehicle fires, apart from bushfires, during the summer.

Rescue "1" Emergency 'copter to stay in service



The S.A. Government is to charter a helicopter for full-time emergency rescue work.

This follows a 17-week trial run, in which a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter nicknamed "Rescue 1", was used for fire detection and control, rescue and police work.

"Rescue 1" controlled by the Country Fire Services through its communications operation centre had been involved in many emergency missions and had proved its effectiveness.

The Premier, Mr. Tonkin announced that as soon as possible after July 1st, the Government would enter into a three-year contract with Lloyd Aviation.

The arrangement involves an annual cost to the Government of about \$240 000. Commercial sponsors would offset this cost by \$80 000 for 1980-81.

This new "Rescue 1" Emergency Services Helicopter will be the bigger size 'Bell Long Ranger'.

It will be equipped with, stretchers, medical support equipment, a winch and floats for water landing.

"Fire Chief" guest speaker

Director of Country Fire Services in S.A., Mr. L. C. Johns, was guest speaker at the quarterly meeting of the South East Local Government Association at Penola, Monday 12th May.

Mr. Johns spoke on the new Country Fire Service Act which came into operation before the past summer season, and answered questions from various Councils on anomalies of the Act, experienced by councils.

Naracoorte District Council has launched a two pronged approach on the regulation regarding the fire fighting equipment required at burning-off operations.

As the Country Fire Services regulation stands now, a powered unit is required at burning-off operations.

The council requires either an amendment to this regulation where a powered unit is not a necessity or that the

authority be invested in councils to decide whether to enforce the regulation.

Penola District Council also presented an agenda item regarding the criteria needing to be met before a day can be proclaimed a day of total fire ban.

The council is calling for a reduction by 25 per cent of the criteria after the fire ban period has ended.

Another major item discussed was the efforts needed to reduce the road death toll.

Both Penola and Mount Gambier City Councils discussed the need for new regulations.

The meeting held in the Penola District Council Chambers was opened by the president of the Local Government Association of S.A., Mr. B. E. Anders.

Sightseers

Sir, During the recent bushfires in the Adelaide Hills, the roads were choked with irresponsible sightseers ignoring continuous broadcasts and police appeals that they stay away.

People fighting fires do not need "scatterbrains" who persist in putting themselves and other innocent people in danger.

(Mrs) M. Sztekel,
Highbury.

Ex News, April 21.

Survivors... continued (Part 2)

John Dennett— (pictured below John and wife Sandra.)



37 year old Senior Constable-Police Dog Trainer and Volunteer Fire Fighter of the Bridgewater CFS. John was one of more seriously burnt of the 46 CFS Volunteer Fire Fighters injured in the "Ash Wednesday" Holocaust. While trapped on the back of a burning fire unit (Bridgewater CFS) in the "Ash Wednesday Fire" Wednesday 20th February 1980, John Dennett sustained serious burns.

He has had a slow recovery from "2nd Degree Burns" to his face, hands and legs, has required 2 skin grafts and has spent over 1 (one) month in hospital. He will be without the use of his hands for over 3 months (while they heal) and must avoid the sun for 18 months.

Senior Constable John Dennett is a quiet spoken, somewhat reserved person who has typified the "Aussie" courage and spirit that makes the "Volunteer" proud.

What goes on inside a person's mind at a time like this—here are some of John Dennett's comments and past events leading up to "Wednesday 20th February 1980".

Why I became a "Volunteer":

... It goes back some 20 years ... I started with the Saddleworth CFS when I was 18, all the blokes I worked with were Volunteers, and I was allowed to go out with them to some Fires.

I joined at the first instance because I knew that fires were bad—you have to be out there to help, particularly if you live in an area where the only assistance is from a "Volunteer Brigade".

There was also the thrill (on the truck, the fire etc) when I was a teenager, but also the sense of responsibility. In 1963 I had a bad experience at Athelstone, while on the back of a unit, we were completely surrounded by flame, so we saturated ourselves with water and drove through it ... but it was frightening. As the years followed ... it becomes now more a moral responsibility, just as I felt on Wednesday 20th February. I was on holidays, but I had to go to the fire station on a day like that—very high temperature (43°C) and northerly winds ... and as most of the Volunteers work in town not locally every person was needed. At the fire shed it was a matter of everybody on the truck and away we went at 2.00 p.m. (1400 hours), ... less than 30 minutes later, we got hit.

Attitude on way to fire:

... on the way I believe the team didn't know just how bad the fire was at that stage, or how fast it was moving ... all we could see was a lot of smoke and knew it would be bad, because of the days conditions ... there was a lot of apprehension and the adrenalin was pumping well. It was more of a sombre note wondering what we were going into. On the way we started the pump, checked the hoses, but we could not anticipate that on arrival we had less than 5 minutes, before we got hit.

On arrival at fire scene:

We got directed to Longwood Road, we were to try a back burn against the oncoming fire ... then a spot fire came—one minute the paddock down the road was dry—no fire, ... next minute we were under flames. The truck reversed to get hoses to spot fire, and we were hit by a "wall" of flame ... I was in the back with a 3" hose to protect the truck, first with my back to the "wall", then I was laying on my back—but no water came ... I remember an explosion—the tree had bent the pump throttle ... no water ... that was it!

I heard Brian Nicholls (Unit Leader) call "All into the Cabin", I leapt over the trucks side and dived in ... We sought help over the radio. The fire passed ... I remember we had to walk up the road and we were drinking and cooling down with water from the Upper Sturt Unit, which minutes before had their water pump on fire.

It's hard to remember much more, so much happened ... I didn't actually realize how bad it was until some time later I watched the news coverage from Channel 2 Television.

Then the Ambulance arrived, I was taken to the Stirling Hospital and later to the Royal Adelaide Hospital, Intensive Burns Care Unit. The St. John Ambulance was very prompt ... I have a lot of time for St. John ... ever since I started working for the S.A. Police Force. I can't even say when I got burnt ... The only pain I really recall was after I was in hospital and when the staff were removing plastic bags off my burnt hands ... that hurt! I have since enquired about this and apparently there is nothing unusual for pain to be forgotten in such a situation.

