

THE VOLUNTEER ANNUAL

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Official Journal for The Country Fire Services South Australia

INCORPORATING THE CFS MANUAL 1980

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PREVENT BUSHFIRES



S.A. COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES BOARD VISITS THE SOUTH EAST



Pictured—Millicent CFS Station Officer Mike Kemp and Ambulance Officer Bill Kuykhoven demonstrated the cutters of the new Emergency Rescue Unit to from left—Jack Gaetjens, Peter Swann, Vic Gerschwitz (behind), Mike Arnold, Mel Prior, Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger (Chairman), Fred Pfeiffer, Lloyd Johns (Director) and Archie McArthur. Forest Protection Officer Lou Parsons and Millicent CFS member John Cockrum (far right) look on. Mr. Ray Orr (Deputy Chairman) was unable to make the visit to the South East—refer insert—

Photograph and editorial supplied courtesy Mr. Chewings, Editor, 'South Eastern Times', Millicent.

The new rescue unit was given a large share of attention when members of the Country Fire Services Board visited Millicent on Thursday 13 November.

Fresh from a lobster luncheon in the forest, the visitors were being escorted by SE Board reps, Regional Forester **Fred Pfeiffer** from Mt. Gambier and Chairman of the Lower SE Fire Fighting Association **Arch McArthur** of Mt. Hope.

From Adelaide were Board Chairman, Professor **Peter Schwerdtfeger** from Flinders University; CFS Director **Lloyd Johns**; Forest Protection Officer **Lou Parsons** and insurance rep, **Jack Gaetjens**.

Country Board members with the group were **Peter Swann**, Kapunda; **Mike Arnold**, Waikerie; **Vic Gerschwitz**, Eyre Peninsula; **Mel Prior**, Gladstone.

'We make a practice of holding some of our monthly meetings in the country so we can meet people on the spot and see the situation for ourselves,' Fred said.

In the Mt. Gambier area, the visitors had inspected the Caroline forest fire site, small holdings to the north of Mt. Gambier and the Compton fire station.

From the Bluff, they had an excellent view of the forest areas.

Following dinner in Mt. Gambier, Board members met local fire fighting reps to discuss matters of general interest.

After the inspection of the Millicent CFS Station, the party was off to Mt. Hope to inspect weedicide control on fence lines.

Annual fire report blames children

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The high incidence of fires caused by children is of concern to the Mount Gambier Firefighting Association.

Association president Mr C. S. Shephard said this in his report to the annual meeting.

NEED FOR ACTION

Of the thirty-nine fires which occurred in the Mount Gambier District Council area, six had been caused by children.

Mr Shephard said the matter was one of concern to his Association and consideration would be given to some action aimed at preventing such fires.

Discussion of appropriate action is being referred to the Lower South-East Firefighting Association.

'This could result in some action being taken on a South-Eastern basis,' he said.

Mr. Shephard, who was re-elected as president of the Association, said the group had had a 'fairly active year' with members continuing to provide active and high standard support for the Association.

RETIREMENT

Mr Shephard made particular mention of Mr H. G. Johnston who retired from active participation in the Association.

'Mr Johnston was originally attached to the Moorak Fire Brigade. He later joined the O.B. Flat unit where he served for twenty-five years, with twenty-one years as president.

Mr Shephard said the long and active involvement of Mr Johnston was greatly appreciated by the Association.

Extract courtesy 'The Border Watch'.

Council funds CFS fuel

The district council of Victor Harbor will pay for half the cost of fuel for Country Fire Service vehicles in its area.

This was passed at a council meeting on Tuesday 14 October and is subject to annual review. When put with a 50 per cent subsidy from the Government, it means that the total cost of fuel for local CFS vehicles will be supplied to the service.

Letters to the Editor.

Lack of interest forecasts a bad fire season

Coonalpyn CFS held its first meeting for the forthcoming fire season on 18 September. The CFS executive was extremely disappointed at the attendance of only nine members, two of whom had only recently joined. Out of the eight fire control officers nominated at the last annual general meeting, there were only three at this meeting.

The reasonable conclusion reached is that people generally in this district have very short memories. To remain efficient the CFS brigade needs much more support than it is getting at the moment, so when the next meeting is announced a much better attendance is needed.

If support of this volunteer organisation doesn't increase, then it may indeed be a very bad fire season for the district.
ex 'Border Chronicle'.

CLEVE CFS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Cleve Country Fire Service unit will embark on a membership drive over the next twelve months.

This was decided at the annual meeting of the unit, which was attended by seventeen people.

The president, Mr John Ranford, thanked all officers and members for their efforts during the past season.

Captain, Ross Bates, thanked his crew for their support and attendance at training sessions. Over 225 voluntary hours were spent on training for fires.

The following officers were elected: John Ranford, president; Kev Elson, vice-president; Russell Branson, secretary/treasurer; Ross Bates, captain; Russell Branson and Robert Elson, lieutenants, and Brian Smith, Bryan Trigg and Ian Dreckow as senior firemen.

Regular training will be held on the first and third Tuesdays in each month. New members are most welcome and should contact Ross Bates or Russell Branson.

Editorial courtesy 'Eyre Peninsula Tribune'.

Congratulations

Dear Sir,

The Lameroo CFS would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the excellent presentation of this magazine.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. Price.

Secretary, Lameroo CFS

Scrub Fires

Streaky Bay CFS volunteers have been busy over the last two months with scrub fires. One fire started at night near Piednippie and another three were reported in the Port Kenny area.

EDITORIAL

ANOTHER SUMMER IS HERE

Many people look forward to the summer period as a time to enjoy typically Australian leisure—the 'barbie', the beach, cricket and a dozen other summer pursuits.

For 11 000 men and women throughout South Australia, and our colleagues in the other States, there will be many times (once again) when the steak will turn cold on the barbie and the beer will go warm in the bottle.

Fire fighting is an all year round business, but the summer does bring on those acts of carelessness, malice and sheer negligence that cause people to drop everything when the siren goes. I sometimes wonder if the only lessons learned from these fires is in fire fighting tactics rather than—'let's clean up our back yard' so it doesn't happen here.'

The fuel, the hazards and the potential are just as great this year as last, so the best we can do is to be ready.

In a few weeks time, I will celebrate the anniversary of my first year as Director. To the many, many country people who have helped to make the task that little bit easier, please accept my sincere thanks.

To the fire fighters throughout our State, and their families, the best wishes of the entire team at CFS Headquarters are extended to you for an enjoyable (and hopefully) relaxing festive season.

LLOYD C. JOHNS,
Director.

S.A. Country Fire Services.

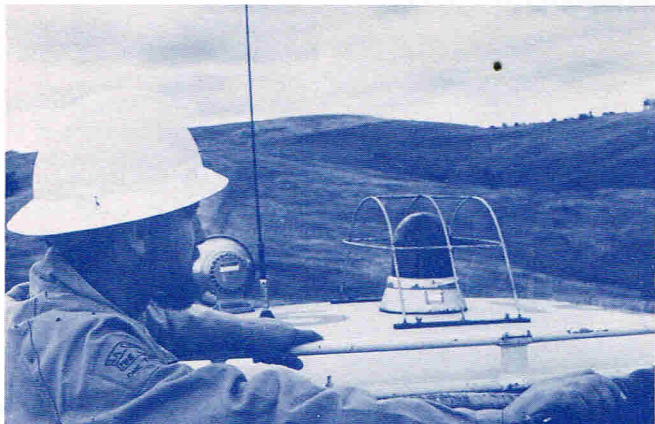
FIRE BANS START

Warnings about South Australia's bushfire danger for this summer season commenced on Wednesday 29 October.

The Director of Country Fire Services, Mr Lloyd Johns advises that the fire ban warnings will be issued at 7.00 a.m. each morning through all radio stations in South Australia.

'Arrangements have been made for the stations to repeat the information during the day,' Mr Johns said.

The Director said the fire ban information would, as usual, apply to the established fifteen Fire Ban Districts—and to the State, as a whole, when necessary.



A CFS Volunteer keeping a watchful eye out for that telltale sign of smoke.

A Report of the Robe District Fire Seminar at the Bray Hall on Sunday 9 November.

A family fire awareness seminar was conducted at the Bray Hall by Mr M. Sherwell and Mr T. Conlon, CFS Regional Officers.

The district council of Robe was represented by the chairman Mr W. Quinlan-Watson, the district clerk Mr R. Kay and Mrs M. McLaren. Over sixty representatives and visitors were in attendance from Mount Benson, Greenways, Robe and Bray CFS Brigades and districts.

During the morning session the extent and coverage of the radio network was fully explained by R.O. Conlon, a communications officer from headquarters. As the district units have only just been outfitted with radio, further training sessions will be necessary for the coming fire season.

The barbecue luncheon, catered and prepared by the Bray CFS ladies auxiliary was enjoyed by all.

Following lunch a short address was given by R.O. Sherwell, before he presented trophies to the prizewinners of the poster competition. He commended the attention to detail and messages conveyed by the posters. Entries (in excess of forty) were from Years 3 and 4, 5, 6, 7 from the Robe and Kangaroo Inn area schools.

Prizewinners were:

Years 3 and 4	Kirsty Quinlan-Watson	First
	Debbie Lang	Second
Year 5	Melinda Cook	First
	Simone Garvie	Second
Year 6	Sarah Coates	First
	Donna Thorpe	Second
Year 7	Geoff Hunt	First
	Catriona Quinlan-Watson	Second
Special Mention:	Andrew Daniels	

A cartoon, with a clear Fire Prevention message for adults too, was then enjoyed by the children.

A Map Reference test was enthusiastically attempted by most present, on a portable mounted group operational map. The map was made and presented to the Bray Brigade by the Ladies Auxiliary.

Next on the agenda was a practical fire extinguisher demonstration at the rear of the hall. The need to identify what type of extinguisher to use to be effective was clearly shown to all. Also that an extinguisher must be used accurately and quickly.

Concluding the afternoon another film was shown demonstrating techniques and procedures of CFS personnel in combating bushfires.

The raffle donated by Robe CFS was won by R. Wendelborn.

Altogether a varied and interesting day was had. Interest shown promises a greater awareness and the need to co-operate as a region.

Bray CFS Secretary
Mrs Marlene Wendelborn

To H/Q

P.S. As a fairly 'basic' country Brigade formed in the last four years we are finding it much easier with the help and guidance of the Regional Officer, Mr Sherwell in trying to upgrade our equipment and procedures.

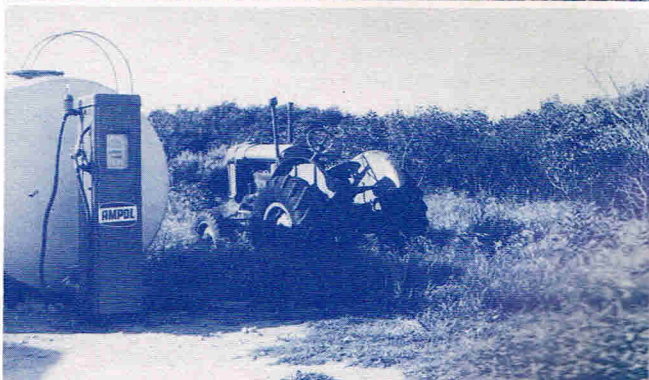
Mr Sherwell also took photos of our FCO's and crew, in uniform for the first time, and the prizewinners of the Poster Competitions.

Readers please note the above-mentioned photographs will, where possible, be reproduced in 'The Volunteer' quarterly, March 1981 . . . Editor.



Members of the Robe Community arriving to attend the 'Family Fire Awareness Seminar'.

THESE PHOTOGRAPHS REFER TO FIRE HAZARDS . . . COUNT HOW MANY!



Here we have a petrol tank and drum and an abundance of grass fuel . . . add some heat . . . a spark . . . a flame . . . then . . . whoosh

Local Winners in Fire Prevention Week Awards

Michael Swann, aged 13, of Kapunda High School, came first in the State Fire Prevention Week Arts & Crafts Competition for 1980 in the 11-14 year division.

Michael also won the Fire Enterprises perpetual Trophy for 1980.

Jason Rehn, aged ten, of Williamstown Primary School came 2nd.

PRE-SEASON FIRE DRILL

THE skills of about 100 CFS volunteers and fifteen fire trucks were tested in Naracoorte on Sunday 26 October.

A committee of Naracoorte Firefighting Association held the first pre-season training day at five sites around the district from 8.30 a.m. to about 5 p.m.

Firefighters had to handle different types of fires and practice map reading, communications and other skills.

Upper Sturt Wedding . . . and the CFS Truck Came Too

Iron Bank CFS truck had its first call on the October weekend but not to a fire—to a wedding!

Julene Evans and Rod Axford, along with many of their family and friends, are members of the newly-formed Iron Bank CFS.

When they learned the new truck would be delivered the day before their wedding (11 October) they suggested it would be an ideal occasion for the truck to be on display.

Julene, the daughter of Ray and Isobel Evans of Upper Sturt and Rod were married at the Uniting Church, Mount Lofty.

Following the wedding, they went to the Evans's home to pose for photographs with the truck, then went on to the reception at Cherry Gardens.

Matron of honour was the bride's sister, Heather Waters and bridesmaids, Rosemary Evans and Rosalie Evans. Sharon Waters was flowergirl and Paul Waters page boy.

The groom's brother Alan was best man with Phil Waters and Barrie Axford groomsmen.

The decision to form the Iron Bank CFS unit was made after the Ash Wednesday bushfire. There was considerable public support for the move and local residents worked hard on fund-raising efforts.

editorial courtesy: 'Courier.'

Gas fire seminar

ORROROO—A special CFS Seminar held in Orroroo on 25 October covered procedures in the case of gas fires and the spillage of toxic and flammable chemicals.

Orroroo CFS members and crews from units in the region attended.

CFS officers encouraged members of the community not normally involved with the service to also attend.

A spokesman said the knowledge of procedures and the dangers of handling substances could benefit even primary age children.

The seminar covered both practical and theoretical aspects.

Those invited were encouraged to wear protective clothing and take part in the practical demonstrations.

Courtesy 'The Transcontinental'.

Fire Crew now TV Personalities

A fire appliance with a crew of four from the Balaklava Country Fire Services took part in the Fire Prevention Week Parade held in Adelaide on Saturday morning 18 October and caught the eye of the television camera.

Also taking part were two members of the junior section of the service.

To the delight of the Balaklava CFS recognition was given to the service when the fire truck and crew were filmed by ABC Channel 2 television as the parade passed.

Refer F. P. W. Parade—Page 11.

FOUR PIPER AIRCRAFT FOR W.A. FIRE SPOTTING

A flight of four Piper Super Cubs took off from Bankstown, Sydney on 26 September 1980 and flew across the Australian continent to Perth.

The Super Cubs, resplendent in their livery of white with orange engine cowl and wide orange fuselage stripes have been purchased by the Western Australian Department of Forests.

The four aircraft, double the number of Piper Super Cubs the Department operates in the constant vigil for forest fires.

The Piper Super Cub has been chosen again for this role because of the good ground visibility it provides. The two seats are placed in tandem so both pilot and observer have clear sight on both sides.

'It is an aircraft renowned for its slow speed capability, high manoeuvrability and handling as well as economical operation,' said Mr. Ken Holt, general manager of Ansett General Aviation, a division of Ansett Transport Industries.

'Some of the basic design features of the Piper Super Cub make it ideal for Australian conditions. It requires only 60 metres of runway and so more than adequately copes with the short and often rough bush airstrips. Also, it has been known to use the fire-break strips to land and take off.'

'All these advantages, with easy maintenance in the field, make the Super Cub suitable for outback power line and pipeline inspection and for mustering on large properties,' said Mr Holt.

Piper has built over 30 000 Cubs to date. This year marks the 30th year of Super Cub production. Cubs of various models have been in continuous production for 49 years. The PA-18 Super Cub has the distinction of the longest production run of any single model aircraft in history.

The ferry flight of four Super Cubs to Perth took between three and four days and followed the route of Griffith, Mildura, Whyalla, Ceduna and Kalgoorlie.

Ansett General Aviation, a division of Ansett Transport Industries, is the distributor for Piper aircraft in Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Caledonia through a network of dealers and is a member of the General Aviation Distributors Association.

Flight leader was Mr Keith Robey who is Ansett General Aviation's Operations Manager and anchorman for Piper flight training centres and aero clubs.

He has the large number of 21 000 general aviation flying hours to his credit.

His wife, Senja, was one of the other ferry pilots. Senja Robey is an extremely experienced pilot and is immediate past president of the Australian Women Pilots Association.

In June this year she flew a re-enactment flight in a Piper Arrow to commemorate Amy Johnson's arrival in Sydney from Brisbane 50 years ago.

The other two pilots were Mr Kevin Gale and Dr Geoffrey Young (71) who was one of the first flying doctors in the 1940s and based at Forbes. In those days he flew without instruments and by necessity often landed at night with only car headlights for guidance.

Kevin Gale is a senior air traffic controller at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport and has accomplished many ferry flights in his leisure time. This will be his 30th across to Perth.

His most challenging and slowest was from Sydney to Darwin at an average speed of 60 knots in a prewar Taylor Cub that had a very limited fuel range. This meant sleeping in some remote places under the aircraft's wing.



George Peet, Superintendent in charge of Protection of the WA Forestry Commission, accepts the keys of the four Piper Super Cubs at Jandakot, after their ferry flight from Sydney, from Keith Robey, Ansett General Aviation's Operations Manager.

Fires are 'out' for Len Kuchel



Mr Len Kuchel, 70, receives a gift of appreciation from Murray Bridge District Council, presented by Mayor Minge, on his retirement after 25 years service to the CFS.

Next time the Murray Bridge CFS fire siren sounds, Mr Len Kuchel will probably be halfway to the fire station before he realises he's no longer a volunteer.

Ignoring the fire siren will be a habit hard to break for Mr Kuchel, 70, who has retired after 25 years as a fireman, Fire Control Officer, and Deputy Fire Supervisor.

His services have been recognised by both the CFS and Murray Bridge district council. He was presented with a gift of appreciation from the council and a CFS Life Membership Award, by Mayor Minge, at last Thursday night's Fire Control Officers' annual meeting.

Mr Kuchel has been fighting fires in the district longer than his record shows, but he wasn't registered until 25 years ago.

He remembers the unit's first vehicle, a lend-lease Chevrolet with a 44-gallon drum on the back and a high pressure pump. Firemen had to rely on farmers having a water supply on their properties.

Biggest and most disastrous fire Mr Kuchel can remember was at Southern Farmers factory, about five years ago, when the CFS helped the town Brigade.

But the biggest in the CFS area was about 20 years ago. The fire started in the north-west corner of Monarto, in the hills near Rockleigh, and burned for about five miles.

Another big fire was on the Army range. It threatened to spread into a prohibited area, containing unexploded shells, and would have spread 'all the way to

Karoonda' if it hadn't burned itself out on a sand patch, according to Mr Kuchel.

He thinks people, generally, are more fire conscious now than they used to be, and that there's less fire danger because there's less scrub.

In addition, there are more fire units —at Mypolonga, Ettrick, Jervois, Callington, and Monarto.

'There used to be only one unit, at Murray Bridge, and you can imagine the miles we travelled then. Units in outer areas still call on Murray Bridge sometimes, when there's a big fire, because the Murray Bridge unit has extra facilities, with greater water capacity,' Mr Kuchel said.

House fires were comparatively rare in the rural areas. For a while, there were problems from spontaneous combustion by farmers stacking hay when it was too green.

'Burning off can catch you at times, and lightning has probably caused as many fires as anything else, but the cause of many fires is unknown.

'It's great to have a good season and see the grass and crops growing but, at the same time, it makes you shudder to think about the fire danger later.

'And, when you're fighting fires and you know there's a home and personal possessions in danger, it puts a 'twinge' through you,' Mr Kuchel said.

courtesy 'Murray Valley Standard'.

Thanks for your 25 years of devoted service Len from all at CFS regards... Editor.

Mr Hogan has taken over from Mr Overall as Fire Supervisor. Mr Overall resigned, partly for personal reasons, but mainly because he was unable to devote the time the growing organisations demanded.

In commending his successor to all CFS personnel and Fire Control Officers, Mr Overall said: 'This summer will, as usual, demand public care to ensure fires do not start, and vigilance is needed from Fire Control Officers in advising and counselling the public.

TO ALL CFS BRIGADES:

TO ALL DISTRICT COUNCILS/CORPORATIONS:

TAX EXEMPTION—AUXILIARY ELECTRIC GENERATORS

Because of the quite strong possibility that mains electricity can fail at times of fires and that many of the local residents rely on electricity for their water supplies, the Commissioner of Taxation has advised that sales tax exemption item 50 (4) exempts machinery, apparatus and equipment, to be installed as fixtures in houses or other residential premises, for use exclusively or primarily and principally in the generation and/or storage of electricity or gas. The exemption extends to equipment that is to be installed as fixtures in sheds or other out-buildings adjacent to residential premises, and it also applies where the residential premises are on, say, a farming property.

Therefore, the purchasers of electricity generating equipment for use in the above circumstances may obtain the benefit of the exemption by furnishing to their suppliers a certificate in the following form:

'Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act.

To the Commissioner of Taxation and the Commonwealth of Australia.

I hereby certify that the (description of goods) purchased from (name of supplier) on (date) is to be installed as a fixture in residential premises, for use exclusively or primarily and principally in the generation and storage, or generation or storage, of electricity, and exemption is accordingly claimed under item 50 (4) in the First Schedule to the Sales Tax (Exemptions and Classifications) Act.

Signature

Address

Date

If any resident should be in doubt as to whether the generating equipment purchased by him may be exempt under item 50 (4), the matter could be taken up with the Adelaide Taxation Office.

October 1980

LLOYD C. JOHNS,
Director, Country Fire Services

Planning to Build a Fire Unit?

Contact: JET BODY SERVICE

**WE SPECIALISE IN BODY BUILDING,
DESIGN AND ADVISORY SERVICE**

**All Conversion Work to Your Specifications.
Specifications to the requirements of the S.A.**

Country Fire Services.

Phone 297 5461

Contact: Gerhard Jeitner
9 Reid Avenue, Ashford S.A. 5035

Firefighting for 105 years

Six Murray Bridge and district CFS volunteers received certificates at the Fire Control Officers meeting for a combined service of 105 years.

In addition to the Life Member-

ship Award made to Mr L. E. Kuchel, after 25 years' service, certificates were presented to Messrs Harold R. Overall, Dennis Kuchel, Thomas Hogan (all 20 years), Donald Patten, Malcolm Daniel (both 10 years).

World Vision thanks Balaklava

Individuals and groups in the Balaklava area made an important contribution to the \$2 million raised this year through the World Vision forty hour famine.

Students at the Balaklava High School raised \$806 by their participation in the famine. The Owen Christian Youth Group added a further \$183.

This was in addition to money raised by individual participants among local residents.

The executive director of

World Vision, Mr Harold Henderson, said this week that more than 140 000 Australians went without food for 40 hours at the end of June.

He expressed his thanks to the many people of Balaklava and Owen and districts who starved or sponsored to make that amount available.

The money is being used to provide food, medical care and other aid to thousands of refugees and needy people in Third World Countries.

Editorial courtesy 'Producer, Balaklava'.

National Parks and Wildlife Services—Display Capabilities

The National Parks and Wildlife Services displayed their firefighting capabilities at the 109th Annual Moonta Show, Saturday 11 October.

A Firefighting and National Parks and Wildlife Services display included an International Harvester Acco 1830B with low loader to carry a new Case bulldozer, used for firefighting control and to construct access tracks and fire breaks.

The main fire appliances of the service are 400 gallon, 4 x 4 International Harvester Accos (510A). These units were selected for their size

and mobility in confined areas, but are still able to carry 400 gallons of water. There are eight (8) of these units in the service.

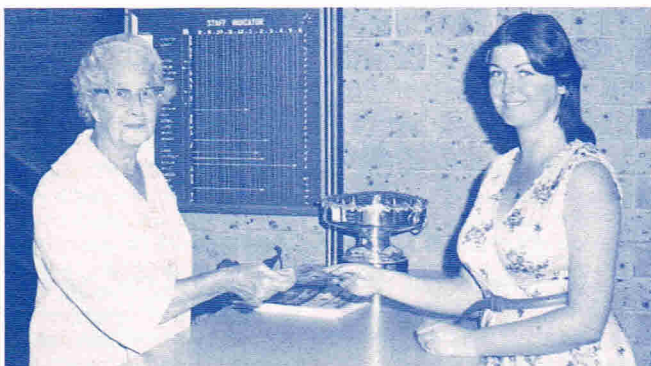
To provide rapid attacks on fires in off-road situations all the service's Toyota Land Cruiser 4 x 4's are fitted with ninety gallon fibreglass tank and pump units designed to use the minimum of tray space. This enables the units to be used for normal work duties, but still have firefighting capabilities. There are thirty-five of these in operation.

Overall value of the National Parks and Wildlife Services display was more than \$100 000.

Editorial courtesy 'Yorke Peninsula Country Times'.

Fire Equipment Replacement Fund Donation

The Community response to assisting victims of the early Ash Wednesday holocaust in the Adelaide Hills on 20 February 1980, through the Bushfire Relief Appeal and the Fire Equipment Fund was most gratifying.



One such member of the community, Miss N. Haines of Goodwood, Adelaide S.A. (pictured left) donated a most generous contribution towards the Fire Equipment Replacement Fund. Mrs Sue Grima, S.A. Country Fire Services Headquarters is pictured accepting the gift for the fund.

Footnote: The Fire Equipment Replacement Fund was established to help reimburse CFS Brigade Fire Equipment destroyed or damaged in the Ash Wednesday Fire.

GENERAL CIRCULAR

(1) CFS BOARD APPLIANCES AND EQUIPMENT TECHNICAL SUB-COMMITTEE (2) CFS BOARD APPLIANCE REPLACEMENT POLICY

(1) I am pleased to advise that the following have been selected to serve on the CFS Board Appliances and Equipment Technical Sub-Committee:

Chairman: Director CFS (subs. Dep./Director CFS)

Members: Mr R. D. Orr (CFS Board)

Mr R. G. Gear (R/O CFS H.Q.)

Mr H. P. K. Dunn (Cleve D.C.)

Mr J. Fulwood (Monarto Commission)

Mr B. D. Wiese (Tatiara F.F.A.)

Permanent Mr P. Wotton (Carey Gully CFS)

Advisers: Miss K. L. Fuller (CFS H.Q. Subsidies Clerk)

It should be noted that thirty-nine nominations were received, and the Board was faced with a most difficult task in balancing qualifications and experience with the diverse requirements of a State as large as ours.

I have been asked by the Board to sincerely thank all those who saw fit to forward their names as an indication of a willingness to serve in the interests of the CFS.

In general terms, the sub-committee will have the task of technically evaluating all equipment purchases in excess of \$2 000 for which CFS Fund subsidy grants will be claimed by district councils and CFS brigades. The purpose of this evaluation is to ensure that the best and most cost effective equipment is obtained for the Service. The sub-committee will also have the task of evaluating and assessing new equipment and technology which is constantly being introduced.

(2) There has been a considerable amount of misunderstanding about the Board's policies in relation to fire appliance replacement.

The most common misunderstandings appear to be in the areas of:

(a) New/second-hand cab and chassis purchase; and

(b) CFS H.Q. Specifications A.1. and A.3.

(a) Cab and Chassis Purchases:

The purchase of second-hand cab and chassis for conversion to fire appliances is acceptable to the Board for subsidy purposes. The general criteria which should be applied are as follows:

(i) the vehicle is mechanically sound;

(ii) the vehicle will pass a roadworthy examination;

(iii) the vehicle, when commissioned, will meet the needs of the risk protected.

(b) CFS H.Q. Vehicle Specifications A.1. and A.3.:

Some councils and brigades have been lead to understand that only the above specifications will qualify for subsidy payment.

THIS IS NOT THE CASE

The development of these specifications is an attempt by the Board to rationalise fire appliance design and to at least hold, if not reduce, the cost of fire appliances. Already, the Board has considered modifications to these two specifications, and with the co-operation of the Stirling district council, has ordered two appliances featuring technological advances not previously seen in the S.A. CFS.

Many councils/brigades will be interested in these appliances, but there will be no compulsion on them to purchase these particular designs or the conventional A.1. and A.3. designs.

The Board is vitally concerned in ensuring that new fire appliances have the following features:

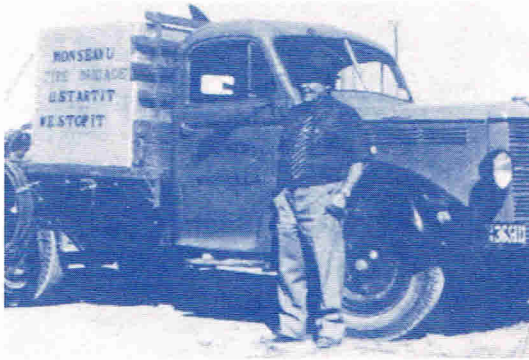
- the prime mover/tank/pump combination are suited to the requirements of the vehicle;

- the particular design is suited to the protection needs of the district;

- that plumbing and pump are hydraulically efficient;

- that design features are sound and reasonable.

Alternative designs or modifications to existing specifications will continue to be considered for subsidy payments.



Is this the fastest fire truck in the west?

Maybe not, but it's built for firefighting efficiency despite the humorous slogans.

Wirrulla farmer Pat Roberts has used a 1952 Bedford truck to carry the necessary equipment of the Monseavu Fire Brigade. That's Pat standing alongside the unit at the recent Wirrulla show where it took part in the grand parade. Courtesy 'West Coast Sentinel'.

NEW CFS SUBSIDY SCHEME

REMOVAL OF \$6 000 MAINTENANCE SUBSIDY LIMIT

It is evident that because local District Councils are restricted by the limitations of the CFS maintenance grant scheme, a number of CFS brigades are unduly disadvantaged by being unable to obtain the full benefit of subsidy assistance.

To overcome this problem the CFS Board resolved at a meeting on 11 March 1980, to remove the upper limit of \$6 000 per District Council for the payment of maintenance subsidies in any one financial year.

Removal of the subsidy limit however, will depend on the availability of funds and will operate for a trial period during the 1980-81 financial year. Should the removal of the subsidy limit prove successful and sufficient funds are available to maintain the usual 50 per cent rate of subsidy payment in each subsequent year, then the removal of the \$6 000 limit will operate on a permanent basis.

It should be noted, that maintenance subsidy grants will remain payable only to Local Governing Authorities.

CLASSIFICATION OF SUBSIDY ITEMS

Due to the high costs involved in erecting and extending CFS buildings, the CFS Board also felt there was a need to separate approved structures from the items generally accepted as being eligible for maintenance subsidy. It was therefore resolved to categorise subsidies under the following three classifications:

1. Equipment Subsidies.
2. General Maintenance Subsidies.
3. Capital Works Subsidies.

The category of Capital Works Subsidies includes the erection or extension of CFS fire stations which are to be used solely for the purpose of fire fighting. It does not include such items as the acquisition of land, repainting of buildings and renewing of existing signs.

As the CFS Board has limited funds, and high costs may be associated with the erection and extension of CFS buildings, anticipated building costs must be included on a budget form for the relevant financial year. Councils and CFS Brigades must submit details of the proposed Capital Works plan and specifications prior to the commencement of the project.

The CFS Subsidies Sub-Committee will then consider each building estimate submitted. Failure to budget and seek approval for building erections and extensions may result in the non-payment of Capital Works Subsidies.

The maximum 50 per cent rate of subsidy payment will not always be made on approved building costs. Because of the CFS Fund's limited income there will be a Capital Works Subsidy Limit enforced each year. This limit may vary annually depending on the availability of funds and on the total amount of Capital Works claimed by CFS organisations during that particular year.

LLOYD C. JOHNS
Director, Country Fire Services

Plane ready for S.E. fires

A plane at Kingston is available for firefighting in the S.E. this season.

This was relayed to the Beachport and District Firefighting Association's annual meeting at Furner recently by Mr Alan Williams.

Now Beachport's Chief Supervisor, Mr Williams was reporting on his attendance at the S.E. supervisors' meeting held at Naracoorte.

To this conference he had been accompanied by the former Supervisor, Mr S. P. Bellinger.

FIRE CONTROL

In a discussion on the use of aircraft, delegates had been told that they could be very useful in fire control.

Against this was the view that there could be confusion in ground-to-air communications.

A plane based at Kingston was available if required, S.E. delegates were told.

NO TAKE-OVER

As CFS Director, Mr Lloyd Johns had addressed the S.E. conference.

Promising help in any possible way, Mr Johns had assured supervisors that, under no circumstances, would he try to take over local fire control, except in a very bad fire.

In the latter case, he had this authority under the Act.

CO-ORDINATION

Another lecture had been given by a representative of St John Ambulance Service.

He had urged maximum co-ordination between Ambulance, CFS, Police and doctors of the area in a fire, Mr Williams reported.

St John Ambulance had a unit fitted out to attend fires—where many accidents happened.

FIRE REPORTS

Mr Sims, for the Police Department, had talked to supervisors on procedures in reporting offences under the Country Fires Act.

He had emphasised the need for accuracy when a fire controller was making notes.

Concluding, Mr Williams said much comment had been produced when fire control plans had been put forward—including Councils, Woods and Forests Department, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

F.C.O. CONFERENCE

Mr Williams also reported on the conference at a local level for Fire Control Officers.

In his lecture, Mr M. Sherwell, S.E. Officer of the CFS, had discussed relevant parts of the new Country Fires Act.

General ideas on combating fires and organising in readiness had been given.

A film from Western Victoria had been quite enlightening in showing their advanced use of radio, maps, etc. Mr Williams said.

MT BURR TANKS

Mt Burr Forester Mr Dennis Page gave a brief report on W&FD preparations.

He said the crews now had the support of two tankers, with a total of 1 100 gallons.

These replaced the old pillow tank.

Editorial courtesy 'The South Eastern Times'.

FIRE HERO TO GET HIS JOB BACK

MELBOURNE Eddie Lavell, a forests commission fire-spotter hailed as a hero for his efforts in recent Victorian bushfires and dismissed three weeks later, will be reinstated.

The Minister for Forests, Fred Granter, and the Treasurer, Lindsay Thompson, said Mr Lavell's period of casual employment with the commission would be extended until Christmas and he would be kept on the list for casual work after that.

Mr Lavell (52) was called a hero when he saved television translators at Orbost on October 2.

His lookout tower burned down in the fire, but he managed to save the installations and himself by using a lavatory bucket filled with water.

'I had admired Mr Lavell's rather remarkable dedication to duty, and I thought he deserved some recognition of that,' Mr Thompson said.

Mr Lavell was sacked about three weeks later when the commission said it had no work for him since his tower had been burned down.

Courtesy—'Barrier Daily Truth'.

Recognition for a job **well done** thankfully (sometimes) reaps its own returns (rewards) . . . Editor.

Four Receive Life Membership

Four members of Western Flat CWA were honoured with life membership last week, on the occasion of the branch's 24th birthday.

Ladies from Padthaway WAB, Frances CWA and Bordertown day and evening branches attended a luncheon to help Western Flat members celebrate.

Soup was enjoyed at Doreen Crack's, mornays at Yvonne Filsell's and sweets at Jan Piggott's. Afternoon tea followed at the Western Flat hall.

Competition winners were Alison Will (coffee mug), Yvonne Filsell (multi-bloom) and Jan Piggott (single bloom).



Photo shows Mrs Edie Verco, divisional president, presenting life membership badges to (from left) Claire James, Doreen Crack, June Heinrich and Myrtle Filsell.

Photo courtesy—'Border Chronicle'.

Conservation and Fire Protection Compatible

The Chairman of Tatiara District Council, Cr J. C. Irwin, said recently that an attractive environment, pleasing to all, could be maintained while ensuring the elimination of fire hazards.

Cr Irwin said that in more recent years greater emphasis had been placed on the environment and conservation and recommended fire protection measures showed how these could be implemented successfully in keeping with good environmental practices.

In a special Fire Prevention Week message, the chairman

urged all residents to take steps now to clear away flammable hazards, which, if left untouched, could become fuel for fires.

Cr Irwin also appealed for community spirit to be shown by helping with the clearing away of hazards from around homes of the elderly or infirm who were not able to do this work themselves.

'To show this style of help and co-operation before the onset of summer will be another way of assisting in the protection of our homes, our possessions, and in saving lives,' Cr Irwin said.

56 ATTEND CFS FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION

About 56 people attended a fire demonstration unit at the corner of Civic Avenue and Dowling Street, recently.

Mr Kevin May, Technical Sales Representative for the Fire Equipment Company of South Australia, was in Waikerie to give the public an opportunity to use and understand fire fighting equipment—equipment they would not normally use.

The purpose of the demonstration was to create a better awareness of the types of fire fighting equipment available and show how to use them before an emergency arises.

Other extinguishers which were being demonstrated were the CO₂ and water.

Mr May said he was pleased with the response of people and commented on how the Waikerie CFS help the community with the servicing of fire fighting equipment.

He said his company supplies much of the equipment used by Country Fire Services, and the demonstration here was only one in a visit to the state's 470 fire services.

ALDINGA BAY S.L.S.C. INC. MOBILE RESCUE UNIT



The unit (pictured above) is an International Scout 4 x 4 generously sponsored by Gay's Garage of McClaren Vale. The official handover of this vehicle took place at the Aldinga Bay Surf Life Saving Clubrooms on 16 November at 2 p.m.

The Club is responsible for patrolling 11 km of beach from Aldinga to Sellicks, but now that this vehicle is coming into service it means they are able to be used as a backup unit in areas further afield than their own beaches.



The vehicle is fitted with many types of equipment which will assist our life-saving members to carry out a rescue to the best of their ability. The unit will start patrols on 6 December and carry on right through the summer months.

The Club has spent many hours in conjunction with other emergency services to finish this vehicle to a highly efficient piece of machinery. The Club would like to thank the Management and Staff of Gay's Garage for their outstanding achievement in assisting our Club to help save lives on our beaches. If only one life is saved by the use of this vehicle then it has all been worthwhile.

This unit is the first of its type in Australia and will be closely monitored by the National Council of Surf Life Saving. Much interest has also been shown by the other emergency services in this State. The unit with all equipment fitted is valued at \$20 000.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK OPENING

'Scars of Bushfire Live on'—Governor.

'The scars of a bushfire are not just on the hillsides and gullies but on the hearts of men, women and children', the Governor, Mr. Keith Seaman, said at the opening of Fire Prevention week at the Mylor Senior Citizens Centre on Friday 17 October 1980.

The long lasting effects of the Ash Wednesday bushfire were pointed out to Mr Seaman, before the ceremony by Mr Johns, Director CFS in a short pre-inspection. Mr. Seaman was shown around some of the devastated areas to see the regrowth of natural vegetation and the rebuilding of some of the homes.

'Fire Prevention Week 1980 comes to South Australians with a considerable impact; it is not merely an exercise in education and theory, it is a week when we know that matters discussed and shown relate to the preservation of human life and of precious hardwon property,' Mr. Seaman said.

The Governor told the gathering that no-one who had been in the area on 20 February, less than eight months ago could take this year's Fire Prevention Week as just another annual observance.

'We know too well the heartache, the anxiety and the struggle. We know too well the hardship faced.'

Mr Seaman sounded a warning for the need for sensible preventative measures this summer.

Mr Seaman said that carelessness, foolhardiness and lack of adequate preparation must have no place in the Hills. He also paid tribute to the 11 000 voluntary firefighters from the 564 brigades throughout the State.



Following a drive through a most impressive display of CFS Fire-fighting Units and Volunteer Firefighters at attention, upon arriving at the Mylor Senior Citizens Centre for the official opening, His Excellency the Governor Mr Keith Seaman stopped briefly to chat to Mr Fred Kerr, Chairman of Fire Prevention Week, before moving to the dais for his speech.



The Governor Mr K. Seaman declared Fire Prevention Week 1980 officially opened on Friday 17 October.

The speakers and party pictured were from left—Professor P. Schwerdtfeger (Chairman CFS Board), Mr F. L. Kerr (Chairman Fire Prevention Week Committee), the Governor Mr K. D. Seaman (standing), Mr L. C. Johns (CFS Director), Mrs Seaman and Mrs Schwerdtfeger.

The Chairman of the CFS Board, Professor P. Schwerdtfeger addressed the guests in place of the Minister of Agriculture, Mr Chapman, who was unable to be present because of illness.

Professor Schwerdtfeger spoke of the importance of the Mt Lofty Ranges to the people of S.A.—as a means of providing a water supply, a favourable climate and a pleasant background to the city.

He pointed out that the *long-term effects of a fire could reach frightening proportions.*

The impact could be felt by people, in their livelihood and lifestyle, and on the environment for many years to come.

'People come to live in and tour the Ranges because of the scenery and vegetation, which if burnt, eliminates the amenity as well as the State's main indigenous water resources,' he said.

Chairman of the Fire Prevention Week Committee, Mr F. L. Kerr welcomed the official party, guests, speakers, CFS Volunteers who attended with Fire Units, and the media.

Mr Kerr outlined Fire Prevention Week. 'The S.A. Fire Prevention Week Committee comprises of representatives of the S.A. Country Fire Services, S.A. Fire Brigade and the Australian Fire Protection Association, with co-operation and involvement from the Industrial Fire Services.

Fire Prevention Week which is a national event is conducted annually to promote public concern in fire prevention generally and in particular, at this time of the year, to encourage people to clean up fire hazards before the advent of the summer season,' he said.

Mr Kerr thanked His Excellency the Governor Mr Seaman for attending and officially opening the week's activities. He also thanked those present, the organisers, and members of the Country Fire Services for their voluntary devotion to duty and their fine parade. He added 'my committee is most appreciative of the vital support given by the media to this important service to the community. Without their concern and professional help we could never hope to extend our message of fire safety'.



In attendance were representatives from State and Local Government, Hills CFS Brigades, Stirling Police, State and Federal bodies, CFS Headquarters personnel, the Armed Forces, S.A. Fire Brigades Board and the media.

The guests attended an official luncheon at the Mylor Senior Citizens Centre which was provided by the Mylor CFS Ladies Auxiliary, local helpers and the Mylor CFS Volunteers, under the supervision of Mrs Joan Kingdon and Mr Fred Groom.

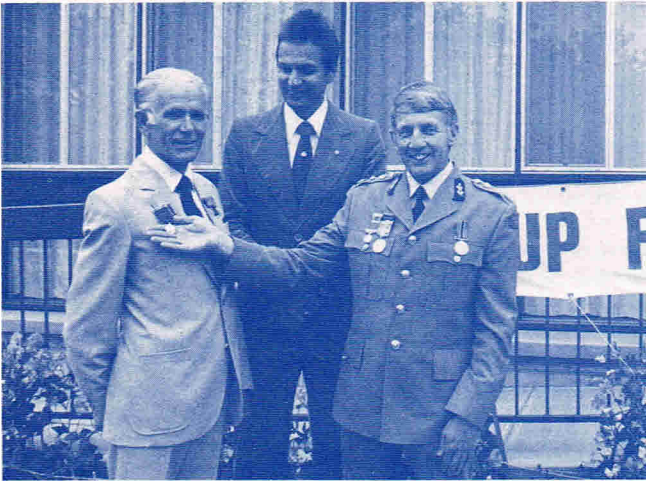
Mr Lloyd Leah, Chairman of the Stirling District Council thanked the CFS Director Mr Lloyd Johns for coming to Mylor for the opening, and congratulated the Mylor CFS Ladies Auxiliary and helpers on the catering and luncheon.

'The people of Mylor and surrounding areas need no reminder of the horrors of bushfire,' he said, 'but others still need reminding that it can happen to them'.

Mr Leah paid his respects to two of the firefighters who were badly burned in the Ash Wednesday and Coonalpyn fires—Mr John Dennett and Mr Ken Lutze, and was pleased to see them at the luncheon, with their wives.

British Fire Services Association Honour

Mr Fred Kerr, A.M., M.B.E., F.I.Fire E., the man who played a major role in the establishment and development of the State's Emergency Fire Services (EFS), was honoured on Friday 17 October by being made a Life Member of the British Fire Services Association.



Pictured from left—Mr Fred Kerr with the British Fire Services Medal, after being congratulated by Professor Peter Schwerdtfeger and Mr Lloyd Johns.

In making the presentation, the Director of the CFS Mr Lloyd Johns reviewed the events leading up to the honour being bestowed on Mr Kerr.

On 13 January 1953, the Director of the South Australian Emergency Fire Services wrote to the Home Office Fire Service Department, London, England, with a view to affiliate South Australian Volunteer Fire Brigades with the British Fire Services Association.

On 25 February 1953, the Director received an invitation from the Secretary of the BFSA, Mr A. W. Beevers, to affiliate with their British counterpart, which was established in 1949 by amalgamation of the National Fire Brigades Association, The Professional Fire Brigades Association and the British Dominion or Colonial Brigades were also affiliated with the BFSA.

The invitation to affiliate was accepted and the South Australian Country Fire Services began a long and proud association as members of the British Fire Services Association.

It was because of the untiring efforts of the Director of the EFS (as our Service was known in those early days of its development) that many CFS members wear with pride, the ten and twenty year Long Service and Efficiency Award Bronze and Silver Medallions.

I refer of course to the Chairman of the Fire Prevention Week Committee, Mr F. L. Kerr, A.M., M.B.E., F.I.Fire E., retired Director of the Country Fire Services, who, during his thirty years as Director of the CFS always endeavoured to raise the status of the volunteer firefighter.

This he achieved, and his untiring efforts in promoting the BFSA as a worthy and honourable organisation, resulted in the formation of the first BFSA District in the Southern Hemisphere. The first Volunteer Fire Brigade to become affiliated with BFSA was the Headquarters Volunteer Reserve Section, in August 1953.

In July 1957, Mr Kerr was awarded the BFSA twenty year Long Service and Efficiency Medal, and in September of that year, the Association saw fit to award him the Meritorious Service Decoration. This decoration was presented to Mr Kerr by Sir Thomas Playford, G.C.M.A., M.P., Premier of South Australia.

And so, as the years accumulated, a warm and close association developed between our British counterpart and S.A. CFS volunteer firefighters, due to the untiring efforts of Fred Kerr.

In the first week of October I received a letter from the President of the BFSA advising that their Governing Council had seen fit to recognise the diligent and efficient manner Mr Kerr had carried out all duties required of him, in the interest of the BFSA and S.A. volunteer firefighters, by bestowing Life Membership of the British Fire Services Association on him,' Mr Johns said.

Mr Kerr, in responding to the presentation said the CFS should perhaps be called 'The Silent Service'.

He said that when the EFS joined the British Fire Services Association, the volunteers were not recognised in any way. 'Now we are respected, not only at the local level, but also by local and State Governments, as well as National Institutions,' Mr Kerr said.

PARADE



Official guests on the dais taking the salute from one of the vehicles, the Northfield CFS Unit, during the Fire Prevention Week Parade, on Saturday 18 October 1980.



Over 100 fire units and co-emergency service vehicles attended the Parade, along with some 70 or more CFS Volunteer Fire Fighters.



South Australia's First All Ladies Crew—Aldinga Beach and Area CFS.

THE 'ON THE SPOT' FIREFIGHTERS IN INDUSTRY

Major industrial complexes in South Australia rely heavily on their own employees for fire protection and fast action in the event of a fire.

Most of the companies, including the Engineering and Water Supply Department, are members of the Industrial Fire Services organisation, which was established some 21 years ago.

IFS Secretary, Mr Jack Lawes, said the formation stemmed from moves made by the chief fire officer at the time to encourage companies and their employees to be more fire conscious.

Today, the IFS represents more than 400 trained fire-fighters in the greater Adelaide metropolitan area.

They have faced many emergencies, and Mr Lawes says that often the industrial fire squads can have a fire under control or even extinguished by the time fire units arrive.

'Their ability to contain a fire has, in many instances, been invaluable in lessening the damage to buildings and equipment,' he adds.

The employees are invited to join their company's fire squads, and generally train in fire hose, extinguisher and chemical retardment drill outside working hours. The squads, with their own fire control officers, are assisted in their training by officers from the South Australian Fire Brigade.

As part of Fire Prevention Week, the IFS held its annual inter-plant competitions at the GMH plant, at Elizabeth, at 1 p.m. on Sunday 19 October and the GMH squad gave an industrial firefighting demonstration at Elizabeth on Thursday 23 October.



Industrial Fire Services members extinguish a burning car during the IFS Demonstrations held at the GMH plant, Elizabeth, Thursday 23 October 1980.

AFPA SYMPOSIUM

'Fire Awareness—prepare now'

'Fire Awareness . . . prepare now' was the theme of the Australian Fire Protection Association symposium held at the Stirling Institute, Wednesday 22 October.

Three speakers examined different topics. Mr J. L. Fitzgerald (National Parks and Wildlife) spoke on 'the behaviour of bushfires', and showed a film illustrating the behaviour of bushfires in the Hills, indicating how the fire spreads, the effects of wind changes, fire breaks, burning back, etc.

In looking at 'Fire Control' and the role of the CFS Mr L. C. Johns (CFS Director) explained the need to co-operate with the residents, police, National Parks and Wildlife Service, S.A. Fire Brigade etc., and the necessary delay involved in assessing the fire size, location, direction and marshalling of forces.

He stressed 'the removal of fuel before the event is the most practical and positive method of prevention'.

Mr N. F. Thompson examined 'the role of the residents'. He pointed out that 49 per cent of Hills residents have lived in the area for less than five years.

Older residents have grown up with bushfires, but newcomers have to study the subject. He also discussed the need for a plan of action, and insurance aspects. The symposium aimed at conveying a message to Hills people as to what they can do to minimise the threat of fire and how to protect themselves in the event of another fire.

Many areas tinder box dry

By Linda Cook



Mr Wotton

A repeat of last summer's Ash Wednesday blaze was threatened by tinder box dry conditions throughout the State's conservation parks, the Environment Minister, Mr Wotton, said.

Many areas of the State were 'particularly dry' for the season, posing a high fire risk in 200 parks, he warned.