Apparently the deeper the burn ... the less pain in some circumstances ... because the end of the nerves are burnt and there is sometimes little or no pain. I can only talk from my experience but I have had a tingling feeling through the back of my hands ... just recently.

feelings about community:

... I feel the majority of the community have got that "It can't happen to us" attitude, and when it did although bewildered, apparently those there went out and helped.

The community have to be helped regardless of what emergency service you belong to ... in my position as a police officer ... the public are there to be assisted ... so I believe a similar approach would be with a "Volunteer Fire Brigade". The "Volunteers" can't fight fires without equipment or "Volunteers" and they must be trained to use that equipment supplied by Councils.

The "Volunteers" need assistance ... the number of houses being built in the hills will no doubt result in house fires before long.

But I'll be back next summer—there are no regrets, I have a job to do, for my community.

John Dennett also praised highly the Royal Adelaide Hospital Intensive Care Burns Unit, and thanked all the doctors and nurses for their help ...

THE HEADQUARTERS' FLEET'S IN!



It's a rare moment when all of the Country Fire Services Fleet is in Port (Headquarters, 20 West Beach Road, Keswick.), this was one of those moments. Leading the fleet is the Director's vehicle—a Chrysler Valiant Regal, and Deputy Director's (not in picture), escorted by the Regional Officers' 7 x 4.2 litre Holden Station Waggon; 2 Toyota Land Cruisers; 2—1 Ton Utes (not pictured); 1—4.8 l x 6 cylinder Bedford Mobile Control Van and 1—4.2 l x 6 cylinder Bedford Cargo Van. Four Chrysler Valiants have since been added to the fleet.

All these vehicles are fully operational, including the Director's and Deputy Director's vehicles. Equipment consists of:

- 1—20 channel VHF set—enables the Officer to link up and assist with any CFS VHF network in South Australia.
- 1—Single side Ban Set (SSB)—the operator can tie in from any location within S.A., direct to Headquarters.
- 1 knap sack spray.
- 1-3 km Dry Powder Extinguisher.
- 1-3 km B.C.F. Extinguisher.
- Also a Siren, Flashing Lights, Roo Bar, Long Range Driving Lights and flood lighting. Each vehicle also carries First Aid and Rescue Equipment, Standard CFS Markings and Reflectorized Safety Strips.

The 4.2 litre Holden Station Waggon and Chrysler Valiants are used by the Regional Officers in the performance of their duties, fire control, co-ordination, in fact any emergency involving the CFS, and in disaster situations. These vehicles can all be used as Control Centres in their own right. The Toyota Land Cruisers are used in pastoral country and areas where 4 wheel drive is required. The Mobile Control and Cargo Vans are used extensively for major fire communication, equipment conveyance, at competitions, for lectures, schools, field days etc. ...

Croydon students help CFS

• Croydon High School students recently raised \$225 to replace Country Fire Service equipment destroyed in the Hills fires. At the cheque presentation are, from left: CFS firefighter Ron Sweeney of Croydon, school head prefect Helen Mazmanidis, 16, of Croydon, CFS acting deputy director Peter Malpas, head prefect Nick Andritsakis, 16, of Croydon and school principal Owen Eden.

—photo courtesy Messenger Photo Sales

CFS LOOKING FOR "LOST" EQUIPMENT

The Country Fire Services is endeavouring to trace a variety of fire-fighting equipment "lost" during the "Ash Wednesday" bushfires in the Adelaide Hills last February.

CFS Director, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said that the "lost" equipment had a total value of \$5 800.

"The items are primarily knapsacks, lengths of hose, nozzles, rakes and two pair of binoculars", he said.

Following the fires, the Stirling CFS made an extensive search of the fire areas, but could not find any of the missing items.

"We are asking the public to check around their properties and places such as garden sheds, to see if they have any of the gear. Any items found may be returned to CFS Headquarters or the nearest local CFS station and no questions will be asked", Mr. Johns said.

The Director said 35 brigades had put men and fire units into battling the bushfires, and the brigades had suffered a loss of \$35 500 in equipment, destroyed, damaged or lost.

The single major item was the burning out of a Bridge-water fire unit, valued at \$24 000.

Land for Proposed Fire Shed

It was resolved that the Strathalbyn and District Country Fire Service be advised that Council is prepared to make available a portion of reserve adjacent Island View Drive at Clayton Bay for the erection of a suitable shed to house a trailer pump and equipment.

W&F says thanks

Halting a fire close to the pines at Glencoe has brought a thank-you from the Woods & Forests Dept.

When a copy of the letter was read to Millicent Council on May 13, Cr. John Lamont told the background story.

On April 15, when fires were crackling all over the district, Glencoe Country Fire Service unit was put at the top of the range as a stand-by for the Tantanoola outbreaks.

After the all-clear, they returned to base, when another call was made.

The unit was manned and ready to go.

"Pines were scorched on the edge of the forest—so it was a lucky save," Cr. Lamont said.

PROMPT

The Director of the W&F has written to Glencoe CFS—

It has been reported to me by the District Forester at Mt Gambier, Mr D. J. Butterworth that on April 15 the Glencoe CFS controlled and extinguished a roadside fire adjoining Departmental plantations.

This occurred on an occasion when most Departmental fire-fighting forces in the area were involved in suppressing other fires.

But for the prompt and efficient action of the men and equipment under your leadership, the fire may well have entered the plantation before the arrival of Departmental forces.

Their action is greatly appreciated and I would be grateful if you would pass on my thanks for a job well done to those members of the CFS who were involved.

I look forward to continued co-operation between the Glencoe CFS and the Department.

courtesy 'The South Eastern Times', May 20, 1980.

Cheque presented

A buffet tea was held by Cape Jervis Social Club to present a cheque of \$1 700 to the local CFS.

Mr. Doug Evans, president of the social club, presented the cheque to Mr. Peter Filsell, who accepted it on behalf of the CFS.

The Cape Jervis Social Club thanked all the women who helped to organise food and so on and all who helped to make the night a success.

"Fire containment" Aldinga CFS hits at fire hazard

by Andy Williams
Southern Times.

A HARD-HITTING report on fire containment in the 250 hectare Aldinga Scrub—an inaccessible tinderbox in summer months—has been presented to the State Planning Authority.