Speaking at the National Parks and Wildlife Service fire protection day ceremony at Belair Recreation Park, he said four fires in or near parks had been attended recently.

Last year, 74 fires in parks had burnt out 14 898 ha compared with 63 fires and 20 920 ha the previous summer.

Warning park visitors to take extreme care and heed fire warnings, Mr Wotton said: 'We cannot afford to have a repetition of the events of last summer, including the tragic Ash Wednesday fire in the Adelaide Hills.'

'Why Clean Up?'

by F. L. Kerr, Chairman, S.A. Fire Prevention Week Committee

The importance of clearing away grass and bush from around homes cannot be over-stressed. Buildings—and materials stored in the open—are also vulnerable to destruction from fires originating in dry grass.

People generally do not realise the danger when grass or undergrowth fuel quantities increase with the advancing season. As bushfire fuel quantities double so does the fire intensity increase fourfold the risk to life and property. Fire intensity increases as the square of the fuel quantity.

On the credit side of the fire behaviour scale is the advantage that radiant heat transfer decreases in an equivalent but inverse proportion. If you double the space between your home and the nearby fire fuel you will reduce the radiated heat potential fourfold.

People who live on a slope or ridge have reason for further concern. Upward slope increases the rate of forward heat projection and damage risk. A ten degree slope will double the rate of forward spread—a twenty degree slope will increase the spread fourfold.

From these fire behaviour features the importance of removal or reduction of grass and other fire fuels becomes apparent.

Take heed now of this timely reminder of the seasonal fire danger and proven fire behaviour. Remove or reduce quantities of grass, undergrowth or any burnable litter from around buildings or other assets in the open. The fire behaviour rules hold equally true for any of your accumulated flammable rubbish.

The greater the fuel quantities the wider the necessary safety break. Flames as high as 2.4 m (8 ft.) can be expected, even from sparse pasture, on days of extreme fire danger.

CFS Attended 1500 Fires Last Year

Country Fire Service units had attended 1362 Bushfires and 176 Urban Fires last year.

The type of incidents dealt with by CFS throughout the State was widening.

Though bushfires were still the main concern, the service had also dealt with urban fires where no fire brigade was stationed, and where there was a growing number of incidents involving vehicles on country roads.

In the 89 callouts to vehicles, the CFS volunteers had not only to deal with fires, but also the spillage of hazardous materials.

Last July, the CFS Headquarters staff and volunteers played a significant role in mopping up operations following the accidental spillage from a sodium cyanide container on the highway near Burra.

With the increase in industrialisation, much more movement of hazardous loads is expected by road, both within the State and interstate.

Most of the road mileage travelled by such vehicles is within the areas controlled by the CFS, consequently an increase in the number of incidents could arise.

FIRE CALLS, CAUSES, AGENCIES AND LOSSES - FIRE SEASON 1 JULY 1979 - 30 JUNE 1980

FIRES REPORTED AND ATTENDED BY CFS BRIGADES—

Rural fires (scrub and grass)	1 313
Building fires	169
Vehicle fires	174
Total fires attended	1 656

BRIGADE TURNOUTS—

Brigades attending fires	2 568
False alarms, malicious false alarms and justified calls	127
Special service calls (rescue, salvage and search)	154
Total	2 796

Financial losses (approx.) \$9 945 786

TERRAIN BURNT—

Bush, grassland, and crops 142 691 ha

CAUSES—

Unknown	512	Camp barbeques ...	27
Burn off	176	Spontaneous combustion	43
Rubbish	70	Hot ashes	10
Children with matches	147	Machine defects	27
Incendiary	94	Power lines	28
Electric faults	99	Chimneys	20
Incinerators	34	Exhaust	32
Rekindle	83	Friction	10
Vehicle (crash/defect)	82	Heaters (house)	5
Trains	19	Welding	13
Smoking/matches ...	32	Sun (Glass)	2
Stove fires	39	Miscellaneous	9
Lightning	43		

SIGNIFICANT FIRES—

1. Ash Wednesday—20.2.80—3 700 ha—Rekindle—\$5 695 000 private property damage—\$743 000 Govt. property damage—50 homes lost—\$49 000 worth of stock lost.
2. Horsnell Gully Fire—13.4.80—Cause unknown—\$6 000 damage—400 ha.
3. Clare—14.10.79—Golden Fleece Roadhouse—\$200 000—caused by electrical fault.
4. Salisbury—30.11.79—Factory Fire—\$1 million—cause unknown.
5. Meningie—4.12.79—Grass fire—480 ha feed and pipes destroyed—\$57 000—caused by lightning.
6. Lucindale—27.12.79—Area School—\$50 000—caused by power box.
7. Robe—3.1.80—Fish Factory—\$200 000—caused by welding torch.
8. Penola—17.1.80—House fire—\$90 000—electrical fault.
9. Morphett Vale/Reynella/Hackham—18.1.80—House fire—\$55 000—cause unknown.
10. Ceduna/Thevenard—12.2.80—Grass fire—\$70 000—cause unknown.
11. Field—20.2.80—Grass fire—\$150 000—caused by power lines.
12. Kimba—13.3.80—Kenworth Truck—\$70 000—caused by electrical fault.
13. Jervois—28.4.80—House boat—\$60 000—caused by Oxy Welder.
14. Orroroo—13.6.80—Aircraft (Cessna)—\$80 000—caused by electrical fault.



An Open Invitation to all C.F.S. Members

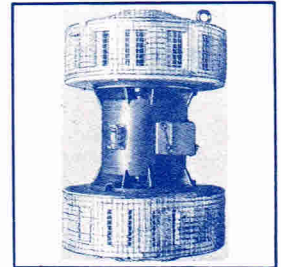
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FIRE DANGER SEASON

The 'FIRE DANGER SEASON' as stated in the Country Fires Act is from 1 November to 30 April. Each council in S.A. has the option to request the Country Fire Services Board to alter the Fire Danger Season for their specific area, because of seasonal conditions.

(Certain procedures have to be adhered to by the District Council requesting an alteration to their Fire Danger Season, before the F.D.S. can be enforced.)

PRESCRIBED DAY

The 'PRESCRIBED DAY' regulates the conditions and circumstances under which Bush and Standing Grass may be burnt.

Once the Fire Danger Season has commenced in any council district, the burning off of bush and standing grass is prohibited until after the prescribed day, with the exception of burning for fire breaks under special rules for burning off, or unless authorised by written permit from the District Council.

The prescribed day is usually 16 February in each year, however, as with the fire danger season, this date may be varied in a district to suit seasonal conditions.

After the prescribed day and until the end of the fire danger season, burning off of bush and standing grass may take place on any day except a fire ban day, a Sunday or a public holiday. However, the rules for burning off land must always be complied with.

FIRE BANS—What they mean!

This summer, the Bureau of Meteorology will assess daily the fire danger rating for each of the fifteen fire ban districts in S.A. Bans will be imposed when fire danger is expected to be extreme.

The words 'FIRE BAN' are often heard in radio warnings across South Australia when the summer heat makes hundreds of acres of grassland and bush, tinder dry.

The conditions are then right for a bad fire—adequate grass fuel due to early spring/summer rains, hot weather, strong north east to north west winds and low humidity.

The 'FIRE BAN' message is a warning against the lighting of any fire in the open, for fear of starting a destructive fire.

Once bans are imposed they remain in force until midnight on the day they are issued.

The lighting and maintaining of fires in the open air may be prohibited by declaration of the Director, S.A. Country Fire Services on days of extreme fire danger.

When weather and fuel conditions forecast a day of *extreme* fire danger a 'TOTAL FIRE BAN' is declared across the whole of the State, including the Inner Adelaide area and Kangaroo Island, prohibiting the lighting of any fire in the open.

The maximum penalty for a first offence for lighting a fire in the open on a FIRE BAN DAY is \$1 000.

The Country Fire Services Board impose additional restrictions during the fire danger season on the lighting and maintaining of certain fires in the open air, in various council and pastoral districts.

Provided no ban has been issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and no additional restrictions have been imposed by the CFS Board fires may be lit in accordance with the provisions of the Country Fires Act and Regulations.

All flammable material must be cleared for at least 4 (four) metres around the fire. The fire must not be left unattended and it must be put out properly, before the site is left.

A FIRE BAN in the open includes barbecues, picnic fires and all types of incinerators.

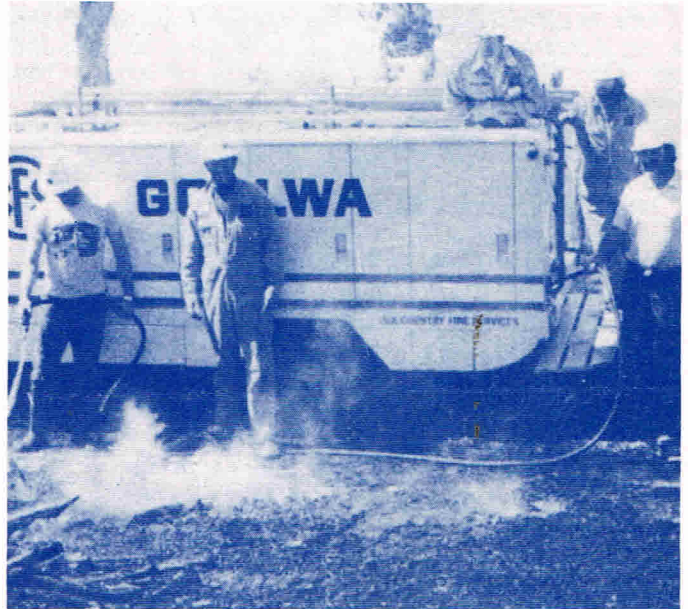
For further information contact: S.A. Country Fire Services Headquarters, P.O. Box 312, Goodwood, S.A. 5034. Telephone (08) 297 6788, 24 Hour Information Service.

BUSHFIRE AT FINNISS

The Goolwa CFS had their first bushfire call for the season, on Thursday 2 October, when a team from the Highways Department were boiling their midday billy and the dry conditions plus a hot wind took the flames into a nearby scrub.

Prompt action from the two units confined the fire to about an acre.

It was a timely reminder that summer is only around the corner with its promise of hot weather, dry growth and changeable winds and the constant need for care with fire.



(L. to R.) Norm Gray, Graham Flannagan, Syd Chilton, David Cuthbert and Rodd Orr putting out the last of Goolwa's first bushfire call for the season.

ex 'The Southern Argus', Oct. 9 1980.

Fire Call

When ex-fire chief Ken Goody sees smoke where it shouldn't be, he thinks fire. Last Saturday 18 October he saw smoke billowing from the side of Qualman's garage in Railway Terrace North, and raised the alarm. The siren sounded at 11 am and the small unit was quickly on the spot, and Pinnaroo CFS Volunteers quelled the fire which had spread from a smouldering rubbish fire to an old tyre and round into the shed.

Photo courtesy, 'Pinnaroo Border Times'.



Scrub fires sweep through Outback

By Police Reporter, MARK BRUER

Bushfires burnt out thousands of hectares of scrub county on Eyre Peninsula and in the Far North of SA, on 15, 16 November.

Two fires on Eyre Peninsula were controlled by Saturday but four in the Far North were still out of control last night.

A Country Fire Service spokesman said it was believed the fires had been started by lightening on Friday night.

None of the fires had damaged or threatened livestock or properties.

But one burning on an eight-kilometre front on Worumba Station, east of Hawker, was troubling firefighters.

'The fire is on a hill and it's pretty spectacular—you can see it from miles away,' the spokesman said.

The fire had burnt out 10 square kilometres of scrub in Mount Plantagenet in the Flinders Ranges and was heading south down the mountain on the plains.

About forty Hawker CFS firefighters with eleven fire trucks were battling the blaze, which could become highly dangerous if it spread on to the spinifex plains.

A fire at Balcanoona station in the northern Flinders Ranges was out of control in inaccessible country yesterday.

It had burnt out seven square kilometres of bush in Italowie Gorge.

Station workers were watching the fire to ensure it did not spread from the gorge.

Two fires were out of control on Arkaroola station yesterday.

The bigger of the two, at Mount Painter, was burning on a five-kilometre front on spinifex country.

Arkaroola manager, Mr. R. Sprigg flew over the fire on Saturday and said flames were 30 metres high.

The other fire was burning through the Radium Ridge area.

Another fire, at Baratta station about sixty kilometres east of Hawker, also was reported but no details were available yesterday.

Two fires on northern Eyre Peninsula burnt out more than 4 000 hectares of scrubland before they were controlled on Saturday.

One on Thurlga station destroyed about 3 500 hectares of scrub, and another on Hiltaba station burnt 600 hectares of bush and grazing land.

The sudden spate of bushfires follows a period of hot, dry weather.

Volunteer firemen were kept busy with four bushfires in several parts of SA on 22 October after electrical storms passed through the State.

ex The Advertiser

BUSHFIRE BURNS ON WIDE FRONT

A large bushfire which began early on Tuesday morning near Coffin Bay was still burning on Wednesday night, 12 November.

The fire, which began south of the Coffin Bay turnoff on the main road to Elliston, was burning on a one mile front to the west and a two mile front to the south-east.

It was burning in rough, open country and had burnt to the E. & W.S. reserve, although it had not entered the Kellidie Bay Conservation Park.

Between 80 and 100 volunteers, and fire units from the Lincoln District Council, Wangary, Coultia, Greenpatch, Wanilla and several private farms fought the fire.

Bulldozers ploughed fire breaks, but the fire jumped the breaks in heavy scrub at several points.

It crossed the Coffin Bay road on Tuesday night and burnt to the north, and firefighters were concerned that the still conditions of Tuesday and Wednesday would give way to windy weather and spread the fire.

About 4 000 acres of scrub country had been burnt by the fire by Tuesday, although there had been no building or stock damage.

Firefighters were trying to contain the blaze, and maintained a close watch over it.

(Courtesy Port Lincoln Times.)

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

The public has been warned of the fire danger . . . pleaded with to take care . . . advised on precautions to take . . . appealed to for assistance in catching arsonists, yet fires still occur with even more regularity and ferocity.

Enough is Enough!

How many times must the CFS volunteer fire fighter lay his life on the line, because of public carelessness, disregard or through a deliberate act of arson.

The Adelaide Hills, and other parts of South Australia, now resemble a graveyard of burnt tree limbs, white ash, rubble, and bloated, dead, burnt bush/farm animals . . . who's pleas were ignored. Their screams can still be heard through the roar of the flames, although that fire has now been silenced.

Enough is Enough is the cry from the volunteers lips . . . when will it be heeded!

Guard against fires now

Despite the recent rains, landholders should be taking precautions to prevent and protect against fires this summer.

The deputy director of the Country Fire Service, Mr Peter Malpas, said recently that although rainfall gaugings had been below average, there was still the potential for a major fire threat to natural bushland this year.

He said the need to protect properties, rural production and afforestation from fire was vital to rural areas and the State.

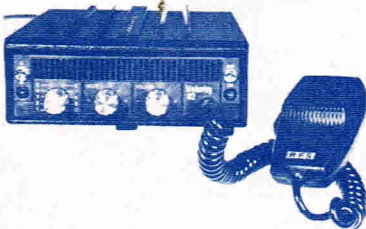
Mr Malpas said that landholders, weekend commuters and investors with properties, should ask themselves the following questions:

- Is my farm homestead adequately protected?
- Is my fire fighting equipment ready for immediate use?
- Have I taken every step to ensure the safety of my family?
- Have I done everything possible to stop any fire starting on my farm or property?
- If I own a block of land, have I reduced the fire risk by clearing or cutting the growth so as not to be a fire hazard to my adjoining neighbours?

'If people could honestly answer "yes" to these questions, then they are playing an important and useful role in the community,' Mr Malpas said.

'If the answer is "no" then now is the time to correct the situation.'

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'Most outstanding Entry'

CFS Display receives honour at the Riverland Gadget/Field Days

A CFS static display constructed and manned by Regional Officer Brian Menadue received the one and only 'Most outstanding Entry' certificate prize, at the 23rd Riverland Gadget and Field Days, held on 17 and 18 September 1980 on the Loxton oval.

The official opening was held at the Loxton Hotel-Motel on Wednesday evening 17 September, during a dinner attended by 300 exhibitors and representatives of the Riverland Bureau, local government and commerce. Guest speaker was Mr B. Tuncks, lecturer, agricultural engineering at Roseworthy Agricultural college.

Loxton Irrigation Agricultural Bureau and Dryland Bureaux of Loxton, Wunkar and Brown's Well, played hosts at the field days.

An estimated 12 to 14 000 people attended the activities. Visitors came from New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, New Zealand and England.

A total of 185 exhibitors from South Australia and Victoria presented displays on 283 sites.

Displays were divided into:

1. Horticultural and Agricultural Static displays, and
2. Growers and Farmers gadgets.

The CFS display centred on the 'Mobile Field Control,' as an operational vehicle, and information centre supported by Portable Display Boards. The display was fully operational and communications contact with Riverland CFS units was maintained. The R.F.D.S. network was also monitored.

Judging of displays was based on the following criteria:

- (1) Effort put into the design and quality of the display.
- (2) The message conveyed and its effectiveness.
- (3) Visual appearance and response from the public.

Approximately 1 400 children inspected the display individually or in classes. 30 CFS brigades and associations made enquiries and received technical leaflets. Many property owners both vineyard and cereal farmers sought advice.

Voluntary assistance was given by Control Centre Operator Mr Brian Bilney and his wife who although on holidays tended the information site. Regional officer Murray Sherwell also assisted.

The CFS display received publicity from the *Murray Pioneer*, *Loxton News*, *River News* and the A.B.C.



Putting the finishing touches to the display before the judging began. From left R.O.'s Brian Menadue and Murray Sherwell.



Sharing in the honour of receiving the certificate are from left: Mr Kevin May (Firefighting Equipment Co.), Mrs Sherwell, R.O. Brian Menadue, Mrs Bilney and CFS H/Q Control Centre operator Mr Brian Bilney.

Top news award for fire report



Adelaide ABC television journalist Grant Heading, 31, has won a Walkley Award for his dramatic coverage of the Ash Wednesday bushfire. Mr. Heading and cameraman Clive Taylor and Dusan Jonic narrowly escaped death when they became trapped in a burning store during the fire in the Adelaide Hills in February.

Their report from the burning store was sent by satellite to more than 40 countries. They were rescued by fire units in the area.

Mr Heading who joined the ABC newsroom in 1966, said the award was a 'tremendous thrill'.

The news team later had been presented with meritorious awards by the Country Fire Services and their film used for training purposes.

'It was not an experience I would care to repeat,' Mr Heading said. 'I thought we were gone. I thought we were thirty seconds from death when the rescue units arrived.'

Continued on page 17.



R.O. Brian Menadue proudly displays the wall certificate trophy received.

Top News Award . . . continued.

This is just one of many instances where the South Australian television, press and radio media co-operate fully to provide a service to the community, by promoting bushfire prevention messages through news reports on fires and CFS activities.

Local country press have themselves become personally involved with the local CFS Brigades, tirelessly reporting on fires, local training programs, firefighting practices, fund raising functions, etc., carried out by the Volunteer CFS Firefighters.

Obviously the media report fire stories because it's news. But it's not just news stories . . . it's providing both a service to the community at large, and to the S.A. Country Fire Services fire prevention cause. These dedicated news reporters and film crews often found at the fire front with an 'on the spot' report, have also produced excellent commentary and fire film footage, which the Country Fire Services has been grateful to receive, and proposes to use in future training programs.

The Country Fire Services praises highly the service provided by the media and expresses its deepest appreciation to the free air time given to the fire prevention scatters and messages produced each bushfire season.

Congratulations go to Mr Grant Heading in winning the Walkley Award, and to ABC TV cameramen Messrs Clive Taylor and Dusan Jonic, for the film footage on the Ash Wednesday Fire and the Bridgewater Unit being engulfed in flames . . . Editor.

PUBLICITY

With summer weather upon us, comes the threat of more bushfires. To help combat this menace we again solicit the aid of the public to 'PREVENT BUSHFIRES'.

Because only you! Can Prevent Bushfires, this message is being promoted along with the Publicity and Fire Prevention Material.

CAR STICKERS



PREVENT BUSHFIRES

ISSUED BY THE COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES BOARD, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Car stickers carrying the above message have been issued to all councils and CFS Brigades. Some volunteer members have already handed out hundreds of these stickers at fund raising activities, booths at school fetes and country fairs/field days, yet there are still many areas in the State to be saturated.

Specifications: The Vehicle sticker titled "Prevent Bushfires" is printed in a Red Safe Fast Ink (guaranteed not to fade), on a white vinyl that will not shrink or crack. The size is 300 mm long x 47 mm deep, which makes it most suitable for adhering either on a cars rear bumper bar and/or on the back window—at the bottom.

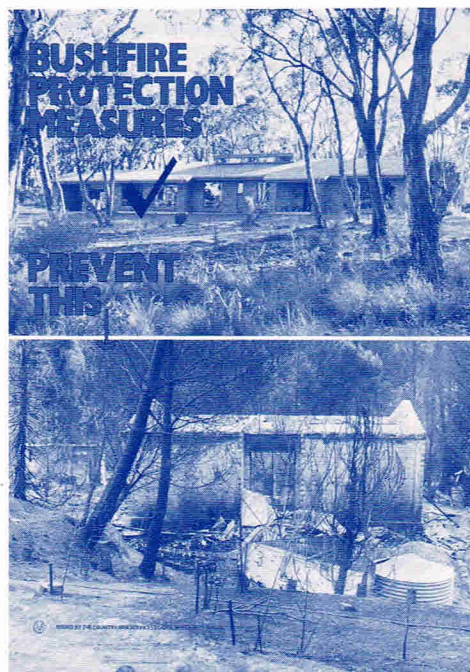
If you can use these stickers or are willing to distribute the CFS vehicle stickers locally in your own area please advise S.A. Country Fire Services, (P. Mills, Publicity Officer), P.O. Box 312, Goodwood 5034 or telephone (08) 297 6788, your local CFS Regional Officer should have a good supply too.

POSTERS

Two poster have been produced for the 1980-81 Bushfire season—



- (1) The first poster is for general use 'Fire Risk Area Ahead—Bushfires Hurt'.—Prevent Bushfires. Features a burnt road side sign, its message had not been heeded.



- (2) The second poster conveys a message to the Hills Dweller. 'Bushfire Protection Measures . . . Prevent This'.—Prevent Bushfires.

LITERATURE

To have sufficient literature for everybody's requirements, is the CFS objective this season. We have circulars on most if not all fire prevention matters/messages.

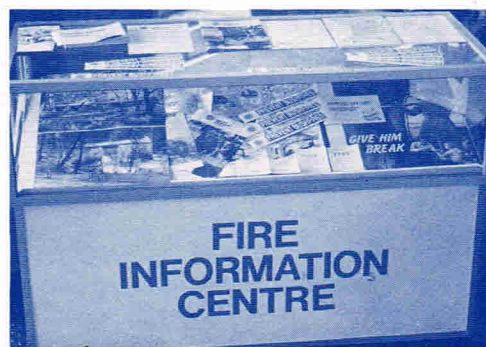
There are no new booklets this summer, instead ample stocks of the existing pamphlets have been reprinted and large quantities already issued.

COLOURING-IN POSTERS A 4 SIZE

Two new posters for children to colour-in will be available in January 1981.

Peter Mills

CFS Publicity and Promotions Officer



As bushfire fighters, you know the spots where fires often start. Picnic areas, roadside fire places, near fence lines, along bush trails, etc. It would be ideal if volunteer fire brigades could pin point these places of concern and with the assistance of our regional officer in your area place the CFS 'Prevent Fires' penalty calico poster in a prominent position nearby. Supplies can be obtained from your nearest district council office, CFS Regional Officer or CFS Headquarters.

And while at it, collect some of the four-colour fire prevention posters too, for your district council or CFS Headquarters. Ask your local shopkeepers, stock and station agents, machinery and vehicle agents, banks, butchers, etc., to display them in their windows and arrange some to be hung in view of the general public and in school classrooms.

Such public education must surely be instrumental in making the volunteers task easier; in saving properties and lives; and in saving our flora and fauna from fire.

NSW BUSHFIRE TRAGEDY

Towns mourn 5 firefighters

From our Staff Representative, the Advertiser

SYDNEY—5 November—The townships of Heathcote and Waterfall were in mourning yesterday as the bushfire which claimed five of their men remained out of control.

Flags flew at half-mast, and hotels are running appeals for the families.

Later yesterday, as fire-fighters tried to control two outbreaks, a helicopter dropped incendiary bombs over 400 hectares in the national park in a giant backburning operation.

But away from the frantic efforts, weary comrades and relatives grieved over their dead from Monday's tragedy.

Police named the dead Sutherland Shire volunteers as Steven Allan Crunkhorn, 26, of Heathcote, Vernon Roy Stedman, 21, of Heathcote, David Andrew Marshall, 19, of Heathcote, Gregory James Walsh, 24, of Engadine, and William John Cummings, 21, of Miranda.

The men were found incinerated on Monday under their water tanker on a bush track near the Waterfall oval.

Authorities said the men's last message was: 'We'll get out of here.' Seconds later, they perished, Mr R. Schwarze, the Sutherland Shire Fire Brigades group captain, said:

'They were experienced firefighters and we had no indication that they were in difficulties.

'They received a radio instruction that they were not to go any further into the area and they said in that case they would move out.

'A short time later they were caught in the fire, most likely due to a mechanical failure of the truck.'

The men's control officer, Mr Brian Parry, yesterday told of their last terrifying minutes.

He said: 'We spoke to them on the two-way radio and they told us they were going along Ulloola Track to fight a small outbreak.

'Another group of firefighters told the control to warn them a huge fire-ball was roaring up the valley towards the track.

'We told them to pull out urgently—and that was the last we heard from them.

'Only minutes later another group of firefighters said they had come across the burnt-out truck.'

Mr Barry Marshall, father of David Marshall, said: 'Five sons are dead so a few lousy trees could stand.'

He said environmentalists who had prevented burning back in the park over the years were 'ignorant'.

Mr Marshall said his son, David, 19, had been involved in bushfire fighting since he was 13 because of his strong sense of community responsibility.

'He was extremely critical of environmentalists who over the years preventing burning back in winter months', he said.

'David used to get so furious every time a fire broke out, because many could have been prevented.

'I feel sorry for those who stopped back burning to save a few trees.

'Now five sons are dead.'

A spokesman for the National Parks and Wildlife Service said extensive 'hazard reduction' had been carried out in the park during winter.

Mr A. Hill, The Shire Clerk,
Sutherland Shire Council,
Civic Centre,
SUTHERLAND N.S.W. 2232

Dear Sir,

The members of the South Australian Country Fire Services Board, Country Fire Service Headquarters, and the officers and fire fighters of all South Australian Country Fire Services fire brigades, offer to the families, friends and colleagues of Steven Allan Crunkhorn, Vernon Roy Stedman, David Andrew Marshall, Gregory James Walsh and William John Cummings, their sincere and deepest sympathies at the tragic loss which has befallen them.

I will be most grateful if you would convey this letter to those concerned.

That they should perish in the service of the community is little comfort to those left behind, and it is to be hoped that this letter will help in some small way to ease the suffering of those bereaved.

Yours sincerely,
LLOYD C. JOHNS,

5.11.80 Director, Country Fire Services

FIRST MAJOR CFS EXERCISE

- The State Director of the Country Fire Services, Mr Lloyd Johns, arrived by helicopter at Cygnet River Kangaroo Island for the first ever whole-of-island emergency services exercise on Saturday. The 'copter is an invaluable weapon in the fight against bushfires and it naturally attracted a lot of attention. courtesy: 'The Islander', K.I. 8 October 1980.



Firemen, Equipment Under Test

CFS personnel and their equipment were put under test on Sunday 26 October at Echunga as part of a Fire Prevention Week exercise.

For the 15 fire units from the Meadows District Council area who took part, it was a far cry from the usual parade around the district.

Instead, units and crews were put through their paces in an efficiency test in many basic operations . . . map reading, drawing and discharging of water, vehicle reliability and radio communication.

Some officials commented that one of the important outcomes was the need for standard equipment on all vehicles. This message was brought home during the exercise at the water transference point.

Mr Eric Plane, co-ordinator of the exercise and Echunga CFS captain, said the exercise was very well received by all who participated.

'We hope that from it we can all learn our shortcomings and realise just where we need to upgrade or improve.'

Editorial courtesy, 'Mt Barker Courier.'



NIGHT EXERCISE FOR CFS

It was a typical Thursday night for the Mount Barker CFS members as they practised civil defence drills.

Then the call came through . . . a scout leader on a night map reference exercise had come across an accident, somewhere near the freeway on the eastern end of the town.

Although not being a local, the 'scout' was able to give a map reference only.

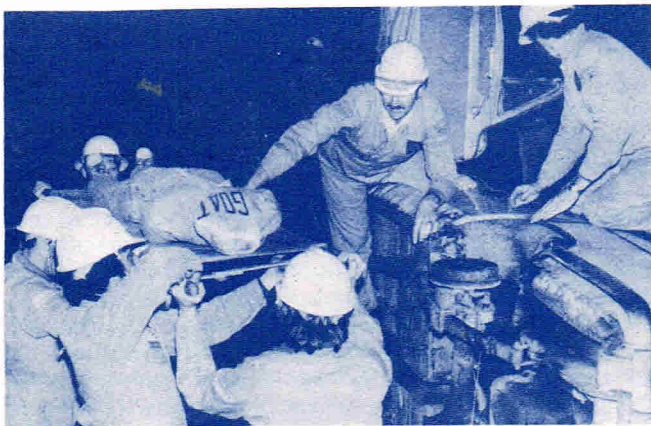
The Mount Barker CFS volunteers located the spot from their own map reference and quickly raced to the scene to rescue the trapped accident 'victims'.

Quickly they set up their portable flood lighting and swung into action.

The brigade's pneumatic 'jaws' prised open the door of the crashed vehicle so volunteers were then able to carefully release the two trapped victims.

The 'accident' of course was a simulated exercise . . . but the brigade didn't know that until they arrived.

Organisers, Mr Ray Orr and Mr Colin Childs, were happy with the overall performance of the CFS members.



Carefully the Volunteers lift the injured driver from the Wreckage.

CFS CREWS TESTED

SADDLEWORTH—In hot and windy conditions CFS crews from the Saddleworth and Auburn District Council Area were tested with some simple problems by the Fire Controllers and the District Supervisor, Mr W. Parker, at an exercise at Saddleworth on Sunday 23 October.

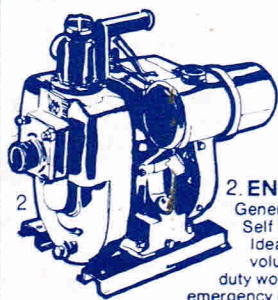
Fire crews were from Saddleworth, Auburn and Watervale and many valuable lessons were learnt.

The exercise was planned by the Saddleworth Fire Controllers and written up by Albert Bannear, the Deputy Supervisor, and it set the crews the following problem—a puncture on the open road with a full load of water, a multiple motor accident, with a fire and two lost passengers, the replenishment of water supply and the report on the availability of such a supply on private property, a house fire with a casualty inside, a smoke problem and crew injury and finally the use of high pressure hydrants.

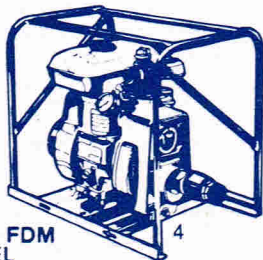
The exercise commenced at 1.30 p.m. and concluded with the debriefing of the crews by 4.30 p.m. At the debriefing session at the SES Training Centres, the crews discussed their problems and the methods they employed in overcoming their problems. They heard reports from the exercise Umpires. The CFS radio channels were used to pass the exercise instruction and to give reports. All the Saddleworth fire controllers took part in the exercise. Mr Peter Swan from Kapunda was also in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exercise, Mr Washington Parker thanked the crews for their enthusiasm and expressed regret at the absence of the other district crews. He thanked the Saddleworth fire controllers for setting up the exercise and spoke of the lessons learnt.

Ex. 'Northern Argus'.



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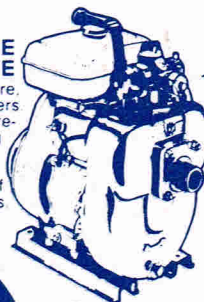
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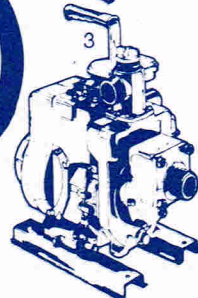
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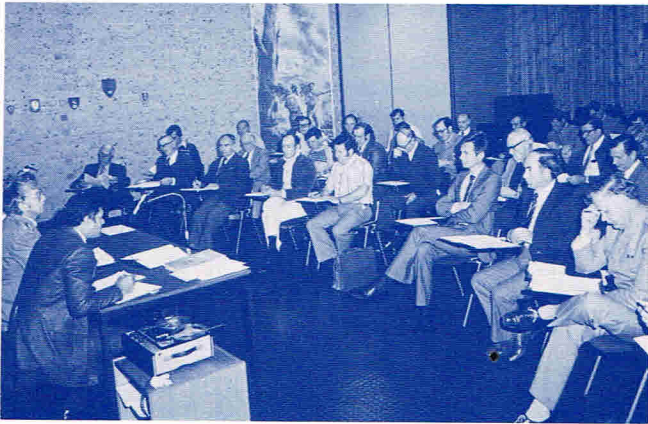


Hoses, nozzles and accessories are available.



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CFS VOLUNTEER REGIONAL LIAISON OFFICERS 'AND FIREFIGHTING ASSOCIATION DELEGATES' CONFERENCE MONDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1980



OPENING OF CONFERENCE

Professor Schwerdtfeger extended a welcome to all present and made the following comments. During the last year, The CFS Board has been very active, with the **opening of Regional Centres** at Jamestown and Wudinna. Adelaide is the logical place for the central headquarters to be, but the regional centres were very important as the main percentage of CFS activities take place in the country areas. Said the **Board had also commenced work in the field of accreditation of designs of plant and equipment.**

Mentioned that a lot of publicity, not all favourable, had been received during the fire season, as a result of the numerous large fires during this period. Said he had attended a National Wilderness Conference in Sydney, where one of the main themes discussed was the value of national parks—said that Australia was relatively affluent with plenty of parks areas, but in poorer parts of the world where populations are more dense, it is much harder to maintain parks. Referred to the S.A. CFS, and emphasised that without this voluntary organisation, there would be no fire protection for 99 per cent of the State. Wished delegates a successful discussion, and declared conference officially open.

DIRECTOR'S ADDRESS

DIRECTOR: Mr L. C. Johns drew attention to matters occurring over the past twelve months—changes to the **Country Fires Act, 1976—proposed amendments.** Said that the CFS Board Legislative Subcommittee had met as a result of the Minister indicating that it was necessary that changes to the Act be implemented **to unify the chain of command at major fires.** The Subcommittee, in co-operation with the Parliamentary Counsel, has drafted for Parliament, proposed amendments to the Act. Situation at present is that Cabinet has approved the proposed amendments, however there will be a coronial inquiry into the Horsnell Gully fire, and Cabinet felt that the passage of the Bill should be held up until after this inquiry. An amendment to the Act by Cabinet and the Government would provide the Director of Country Fire Services with authority to co-ordinate major bush fires.

The Minister of Agriculture, Mr Ted Chapman, said recently that the 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 had to be mustered 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 for any one person to take direct command of 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.'

Mr Chapman said the Government proposed to amend the Country Fires Act to provide for the Director of Country Fire Services to assume the power and duties of Supervisor of all Fire Control Officers and Principal Fire Control Officer in any area of the State when it was deemed necessary.

This discretion would be given to the Director, who would also have powers to delegate.

At present councils appointed supervisors whose powers were restricted to their own council areas and could not legally exercise supervision in another council area unless there was no Fire Control Officer for that area present.

'The proposed amendments will in no way undermine the authority of Supervisors or Fire Control Officers operating within their gazetted areas, including those protecting Government reserves, under normal circumstances where fires can be effectively controlled with local resources,' Mr Chapman said.

'Another situation arises outside local government areas. The Director is empowered to obtain items such as earth moving equipment and spotter aircraft for fires in pastoral areas, but has no power currently to direct how and where such equipment is used.'

'The Act will also be amended to provide the CFS Director with directive control in such circumstances.'

Footnote:

The Amendments to the Country Fires Act, 1976 have passed through all stages of the House and have received Royal Assent.

As soon as consequential amendments to the Country Fires Regulations have been made, the Amendments to the Act will be proclaimed . . . Editor.

DIRECTOR: Spoke of other activities of the Board over the past twelve months, e.g. the **standardisation of the colour of fire units** (white) which was decided upon after much research interstate and overseas. Said that audible warning devices, lighting and lettering are also very important factors in the easy recognition of fire units. Referred to **changes to the CFS Fund subsidy structure**—said that fire station extensions and erections were very important factors to be considered by CFS brigades, and because of this, a Capital Works subsidy had been introduced. Said there would be a certain amount of money available for subsidy on fire station erections and extensions this year. Referred to **uniforms**, and said that the proposed new uniforms for the CFS personnel had been displayed at the Competitions, and seemed to be well accepted. Said negotiations were being entered into with the Government Clothing Factory to have these uniforms made at a very reasonable cost. Also, there was a uniform envisaged for the women auxiliaries, which would be introduced in due course. Referred to **rescue equipment**, and said that after much deliberation, it has been decided that the Board would be selective in granting subsidy payment because of the large differences in price ranges. Referred to the **proposed Equipment and Appliances sub-committee**, and said that forty-nine nominations had been received from people willing to serve on such a committee. Expressed appreciation to the brigades that had taken the trouble to nominate a representative. Said there had been a lot of misunderstanding amongst brigades and Councils regarding the A.1. and A.3. fire appliances, and stressed that there was no obligation on the part of brigades to build these particular units. Locally built appliances are still recognised as being very important within the CFS organisation. However, said that from a survey of fire appliances throughout the State, from a total of 583, 136 units were twenty-one years old and over, and some were in excess of thirty years old. The maximum age of a fire unit should be twenty years of age. Felt that it was very important that technological changes in equipment be taken into consideration. Informed members that the **Board had agreed to purchase two new prototype fire appliances** offering some quite radical technological changes, e.g. high/low pressure pumping, pump and roll capacity, and hydroblending device where a detergent is

put into the water which enables the water to go further. Front mounted pump will be on one of the appliances. Said these appliances would be built in South Australia in the long term. Assured members that there would be no compulsion on any brigade to purchase this type of unit. Said that there were officers who specialised in all aspects of fire appliances on the staff of CFS H/Q, and stressed the importance of brigade representatives coming to H/Q to discuss their vehicle requirements with these officers. Pointed out that there were tremendous savings to be made in bulk purchasing. Referred to the position of **Regional Officers**, and said that these had been in all regions except Region 7, and applications are currently being considered for this position. Referring to general fire prevention situation, said that townships have grown, thereby creating more fire problems—stressed importance of CFS volunteers drawing attention to any problems they see within their own areas. Referred to **accident rescue work**, and said that even though there was no provision for this in the Country Fires Act, service to the community was still the principal concern, however, did not feel that the Act needed amendment in this regard. The CFS is the largest organised volunteer Service in the State on constant call—fire service and rescue equipment go hand in hand. Said that in Europe, the fire brigade assumes accident and general rescue work. Nearly all accidents have a very high potential of fire risk. Workers compensation covers all activities, including this type of accident rescue. Referred to the **transportation of hazardous substances**, and said that he had prepared a submission regarding this matter which was going before Cabinet said that with the accident at Burra, when sodium cyanide was spilt over a highway from a semi trailer, it had been 36 hours before the fire service had been informed. Hazchem cards are being printed currently, and they will be supplied to all brigades, however this is subject to the adoption of the Hazchem scheme by Government. Said the Minister of Agriculture supports this concept fully. Reported that the **Wales State Rescue Helicopter** was now in operation and was still being co-ordinated from CFS H/Q. Said that National Parks Commission was training personnel to be lifted into inaccessible areas to assist in bushfires. Referred to **fire reports**, and stressed the importance of sending these in to H/Q as soon as possible to enable statistics to be compiled. In concluding, said that the role of the CFS was an increasingly important one, with a lot more pressure being placed on the volunteer fire fighter, he offered full support for the CFS and asked members not to hesitate in coming into CFS H/Q, for any advice or assistance.

VOLUNTEER REGIONAL LIAISON OFFICER'S ROLE DISCONTINUED

It had been decided at **last** year's conference to continue with the voluntary position of Regional Liaison Officer for a further year, to enable the matter to be discussed at the 1980 Conference. The purpose of having permanent Regional Officers in the field was to take the burden from the Volunteer Regional Liaison Officers.

The delegates agreed that the position of Volunteer Regional Liaison Officer had served its purpose over the years and now the Group Captains could assist the CFS Head Office Regional Officers in their work.

A motion was passed and carried to discontinue the position of Volunteer Regional Liaison Officer.

The conference members praised highly the valued service given by these dedicated people.

It was recognised that even after the position was discontinued some CFS Volunteers would consult local officers until they became familiar with the R/O's from CFS H/Q.

The Regional Officers would in turn value highly the information experience and advice supplied by the Volunteer Regional Liaison Officers.

TELECOM INSTALLATION FEES

A group near Lacedpede, where there are three (3) telephone exchanges and the installations are purely for relaying purposes stated that 'This Association protests at the exorbitant fees charged by Telecom to install and the high annual rental of fire alarm systems in use by CFS Brigades.'

Other members strongly supported the comments made. The Director agreed to make a submission to Telecom on behalf of those concerned.

FIRE BANS—South Australian and Victorian Border

A motion was carried that the CFS Board make a further approach to the Country Fire Authority Victoria, with a view of setting up a pilot scheme to have Regions on both sides of the S.A. and Victorian border adopt the same Fire Ban Day restriction, as the terrain is identical on both sides of the border.

CONTROLLED BURNING/ACCESS TRACKS IN NATIONAL PARKS

The South East Fire Fighting Association supported controlled burning and the installation of more access tracks in National Parks during the winter period.

Mr J. Fitzgerald (National Parks and Wildlife Service) said he was pleased that the South Eastern F.F.A. supported what the National Parks and Wildlife Service were achieving, and added that the amount of work being undertaken in the South Eastern area, exceeded that in any other part of the State. Referred to peripheral burning and said that a secondary track was being prepared. Said he had approached the Minister of Environment regarding this matter, and it seemed the problem was that there were a number of different ownerships of scrublands. Felt it would be advantageous if a committee could be formed of those Government bodies that owned pieces of scrub land, so that an overall protection can be sorted out. Had suggested this, and such a committee was now being set up to deal with this problem.

CFS COMPETITIONS PORTABLE PUMP ALARM DRILL

The Lower North Fire Fighting Association suggested, 'That competitors in the portable pump alarm drill event using four wheel drive vehicles be restricted to the use of two wheel drive only so as not to have an advantage over competitors who have only two wheel drive vehicles'.

Motion was carried: The competition rules will be altered to limit four wheel drive vehicles the use of two wheel drive only.

CFS TRAINING MANUAL

The CFS headquarters have proceeded with all possible haste in the production of a 'training manual' for use by CFS Brigades. The manual is expected to be completed in about six (6) to eight (8) months time. It would be an information booklet, and a study booklet would be available later.

COUNTRY FIRES ACT, 1976

'Recommended amendment, Regulation 55' The Barossa Ranges Fire Fighting Association referred to the section of the Act referring to **oxy acetylene torches**, (electric welders) being used on any day during the fire danger season, other than a fire ban day, and felt that the Act should be amended to necessitate the presence of one further person and a fire appliance with 200 litres of water, when such a piece of equipment was in use. The conference agreed that this matter be included for discussion, by the Legislative Sub-Committee.

COMPETITIONS

Mr A. W. Morgan, competition liaison officer, Region 4, tabled the following proposals:

Continued on page 22.

'(1) The "C" Grade under 16 boys' age to be set at a certain date rather than being under 16 on the day of competition, due to the length of the time between regional competitions and the championships.

(2) The fact sheet for the host brigades be more informative and released earlier to the liaison officers. This being due to the fact that competitions are being held at smaller brigades which have never participated in competitions before.'

Part (1) The motion was carried that the 'C' grade under 16 boys' age be '16 years of age on or before midnight on 30 September, each year,' to be eligible.

Part (2) Agreed that the fact sheet will be in the future, both more informative and issued earlier to the liaison officers.

Other items discussed (listed below) still require further investigation, before they can be tabled and discussed at the next delegates' conference.

- **UPGRADING/CODES FOR FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**—Commerical vehicles and Passenger buses.
- **FIRES ALONG RAILWAY LINES**—Caused by ANR trains braking over long grades/burning off by S.A. Railways.
- **CLEAR IDENTIFICATION OF VEHICLES POWERED BY L.P. GAS.**
- **TV SCATTERS**—South Eastern Fire Fighting Association.
- **LONG SERVICE MEDALS ISSUED BY THE S.A. COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES.**
- **KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN USING DEAD MATCHES AS A TEACHING AID.**

Smoking in bed

Smoking in bed is still a major cause of fire fatalities and domestic fires.

The Australian Fire Protection Association says that last year (1979) there was a marked increase in the number of males who died in domestic fires. Many of these were associated with smoking in bed.

Almost 25 per cent of fires in dwellings can be attributed to smoking in bed as the most probable cause.

It is also believed that smoking in bed is a major cause of fires in domiciliary care institutions, including hospitals. In 1979 there were 17 reported fires in hospitals and similar institutions.

LESSONS FROM A SERIOUS ACCIDENT

By Bob McKnight

Paul Kleeman of Maitland very nearly lost his life recently as he commenced to cut half the top lid out of a supposedly empty forty-four gallon drum.

The drum had held a twenty-five per cent D.D.T. Miscible Oil—Emulsified Concentrated Insecticide. This product is used on a lot of farms and contains Tolvane which is an exceedingly volatile product.

There is a popular belief that weedicide and pesticide drums are perfectly safe to cut open to use for other purposes. The point of this article is to get across to everyone that no used container is safe to cut open by any means.

All the methods used are dangerous. We have always removed bungs and cut around the periphery with a hammer and chisel and vented the drum by bending the top back so that we can see inside. This is the wrong thing to do. The chisel and the hammer must be made of Beryllium so that they don't strike a spark and, even then, the inside should be filled with an inert gas to exclude the oxygen and so prevent combustion.

The terrible lesson we have learned must be passed on and indelibly impressed on as many people as we can. One of the bad anomalies is that, written on the drum, are instructions to wash out thoroughly and dispose of the drum safely. How this can be done without cutting a large hole to make the drum unusable, I really don't know. Any crushing or cutting process could strike a spark.

Incidentally, Paul was using an angle grinder with a cut-off wheel and it just broke through the top when the drum exploded. He was not using an oxy-acetylene cutter or naked flame of any description.

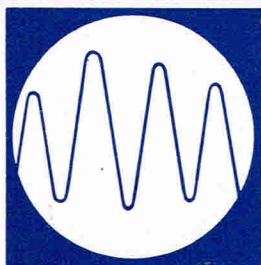
I write this article in the hope that others may learn from our experience. Paul is maimed for life and I want to get through to anyone who may attempt the same thing—he had cut open seven out of ten drums and the eighth one was the problem.

The practice of using old drums for incinerators and feed containers must stop. If you have any of these drums make sure the contents are emptied right out and that bungs are left out so that the remaining contents will evaporate.

Lay the drums on their sides with the bung hole up and water should not enter. Eventually the drum can be steamed out if it has to be used.

Think about the whole thing and we may be able to save lives . . .

'Yorke Peninsula Country Times', 1 October 1980.



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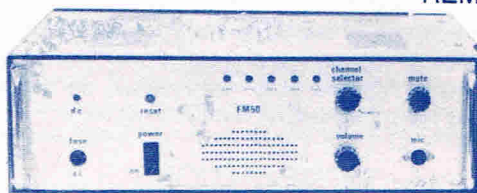
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1981

***BRIGADE OFFICERS COURSE**

(For Captains, Lieutenants and Senior Firemen)

April—10, 11, 12—Stage 1—(Closing date for nominations 27 March).

May—8, 9, 10—Stage 2—(Closing date for nominations 24 April).

September—25, 26, 27—Stage 1—(Closing date for nominations 11 September).

October—16, 17, 18—Stage 2—(Closing date for nominations 2 October).

Council Appointed FCO Course
(For Supervisors and FCO's not related to CFS Brigades).

June—17, 18, 19—Stage 1—(Closing date for nominations 29 May).

****The course is now also open to Senior Firemen who could become our future Brigade Officers, to equip and train them, ready for that responsibility.***

1981

Brigade Officers Course

NOMINATION FORM

TEAR ALONG DOTTED LINE

Dates of School: 19

Closing Date of Nominations:

Class of School: Stage.....

Name in Full:
(BLOCK LETTERS) (SURNAME) (Christian Names)

Position (Rank):

What Christian Name do you wish to be known by?

Address: Post Code.....

Telephone (Business): (Private).....

Representing: (Council/CFS Brigade)
Cross out one

Have you attended an FCO School in the Past? Yes/No

If so, when was the school? 19

.....
Signature

Please return the above completed nomination form to:
Country Fire Services, P.O. Box 312 Goodwood, S.A. 5034

Fire Fighters Prepare Bushfire Strategy

Country Fire Service units and personnel from within the District Councils of Elliston, Kimba, Franklin Harbour and Cleve attended a regional two-day seminar at Cleve over the weekend.

The training course was the first of its kind held at Cleve and the third held in the region this year.

It was conducted by Regional Officer, Region Six, Mr P. Ferris, who was assisted by Regional Officer, Mr R. Grear.

The seminar on Saturday was attended by fifty-five supervisors, captains and lieutenants who were instructed in pre-planning and communications.

On Sunday about seventy volunteer fire fighters and other CFS personnel were instructed in a course of fire extinguishers and their use with various fires.