The report was compiled by the Aldinga Beach and Areas CFS.

Aldinga Beach CFS captain David Ingram said there had been grave concern in recent years on containment of fires in the scrub and the danger to residents living in predominantly timber-frame houses next to, or near the scrub.

"This region not only consists of many homes but also two youth camps," Mr. Ingram said.

"In the event of a fire . . . in any point of the Scrub with prevailing South West-South East winds the fire will travel in the direction of Fraser Street which boundaries the Scrub Reserve and the Commencement of the Aldinga Beach residential area.

"It would be totally impossible to attempt containment of a fire at this point owing to the excessive growth that exists in these areas."

The report says vegetation in the scrub—Sheoak, Banksia, Wattle and grasses including wild Geranium and Barley grass—was extremely flammable.

The single fire track through the Scrub was insufficient, with a sandy surface and lack of turning points.

The report recommends—

- a fire break within the Reserve,
- controlled burning of large grassed area which could be used as assembly points,
- an additional fire access track running north-south,
- four year cycle controlled burning.

The report said if the recommendations were adopted growth and re-growth of native flora would be encouraged as well as the aiding of effective fire containment and protection of property.

Councils Reject Move For More Fire Bans

South East Councils have defeated a resolution from Penola District council calling for changes to the formula for declaring total fire ban days.

Penola Council submitted the resolution to the quarterly conference of the S.E. Local Government Association at Penola last week.

Mayor of Penola, Mr. Hayward Castine, asked that an approach be made to the Country Fire Services to adjust the formula used to decide on fire ban dates between March 12 and April 30.

Mr. Castine said the adjustment should be at least 25%, thus leading to more fire ban days during the period.

He said the Penola council considered that such a reduction could be effective because most days before a fire ban day probably came into the same category.

"We believe that several fires in the South East between March 12 and April 30 this year resulted from burning off operations the day before a fire ban day.

"In most cases we believe these burning-off fires were lit in conditions no better than those on the actual fire ban day," Mr. Castine said.

Director of the Country Fire Services, Mr. Lloyd Johns, said the proposal could lead to a Catch 22 situation.

"We are under fire from people who consider we are imposing too many fire ban days during the permitted burning off period.

"In dealing with this matter we should remember that the conditions between March 12 and April 30 were much drier than other years."

Mr. Johns said "I am still taking the matter up with the Meteorological Bureau. We are continually examining the methods used to determine fire ban day.

"It may be that we could be more generous in applying selective fire ban days," Mr. Johns added.

The Naracoorte District Council was successful with its resolution calling for the association to follow up the necessity of an alteration to CFS regulations making it necessary to have a fire fighting unit at all burning-off operations during the fire danger season.

Editorial, courtesy Border Chronicle—May 22, 1980.

For Fred, it's like coming back home. . .

ARRIVING in Mount Gambier as the new South East Regional Forester for Fred Pfeiffer was like "coming home".



For Mr. Pfeiffer has spent much of his 28 year career in forestry in the South East.

The man who describes himself as a "quiet country boy" has welcomed the opportunity to return to the South East once more.

As the son of a dairy farmer but having a preference for trees, Mr. Pfeiffer has been associated with this area in many capacities since he went to work at Penola in 1953.

Having spent the past three years in Adelaide as Forest Protection Officer he says he is looking forward to seeing the results of some of his labours in this area.

Many Penola residents will remember Fred Pfeiffer playing in their football team and helping them to win a few premierships.

His first visit to Penola however was in 1948 when as a student from Canberra he spent some time here as part

of his Bachelor of Science and Diploma of Forestry course.

Born in Mount Barker under the name of Edgar Reginald, Mr. Pfeiffer's friends soon disregarded the formal title and he became known as Fred.

The name has stuck with him from school days through his career and even during his trip to the USA and Canada.

He describes that trip as one of the most enlightening parts of his three years in Adelaide.

He was fortunate to be part of a exchange system studying fire protection systems and he says he made some invaluable professional contacts during that time.

While the American and Canadian fire protection system is very large he says that adopted in Australia is as good as that in the USA.

His three years in Adelaide provided a challenge for Mr. Pfeiffer and enabled him to become involved in many new facets of the job.

One of the most memorable of these was being an inaugural member of the Country Fire Service as the Government's representative.

Although he will maintain ties with Adelaide since his two children still live there, Mr. Pfeiffer is feeling like "he never left Mount Gambier".

Editorial courtesy "The Border Watch", May 13, 1980.

Mr. E. R. (FRED) PFEIFFER

It is not a case of the "prodigal son returning" but rather a triumphant return to the South East of Mr. E. R. (Fred) Pfeiffer, who will take over from Mr. Jim Hancock as South East Regional Forester.

I remember Fred telling me once that the greatest mistake you can make in life is to be continually fearing you will make one. He says, "Yes, I've made a few, but I've always learnt from mine", and it is this rare quality that he has to point out to others the better or easier way to accomplish an end, which at first could appear insurmountable.

To all in the Country Fire Services who have had the pleasure of knowing Fred, we extend best wishes to him, and to Jan, in their return to the South East and congratulate Fred on his elevation to Regional Forester.

I take this opportunity also, on behalf of the Chairman and members of the Country Fire Services Board, and the Director and Staff of CFS Headquarters to thank Fred Pfeiffer for his wisdom and guidance as a member of the numerous CFS Sub-Committees on which he held office. It is not envisaged at present that Fred will relinquish his position as a member of the CFS Board.

P. A. MALPAS,
Deputy Director.

"GOOD HOUSE-KEEPING" ESSENTIAL IN BUSHFIRE PREVENTION

Unless the undergrowth, leaf build-up and other flammable material that accumulates in forests or tree planted area is kept clean people will, not only have their trees burnt, but also their fingers.

This was stated in the House of Assembly by the Minister of Forests, Mr. Ted Chapman.

Replying to a question from the Member for Fisher, Mr. S. Evans, the Minister said it was important that people practised cleanliness and "good housekeeping" in areas which were prone to bushfires.

Whilst there was considerable interest in planting fire-resistant trees, particularly in the Adelaide Hills, good management was still required, irrespective of which type of tree was planted.

He said he would ask the Department of Woods and Forests to co-operate with the CSIRO in identifying and publicising trees which were most fire resistant.

"We already have within the Department considerable expertise regarding the desirable type of plants which should be planted," Mr. Chapman said.

"Eucalypts and highly flammable plants of that kind do make fuel for a pretty hot fire."

Mr. Chapman said Hills residents and others living in bushfire-prone areas should clean up their own boundaries and ensure that areas outside their boundaries were also cleaned up.

"During the last few weeks since the disastrous fires in the Adelaide Hills, I have been asked on several occasions to recommend plants that will not burn.

Unfortunately, there are no asbestos trees. However, what you can do is to ensure that the management of land around your house precludes or prevents fires from burning all of the vegetation and your home. For example, near the walls of your house, you should avoid vegetation which grows from the ground up the wall and towards the eaves. A fire will easily travel through the fuel that extends from the ground to the eaves.

Away from the house, it is important to remove much of the under rubbish that falls around the trees and take it away, as it may fuel a fire which could carry right up to the tree's crown."

comments from Mr. John Riggs, Senior Forester, Woods and Forests

Management of Vegetation is advocated by the CFS Research and Fire Protection Department, as good home protection advice.
Editor



'A well landscaped garden is a delight'

John Riggs, Senior Forester, Woods & Forests

This is the result of planning. Before you rush in to plant, think about your needs—privacy, birds in the garden, pretty flowers, protection and even fire risk. If in doubt seek advice on which plants to suit your plan.

"OPERATION TREE PLANT" FOR HILLS Wednesday 28 May, 1980

Thousands of young trees were given to families in the fire ravaged Adelaide Hills area to help replace those lost in February's "Ash Wednesday" disaster.

The distribution of the trees is part of "Operation Tree Plant" a community based project organised by the Commonwealth Industrial Gases Limited.

The project was launched on Wednesday 28 May, in the Adelaide Hills town of Stirling. Neville Fallon, General Manager of CIG in South Australia said the overall project aimed to develop community awareness of the value and use of native trees in the home environment while promoting safety measures designed to avoid any recurrence of the Ash Wednesday disaster.

To spread the message a broadly based media campaign has been organised with the co-operation of the South Australian Department of Woods and Forests.

Mr. John Riggs, a senior Forester with the Department presents a series of practical hints on landscaping, soil preparation, tree maintenance and bushfire security through Press, Radio and Television.

Mr. Fallon said SAS Channel 10 and Radio Station 5AA had co-operated with CIG in organising the project and providing air time to promote the programme.

Mr. Fallon spent several years as State Manager of CIG in Tasmania where the 1967 bushfires destroyed vast areas of forest land and private property.

The Operation Tree Plant concept was developed shortly after his arrival in South Australia which coincided with the major Hills fires causing damage worth millions of dollars to large areas of the Adelaide Hills.

Operation Tree Plant is not aimed at the regeneration of natural bushland and forest which is already showing signs of new growth but at the home and garden environment in the hills which was shown to be inadequate to cope with the problems of a major fire.

The company sees its involvement as assisting a broadly based community programme that will have a long term effect on the Hills environment.

As well as the media programme to promote Operation Tree Plant, CIG has sent an educational brochure to all residents and schoolchildren in the area outlining the scheme and nominating distribution points where children and residents will be able to collect trees, during the period Tuesday 3rd to Friday 6th June, 1980.

More fire relief

The Government will provide a further \$25 000 to aid victims of the Ash Wednesday bushfires.

The Premier, Mr. Tonkin, disclosed this in the Assembly in reply to a question from Mr. Evans (Liberal, Fisher).

Mr. Tonkin said that it had been decided at Monday's Cabinet meeting that the extra \$25 000 would be provided on request by the Lord Mayor to meet a short-fall in funds. This was in addition to the \$100 000 originally given to the Lord Mayor's Bushfire Relief Fund by the Government.

NEW HAMLEY UNIT

Chairman of the District Council of Owen, Mr. Des Ross will be officially handing over a new fire truck to the Hamley Bridge CFS tomorrow (Thursday) night.

He will present the keys of the \$22 500 vehicle to station officer, Mr. Dean O'Grady.

Mr. O'Grady told The Bunyip that the Hamley unit had raised \$3 000 towards the cost, with the remainder being provided by Owen Council and a Government subsidy.

Later in the evening at the Hamley Institute four CFS members will be presented with service awards from Mr. Ross.

The recipients are Mr. O'Grady (20 years service) and Mr. Alf Newman (10 years), both of whom will receive certificates, and Mr. Sid Martin (eight years) and Mr. Keith Hewitson (eight years), who will each receive special badges. The Bunyip, Gawler, 5 March, 1980.

To record the Country Fire Services Board's appreciation of the assistance given to the CFS Fire Prevention Publicity during South Australia's Bushfire Season 1979-1980, a Buffet Luncheon was held in the Media's honour at CFS Headquarters on Tuesday, 27 May, 1980.



During the function a "surprise Presentation" of three (3) marble plaques each incorporating a large CFS Badge and inscription was made by CFS Deputy Chairman Mr. Ray Orr and Director Mr. Lloyd Johns to three (3) of the ABC Television News Team, "In Appreciation of Services, Ash Wednesday Fire, 20th February, 1980."

The decision for the CFS Board to present the special award was based on the following criteria:

- Excellence of the fire (Ash Wednesday) film footage taken of the Bridgewater CFS Unit being engulfed in flames.
- For their bravery in taking such film footage.
- For their dedication in their job, of news reporting.

Recipients of the Award were Messrs. Grant Heading (reporter), Clive Taylor (cameraman) and Dusan Jonic (cameraman).

Mr. Lloyd Johns also made special mention, to the excellent quality of the fire film footage taken by all the television news teams, and for the Stations co-operation in supplying cassettes on the fire coverage.



Following presentation of Awards—pictured from left Messrs. Grant Heading (ABC); Clive Taylor (ABC); Ray Orr (Deputy Chairman, CFS Board); Ted Chapman (Minister of Agriculture); Lloyd Johns (Director, CFS); Dusan Jonic (ABC).