Volunteer fire fighters put theory into practise during a hose drill at the Regional CFS Training School for Upper Eastern Area Brigades, from Region 6, Eyre Peninsula.

Photo: pictured in reference to attacking a flammable fuel fire—under instruction from R.O. Russel Grear.

At the same time R.O. Peter Ferris was instructing the other group in correct handling of LPG Gas fires.

First taste of bushfire threat—Cleve. . .

Whilst in the middle of a training programme at 1500 hours the Cleve fire being fought by the Tooligie Hill and Lock CFS Units; entered the Hinks National Park (south of Lock). At this stage the school was abandoned and brigades returned to their respective stations on stand by.

CFS units had their first taste of the Summer's bushfires threat on Wednesday when they were called in to fight a number of outbreaks in the Cleve district.

With strong fanning winds and high temperatures, a number of fires broke out on what was the third day of Fire Prevention Week.

The outbreaks were at Gum Flat and Murlong where burning off had taken place. The major breeze, however, was at the water reserve north-east of Cleve.

Four CFS units, private units, council graders and a bulldozer from Telecom were used to fight the fire burning in inaccessible country at the water reserve.

Before rains fell on Wednesday night, the fire had burned out an area about nine kilometres long by one kilometre wide.

Aided by strong winds, it jumped the road in a couple of places, but the spread was soon stopped.

A light aircraft was used to survey the area and monitor the fire movements.

A CFS officer said yesterday that this blaze was potentially dangerous and was the worst outbreak at this early stage of the fire season.

It was believed the water reserve fire was caused after Wednesday's favourable fire conditions rekindled smouldering scrub which had been cleared and burned.

No property was damaged or stock lost.

CFS crews fight blazing fuel in two day school

Firefighters from CFS units in the District Council of Lincoln area learned to fight a variety of fires from a crashed aircraft to blazing gas at a two-day school at Cummins.

Instructors at the school were Peter Ferris, regional officer of the CFS for Eyre Peninsula and David Batten, regional officer for Yorke Peninsula.

Blazing fuel was extinguished by water fog, foam and dry powder methods.

About forty CFS members attended the demonstrations and took the opportunity to handle the equipment.

Among the appliances was the new \$30 000 fire truck provided by the District Council of Lincoln for the Port Lincoln area.

At the conclusion of the school on Sunday evening, firemen were guests of the District Council of Lincoln at a barbecue tea.



Extinguishing a simulated aircraft crash fire with water fog is Fire Control Officer Gary Kennedy backed up by Fire Control Officer, for Shannon Ward, Robert Maddern of Yeelanna. At left is CFS Regional Officer for Eyre Peninsula Peter Ferris.



Watching fire fighting demonstrations from the District Council of Lincoln's new \$30 000 Port Lincoln fire truck are, from left, Peter Mueller and Fire Control Officer Tony Secker of the Port Lincoln CFS unit and the Chairman of the District Council of Lincoln Cr. Tom Secker.



District Council of Robe Fire Appliance.

CFS Battles Blaze

Willunga area CFS units battled burning LP gas and flammable liquids including petrol, paint and solvent in a recent 'live-burn' exercise at Aldinga Beach.

Units from Aldinga Beach and area, Sellicks and McLaren Vale fought the blaze and acrid smoke under the guidance of regional officers from CFS headquarters.

Aldinga Beach and Areas CFS public relations officer David Ingram said the simulated conditions introduced local firefighters to hazards they would face in emergency situations.

'Due to the popularity of LP gas and these flammable liquids for domestic use, there is an increasing risk of encountering fires of these types,' Mr Ingram said.

'All firefighters who attended gained invaluable experience from the exercise.'



Aldinga Beach and Areas CFS Volunteer members tackle blazing liquids, including petrol, paint and solvents, in a recent exercise at Aldinga Beach, under the instruction from R.O.'s Bruce Hogan and Richard Keynes.

'During the exercise the brigades were forced to contend with bad wind conditions that added to the intensity of the burning of the flammable liquid.'

Aldinga Beach unit also hosted a recent lecture and film evening on emergency procedures and control of light aircraft accidents.

Some 67 firefighters from Noarlunga, Willunga and Meadows council areas attended the evening.

The speaker was Eric Bolton, SA and Northern Territory regional fire officer for the Transport Department.

The meeting was also addressed by Adelaide Hills CFS regional officer Richard Keynes, who presented service awards to Aldinga Beach and Area CFS members.

courtesy: 'Southern Times', Messenger Newspapers Ltd.

Spotlight on a Volunteer



David Ingram

David Ingram joined the Aldinga Beach and Area CFS on 24 March 1975, his ability to organise, and attitude towards business was rapidly recognised by the brigade, and he was initially elected to the Management Committee on 15 June 1975.

From that time David has fulfilled various positions within both the Brigade and District activities. These have included:— Secretary, Fund Raising Programs and Projects, Brigade Captain, Public Relations and Liaison and other Special projects.

David always had the Brigade's interests first and foremost in mind when performing functions for and on behalf of the Brigade. Such as negotiating the disposal and acquisition of appliances, writing articles in the local publications ('Coastal Views and The Southern Times') on CFS activities, also Public Awareness addressing meetings of residents and other Community groups on CFS operations and our responsibilities to the community.

More recently David held the position of Brigade Captain, he initiated a comprehensive training program, equipment review and a fire containment survey of the Aldinga Scrub, which was presented to seven Government Departments, adopted in principle and will hopefully be implemented this season.

He spent numerous hours drafting proposals and the building of a model for a 'Combined Emergency Services Centre', which was presented to the District Council of Willunga. It was presented in such a way that Council adopted it and will pursue this project progressively over the next few years.

Outside of the Brigade David was secretary of the 'Willunga Districts Fire Advisory Committee' soon to be reformed into the 'Willunga Districts Fire-Fighting Association'.

He put many hours of work into the formation, in research and the writing of a constitution. Other achievements, have been negotiations with district council and in turn the implication of a new maintenance subsidy scheme, which has increased the maintenance payment to all Brigades in this area from a small yearly grant, to in excess of 50 per cent of maintenance being reimbursed.

Due to a promotion in his job, which meant moving to Western Australia he resigned from CFS

The energies and ideas David has put into the CFS within both the Brigade and District will be greatly missed, but hopefully other Community groups will reap the benefits of his knowledge in his new location.

David—the Country Fire Services thanks you for your tireless efforts, the numerous achievements and the protection you and your CFS volunteer team have provided the Aldinga Beach community. Both you and your lovely wife Kerrie will be sadly missed.

Congratulations on your promotion and move to Western Australia, . . . but I wouldn't like to make a wager that you don't quickly become involved in the W.A. Bushfire Brigade. Please excuse the coarse term but 'Go get em' mate'.

I hear that there isn't as yet a volunteer fire service established in the area where you are proposing to live, well Dave we would appreciate hearing about how you go about organising one. It would be ideal copy for 'The Volunteer'.

God speed . . . Editor.

Smoke pours from oil 'spill'

Black smoke poured into the sky when wind fanned flames from an oil spillage in Thomas Street, Murray Bridge, on Sunday Morning, 2 November.

It wasn't a disaster, but a mock 'emergency' exercise for about 30 Country Fire Service volunteers who participated in a field day, the first held locally.

Deputy Fire Supervisor Mr Tom Hogan said on Sunday the field day might be held annually.

Brigades, which previously trained separately, would train together during the winter and finish with a field day.

Volunteers from five brigades—Murray Bridge, Myponga, Jervois, Brinkley and Ettrick—were involved in two main exercises.

The first was a simulated oil spillage. Within confining banks, oil was ignited and after a brief wait to avoid scattering flames further, a group of volunteers used hoses to extinguish the fire.

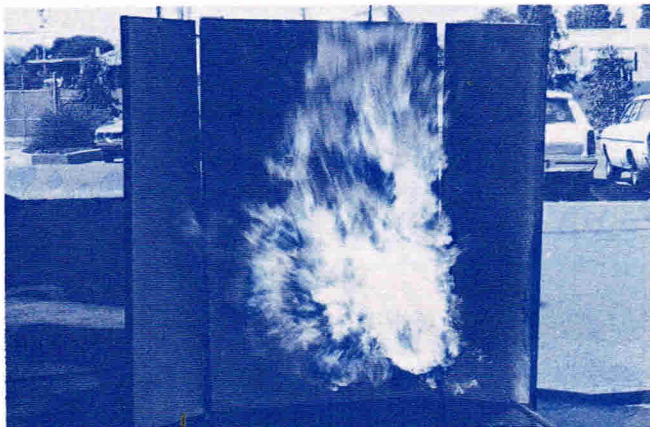
The second was a break in a gas pipe.

Men were required to push flames away with a water 'fog' in order to reach and turn off a gas cylinder, without burning themselves.

Groups of volunteers took turns in the exercises until all were familiar with emergency procedure.

Regional Officer for CFS Region 1, Mr Richard Keynes, was invited to observe and help with the exercises. He felt the exercises were an achievement.

'The most valuable thing we want today is knowledge,' Mr Hogan said when opening the day. He was very happy with results.



Staged: A Gas Fire, waiting CFS crews (undergoing training) to move in and extinguish it, with water 'fog' sprays.

Firefighters' Training Day at Padthaway Sunday 26 October



Firemen engrossed in Fred Carberry's talk on survival during Sunday's TFA exercises at Padthaway.



An old house site in bush at Padthaway was used to demonstrate the need for assistance to the lead fireman in carrying hoses around corners. photos courtesy 'Border Chronicle'.

New Post for Bridgewater C.F.S. President

Mr Geoff Knight, president of Bridgewater C.F.S., has been appointed assistant to Stirling District Fire Supervisor.

Mr Knight, 49, has been a member of Bridgewater C.F.S. for the past twenty years and president for the past nine.

The position of assistant to the District Fire Supervisor was created by the Stirling council in response to the Ash Wednesday bushfire.

When various aspects of the fire were being discussed one consideration was the desirability to having an assistant to the District Fire Supervisor (Mr Graham Thiem) who could take over when Mr Thiem retires in the not-to-distant future.

Mr Knight has been a resident of the district since he was seven. As a child he remembers seeing the fires of 1939 sweep through the Hills and later Black Sunday and more recently Ash Wednesday.

Mr Knight said he was looking forward to his new position which he will start on 15 December.

'I see the job as quite a challenge' he said. 'I think there are many things that can still be done as far as educating people to recognise the dangers of fire.'

'Fire prevention is all important, and the need to ensure that people know how to take the necessary precautions. This summer, after Ash Wednesday, people will be aware of the dangers, but we have to keep the necessity for awareness before the public at all times'.

Mr Knight, who has his own carpentry business, is married with two sons, Trevor, 16, and Adrian, 14. Adrian is already showing an interest in the C.F.S. and has joined as a cadet.

Congratulations Geoff on your new post, best of luck . . . Editor.

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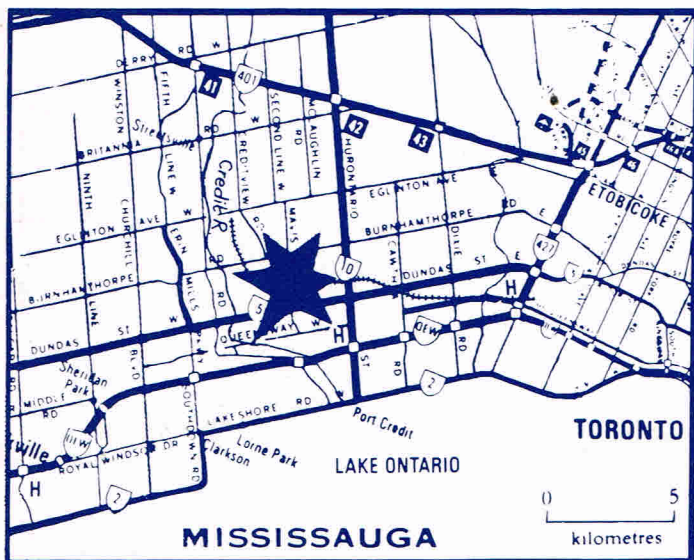
SAFETY YELLOW

The evacuation of Mississauga

Part 2

MISSISSAUGA'S TRAIN OF DISASTER

CFO Eric Whitaker, of East Sussex Fire Brigade, reports on the Mississauga, Canada, rail tanker explosion. The logistics of evacuating 217 000 to 225 000 people and then dealing with the problems of feeding and accommodation would tax the most comprehensive 'Disaster Plan'. Rem Gaade, a computer scientist who lived in England and was a member of the Auxiliary Fire Service in Surrey, is now the Research Officer dealing with a new computer control in the Toronto Fire Department, and was called up to act as an adviser during the emergency.



Map showing where the derailment happened

At approximately 0001 on 11 November 1979, a Canadian Pacific freight train travelling at high speed left the tracks near Mississauga, Toronto, (fig. 1). Twenty-four rail tankers were involved and fire developed immediately leading to multiple bleves, in addition, serious leakage from a 90-ton chlorine tanker led to the evacuation of 90 per cent of the town's inhabitants (some 217 000 to 225 000 people).

The concept of hazardous chemical information systems has been given much thought in North America. In particular, HAZMAP (Hazardous Materials Action Programme)

was developed by Toronto Fire Department in 1976 to alleviate problems faced by firefighters. Following a successful seminar arranged to promote this scheme, a request was made for the Research Officer of Toronto Fire Department, Rem Gaade, to lend expertise at the rail crash.

HAZMAP established areas to be covered (short, medium and long-term) under the following headings:—

- levels of personnel protection required,
- fire suppression media,
- toxicity notes,
- explosion or Blevé potential,

flashpoints, decontamination requirements.

Information thus collated is made available from the communications centre of fire-ground command vehicle in microfiche form (see fig. 3) to give the men at the incident all available supporting knowledge.

Three levels of decontamination are prescribed under these procedures, depending on the chemical involved and on the degree of exposure to the hazard. Level C is the highest specified (fig. 4).

It can be seen that quite a different emphasis has been placed on the need to disrobe the fireman immediately for his protection.

The Incident

At 2356 on 10 November the Canadian Pacific freight train No. 54 was travelling eastwards towards Toronto with a consignment of 106 wagons and tankers, when a bearing failed, derailing the train at Mississauga, Canada's seventh largest town. Fire immediately ensued from the leaking propane tankers, followed ten minutes later by explosions as some of the cars bleved. One car was propelled over a third of a mile and demolished three-foot thick trees.

The derailment occurred at a level crossing on Mavis Road, an industrial area surrounded by housing. Two eyewitnesses to the accident were forced to abandon their cars and run as a fireball from some of the spilled cargo erupted to about 1 000 feet. The explosions were heard and seen in Brampton, some 10 miles away.

At 2357 all available firefighting units in Mississauga were called out and the fire department dispatcher operated the emergency plan for major incidents, calling for assistance from neighbouring fire departments and recalling all off-duty personnel. Similar calls were made to recall all of Peel Regional Police officers, some 603 men and women, and several dozen cadets, and assistance was requested from Toronto Metropolitan Police, Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Ontario Provincial Police.

Act of bravery

At about this time, a conspicuous act of bravery was performed by Larry Krupa, 27, an employee on the train. He uncoupled the affected carriages, allowing 37 of them to be pulled clear. The train crew were able to give some information to attending crews concerning the cargoes carried by the train and it became apparent that some evacuation was likely to be required.

A computer printout of the train manifest was obtained from Canadian Pacific Railways which purported to show the cargoes involved. In practice, this was of limited usefulness because the train wreckage was out of order and the printout itself used numeric codes and listed only the first eight characters of the chemical name.

Additionally, all identifying marks on the wagons were either obscured or burned off. This caused great concern for first crews and exposed them to danger through ignorance.

Command was divided at this point, with Peel Police Chief, Doug Burrows, taking overall command of the disaster area and Mississauga Fire Chief, Gordon Bentley, handling the immediate crash scene. To aid communications, a command post was set up in the service area of Bell Canada telephone premises some 440 yards away.

Evacuation was started of those residents living to the south of the incident, who were most directly at risk at this instant.

At 0200 Chief Bentley called the Transportation Emergency Assistance Programme (TEAP), an agency set up by the chemical industry at Niagara Falls to inform fire departments how to handle chemical fires and to provide technical assistance. This agency put into operation the Chlorine Emergency Plan (CHLOREP), a procedure specifically designed by the industry to handle disaster involving chlorine, and two representatives, Bill Tait and Dick Peel, arrived at the scene at about 0300 equipped with monitoring apparatus. At 0335, the owners of the shipment, Dow Chemicals Co. of Sarnia, USA, were informed of the accident and they sent on their own CHLOREP team

to assist in operations. A request was made at this time to Toronto International Airport for assistance, answered by the mobilizing of a foam tender.

Evacuation

'Thank God for the Salvos'

Explosions among the cargo continued and at 0400, Burrows ordered a second stage of evacuation to temporary shelters such as the city's giant shopping centre, Square One, which it is estimated contained 7 000 people. Emergency arrangements were made for food, hot drinks, blankets, etc., some of which was donated by the business community of the city. As always at such times, the Salvation Army were well to the fore, both in feeding and settling the refugees. As can be imagined, this succour was also appreciated by the firefighters, police and others working in the sub-zero temperatures.

By 0935, the first of the hospitals, Mississauga General, evacuated 175 patients to other metropolitan hospitals and discharged 287 patients, some to temporary shelters. This evacuation took three-and-a-half hours. Fifteen minutes later, as the result of a wind change, a decision was made to extend the boundary of the evacuation zone.

With this decision came a requirement for more ambulances to evacuate more hospitals, nursing homes and homes for the aged which the buses in use could not handle. Additional ambulances were brought in from such places as Kingston and London, some 110 miles distant. Nor were the temporary shelters safe for the whole period. By 1210, Square One was ordered to be evacuated due to a shift in wind speed and direction, and the command post was evacuated four times throughout the week due to the same danger.

Computer predictions

The Chlorep teams from Dow Chemicals arrived with equipment designed to seal leaks, transfer loads and monitor dangerous concentrations of gases. This work had to be held over until the actual fire situation was under control, and it was hoped that the small hole in the chlorine tank would not worsen in the meantime. (It transpired later

that due to the deformation of the chlorine tank by impact and heat, the sealing equipment was ineffectual and reliance had to be placed on an airbag seal of rubber.) The team were also equipped with computer predictions of the hazard potential of the chlorine under varying conditions of fire, leakage and wind which had been prepared using one Canadian and two USA computers.

Five square miles and 20 000 people were now evacuated from their homes and institutions. Discussions continued with representatives from all levels of local government, aided by the computer forecasts and the weather predictions of winds rising to 13 kph westerly. A decision was made to increase the evacuation area to twenty-five square miles and 100 000 people. The police authorities then closed Highways five and seven, and Queen Elizabeth Way for evacuees and emergency vehicles. Broadcasts were made for people to refrain from visiting relations in hospital unless for compelling reasons.

By 0400 on the 12th, 225 000 people had been evacuated and Mississauga was deserted. The task in itself calls for comment since it may rate as second only to the evacuation of 340 000 troops from the beaches of Dunkirk during the last war. The logistical problems too are staggering. All of these people had to be accommodated, fed, clothed, provided with bedding and kept informed of any progress.

The evacuation was voluntary, the police having no authority to order residents to abandon their homes. Obviously, tact and diplomacy were called for. Police cordons were set up to prevent re-entry and looting, and a special helicopter was used to patrol the area equipped with floodlights.

Over 600 police officers from four forces were involved, having travelled considerable distances. One hundred ambulances plus commandeered buses were called into use, and a major problem was lack of local knowledge and overloaded communication channels!

Fire department involvement

When requested by Toronto Fire Department to contact the scene, Rem Gaade was unable to do so for about an hour since all telephone lines were continuously engaged. When he did obtain a connection he was asked to attend the scene to advise. At the same time, and using the information available through Toronto Fire Department, he was able to advise on the protective measures needed for this sort of disaster.

By a coincidence, a seminar recently sponsored by TFD and the Ontario Fire Marshal's office had been attended by firemen from the area, and many of the procedures discussed were put into use. An interesting sideline here is that some of the firemen at the scene were reported to have grumbled at the prospect of being decontaminated before going off duty; a procedure which needed to be explained as being for their benefit.

On the fire-fighting side, 250 firemen were involved mainly operating fixed monitors from safe positions. Some 4 500 gpm of water was pumped, using five-inch hose, and the residues all ran into drains and rivers eventually leading into the Lake itself. It was reported that the evacuation had proceeded so far as to include all wildfowl in the downstream direction of the fire and in the Credit River Basin.

'Even the birds have headed north', said one official, 'It makes you wonder'. The chemicals involved included propane, butane, chlorine, caustic soda, styrene, toluol, furnace oil, resins and terpolene in a confused tangle in the wreckage. Because it was such a mixture, no attempt was made to deal with the individual fires and much sophisticated foam was left stacked unopened along the roadside.

Finally, by Tuesday, the fire was out and all but 90 000 residents were allowed home. It remained then to make safe the area, off-load the remaining chemicals and fuels, neutralise the ground pockets of mixtures and to seal the chlorine tank still holding about twenty tons, with a purpose-built steel patch.

Firemen taken ill

Danger was still posed by the chlorine tanker, now known to have a three-foot hole in its side, probably from the blowtorch effect of the jet of propane striking it. To complicate matters, a quantity of water had entered, making the mixture quite volatile and the hole itself was obstructed by rubble and was mis-shapen, making a seal impossible. On Wednesday, two eruptions of hydrochloric acid from the tank led to the hurried evacuation of workmen, luckily without injuries. On Thursday, however, eight firemen were taken to hospital suffering from inhalation of the fumes, one seriously ill.

The Chlorep workers were then able to rig up a vacuum pump arrangement which collected all the escaping chlorine, piped it through a caustic soda solution in a separate tank and thus neutralized the fumes and reduced the pressure in the original tank. By this means, the hole was finally plugged using a pneumatic rubber seal, and off-loading continued without incident.

The 'all clear' was given at 1945 on Friday.

Plans and procedures

More lessons may well come to light when reports and enquiries have been held, and any such information will no doubt be made available.

I suspect that having read this account, most readers will be wondering whether their own plans and procedures would stand the test of such a large incident. Perhaps it is an opportune time to have a further examination in the light of the lessons learned at Mississauga.

In a similar accident on February 27 1978, at Youngstown, Florida, a chlorine tank ruptured killing eight and injuring 100 people. It behoves all in the Service and in associated organisations to ensure that whatever the situation, it can be handled and made safe without loss of life.

The evacuation of Mississauga, Part 2—continued . . .

Fig. 3: Toronto Fire Department's hazardous materials summary


NAME: TOLUENE-2,4-DIISOCYANATE	
ALSO KNOWN AS:	TDI 2,4-TOLYLENE DIISOCYANATE
PERSONAL PROTECTION:	
MASK & GLOVES	<input type="checkbox"/>
FULL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SPECIAL	<input type="checkbox"/>
 Notes: EXTREMELY TOXIC BY INHALATION OR CONTACT. HIGHLY TOXIC P.O.C.	
FIRE SUPPRESSION:	
FLOOD WITH WATER	<input type="checkbox"/>
FOG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FROM SAFE DISTANCE
REGULAR FOAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
ALCOHOL FOAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAND	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRY CHEMICAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CO ₂	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAPHITE POWDER	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notes: DO NOT EXTINGUISH TILL READY TO STOP LEAK, PROTECTING MEN WITH WATER SPRAY	
NFPA MANUAL Page 49-284	FLASH POINT: 270-°F = 132°C
EVACUATE AREA: YES	EXPLOSIVE VAPOR:
ACTION ON BODY CONTACT: FLUSH COPIOUSLY, GIVE OXYGEN, REMOVE TO HOSPITAL AT ONCE	
DECONTAMINATION LEVEL: C	

Fig. 4: Decontamination procedure, 'C' level

<p>AT THE SCENE</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Do not remove Scott mask. Remove helmet (leather) or place helmet on back of neck (plastic helmet). Assistant to flush fire-fighter from head to toe with copious amounts of low pressure water from open end of firehose. Include mask, harness, boots up to the top, inside of coat-wrists to the cuff, and inside and outside of helmet. Do not smoke, eat, drink or touch face. <p>ON RETURN TO STATION</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Place apparatus out of service. Put Scott masks, harness, and any used cylinders in garbage bags for decontamination via the Ministry of the Environment. (Arrange through the communications centre) Strip completely. Place all clothing (fireclothes, FPP kit if worn, and personal clothing) in plastic garbage bag for controlled disposal by the Ministry of the Environment. Seal bags. Shower, scrubbing all of the body with soap and water with particular emphasis on areas around the mouth and nostrils, and under fingernails. Shampoo hair, thoroughly clean mustache if you have one. Do not smoke, drink, eat, or touch face until step 7 completed. Put on clean clothes. Report to hospital for medical examination. Inform physician which chemical was involved.
<p>TO CHANGE SCOTT CYLINDERS AT THE SCENE (for use with 'B' and 'C' level procedures)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Flush empty cylinder and surrounding area of fire-fighter's back with copious amounts of low pressure water from open end of firehose. Wear gauntlet-type gloves, either from FPP kit or lineman's gloves, when changing bottles. Flush gloves after use before removing them. If 'C' level decontamination specified, place empty bottle in plastic garbage bag and seal, for decontamination by Ministry of the Environment.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNED FROM THE INCIDENT

Above article courtesy of the UNISAF. The Journal of the Fire Protection Profession, FIRE, June, 1980.