THOUGHTS FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY

A special hello to Mr. Ken Lutze from all your friends at Country Fire Services, from well wishers and from your local community at Coonalpyn. We are pleased to hear of your recovery, and our thoughts are with you.

Peter Malpas
Deputy Director, S.A. Country Fire Services.

Ironbank Form Own CFS Unit

The Iron Bank district is to form its own CFS unit. Fund-raising efforts to establish it have already raised \$4 000.

The impetus to form a CFS unit, the first one established for many years in the Stirling district council area, came as a result of Ash Wednesday.

Although the bushfires did not reach the Iron Bank district, they made many people aware of their vulnerability if one started in the immediate vicinity.

Up to the present time Iron Bank has been protected by either the Upper Sturt CFS unit or the Longwood-Bradbury-Scott Creek unit.

Sgt. Kevin Morgan of Stirling Police, an Iron Bank resident, said that he received a number of phone calls after the fire wherein several people suggested that a CFS unit be formed. It was decided to call a public meeting to discuss it. As a result of this meeting which was attended by 70 people, held in Iron Bank Church Hall and chaired by Sgt. Morgan, it was decided to form a brigade.

A steering committee was elected to organise it. Kevin Morgan is chairman of this committee. Since then approval for the formation of the CFS unit has been given by both the CFS executive and the Stirling District Council.

Fund-raising efforts have now started in the Iron Bank district. A door knock campaign has already raised \$4 000. Kevin Morgan said that this door knock had still not covered the whole district. He said that people had been extremely generous. It's been a good response, he said, and several people had donated sums of \$250, \$150 or \$100.

Mr. Bill Pole of Pole Road, Iron Bank has donated a piece of land that will be used for the new Iron Bank CFS fire shed. Kevin Morgan said that the district was fortunate in that it had mains water. The new shed would be connected to the mains supply.

The aim of the new brigade is to raise \$10 000 towards equipment and the provision of a fire unit. Other fund-raising efforts are being planned for the near future.

Kevin Morgan said that several members of the district have already had fire fighting experience in other CFS units. He himself had been in Mallala CFS when he had been posted there and he had also been a member of Upper Sturt CFS.

Three members of the new brigade are undertaking training at present at the Mt. Lofty CFS Training School.

The area covered by the Iron Bank CFS will be from approximately the Blackwood Golf Club to the Upper Sturt Motor Wreckers, and back as far as Sturt Creek.

In recent years the Iron Bank district has become a popular area in which to live. Many new houses have been erected on large blocks of land in the Rural Living Zone of the Stirling district council area.

Although Iron Bank was spared in the Ash Wednesday fires, many of the older residents still remember Black Sunday in which the whole of the district was burnt.

Extract courtesy "Courier" April 30.

CFS given a Lions share for vehicle

NARACOORTE Lions Club has given Naracoorte CFS \$6840 towards a new salvage and rescue vehicle.

The money will pay about half the estimated cost of the vehicle, which CFS headquarters will subsidise.

Club president Mr Geoff Davis presented the cheque to CFS captain Mr Dennis Sugars.

The Lions raised most of the money in the phone-athon last November and in a raffle. They also received \$1 000 from Lucindale Lions Club and \$2 000 from the district Christmas cake fund. The CFS has bought a Ford F350 cab chassis for the vehicle and has called tenders for the enclosed body to be made.

The first training school for Fire Control Officers and Volunteer Fire Brigade Officers was opened at the Police Training College, Adelaide by the Minister of Agriculture, Sir George Jenkins K.B.E. on Wednesday, 7th October, 1953.

Thirty-five volunteer fire officers completed a three day course.

The School which was instituted by the past Director of EFS (Mr. F. L. Kerr) at the request of the South Eastern Fire Fighting Association, District Councils and rural organisations has become a regular feature in the training of rural fire officers. Fire Officers who completed the first course are listed hereunder:—

J. N. Abbott, Paskeville	K. D. King, Minlaton
L. J. Baker, Tea Tree Gully	H. C. Mann, Woodside
D. F. Cowell, Mount Crawford	D. A. Roebuck, Mylor
D. A. Crouch, Yumali	C. E. Stephens, Angaston
E. W. Dearman, Lobethal	N. O. B. Wachtel, Mannum
A. D. Farrow, Stansbury	B. E. Zerna, Murray Bridge
C. O. Geddes, Melrose	K. Abbott, Salisbury
J. W. Gibson, Bute	R. S. Candy, Happy Valley
T. Hickling, Nangwarry	D. J. Cox, Meadows
G. D. Holmes, Mount Gambier	M. S. Curtis, Lucindale
J. Drewitt, Mount Burr	R. J. Keynes, Keyneton
K. B. Filmer, Corny Point	R. R. Rymill, Penola
F. J. Gibaut, Mount Burr	K. W. Stephenson, Mount Barker
D. Hart, Edithburgh	J. B. Wisnevske, Jamestown
L. Hoffman, Jamestown	D. N. McLean, Peterborough
A. G. Lillecrapp, Mount Pleasant	A. F. Humphries, Blackwood
G. R. Norton, Spalding	P. A. Malpas, Adelaide
	D. H. Riddle, EFS Headquarters

The second training school for Fire Control Officers and Volunteer Fire Brigade Officers was conducted at the Police Training College, Adelaide during October 1954.

The school was attended by 35 volunteer fire officers, whose names are listed hereunder:—

J. A. Altmann, Snowtown	B. H. Kahl, Saddleworth
C. S. Baldoch, Warrachie	G. Lloyd, Blyth
V. T. Bartlett, Murray Bridge	S. B. Moody, Maitland
D. W. Beames, Clare	J. W. Morley, Kingston S.E.
A. J. Bock, Mannum	R. E. Munro, Cellulose Ltd., Snuggery
A. W. Carr, Tumbay Bay	K. G. Murdoch, Warooka
R. A. Clarke, Warnertown	M. Paschke, Lobethal
D. A. Cramm, Peterborough	B. Poulish, Ashville
R. L. Dean, Kalangadoo	H. Portlock, Meadows
B. Duane, Bridgewater	K. W. Rasmus, Angaston
A. Earl, Mount Gambier	R. H. Rogers, Eden Valley
I. J. Fox, Lobethal	S. E. Truscott, Waikerie
F. W. Gartner, Bordertown	E. R. Watters, Curramulka
H. F. Gierke, Mount Barker	A. E. Wedd, Mount Burr
D. M. Gordon, Williamstown	F. Wright, Nangwarry
J. Grave, Swan Reach	S. C. Whyte, Gowan Brae, Port Pirie
O. K. Harris, Owen	
L. J. Hawker, Mount Burr	

One particular Fire Officer, Mr. A. J. (Bert) Poulish, J.P., Ashville (upper South East) attended the second school, and his Certificate is printed herewith.



Bert has had an illustrious career as a fire officer. Appointed by the District Council of Meningie as a fire control officer 24th September, 1952, he attended (at his own expense) the second Fire Control Officers' Training School held in Adelaide in 1954.

He was instrumental in forming the first CFS in Meningie on 22nd September, 1954 and served both as District Fire Supervisor and Chairman of the Meningie District Council for many years.

Bert attended the annual Fire Control Officers' School again in 1963, and did much to establish the CFS in the Meningie district. He was awarded Life Membership to the Country Fire Services in August, 1977 for "Services Devoted to the Saving of Life and Property from Fire".

I know that the Meningie District Council and the Meningie and District CFS join with CFS Headquarters, in commending Bert Poulish for his loyal devotion to duty during the years he has been associated with the Country Fire Services.
Editor.



The above photograph was received too late to accompany the write up (in The Volunteer, Autumn issue page 24) on the Angaston CFS new 4-wheel drive mobile fire fighting unit—

Becoming familiar with the new Angaston CFS unit is its crew—Messrs. Anthony Vaughan, Max Kroehn, Ashley Hearl, Murray Klingner and L. Both.

CIVIC TRUST AWARD FOR BRIDGEWATER CFS STATION

Bridgewater's new fire station, built last year at a cost of \$60 000 has received a prestigious Civic Trust Award.

These awards are made annually for "distinguished buildings in the State."

The fire station was designed by the CFS men and Stirling Council to be functional and also blend in with the environment.

A State Government Unemployment Relief Scheme Grant of \$23 000 helped to pay for the building, with supervision by Stirling Council.

The building was completed last year, with the official opening in October.

Chairman of Stirling Council, Mr. David Beaumont, was pre-

sented with the award, in the form of a plaque, by former Governor of South Australia, Sir Mark Oliphant.

The CFS building was "competently designed for its purpose, with very good access and ingress for vehicles," the jury said.

"The siting under large old trees is admirable."

As it was placed at the junction of three roads, the building was very accessible "yet quite inconspicuous in a residential area," the jury added.

Other buildings honored in the 1979 awards were the restored cottages in Wellington Square, North Adelaide; the Cadillion Shopping Centre, Unley; and the old Government House, Belair.



There were many proud onlookers who visited the Bridgewater CFS Fire Station to help affix the plaque. Pictured from left, Messrs. David Moller (Bridgewater CFS Captain); Charlie Rosewarne (Group Captain elect); R. O. Richard Keynes; Graham Thiem-holding plaque (Stirling Council's Fire Supervisor); Bill Nicol (Stirling D/C Engineer); Peter James (Stirling District Clerk); Paul Turloff (Builder); Geoff Knight (Bridgewater Brigade President).

—Photo courtesy "Mt. Barker Courier".

Country Hospitals Fire Protection Procedures

by Richard Hutchins, H.Q. Fire Prevention Officer

The S.A. Health Commission in conjunction with fire authorities has produced guidance for fire prevention in health buildings. Hospital management are advised to appoint a Fire Safety Officer from their staff members and that person may seek the co-operation of the local CFS Brigade Officer to carry out his duties.

The following extract may assist you if called upon to advise on any matter relating to fire precautions, however should you require further guidance, please contact the H.Q. Fire Prevention Officer.

Hospital fire alarms, in future installations will in CFS Brigade areas, automatically sound the station siren and actuate an indicator panel in the fire station.

FIRE ROUTINE IN HOSPITALS (NOTICES) EVACUATION PROCEDURE

ON DISCOVERING A FIRE

1. Sound the alarm and inform switchboard of fire location.
2. Tackle the fire with the nearest suitable extinguisher.
3. If not contained, close the room door and leave by the nearest available exit.
4. If patients are involved in the fire area, evacuate to a safe area or the pre-determined assembly point.

ON HEARING THE ALARM

Switchboard:

Immediately call the fire brigade and stay in position unless instructed to evacuate, or the switchboard area is involved in the fire.

Fire Wardens:

Assist with fire fighting if in your area otherwise report to a pre-determined fire point.

Nursing Staff:

Remain at your post, until instructed to evacuate or move patients to another area.

GENERAL STAFF INSTRUCTIONS

1. Check rooms are vacated enroute, CLOSING DOORS.
2. Do not re-enter building again UNTIL EXPRESSLY authorised by the senior fire brigade officer.

Remember:

S.A.F.E.

1. See Brigade is summoned.
2. Advise others (alarm).
3. Fight the fire.
4. Evacuate.

1. Staff Training

All hospital staff should receive regular practical and theoretical instruction on the following fire safety procedures and subjects.

- (a) Causes of fire and basic fire prevention.
- (b) Evacuation Procedure and Rescue Methods.
- (c) Use and operation of hose reels and portable fire extinguishers.

2. Basic Duties of Fire Safety Officer

- (a) Organise a fire safety team.
- (b) Establish and co-ordinate a fire safety programme.
- (c) Develop written instructions stipulating evacuation plan, emergency procedures and all aspects of fire safety.
- (d) Ensure all employees including new staff, receive training based on the written instructions.
- (e) Conduct fire safety drills twice yearly for all hospital staff and maintain records of drills carried out and training given.

(f) Arrange regular inspection of the whole premise to ensure the continuing maintenance of fire safety equipment and structural fire protection, log books recording inspections carried out, and ensure immediate remedial action is taken on any fire hazard reported.

(g) Ensure provision throughout building of brief, clear printed notices (displayed in conspicuous positions), outlining the action to be taken in case of fire or on hearing the alarm.