From the reports several areas of interest arise, many of which are of direct relevance: The hospital communications system was not 100 per cent effective; some hospitals were cleared for evacuees but received none. Press statements were confusing and contradictory; e.g. the police thought that the chlorine tank could 'go off any minute' but the Ontario Attorney General stated that there was only a remote chance of this.

Sophisticated monitoring devices were not available until the afternoon. 'It was a weekend and it took time to get the right people and equipment together' said an official.

The evacuation was hastened due to the 'partial knowledge' of the effects of chlorine.

Reports of the effects of chlorine escape were reported by many people, but this was almost certainly a chemical by-product produced by mixtures resulting from the crash, with a composition similar to Mace gas used for riot control.

Various organisations were present, and even in the case of firemen, different markings and colours made it difficult to identify ranks.

Radio communications interfered with each other in the complex situation.

The positions of the wagons were jumbled by the impact; all markings were obscured or burned off, so that there was no way to identify a particular wagon.

The Canadian Pacific computer printout was difficult to decipher due to abbreviations (only eight characters of text for chemical name), use of numeric code, etc.

The enormous thermal column reduced radiant heat to such a level that firemen were exposed to danger without realising it.

The contaminated earth had to be removed down to clay, some six foot in places.

Chlorine attacked firehose, being held between the jacket and inner lining, and a large quantity had to be scrapped. Similarly, some chrome equipment had to be replated and vehicles rewired.

Bleves only occurred in single-wall tankers. Any cars with insulating jackets maintained their integrity although the jackets were seriously damaged.

The use of helicopters to direct monitor streams proved ineffective since the firemen could not see where their jets were striking.



Attendees of a Brigade Officers School awaiting a training course from R.O. Russell Gear aided by slides. The School was held on 1, 2 and 3 October 1980.

An explosive cocktail in city

'Port Pirie'

A fireball some hundreds of feet in diameter and several hundred feet high could engulf the oil tanker berth and adjacent city areas, Cr D. Martin told a meeting of the council recently.

He said such a fireball will result if the nearby Liquid Petroleum Gas is fired, and a tank ruptures at the oil berth.

'After looking at the LPG handling at Solomontown, it is only a matter of time before something happens.'

'It is a short distance from the oil berth and the silos and we could have an explosive cocktail in the city area.'

He said he was still convinced that 'Murphy's Law' could apply to the area. 'If it's possible then it will happen.'

A further concern to the councillor is the proximity of nearby hardware premises which could become involved.

His concern was highlighted by his viewing of a film which he said spelt out the dangers, and showed examples of cities which has suffered such a fate.

He successfully moved council to adopt a policy that the Department of Marine and Harbors phase out white spirit tankers using the temporary oil berth in the harbor.

The councillor made the comments in general business, after which a lengthy and often heated debate occurred.

He added the city's major emergency services such as police, ambulance, hospital and other facilities were within the radius of a potential fireball.

The policy decision followed Mayor Jones' report to council on a deputation to the Deputy Director General of Marine and Harbors, Mr Kinnane in Adelaide.

The deputation discussed with Mr Kinnane, the dangers associated with oil tankers, particularly those unloading white spirit at the berth.

Mr Kinnane said he has subsequently been advised by the Director General of the Department, that the oil berth is under 'active consideration'.

He said the department and oil companies will conduct a joint safety audit at Port Pirie to ensure all present safety standards are of the highest order.

The audit is the result of a suggestion by the three companies, Shell, Mobil and BP.

Mr Jones had nominated Cr Martin to represent the council at the audit which will take place on 16 October.

Aldermen Ken Madigan and Wes Thomas strongly opposed the motion. Alderman Madigan said it is very hard to make a decision of policy without hearing the other side.

'I would prefer to talk to the people concerned than make a snap decision tonight.'

Adl. Thomas moving an amendment, said he did not wish to deny Cr Martin's comments, but that the probability of a catastrophe is very remote.

'We have a policy to see that our anchorage is used to its full capacity and this will look as if we have a conflicting policy. We could be left with a run down of activity at the anchorage area'. His amendment was lost.

Cr A. Tomkins said a catastrophe is only a matter of human error.

'I've seen bilges flooded and pumped out to sea through turning one wrong valve. In my years at sea, I have seen these mistakes occur. So many simple things can go wrong and no-one can give guarantees.'

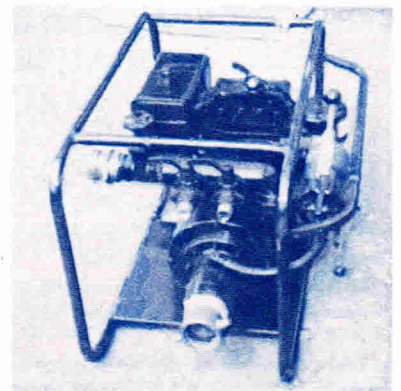
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'Woods and Forests Dept.'

Fighting Fire with Fire

In 1971 a Forest Protection man advocated 'Prescribed Burning'

In 1971 Mr Don Douglas whilst Forest Protection Officer with the Woods and Forests Department was interviewed by Mr John Miles, reporter for *The Advertiser* newspaper.

Although Mr Douglas has since been appointed Assistant Director (Management Services Division) Woods and Forests Department, his comments in *The Advertiser*, Wednesday, 6 October 1971 are still highly constructive and most currently topical in demonstrating the need to 'fight fire with fire'; consequently they are recorded below.

In 1971 Mr Douglas advocated that we should be burning now, in a carefully controlled way, to save the hills from disastrous burning later. 'Prescribed Burning' was the term he used for this technique.

Mr Douglas said that 'Prescribed Burning' was already the policy in areas controlled by the Woods and Forests Department and he would like to see it extended to protect rapidly developing hills housing communities which he felt were living perhaps a little complacently on the edge of potential tragedy.

He was aware that prescribed burning is still ecologically controversial. But he says that the Australian Conservation Foundation is not against it, and for him it is 'better than taking the chance of a conflagration.' If people were not there, there would still be bushfires in Australia caused by lightning.

So if we have to learn to live with fire, we might as well make use of it, Mr Douglas argued.

Bushfires travel fast. They can throw scattered fire brands up to 15 km (10 miles). 'Fire Storms' which are heat-induced whirl winds from 2 m to 15 m (5 ft. to 50 ft.) wide, can lift hot particles over a kilometre (a mile) into the air, and drop them in huge showers kilometres (miles) away.

Perhaps the greatest single impression I gained from a recent examination of the Californian disaster areas, in which fires did \$200m damage in 1970, was that, despite increasingly large expenditure directed towards putting fires out, the size of big fires was not decreasing.

What, then should we as tax payers seek to have our Government do to lessen the extent of possible fire damage, so that we may live better and more safely in our acknowledged bushfire environment? Mr Douglas asked.

I believe that the lesson for S.A. is clear. While it is undoubtedly desirable that an improved organisation and better facilities be established here for the proper control of fires in country areas, it is also time that more effort should be directed towards reducing the fuels that feed the fires.

This job calls for such diverse functions as town planning, road and water supply engineering, landscaping, local government, management of public lands, as well as participation by every home and property owner.

Reducing the quantities of available fuel, known as hazard reduction, can be done most cheaply by prescribed fire, but it is still a controversial technique.

Mr Douglas described it as a delicate operation, which must be done at just the right time, in just the right conditions by men trained in the work.

It is not suitable for all kinds of vegetation. Mallee scrub, for instance, is too sensitive to fire to justify it.

The essential feature of prescribed burning beneath overhead eucalypts is to keep fire intensities and flame heights to levels low enough, so that tree crowns are not scorched above nominated heights.

This can be done by taking fuel quantities, weather conditions and topographical influences into account.

The fires are slow moving, and when ignition patterns of the spot-fires are correctly deployed, not all the leaf litter and low shrubby vegetation is burnt.

The burnt areas show little evidence of the fires after a year, and yet the intensity of any wild fire that may move through these areas is greatly reduced and is much easier to put out.

Mr Douglas believes that this technique is quite compatible with conservation and recreation objectives for many parts of public parks and reserves and in many cases is better than any other known method of both lessening damage to natural environment and reducing risk for communities.

Although almost 10 years have passed since the above interview was held, today Mr Douglas Assistant Director of Management Services, W.F.D. still expresses the same opinions, nothing has really changed, . . . the problems are still there.

The advice relates directly to both the need for, . . . and correct and properly controlled prescribed burning to be carried out in National Parks and Hills Face zones and on farmers properties, to remove excess stubble ground cover etc. . . .

Prescribed burning carefully controlled, together with planned firebreaks could have enabled the CFS to combat the 1980 fires much easier.

Particularly the controversial Ash Wednesday, Deep Creek (Fleurieu Peninsula) and the Horsnell Gully Fires . . . Editor.

'Farmers Viewpoint'

THE BURNING QUESTION

by the Border Chronicle, April 24 1980

Every year during summer and autumn, farmers burn off the residue of the past season's crops in preparation for the next crop. Increasingly, it seems, the fires are getting out of control or rekindling later. Country Fire Service volunteers are spending more and more of their time fighting these fires. Increasingly, farmers are being accused of stupidity or carelessness. Why do they burn off, and what is going wrong? We asked experienced Poojinagoric farmer, Mr Jack Mattinson, to put the farmer's point of view.

The spate of burning off disasters during the last few weeks and the fact that this is a repeat of the last few years, prompt a rethink of the situation.

Landowners are in some measure being cast in the role of villains, being either careless or stupid, but it must be borne in mind that the filling of the grain silos each year along with stock and wool exports from the district dictate its prosperity.

Burning off the residue of last year's crops or pastures is an essential part of the farming seasonal cycle and on most soils cannot be avoided. Without it the silos would remain virtually empty.

As for the men actually doing the burning, only the very young or visitors regard it as fun. After that it becomes a dirty, nerve-racking and potentially dangerous chore that is done carelessly or irresponsibly by only a very small minority. It only takes one episode of singed eyebrows and scrambling for his life to make anyone treat fire with respect. Which brings us to the question of safety.

The only safe time to burn would be in the rain. Apart from that every burn is a calculated risk, in which there are many factors, weather, degree of flammability of material, proximity of other flammable material and degree of experience of crew. All these have to be weighed against the financial penalty to be paid if the job is not done.

Nobody takes it lightly, everyone is nervous, some are plain terrified.

Then why all the troubles which seem to be increasing year by year?

Firstly, there has been a big increase in the area being cropped and therefore burnt.



Secondly, there has been a big decrease in available manpower coupled with an increase in farm size made possible by technology but leaving the farmer very vulnerable when a job like burning, which can only be done by hand, comes up. So we have less men doing more burning and the pressure to get on with it increases.

Notwithstanding these factors, very few fires actually get out of hand on the day of burning. Most are rekindles from previous burns, sometimes days or on one personal experience three weeks later, from either smouldering trees or 'cocky chaff' that does not readily burn in a stubble but when blown into heaps will ignite from smouldering embers blown from under the soil or in cracks.

So what can be done? Apart from the obvious one of getting rid of all dead trees by burning in the winter, I honestly don't know. Living trees usually have hollows or dead patches on them and it has been suggested that even these should be got rid of, at least on arable ground, but do we really want a tree-less country? A visit to the Mallee or even the Mid North illustrates the value of our big timber.

I don't know the answer to the problem of rekindle when a close inspection of a burnt paddock shows no sign of smoke, glowing embers in the dark, or heat to the touch. There is nothing to put out and yet most of our fires start from just such circumstances, putting the farmer technically in breach of the 9 p.m. time limit with nothing he can do.

Cleaning the rubbish from around a tree leaves two problems or more instead of one. Wetting around a tree before lighting leaves an unburnt patch to light up at some future date. Wetting the tree afterwards is possibly the best but many trees have lit up from sparks well hidden.

The CFS is extremely efficient, illustrated by the lack of major fires in the district for many years, and the only difference between a major fire and a minor one is time. But they are like riot police—very good at quelling the riot but powerless to prevent it starting.

So much for the historical and technical angle written for and to the non-farming community—and I can hear farmers saying 'so what'.

Here are some suggestions—

● **The burning season has become too short.**

From either March 1 or the middle to the second week of April gives six weeks at best. Taking three suitable days a week, and Easter out (most years), leaves about 12 to 15 days. This is further eroded by absence of key personnel for business or personal reasons. Really we get down to 8–10 days with many gangs having in excess of 30 paddocks to burn on three or four properties. The need for speed overcomes the need for safety.

Is it really any safer in April when it is still dry than in late February when the weather is stable. I think the Victorian system of permit burning in summer warrants consideration. As it is, we push our burning season into the equinoctial weather with one fine day followed by a blow up.

● The reorganised C.F.S. with its central radio control has become very efficient, but did it have to replace the essentially local fire officer who probably knew all the paddocks and people, could and did look at doubtful burning propositions and enforced (by suggestion) greater precautions than required by law or less when circumstances allowed—it worked. The present arrangement to a considerable degree doesn't.

● **The weather bureau could be a big help if it could issue warnings of fire bans by midday of the preceding day.**

The Victorian bureau does so at least by late afternoon. Even if this carried no legal restriction but was simply a forewarning of a probability, it would stop much of the strife of the past fortnight.

The publicity and warnings given to 'ensure safety' have in fact backfired. Farmers are all sweating off waiting for their leeward neighbours to burn first, too frightened of the consequences both legal and physical of making a mistake.

It is the middle of April, and three-quarters of the burning is still to be done. A reasonable day with rain forecast and half the district will be burnt. Then we could see real trouble.

Let us hope not. It might even rain. We have been cursed with a run of late breaks but this is not the norm. Late April is quite often winter and the odds on being able to burn other than heavy unstocked stubble shorten rapidly. We may pay a high price for our safety but I think a reassessing of priorities at all levels is over due.

Finally, the farmers are not idiots who drop matches just to watch townmen stop their work and chase around in fire engines, just for the heck of it.

[Note: Mr Mattinson wrote this article before the rains of the past few days, but it is non-the-less relevant.]

'CSIRO Scientists'

Fire It can be the farmers' friend

by Jeannie Ferris
Scope, January 1980

CSIRO scientists will be lighting bushfires this Summer.

Studies by the scientists have shown that fire, properly controlled, offers a low cost and rapid method of clearing encroaching scrub from the arid woodland areas of eastern Australia.

In the far north-west of NSW, scientist Dr Graham Harrington of CSIRO's Division of Land Resources Management at Deniliquin, has been carrying out controlled burns on rural properties where the farmers' livelihood is being threatened by advancing scrubland.

These properties, north and west of Cobar, stretching as far as White Cliffs and into southern Queensland are being progressively covered by shrubs such as cassia, turpentine and hophbush.

The advancing scrub is competing with the native grasses needed by grazing animals, such as sheep and kangaroos.

It is also making it extremely difficult for graziers to find their sheep and as a consequence flock management is deteriorating, especially with routine tasks such as blow-fly strike control.

'During periods of good rain the shrub seedlings establish but are not easily noticed,' Dr Harrington said.

'Later, when they grow taller than the grass, it is difficult to kill them.'

'Then in the inevitable drought the grasses die but the shrubs survive and when the good rains return, the shrubs use the available moisture and little grass regenerates.'

Dr Harrington believes the careful use of fire to clear properties is the only economical method now available to graziers.

'We have looked at the alternative ways to clear the land, including the use of herbicides, goats, or biological controls,' he said.

'However goats require expensive fences, and only eat some of the species of shrub and then only after they had eaten the grasses; chemicals were too expensive; and suitable insects had their own predators which prevented them from increasing to sufficient numbers to kill their food plants.'

The scientists turned to fire because the journals of early explorers reveal that wild fires, either lit by aborigines as an aid to hunting, or started by lightning, were once responsible for maintaining the park-like appearance of much of Australia's inland before the pioneers settled.

'Since Europeans introduced animals to graze and have farmed the land, the wildfires have been suppressed both to prevent the loss of structural improvements and because landholders believed the fires removed valuable fodder,' Dr Harrington added.

His team of researchers believe that the careful re-introduction of fire into the woodlands will halt the decline in grazing value, which in some cases is so severe that the graziers can no longer get a full-time living from their properties.

Because of the inherent risk associated with burning such large areas, Dr Harrington and his colleagues have also been studying fire behaviour.

'From our studies in mallee and poplar box woodlands, we have gained considerable experience in managing fire, and we are confident that we can accurately assess fuel loads and predict fire intensities and movement,' he said.

'This knowledge suggests to us that farmers should not fear the use of fire as an economical method of clearing scrubby lands.'

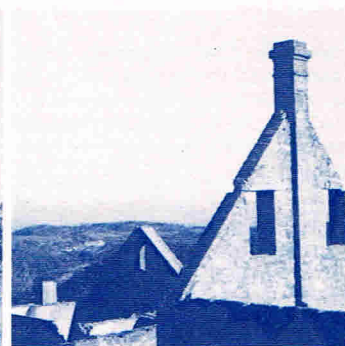
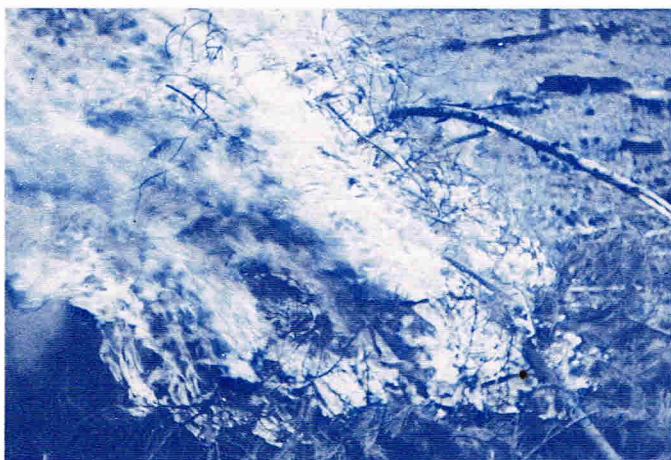
The scientists say post-fire management of the burnt areas is vital in the long-term program of re-establishing the pastures.

'We know from experience that where small, isolated areas are burnt, these areas are almost immediately subjected to grazing pressure from both domestic and native animals seeking out the green pick that invariably follows,' he said.

'As a result, we believe it is preferable for burning to be carried out over a wide area, perhaps on a district basis, to create a mosaic of burnt areas to spread the grazing pressure, particularly of kangaroos.'

So in the future, the ominous pall of smoke on the distant horizon which is often the first stage of destruction by fire, may well be the visual expression of a man-made strategy to preserve the natural balance in the woodland areas of Australia.

BEFORE THE FIRES START



Public Has Major Role In Fire Protection

Much of South Australia's safety during the coming bushfire season lies in the hands of the general public.

This viewpoint, given by Country Fire Services director, Mr Lloyd Johns, emphasises the role which the public can play in ensuring that the danger from fire is minimised.

Mr Johns said the 11 000 CFS volunteers and their 586 fire units were ready to again play their role in protecting the State; they represented the first line of defence against fires occurring in some 90 per cent of South Australia.

The public, however, represented the advance guard, the people responsible for ensuring that their properties were clear of fire hazards, the people who should see that adequate precautionary measures had been taken around their homes, other buildings, and stock and crops; and, that they were people who were always fire conscious.

'Last summer we had the "Ash Wednesday" holocaust and other major fires, and we can look back in history to other such tragedies, some of even greater dimensions to "Ash Wednesday".'

'Should we need to remind people of these recurring tragedies? The answer, unfortunately, is "Yes", for there are many people who have not learnt the lesson of past fires. One tries to educate them but they do not accept that precautions are necessary and should be implemented now,' the director said.

Mr Johns said that with the establishment of regional offices at Wudinna, on Eyre Peninsula, Jamestown, in the Mid North, and Naracoorte in the South East, the CFS was able to ensure greater back-up facilities for its volunteer firefighters.

Improved radio communications and the ability to mobilise more quickly were an essential part of the operational plan for this summer.

Besides the regional radio bases at Wudinna, Jamestown and Naracoorte, the CFS has upgraded its Adelaide Hills base at Mount Lofty, and is bringing into operation another base station at Myponga.

Additionally, in co-operation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, it was operating the single side band (SSB) system, which provided a 24-hour a day Statewide radio link for both services.

'Our services are ready', said Mr Johns when posing the question, 'Are you, the public, ready to play your part in fire protection?'

HAVE YOU PREPARED?

ARE YOU PREPARED? Preparation for the bushfire season should begin in the 'safe' season. It's not recommended, for example, that you burn off in the middle of summer. In fact you have to have a permit to do so. There is always a lot you can do to guard against the danger of fire.

By Mr R. H Luke, previously Fire Protection Officer of the Forestry Commission of N.S.W. and author of Bush Fire Control in Australia.

Extract courtesy Bushfire Council of N.S.W.

Plan fire breaks to fit in with those of your neighbours and the local volunteer bushfire brigade. It may not be practicable to make fire breaks wide enough to stop fires, but they can be used to fight fires. They can be used as fire 'brakes'.

Keep your roads and tracks clear of vegetation, and plough or grade fire lines along boundaries, and internally within the practical limits you are prepared to go to. Fire breaks along fence lines may prevent damage to fencing and may help to save stock.

Make homestead paddocks safer for the fire season by ploughing, or grazing, or by having green, preferably irrigated, fields. Be careful where you plant matted crops that may smoulder under the surface.

Have safe, bare yards inside the homestead area, well fenced with non-flammable materials, to hold stock when a fire threatens.

Plan the homestead grounds carefully. Avoid having cypress hedges and similar flammable trees near the homestead. If you like eucalypts, choose smooth-barked, species in preference to stringybarks. Consider, too, the merits of trees with leaves that do not contain oils and resins. These include silky oaks, poplars, white cedars, and kurrajongs.

Plan your trees as windbreaks and sparkbreaks, not as potential flaming torches.

Near the house it is best to have bare paths, then lawns, vegetables or low, leafy plants. Don't let debris accumulate on the ground. Burn it in heaps in the safe season. Later on, remove it.

Keep chimneys clean.

Keep your house spark-proof by boxing in eaves and fitting fly wire to openings. Remove leaves from guttering and roof valleys. Remove wood and other flammable material from underneath buildings. Do not rest timber against the walls of buildings. Keep your woodheaps reasonably far away from buildings and clean up bark and chips frequently.

Before the Fires Start—continued . . .

Reduce the size of wood stacks as summer approaches. Keep you homestead fences and sheds clear of wind-blown grasses. Pile fence posts and droppers away from buildings.

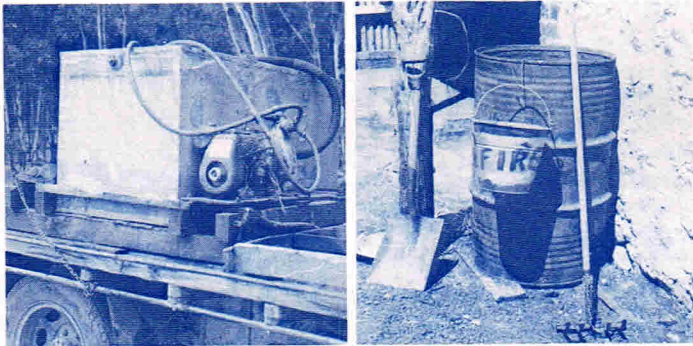
All outbuildings should have their own firebreaks, with a bare patch of at least 6 feet around the walls.

Haysheds and haystacks require special precautions. Isolate them from other buildings, and keep surrounding ground bare. When planning any new building, consider its situation carefully: avoid steep up-slopes and the heads of gullies, and work out the direction from which a fire is most likely to come.

Store petrol, kerosene, oil and other volatile substances at safe distances from other buildings.

General preparations

Make sure of your water supplies. De-silt dams and ground tanks in dry weather. Give thought to the new methods of preventing seepage and reducing evaporation. Keep iron and concrete tanks full, and make sure pumps and mills are in working order. Provide a good track to circle in to and out from all water points for quick and safe filling of tanks on trucks. Provide standardised threaded taps at most homestead water outlets. Check all hoses, hose connections and washers, and provide for the joining together of hoses to get added length. Keep hoses in the shade.



Make sure of your fire equipment. It is best to have a separate kit of gear painted with a distinguishing mark and placed in a special, well-planned position. It is suggested that you need the following: axe; long-handled, small-mouth shovel; heavy duty rake; beaters; heavy duty hoe; knapsack spray, and wire-cutters. An adequate first-aid kit should be provided in the homestead and also in the vehicle used for fire-fighting.

Check all vehicles and if necessary, decarbonise engines. Make sure spark arrestors and mufflers are intact and that grass and oily waste are removed from near the exhaust system.

Check portable pumpers, hose, washers and fittings. Oil tool handles and treat washers and other leatherwork with neatsfoot oil.

Provide drums, buckets and other water containers.

Procure a supply of wetting agent (detergents) if desired.

Make sure stocks of fuel and oil are available in bulk and in smaller portable containers.

Do not leave greasy rags about. Store in bins or destroy.

Provide an incinerator or other safe place for burning household waste, but bury or make compost of as much of this material as you can.

Plan all fence erection for safety and quick access and place gates so that large firefighting vehicles can get any where they may need to go.

Run a few head of old stock with young stock. This may save a flock or herd.

Insure your property and stock.

Post a list of essential numbers beside your telephone.

Put up a map of the district near the phone, with holdings marked, on it, and line up your bearings to known points in case you need to report a fire later.

Learn as much as you can about first-aid, especially for burns, heat exhaustion, and shock.

Plan duties for members of your household in the event of fire.

If your neighbours have not done all that they might, tactfully suggest remedies. An offer of help could retain their friendship.

During the fire season.

The statutory bush fire danger period in South Australia is from 1 November to 30 April each year, and special restrictions automatically apply.

Listen for announcements about total prohibitions on the lighting of fires on days of extreme fire danger, and post details beside your phone.

Avoid burning-off broad acres if you possibly can. If you want to burn off, secure a permit and observe its conditions. These will include advising you neighbours (and forest officer or bushfire brigade captain if appropriate). Listen for weather forecasts. Avoid burning on hot, windy days. Choose the evening if possible. Do not bite off more than you can chew. Assemble adequate man-power and equipment. Burn within prepared firebreaks. Try to burn only against the breeze. Do not leave the fire until it is dead out.

Make sure of mop-up and patrol. Visit the scene and re-check subsequently, especially when hot, dry weather is present or on the way.

As far as practicable, plan your farm work on dangerous days to avoid the chances of starting fires and to be in a handy place should a fire break out.

Keep your hazard reduction programme going preferably without the use of fire.

Make an almost daily check of minor equipment and test larger plant at least once fortnightly.

Decide what your schedule should be, and write it out for easy reference.

Keep a watch out for fire or smoke. If you see a fire, estimate its size and direction and distance from your place. Telephone local exchange or other reporting centre to give accurate details. Be brief; others may need the 'phone for fire messages. If you need to ring again for details, again be brief.

When a fire threatens your property

Recording of messages, the rate of fire progress, and other factors could be very handy later. Keep a suitable pad and pen near the 'phone.

Check the location of the children, and at least every 10 minutes make sure that they are safe.

Make any brief 'phone calls that may be necessary.

Check the location of adults and find out what they intend to do, or tell them what to do.

See that everybody is dressed suitably. For example, long-sleeved shirts, full-length trousers, stout boots and broad-brimmed hats are desirable. Wool is less flammable than other clothing materials. Anti-glare glasses and wet handkerchief also may be desirable.

Before the Fires Start—continued . . .

Have You Prepared?—continued . . .

Close all doors and windows of the house and keep them closed until the fire has passed. If circumstances suggest it. Remove the curtains and roll up or remove exterior canvas awnings or blinds.

Place a ladder at the manhole leading to the interior of the roof. Place a bucket of water and a small tin, say a jam tin, in the ceiling. Inspect inside the ceiling every 10 minutes for 2 hours after the fire has passed.

Connect hoses to taps. Check water supplies for level.

Start pumps operating to pump ground supplies of water to higher storages.

Fill knapsack sprays, buckets, and other utensils with water, and place handy to buildings.

Douse the woodheap and other special hazards if there is water to spare.

(A wetting agent added could help water penetrate into the woodheap.)

Plug downpipes, for example with tennis balls or cans wrapped in rags, and then fill the gutters with water.

Let dogs off their chains.

Place homestead stock in safe, wire-fenced yards. Look to the safety of other livestock.

In the kitchen

Place on the kitchen table:

Castor oil and also weak boracic acid solution for scorched or smoke-affected eyes; bottle aspirin; salt tablets if available bottle of whisky or brandy (if approved for careful emergency use); and bi-carbonate of soda for burns (weak tea is a substitute) Place half a gallon of water in a bowl and mix in four teaspoons of bi-carbonate of soda. Soak two clean sheets and some clean linen or gauze bandages in this mixture ready for the treatment of burns.

Place on the table suitable foods such as cake, scones, stewed fruit and, if you have time, sandwiches (meat, egg, cheese or tomato fillings are best).

Stoke the stove and be ready to make a large pot of strong tea. Fill kettles and large saucepans and place on stove.

Check your refrigerator, and try to serve food palatably cool, but not iced.

Do not serve iced drinks. Cool drinks, yes, but better still, sweet warm tea. Barley or oatmeal water if preferred to plain water.

An exhausted or faint fire fighter may be helped by wetting his head in a bucket of water, lowering his head between his knees, and giving him warm sweet tea.

Seeking refuge

If all possible preliminary precautions have been taken before the fire and the abovementioned fire drill has been observed, the house and its environs should be the safest place of refuge. A watch will be needed to see that flying sparks or firebrands do not ignite the house. Under extreme conditions, almost bare ground will appear to burn and there will be a great deal of trouble with smouldering manure and similar materials blown along the ground by the wind. It is often preferable to 'dunk' these thoroughly in a bucket of water, rather than to attempt to put them out with a knapsack spray.

Some firefighting may be necessary in small patches of grass or even in outbuildings within the homestead area. There will also be thick clouds of smoke. Until a house actually catches fire from flying fire-brands (and with the precautions that have been mentioned we can hope that this will not happen) the safest place for children and invalids should be in the house.

If evacuation is then necessary, retreat should be possible into a safe area such as a nearby paddock over which the fire may have passed, but on which (because of previous hazard reduction) there is little smouldering material. If it is necessary to shelter in the open, choose bare ground and, if possible, a

depression or other suitable obstruction to reduce the extent of heat radiation. Wet clothing is desirable. Lie down to reduce exposure to heat—and to increase your chances of getting fresher air.

Breathing through a wet cloth will help.

Our whole objective in planning hazard reduction for as wide a distance as possible around the homestead is to increase the value of the refuge and remove the need for evacuation. Trying to race a fire to a waterhole is hazardous, and attempted evacuation by car could be disastrous, especially as petrol airlocks may occur because of the heat.



The degree of safety of lives and property at the homestead will vary directly with the extent of previous reduction of hazard and other preparations.

Mustering

Many lives have been lost when mustering stock during a fire. If you have to muster, take a pair of wire cutters, a wet woollen overcoat, complete change of clothing, dark glasses, a wet towel or handkerchief, and as a last resort, a box of matches.

Watch the fire all that time and look for wind changes. Watch for escape routes all the time—through a gap to get behind the fire or into burnt ground. By all means save stock if you can by cutting fences and letting them through or driving them to safe paddocks but don't get caught yourself in the process. If you are in danger, carry out the drill mentioned earlier and if you are hurt cover your burns and make off for first-aid treatment. As a last resort matches may be used to burn a patch in front of the main fire to provide you with a burnt out refuge.

Back-burning

Premature or ill-considered and ill-prepared back-burns can be disastrous to your own property and your neighbours'.

For that reason, authority to back-burn is vested in the hands of the brigade captains and certain other authorised persons.

For back-burning to save a homestead should be part of a general pattern planned by the brigade. If, however, the amount of hazard reduction has been sufficient, the need for back-burning should be reduced to occasions of very grave emergency, to be carried out from a prepared firebreak only when the main fire is about to sweep into the homestead block.

Planning for safety

Bushfire brigades and forest departments prepare plans for fire protection long before their application is needed. Don't be caught napping—the season is already well advanced. Prepare your own plan to safeguard your family and your property. Remember, too, that men are able to do a far better job of controlling a bushfire if they know that their homes and families have been made safe.

Thorough preparation prevents panic—and panic is one of the principal allies of bushfires.

ADVICE TO WOMEN

Following research into what has been written regarding advice to women, although the comments made in the article below titled 'Housewives, Hairdos and Bushfires' appeared in the *Sunday Mail*, 4 January 1969, the article from a S.A. woman Mrs Burton is one of the most interesting and excellent reports recorded, on a women's view of a bushfire.

Housewives, Hairdos and Bushfires

Ladies: The best hair-style for fighting a bushfire is: Well up and tucked out of sight in a firm-fitting cap.

But how many women would think of how to do their hair when the back garden was ablaze?

Too few . . . says an Adelaide Hills housewife (extract 1969, courtesy Mr William Reschke, *The Sunday Mail Magazine*) . . . who has made quite a study of dress for such occasions and, in fact, the required etiquette as well.

And it touches not only upon hair-dos and trim clothes, but transistor radios, too, and pillow cases and knapsack sprays.

It is a woman's look at the bushfire situation by one who has been blistered in fire and knows its fearful terror and confusion.

She is a fourth generation Coromandel Valley dweller, Mrs B. J. Burton.

'The chances are,' says Mrs Burton, 'that when bushfire does come on a disaster scale, only women and children will be at home.'

'I feel that for this reason women should be told more about what to expect in a fire and how to survive.'

SHE KNOWS THE DANGER

So Mrs Burton, after long thought and research in a project sponsored by the Blackwood Progress Association, produced a list of DOs and DON'Ts for people in the bushfire zone.

She tackled the job with the heart of one who has been living with the bushfire menace all her life.

But the framework for her ideas was formed on Black Sunday, January 2, 1955.

That was the day the then Governor, Sir Robert George, led his household staff to refuge in a creek-bed when his Marble Hill summer residence was destroyed in one of a series of bushfires.

Mrs Burton was at morning service in Blackwood Methodist Church that day when people came to the door to tell of the bushfires out of control.

The minister stopped the service and the congregation turned out to fight the fires.

'But nobody had a clear picture of what was going on,' said Mrs Burton, 'We did not know where the fires were or how serious they were.'

'I remember seeing a PMG linesman up a pole trying to restore the phone services. The bottom of the pole was on fire.'

'He could not get down, The pole fell and he came down with it. Fortunately he was not badly hurt.'

'I had to carry drink to the fire-fighters. In one hand I had a bucket of boiling hot tea and in the other cordial.'

'But the memory that is strongest from Black Sunday is the confusion because of the lack of communications.'

STAY AT HOME!

'This is what causes fear and panic. Today it is a different story. People can stay at home and have a complete picture of the fire through radio reports.'

'We had radios in 1955, but they were silent because we had no power. But the transistor radio does not need power lines.'

'You can carry it wherever you have to go. As in any disaster, radio stations can play a tremendous role in bushfires now.'

Mrs Burton is a champion of the once discredited knapsack spray, which fell from favour with authorities because of rust and weight.

'They were a doubtful asset a few years ago,' says Mrs Burton. 'But today they are made with fibreglass and this makes them much lighter and, of course they do not rust.'

'I have seen houses saved by knapsack sprays and now we wouldn't be without one at home.'

Mrs Burton has one hard and fast rule. It is, briefly—Stay at home if disaster day comes!

'Above all, mothers should not jump into their car and dash off to the school to make sure their children there are safe,' she says.

'Children at school are probably safer than anywhere else. The mothers on the other hand could cause a great traffic jam on all roads to the school.'

The many pensioners in the hills are an exception to the stay-at-home rule.

'They insist on staying put, even if evacuation is necessary,' says Mrs Burton. 'It is most important that at least one member of a family accepts the responsibility of aged relatives in the hills.'

'When the emergency comes, all other relatives know that one has the situation in hand and you do not get hordes of people in cars driving up to the hills to make sure grandad is all right.'

PILLOW CASES

The pillow case is the other unlikely item that plays a part in Mrs Burton's emergency plans.

'Every house has pillow cases. They are ideal for throwing valuable possessions into. The thing to remember is that you will save only what you can carry if disaster hits,' she says.

'It would pay to put in the pillow case the small personal things that can never be replaced. I mean family photographs, jewellery, and things of sentimental value.'

'Put it this way. If evacuated, people will probably be taken out in bus or truck and that means whatever they carry will have to be on their lap. A pillow slip is just the right size.'

'And if it is tied at the top it will not fly open like an overloaded suitcase.'

What about the family pets?

'Well, to begin with, put a collar on the dog at once, If he is loose in a fire at least he will have a chance of survival if someone can grab him.'

'Have you ever seen EFS (now CFS) men trying to catch a dog in a fire? Without a collar there's just nowhere to hold a dog.'

'Ideally pets should be locked in the house. This is the safest place for them,' says Mrs Burton.

'If you have to be evacuated you cannot take your pets with you. But it does not mean that your house will burn.'

'It probably will not. On the other hand your pets would have very little chance at large.'

continued on page 36

LIST OF MUSTS

This is Mrs Burton's list:

Prepare Now

- Clear out all gutters and drains and keep them clear.
 - Make sure water supply is good. Get in touch with the Engineering and Water Supply Department if pressure is not what it should be.
 - See your hose fits the tap firmly, run it out and leave it on the northern side of the house with a fine spray nozzle handy.
 - Buy a knapsack spray (See Pink pages under Fire in 'phone book).
 - Plan what you will take with you in evacuation either in a pillow case or duffle bag.
- Keep animals in a clear area preferably near the house and make sure the dog has a collar on with a chain nearby.

When the Siren Sounds

- Turn off all taps.
- Check whether fire is near at hand.
- Turn on your radio (preferably transistor).
- Roll up outside blinds and shut all windows.
- Check knapsack sprays.
- Watch for spot fires which, are started by burning debris which can carry up to a mile. Put them out if possible.
- Listen for any instructions from EFS (now CFS) or Civil Defence on your radio.
- Do not use the phone unless urgent and then only briefly so lines will be clear for emergencies.
- Check dress. Wear sunglasses or shields.

For girls and women: Braid hair or pin it close to head and wear cap. Wear socks and rubber-soled shoes or rubber boots, slacks, plain blouse and jumper (no frills or frocks).

For men and boys: Socks, Robust Shoes or boots, overalls, slacks, snug shirt and jumper or pullover.

When Fire Front Hits

- Do not panic.
- Keep children in the house. Do not rush to the school. Schools are safer than homes.
- A fire front moves fast and a house burns more slowly. Stay in the house until the front passes then go out.
- If house is burning, put children on lawn or a clean area with a sprinkler or wet blankets.
- At this stage even a knapsack spray could still save your home.

When Evacuated by Authorities

- Take baby supplies, particularly the milk formula and a bottle.
- Put personal belongings in a pillow case or duffle bag (not a case).
- Leave the house shut or locked and keep housekey on string around neck.

When Evacuating in own Car

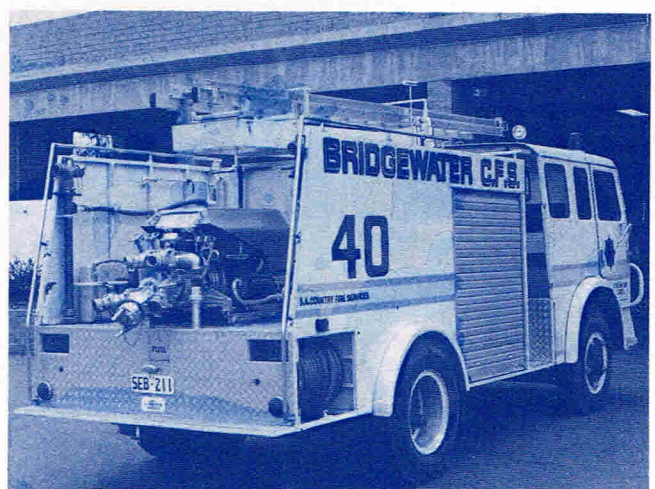
Take:

- Transistor radio.
- Personal effects in bag.
- Water in a large plastic bottle with unbreakable cups.
- Woollen blankets (one soaked in water).
- Put heavy clothes over your lightweight wear because it is the easiest way to carry the extra clothes you will need later.

Do not overload your car!

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NEW FIRE STATION OPENED

Crystal Brook: Mr Lloyd Johns, the Director of Country Fire Services, unveiled a plaque to officially open the new fire station at Crystal Brook, Friday 24 October.

Built at a cost of \$33 000, the station stands on the site of the original fire station building.

The cost of construction was born by the district council, using loan funds and supported by donations from various community groups.

In addition, council expects to receive a government grant subsidy of \$11 000 to assist with the costs.

Donations were made by the Crystal Brook CFS Ladies Auxiliary (\$4 000), Crystal Brook CFS Committee (\$1 000), Crystal Brook Lions Club (\$1 500), Crystal Brook Weight Watchers (\$56) and the Cattle Track Sports Club (\$122).

In opening the new building, Mr Johns commended the people of Crystal Brook and districts for their involvement in CFS and their achievements to date.

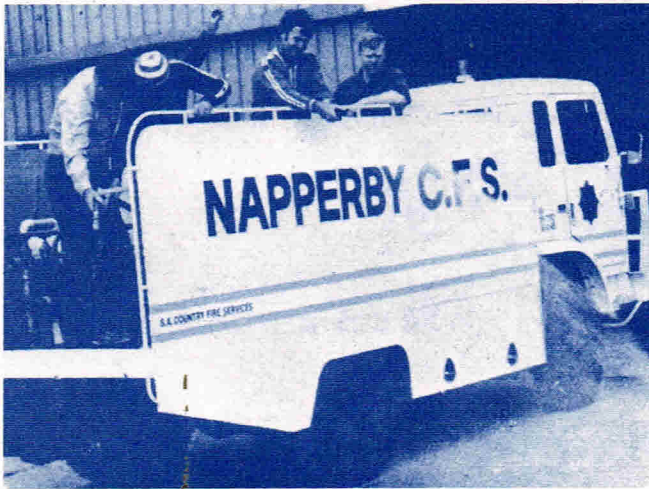
Local CFS President, John Welch spoke on the history of the previous station and Chairman of the district council Mr Colin Matheson spoke on behalf of the local people.

Following the opening, a dinner was held in the Crystal Brook Institute for invited guests.

The new fire station building will house the two CFS appliances and State Emergency Service equipment.

There is also a radio, communications room, an amenities room and shower and toilet as well.

CFS give unit a work out



Napperby CFS Fire Officers try out their new \$25 000 unit.

Napperby CFS had a practise session on Tuesday 28 October with their new \$25 000 unit.

Secretary/treasurer, Mr Malcolm Sard said they were very pleased with the unit which replaces their 1937 converted army blitz wagon.

This unit, he said would be able to be used for both house and grass fires, whereas the other unit was not really suitable for house fires.

The truck was ordered by the District Council of Pirie on December 1979 and the Napperby CFS expects to take delivery on November 1. The start of the fire season.

Council is eligible for a 50 percent subsidy on the cost of the unit because it is built to specifications laid down by the South Australian Country Fire Services.

The unit will carry a 500 gallon capacity water tank, and is fitted with an electric start pump.

It has been built by the Port Pirie Truck Sales and Services Pty. Ltd.

Editorial courtesy 'The Recorder'

Council truck for CFS

JAMESTOWN—District Council of Jamestown is transferring its International 4 x 4 truck to the local CFS.

It is to be built up as a fire unit to replace the present land rover unit, for about \$6 000.

CFS personnel will build it themselves.

District Clerk, Mr Max Peterson, said the expertise exists amongst the town and district fire fighters to see the project through to a successful conclusion.

'It also saves council money, and is a project which will encourage interest in the local CFS', he said.

TENDER ACCEPTED

The Le Hunte District Council has accepted a local tender for the supply of a suitable cab-chassis for the Wudinna Country Fire Service.

The tender from Pringles Garage, Wudinna has been accepted to supply one International Acco 610A 4 x 4 cab-chassis which will be delivered this month.

Tenders will be invited for the fitment of a standard A 3 design body over this cab-chassis when available.

The unit is to replace the existing Chev Blitz Unit stationed at Wudinna, which will be transferred to Cootra CFS.

CFS Unit for Greenhill

The District Council of East Torrens has approved the formation of a new Country Fire Service unit at Greenhill.

This was in response to a request by residents of Greenhill, who were concerned that the area was vulnerable in the event of fire.

About 70 residents attended a public meeting at Greenhill, showing unanimous support for the establishment of a CFS unit.

A committee was elected to take the necessary steps, with Mr D. Wisking, President, Messrs J. Stott and G. Blakely, Vice Presidents; G. Kelly, Secretary; J. Wright, Treasurer; Committee members, Mrs S. Jones, Messrs D. Trenwith, R. Maggs, L. Coudrey and D. Callaghan (nominated as captain).

Mr Wisking said the committee had approached all the residents of Greenhill asking whether they would support a CFS unit—either financially or by active membership—and had received an extremely pleasing response.

So far, about \$5 000 had been promised towards the purchase of a fire fighting vehicle.

'VULNERABLE'

Mr Wisking pointed out the Greenhill area was in a very vulnerable position in relation to bushfires, being situated in the Hills Face Zone, adjoining Cleland Conservation Park and close to other parks and bushland.

A fire in Horsnell's Gully, near Ashton, in April this year, would have put Greenhill in serious danger if there had not been a wind change.

Mr Wisking stressed that the move to form a CFS unit at Greenhill was in no way critical of the units at Summertown or Burnside.

'We simply want to put out fires while they are still small', he said.

'It takes at least 10 minutes for the Summertown or Burnside units to reach Greenhill.

'These minutes could make all the difference between a minor fire and a major outbreak.'

New Fire Stations/New Brigade Units—continued

Nairne CFS Station extensions opened

The unveiling of a bell and commemorative plaque to the late Ses Gabb highlighted the official opening of extensions to the Nairne CFS fire station on Friday night.

The \$12 000 extensions were officially declared open by the director of the Country Fire Service in SA, Mr Lloyd Johns.

The president of the Nairne, CFS Mr John Harrison, told the 100 visitors at the opening that the extensions doubled the size of the station and could now easily house four fire appliances.

He added that the extensions were free of debt, which was of great credit to the brigade.

He praised the efforts of the committee, particularly brigade captain, Mr Lyall Strout, and secretary, Mr Jeff McKenny.

The former director of CFS, Mr Fred Kerr, officially unveiled the bell and commemorative plaque.

He commented on his association with the late Mr Gabb and spoke highly of his outstanding efforts for the service.

He said how Mr Gabb had originally joined the EFS at Keith in 1946, transferring to Nairne in 1955 when he became postmaster there.

He was secretary of the Nairne CFS from 1956 to 1976 and was an officer from 1957 to 1977. In 1972 he had life membership bestowed upon him.

Mr Kerr added that Mr Gabb had been largely responsible for the establishment of the original building and the upgrading of equipment which followed.

He died in 1978. Members of his family accepted the National Medal presented in 1979.

His three daughters, Hilary, Erica and Ailsa, were in attendance at Friday night's ceremony.

Also during the evening, Mr Johns presented service stars to some members of the Nairne CFS.

The highlight of these presentations was the 30-year star to Mr Roger Gooch.

Twenty-year stars were presented to Malcolm May, Lyall Strout and Allan Gooch with 10-year awards to Karl Winkel, Mark Fowler, Neil Draper and Ray Bartlett.

Courtesy 'Courier'.



Former CFS director Mr Fred Kerr prepares to toll the bell, watched by (from left) brigade secretary Mr Jeff McKenny, captain Mr Lyall Strout, president Mr John Harrison, current CFS director Mr Lloyd Johns and the daughters of the late Mr Ses Gabb, Erica, Hilary and Ailsa.

Beachport District Fire Fighting Association reports:

All Fire Units are Ready!

All fire units of Beachport district are in good order.

This was shown in reports from individual groups, as given to the Beachport District Fire Fighting Association.

The Association held its annual meeting at Furner recently. Delegates reported—

Beachport—Unit OK; since May, attended one fire on a town block at night.

Furner-Fox—Truck OK, gear about to be up-graded; signs to indicate farmers quick-fill facilities being bought; finance OK.

Hatherleigh—Millicent Council's new truck, to be delivered that day, should be operational before Christmas.

Mt Burr—Truck and finances OK; attended a few fires but nothing serious.

Mt McIntyre—No calls since the Furner fire; radio to be tested; some parts needed for the truck.

Piccaninny—Radio to be checked; some working bees held.

Thornlea—Truck needed only minor items; finance OK—but they'd like Beachport Council to buy a shed.

Wattle Range West—Unit OK, needing a couple of tyres. Wattle Range North had its new truck and new equipment, supplied by Penola Council.

Wattle Range-Mt Graham—Attended one major fire at Fox Lane; radio repaired; finance OK.

Woakwine—Unit going well; attended Fox Lane fire; reasonably well off financially.

ex 'South Eastern Times'.

NEW FIRE TRUCK FOR PENOLA?

Penola Fire Brigade may have to purchase a new fire truck rather than buy the proposed secondhand model.

Brigade captain, Mr Tom Rymill told Penola District Council this at its last meeting.

Council had allocated \$35 000 in its budget for replacement of the fire truck and fire equipment.

After Mr Rymill's deputation to the council at its previous meeting in September, council agreed the brigade could purchase and equip a secondhand truck chassis as recommended by the brigade, at a total cost of \$25 000.

Mr Rymill told council it would cost \$10 000 for the chassis and \$15 000 for equipment to outfit it.

However, at last meeting, he said a Bedford model truck proposed for purchase could not be located.

In answer to a question from Mr Rymill, council overseer, Mr K. A. Henderson, said he had exhausted most avenues but it appeared there may be a model available from a firm in Victoria.