3. Evacuation Procedure

The Fire Safety Officer should devise an evacuation procedure appropriate to the building. At least TWICE a year all staff should be involved in the practise evacuation drill as far as practicable. One drill should be conducted in conjunction with the Fire Brigade responsible for that area.

World trends in the use of halons

(PART 1)

□ This paper, describing developments in the use of halogenated hydrocarbon extinguishing agents and equipment, was given by L. C. Johns FIFireE, AAIM, at the 1977 annual conference of the New Zealand Branch.

It has only been in recent years that the term "halon" has come to be part of our fire engineering glossary. For this reason, we tend to think of only two agents, namely—BCF and BTM as "the" halons.

In fact, these two substances are the latter year developments of some 24 chemical substances now known commonly as halons or halogenated hydrocarbons.

The purpose of this paper is to look at three areas:—

1. A short history of halon development and usage.
2. A study of two principal halon extinguishants.
3. A look at some of the specialised uses of halon extinguishants and hardware with special reference to Industrial Explosion Protection.

HALON DEVELOPMENT

Those of us who have pumped CTC into the backs of switchboards or under the bonnets of cars probably did not know, and certainly did not appreciate that this extinguishant was, in fact, the very earliest of the halogenated extinguishing agents. The ability of carbon tetrachloride to extinguish fires was recognised in the 1800's but until the advent of the electrolytic production of caustic soda from brine, the price of chlorine was too high for CTC to be exploited as a general purpose extinguishant¹. Although CTC is now generally banned as an extinguishant, many examples to the very popular brass and chrome plated CTC pumps which were first marketed in the early 1900's are still around. I will have more to say later about toxicity, but it is interesting to note that the actual number of deaths due to the use of CTC in extinguishing fires is exceedingly small when one considers the widespread usage of this agent over the first half of this century.

The use of CTC extended to early aircraft systems and there are reports of automatic systems being designed and used between engine and nacelle².

Following closely on the heels of CTC as an aircraft fire extinguishant was the second principal halon to be recognised as an extinguishing agent and with a superiority over CTC for extinguishment—methyl bromide. However, of course, the extreme toxicity of this substance produced a reluctance to use it. Methyl bromide is still used as a vermin exterminant for ships' holds.

In the UK, the decision to replace CTC in aircraft systems with MB was taken in 1938, but in the United States authorities decided it was too toxic.

By this time World War II was upon the world but, unlike many peace-time projects, the need for more efficient and less toxic extinguishants became of some considerable importance. The need to minimise the spread of fire in the air, under the sea and on the ground was a most important life and machine saving factor. In this light bromochloromethane (CM or CBr) was developed by the German armed

forces and appears to have first been introduced in submarine fire protection. In 1945 CB was mixed with 35 per cent of liquid CO₂ to produce an agent called Dachlaurin (DL)³.

Publications referring to the introduction of systems using CB are not altogether in agreement, but it is suggested that I.G. Faben Industries developed the agent in the period 1939-40, and the German armed forces were responsible for the adoption of systems using CB, especially in submarine and aircraft fire protection, and this technology was used to further develop CB which led to the adoption by the US Air Force of CB as the standard agent for aircraft fire extinguishing systems. Shortly thereafter, CB was also adopted as the secondary agent on all water-foam aircraft fire fighting trucks⁴.

So we reach a stage in the immediate post-war period of three halogenated agents now being available, two of which were highly suspect on account of their acute toxicity.

Following World War II, there was considerable development in all areas of extinguishing agents, of which the halon group was no exception. The more successful agents have come to our attention in the form of improved dry chemicals, medium and high expansion foam, and aqueous film forming foam.

In the halon field some 50 potential agents were examined in the immediate post-war period, not all derived from methane or ethane and some in fact containing iodine atoms⁵. Most of these have been eliminated on the grounds of poor performance, high toxicity or unsuitable physical properties, and at present only five agents are considered to be of any significant application in fire extinguishment. These agents are:—

Halon 1011 (Bromochloromethane)	CH ₂ BrCl
Halon 1202 (Dibromodifluoromethane)	CBr ₂ F ₂
Halon 1211 (Bromochlorodifluoromethane)	CBrClF ₂
Halon 1301 (Bromotrifluoromethane)	CBrF ₃
Halon 2402 (Dibromotetrafluoroethane)	CBr ₂ F ₂ CF ₂

Research and active development in the United Kingdom in the 1950's with Halon 1211 was paralleled in the United States with Halon 1301. These two extinguishants were thus developed side by side and it was followed from this that there has been more activity in the BCF field in Europe, the UK and Commonwealth countries and more activity with BTM, in the United States.

The development of BCF in the UK can be attributed to Imperial Chemical Industries whose involvement with Government research and development bodies led to the early application of BCF for airborne fire protection. Pechiney in France and Kali Chemie in Germany are also manufacturers of BCF.

In the United States a report published in 1960 by the Dow Chemical Company, Michigan, for the Aeronautical Accessories Laboratory, Wright Air Development Centre⁶, probably marked the emergence of Halon 1301 as a major extinguishing agent, and the further development of 1301 from aircraft protection to total flooding and special hazards protection has been considerable.

The significant introduction of Halon 1301 to Australia and New Zealand has occurred only in the last few years, but the momentum of technology and popularity is beginning to quicken.

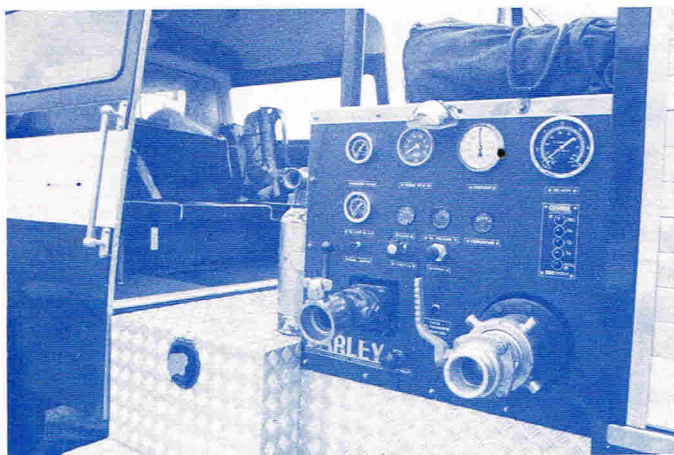
Halon 1202 has received only limited attention and has been put to use in only a few applications, one of which is fixed aircraft protection. Extinguishment effectiveness is favourable, and the high liquid density and high boiling point mean more capability for limited volume of hardware plus favourable discharge capabilities. It is somewhat less stable than BCF and BTM. Halon 1202 has an Underwriters Laboratory Classification of 4, placing it in a category much less favourable than either BTM or BCF. This is probably a significant reason for the apparent lack of large scale development of 1202.

—continued in Part 2. "The Volunteer", Volume 7, September, 1980.

NEW ZEALAND FIRE EQUIPMENT

In a recent visit to New Zealand, CFS Director Mr. Lloyd Johns and Regional Officer Russell Gear were introduced to some exciting new concepts in fire fighting. Some of these were Pump and Roll and high pressure techniques and procedures.

Here are just two (2), of the photographs taken (story to follow in the Spring issue of the 'The Volunteer,' September 1980.)



Mid Mounted Pump—Brief specifications: single stage, 450 litres/minute at 3445 KPA, pump and roll capability.



Rescue Unit with Hydraulic Rear Crane—Unit is also fitted out with air compressor, for supplying hand tools.

Region 5 winners

Regional

'A' Grade Hose and Pump Drill
1st Millicent—90-87
2nd Naracoorte—103-92
'A' Grade Pump Drill
1st Penola—26-25
2nd Millicent—29-06
'B' Grade Dry Hose Drill
1st Naracoorte II—67-63
2nd Coonawarra—78-31
One Man Hose Drill
1st B. Ball, Naracoorte—24-36
2nd A. Marshall, Naracoorte—25-93
Alarm Race
1st Nangwarry—39-48
2nd Millicent II—41-34
One Man Ladder Drill
1st B. Ball, Naracoorte—9-75
2nd D. Sugars, Naracoorte—10-29
Four Man Ladder Drill (wet)
1st Naracoorte III, A. Marshall (Capt.)—17-87
2nd Naracoorte I, T. McAutar (Capt.)—18-07
Special Regional Trophy
Naracoorte—20
Fastest Dry Hose Drill "A or B"
Millicent—61-81

Visiting Competitors

'A' Grade Hose and Pump Drill
1st Blackwood—83-85
2nd Salisbury—88-01
'A' Grade Pump Drill
1st Salisbury—25-62
2nd Blackwood—26-68
'B' Grade Dry Hose Drill
1st Blackwood—60-56
One Man Hose Drill
1st R. Spann, Tea Tree Gully—23-86
2nd D. Pearce, Blackwood—24-64
Alarm Race
1st Stirling—39-88
2nd Blackwood—41-74
One Man Ladder Drill
1st M. Merrett, Blackwood—8-77
2nd R. Spann, Tea Tree Gully—10-71
4 man Ladder Drill (wet)
1st Blackwood I, R. Cock (Capt.)—15-38
2nd Blackwood II, G. McPherson (Capt.)—19-76
Special Regional Trophy
Blackwood—23 points

C.F.S. Operations Article 4.

"One Year Old"

(with 24 hour information/fire control service)

As of the 24th March, 1980 the Country Fire Services Operations Room (H/Q Control Centre) manned by C.C.O.'s Winston Bryant, Trevor Modistach, Neil Ellis, Brian Bilney and myself is one year old. Manned on a 24 hour roster basis it has proven itself invaluable in the first 24 hour /day year of operations. The centre has been operational since 1st July 1978, but has only been on a 24 hour basis since 24th March 1980.

The past year has not been uneventful, as 900 initial fire and special service calls were received. The maximum number of fires reported in one day reached 16 on three separate occasions. Of the 900 fires reported two played a significant role, those were the "Deep Creek" and "Ash Wednesday" fires.

The centre also received a fire report from the Department of Air Transport on a large grass fire at White Cliffs N.S.W., and a caller questioned the location of a two car smash at Mt. Hawthorn. Mt. Hawthorn is a suburb of Perth, W.A.

Apart from attending to public enquiries on Fire Ban Information and Burning Off Restrictions, the Control Centre was the radio base and call-out centre for the "Rescue 1" Emergency Services Helicopter, during the 17 week trial period. This helicopter service is now on a "24 hour stand by".

No one could say that "Rescue 1" has not justified its existence. It has been involved in fire control searches, fire co-ordination, cliff rescues, medical retrievals and undertaken police activities.

On "Fire Ban" Days the centre also acts as a base for Smokey North and South Fire Air Spotting Patrols. There were 19 fire ban days.

During the past year in addition to Fire Control procedures, Resource Map Boards on the seven designated regions of S.A. were prepared, Brigade call out information was recorded on a new card index system and clerical duties performed.

R. O. Mark Thomason
CFS H/Q Control Centre Operator.

Preliminary Notice

CREATIVE ARTS AND CRAFTS COMPETITION



The 1980 A.F.P.A. Fire Prevention Week's Creative Arts and Crafts Competition will be open to young people up to 14 years of age. There are three age groups; 7 years and under, 8 to 11 years, 11 to 14 years. A total of \$500 prize money will be donated by BP Australia. Children's paintings and posters are to convey the theme

"MAKE YOUR HOLIDAYS FIRE SAFE"

The size should not exceed 75 cm x 50 cm (approx. 30" x 20") other forms of art, including models not to exceed one square metre.

Entries are to be delivered or posted to A.F.P.A. c/o South Australian Fire Brigade Headquarters, Wakefield Street, Adelaide, by October 6, 1980.

All entries must have a paper slip attached stating Name, Address, Age, School (if applicable) and name of teacher (if applicable).

Enter Now!

The Creative Arts and Crafts Competition is sponsored by BP Australia and co-sponsored by the Savings Bank of South Australia and "The Volunteer" (CFS Publication).

Further details available at the Savings Bank of South Australia—School Banking Centres by September 8, 1980 and in the spring issue "The Volunteer" September 1980.