Mr Rymill said in the event that a secondhand truck could not be obtained the brigade proposed to buy a new International model truck at a cost of \$17 000.

This would bring the total cost of the truck to \$29 000.

Mr. Rymill said the brigade was prepared to provide the extra \$4 000, if council agreed to use the promised allocation of \$25 000.

The council did not make a decision.

Has anyone got a suitable Bedford Fire Truck for sale. Please advise the Penola CFS Urgently . . . Editor.



Children at Fire Station in Goolwa.



Goolwa school children donated 35 dozen eggs to the South Coast Hospital during its recent egg drive.

Equality in the hills

Girls blaze a new career

So, the firefighters are not wearing helmets!

Well, it had to be that way. How else could you have known they were girls?



Naracoorte CFS Brigade members.

Goolwa School Visits CFS

As part of their study of 'People who help us', children from years 2 and 3 at Goolwa Primary School visited the local Fire Station and saw the trucks and equipment that are used by the volunteers.

On 30 November a family BBQ tea will be held at the fire station commencing at 6.30 p.m., and the mobile radio donated by the Apex Club of Goolwa will be officially handed over to the CFS. All welcome.



These lasses are the real McCoy up in those hills of Ironbank—Ash Wednesday country—truly 100 per cent registered CFS volunteers.

They are with the State's youngest CFS brigade, formed at Ironbank after the Ash Wednesday fires on February 20.

Editorial courtesy: 'Southern Argus.'

The wind saved Ironbank that day, but the people decided they could not be that lucky again.

They set out to get their own brigade and got together 60 CFS members, 30 of them active firefighters.

Schoolgirl Marie Walloschack, 16, thought it would be the best way she could help the community.

Within a month of the fire, landowner Bill Pole had donated land for a base, valued at about \$10 000.

The community collected and raised \$9 000 put \$4 000 towards the new truck and \$1 000 to uniforms.

A \$25 000 building to call home should have been there in June, but government departments involved could not seem to get issues sorted out for a water service to the block.

But final problems were resolved this past week and building is expected to begin soon.

A gala day was held Sunday at the Ironbank-Cherry Gardens oval to raise more funds for it.

Courtesy: 'Sunday Mail'.

Brigades Prepare for Fire Season

Country Fire Service Units on Lower Eyre Peninsula are ready for the fires they hope will not happen in the coming fire season.

For Port Lincoln City Council, the District Council of Lincoln and the District Council of Tumby Bay, burning off restrictions under the Country Fires Act will apply this weekend.

In some dryer areas restrictions already apply.

The District Council of Tumby Bay has ordered a complete new radio network for its firefighters.

It is not expected to be installed until late December to early January and will cost between \$40 000 and \$45 000.

The new network will incorporate a base station and twenty-eight mobile units. These will be in the district's twelve fire trucks and in fire control officers' vehicles.

EIGHT UNITS

CFS Supervisor for the area, District Clerk Mr E. A. Roberts, said the eight CFS units in the area were ready for the season.

To date no fires had occurred in the District Council of Tumby Bay area since last summer.

Upgrading of fire fighting facilities in the District Council of Lincoln also includes a complete new VHF radio network to cost about \$5 000.

This is expected to be in operation in about six weeks.

Work on a base station antenna on a high hill on North Block, near Wangary is expected to be completed within three weeks.

This will involve a permanent concrete structure, to be built by contractor Mr. Vic Pobke.

CFS Supervisor Mr Stan Kessell said the new radio equipment would upgrade the standard of radio reception and improve communications with base stations and mobiles. It would also enable all fires to be supervised from Cummins.

For the Port Lincoln end of the District Council area, the council has recently commissioned a new \$34 000 fire truck, based in Port Lincoln.

Mr Kessell said the council had upgraded the fourteen fire trucks in its area.

In the event of fires these units would be backed up by farmers' vehicles carrying a tank and pump.

Mr Kessell said people in the towns were very concerned that some vacant blocks had not been cleared ready for summer.

He said these did not only pose a fire danger, but also a danger to children with the prevalence of snakes in many parts of the district.

Courtesy Port Lincoln Times

Balaklava CFS ready to handle any emergency

With one emergency fire call, the Balaklava Country Fire Service can have an appliance with a trained crew of six mobile under fire minutes.

This marks the efficiency and ability of the Balaklava volunteers to handle any fires that threatens property in this district.

The Balaklava service has two fire fighting appliances. One unit is equipped to handle grass and bush fires, while the other is fitted out with the necessary gear to fight house fires.

Recently, the service with the help of the Balaklava District Council, purchased two sets of breathing apparatus which are worn in heavy smoke conditions.



Pictured are Trevor Gordon, left, and Colin Milton assisting Wayne Olsen to put on his breathing apparatus.

The fire units also carry a supply of foam which could be used for chemical spillages, oil or liquid fires and various other emergency situations which the service could be required to attend.

In addition, the Balaklava CFS has purchased a trailer which could be fitted with pump and extra hose as backup for the other two machines.

The supervisor, Mr Trevor Gordon said that radio communication was an important aspect in any emergency situation.

Balaklava is no exception, when it comes to efficient communications.

Each fire appliance has a radio telephone which provides an instant linkup with the base, next to the council office, other Country Fire Service appliances in South Australia, and the CFS headquarters in Adelaide.

Telephones do not have to be relied on because a radio link has been installed, between Adelaide and Balaklava.

Mr Gordon said the council office was also provided with a base radio telephone system so it could be used in a serious fire when a large scale operation was in force.

In addition, the service is purchasing a portable radio for communication at the fire scene.

Emergency fire calls to the Balaklava CFS are received on eight telephones throughout the Balaklava township, 24 hours per day.

When a call is received the fire siren is automatically sounded, calling the 30 registered fire fighters to the station.

Dozens of additional men and units can be called to assist if required.

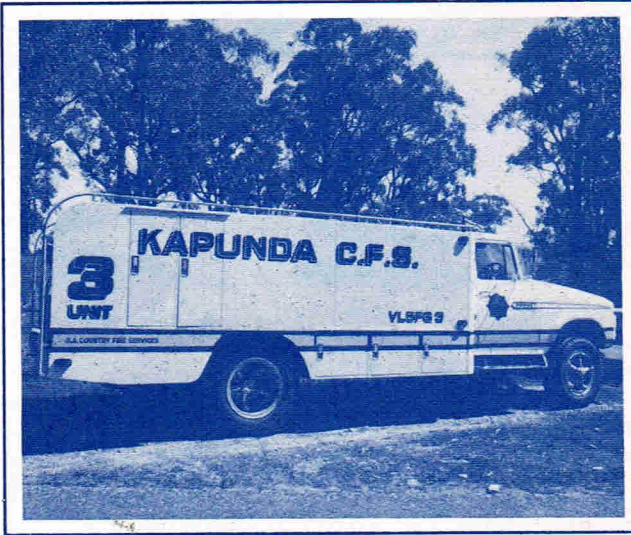
The local service also has a women's auxiliary who provide meals and other supplies to the fire fighters in the field.

Training is held on Monday nights when the pumps are tested and the men practice hose drill for an emergency which hopefully will never come.

Continued on page 42

CAREY GULLY ENGINEERING

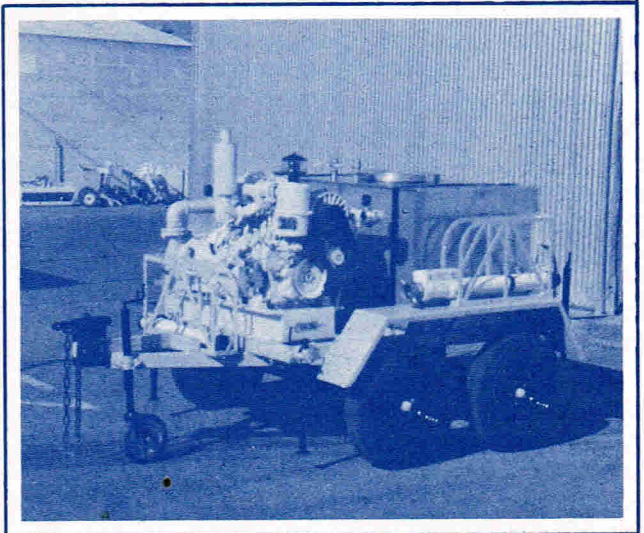
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FIRE ENGINES

Designed and Constructed to
S.A. Country Fire Services Specifications

on all types of Chassis . . .
Slip on Units, Fire Trailers and
Modifications to Existing Units Undertaken.



P.J. & J.M. WOTTON
Deviation Road, Carey Gully 5144.

Balaklava CFS—continued . . .

Training alongside the men, are 10 cadets in the junior section of the Country Fire Service.

The junior section provides a necessary link in a serious emergency, assisting with communications at the base.



Amongst the specialised firefighting equipment carried by units of the Balaklava Country Fire Service is foam.

Pictured from the left are Pierre Verneeren, Wayne Olsen, Chris Cowan, with the foam nozzle, and Colin Milton.

Photos courtesy 'The Producer', Balaklava.

NEW ECHUNGA C.F.S. UNIT COMMISSIONED

Echunga's new CFS unit was officially commissioned on Sunday 26 October by the director of CFS in South Australia, Mr Lloyd Johns.

It was one of the highlights of a full day of activities and exercises for 15 units and crews.

Among the other highlights was the presentation of life membership to former Echunga CFS captain, Mr Dennis Rowe, a 20 year service award to current captain and brigade president, Mr Eric Plane, and a 10 year service award to Mr Peter Inglis.

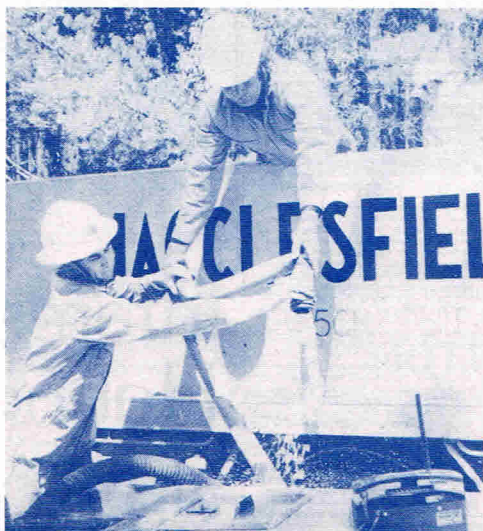
All the units from the Meadows District Council area participated in a unit and crew exercise in the Echunga district.

The exercise was a test of truck efficiency, map reading, radio communication and the team work and efficiency of crew.

During the afternoon, the CFS helicopter took deputy supervisors for an aerial inspection of the district.

The new four-wheel drive Echunga appliance replaces the old Bedford truck, which the brigade had used for 14 years.

The captain and president of the Echunga brigade, Mr Eric Plane, said the \$12 000 unit had been paid for in full.



WAIKERIE CFS TAKE DELIVERY OF NEW DESIGNED UNIT

The Waikerie CFS took delivery of its new fire unit in October.



The unit, designed by members of the Waikerie Service, was built by Mr Phil Wotton (Carey Gully Engineering), of Uraidla, onto an International cab chassis truck.

Once fully equipped, the total cost of the new appliance will be above \$40 000, of which fifty per cent is contributed to by council and fifty per cent by the State Government.

Mr Mike Arnold, Waikerie CFS Chief Officer and CFS Board Member, said that the new unit will be brought into commission in early November.

He said it will replace the old Dodge unit which has been in service in the district for the past twenty-one years.

The new design of the appliance is a first for the State, and was adapted from designs recognised by the Country Fire Services Board.

Mr Arnold said the unit was approved by Headquarters, in Adelaide, last week and will now be fitted with hoses and other ancillary equipment.

The unit incorporates many new safety features and CFS volunteers have dual access to hose compartments from either side of the vehicle.

The larger pump unit fitted, is driven by a Volkswagen motor and has a capacity of pumping 500 gallons of water per minute.

The tank capacity on the truck is also larger than the one on the old Dodge unit and, once again, firemen have access to couplings on both sides of the vehicle.

A twelve volt system, and additional wiring for 240 volts, will enable the CFS to use extensive lighting should the occasion arise.

Mr Arnold said the new vehicle is more than just a firefighting unit.

With additional life saving equipment, breathing apparatus and equipment such as that used by State Emergency Units, the CFS will be able to assist in road accidents or most other cases where specialised gear is required.

Mr Arnold said the appliance will be used mainly in town or urban situations and along the highway.

The smaller International four wheel drive unit will be used to fight open grass fires.

With the addition of the new unit, the Waikerie CFS is one of the better equipped services in the State and this is reflected by the lower fire insurance premiums enjoyed in the district.

The acting district clerk, Mr Brian Rogers said the new unit needed a few 'finishing touches' added to it.

It has quite a number of new features, he said.

These included a side-entry unit, modern gear in the form of pump and motor, the latest type of siren and flashing light, a warning device, and a loud speaker unit.

Mr Rogers said the old unit was replaced as it was overloaded for use in the Waikerie district.

It was being offered for sale by tender.

The Waikerie CFS now has three operational units.

Britains Futuristic Design
for unmanned volunteer Fire Stations

West Calder is a town 30 kilometres west of Edinburgh with a population of 2 000 persons. West Calder Fire Station embraces five towns and two villages with a total population of approximately 5 000 persons.

The main fire risks now are commercial, light industry, residential, bonded whisky storage and commercial forest areas with associated mills.

The Station is equipped with a standard motor appliance having a 1 500 litre first aid tank capacity and including a light portable pump, which can be carried by two men to any available source of water. Personnel consists of twelve part-time retained firemen who attend the Station for drill purposes on an average of two hours per week and on each occasion of fire call.

The Station is also used by the retained firemen for social activities.

These firemen are called out by means of pocket alerters which are operated by radio link from Brigade Headquarters at Edinburgh and also by telephone exchange line backup facilities. This arrangement enables personnel to have much greater freedom of movement and results in better response to fire calls.

The training and administration of West Calder Brigade and three adjacent brigades, also manned by retained firemen is supervised by an officer of Station Officer rank.

The Station Building itself is of unusual design being of circular form wrapping around the large rectangular motor bay.

The circular concept enables a pass through movement with a minimum travel distance.

The hub of the building is the muster bay which has direct access to the motor bay and gives access to all other accommodation.

On arrival at the station, when responding to a fire call, the men enter the muster bay from either the front or rear entrance, and collect their personal gear which is stowed in the muster bay, then enter the motor bay to man the appliance.

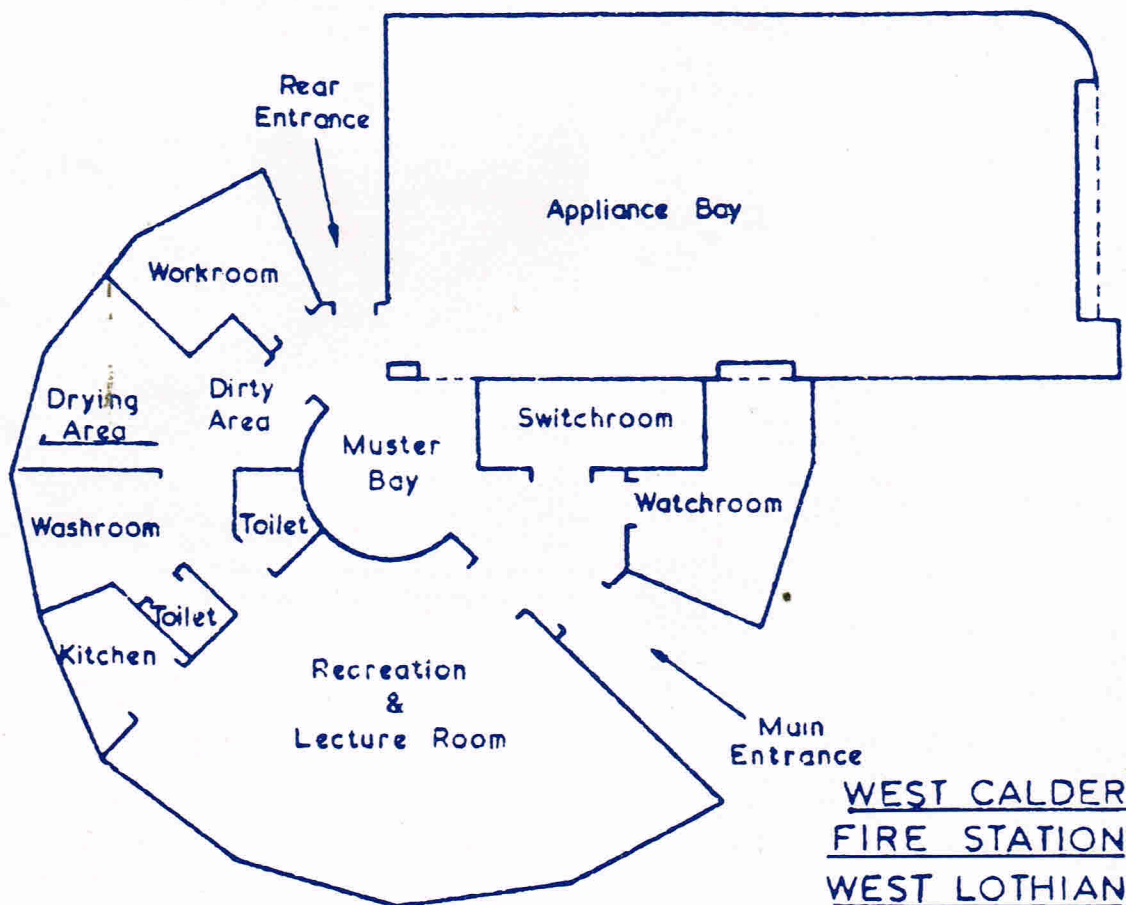
Upon returning from a fire call or drill exercise the crew leave the motor bay through another door, adjacent to the muster bay, entering the dirty area to strip off and then to the washroom area and lockers to collect clean clothing.

The recreation and lecture room is entered from either the main entrance or by continuing on through the washroom/locker area.

The watchroom is situated adjacent to the motor bay and across the main entrance area from the recreation/lecture room.

The design leads to increased efficiency and cleanliness. All dirty areas, toilets, washrooms and muster bay are tiled throughout, allowing these areas to be hosed down for cleaning. The motor bay has a quarry tile floor while the kitchen, recreation/lecture room and watchroom are carpeted with industrial carpeting and because of climatic conditions the station is centrally heated.

The drillyard tower is constructed in steel, comprising two main vertical columns with cantilevered platforms. These platforms are protected by steel ballustrading and access between levels is by an integral rung steel ladder welded to the columns.



COMMISSIONING OF A NEW APPLIANCE AND PRESENTATION OF SERVICE AWARDS TO THE SALISBURY CFS.



The new Salisbury CFS Fire Unit.



Pictured at the rear of the new unit from left—Superintendent G. A. Keay (CFS H/Q); Salisbury Group Captain F. G. Dunn; President Mr H. L. Bowey; Mr L. C. Johns (Director CFS) and Mr R. T. White, Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Salisbury.



Caught in the act—putting the final shine to the new unit before the commissioning.



Over 444 years of service to the CFS has been accumulated by members of the Salisbury CFS Brigade, pictured here with CFS Director Mr L. Johns (centred).



Speeches were heard from the President, Salisbury Country Fire Services Mr H. L. Bowey; the Mayor of the Corporation of the City of Salisbury Mr R. T. White; the Director of Country Fire Services Mr L. C. Johns; Salisbury Fire Supervisor Mr J. Bormann and the Salisbury Country Fire Services Group Captain Mr F. G. Dunn.

The Director presented Group Captain Dunn with the keys, upon officially commissioning the Salisbury Fire Truck.



Following the Commissioning of the Appliance, the local Salisbury Ladies CFS Auxiliary treated everyone present to a superb supper.



CFS H/Q Control Centre operator and Salisbury CFS Volunteer Mr W. Bryant discusses mechanics of the engine, with members of the Salisbury and Northfield CFS Brigades.

Fire Danger Not Realised

Whilst headlines in the paper point up large fires in shops, warehouses and factories, very little, if any, publicity is given to the numerous small outbreaks which occur daily in homes, and are dealt with by the housewife.

In considering fire safety at home, one wonders if housewives realise the potential for fires which exist and, because the potential is there every day, if becomes tolerated and accepted.

Like the medicine chest, a fairly fire safe item one would think—does it, for example, contain Condyl's crystals and perhaps a bottle of glycerine standing side by side?

These two items, should they mix, will, within seconds, generate enough heat to start a fire; in fact, this is used in incendiary capsules for controlled burning in forests.

Let's move to the lounge, a cold night, and you want an extra radiator.

So out comes the extension cord, and because it looks unsightly, it is put under a rug, and there it stays for the winter.

Harmless enough, but the cord gets walked on and damaged, and also, by covering it up, heat can be generated, and we have another fire source.

Extension cords should be used only for short periods, and not in place of another proper power outlet.

The kitchen is where the housewife finds she spends a great deal of her time, and here we usually discover a collection of hazardous situations.

An actual incident will serve to illustrate the point.

A woman was cleaning clothing with petrol in the kitchen.

There were no sources of ignition present, or so she thought.

However, a pilot light on the gas stove was burning; the fumes drifted across the room, an explosion occurred and the woman ultimately died as a result of the burns she received.

Flammable liquids such as petrol and white spirit should never be used in any situation where there is a likelihood of some source of ignition being present; they should be used, and stored, outside the home.

The stove can present a number of fire sources, the main ones being, of course, fat catching fire on top of the stove in the frying pan and secondly, overcooking of a roast or similar item in the oven.

In dealing with both of these types of fire one fact is of prime importance—**Leave it Where it is!**

Don't open the oven, or try and carry the pan outside.

You are putting yourself in unnecessary danger.

In the case of the fat, cover it with a lid, a wet towel, or blanket; and in the oven keep it shut, and call the Fire Brigade.

Ovens are designed to withstand internal heat, and it is unlikely serious danger will result before professional help arrives.

In all cases involving fat fires, **water should not be used**, as this can cause an explosion scattering burning fat all over the kitchen.

Night Attire

Much has been said recently about the type of night attire that children should wear.

A very informative booklet on this is readily available, but still we read of small children, particularly girls, being badly burnt through wearing long flowing nightgowns.

For your child's sake, please take notice of the suggestions which have been made.

Fitted ski-type pyjamas may not be as pretty, but they are far safer.

These are just some of the problems which can occur.

How prepared are you? Do you have a suitable extinguisher at home?

If at night a fire breaks out, how sure are you that all members of the family can escape should the normal doorway be blocked by smoke and flame? Have you educated your family in fire safety?

Remember—The three main causes of fire are: Men, Women and Children.

So it would seem that added to the many other tasks which she must undertake, the housewife is also the family fire protection officer.

If you are in doubt what should be done then professional advice is available from fire officers and fire protection companies.

Editor

Fire Safety in the Home

Statistics show that approximately 60 per cent of fires which occur in the home could have been prevented by the occupants being more aware of basic fire prevention methods.

Fire safety equals commonsense.

Failure to observe simple precautions has resulted in many fires, some of which involved loss of human life.

Fire Precautions:

1. Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
2. Don't hoard newspapers, magazines, and other similar burnable materials.
3. Don't smoke in bed.
4. Check armchairs and lounges for lost or forgotten cigarettes before going to bed—especially after parties.
5. When using portable heaters—
 - (a) ensure that the correct fuel is being used—using petrol in kerosene heaters can be fatal;
 - (b) make sure heater is turned off before moving and before refuelling; and
 - (c) keep all combustible materials well clear.
6. Store flammable liquids in metal containers—correctly labelled—store only the minimum necessary quantities. Do not store in basements or in residential areas of the house.
7. Replace electrical leads when they become frayed or when the insulation is cracked.
8. When a fuse fails disconnect all appliances on that circuit—replace the fuse wire using fuse wire with the correct rating. Identify the malfunctioning appliance and have it repaired safely by a competent electrician.
9. Ensure that garden hoses are in good condition—are kept permanently attached to taps and are of sufficient length to reach all parts of the house.

N.B.: Do not use water on electrical, liquid fuel or fat fires—use a special purpose extinguisher instead.
10. Install a 2.25 kg dry chemical powder extinguisher in the kitchen near the door. Use this extinguisher on electrical, liquid fuel or fat fires.

N.B.: A 3 kg Carbon Dioxide may be substituted, but because of the possible toxic hazard in confined spaces B.C.F. extinguishers should not be used in the home.
11. Keep the telephone number of your local fire brigade handy.

Man Dies/House Explodes

A 36-year-old Rowland Flat man was burnt to death in his house on Sunday morning, 28 September.

The fire started at approximately 8.45 a.m. The first call to the Fire Brigade was unable to be answered, as the location of the house was not given. A second call about twenty minutes later gave the location, and units from Tanunda and Gomersal CFS attended.

The fire fighters had to contend with exploding asbestos and fumes from burning plastic, but had the blaze under control at about 10.30 a.m.

ex. 'Barossa and Light Herald', October.



Fire Damages House

Quick action by Hoyleton and Balaklava Country Fire Service members probably saved a Halbury house from total destruction by fire in the early hours of Tuesday morning 11 November.

The fire caused about \$40 000 damage to about half the house owned by Mr Humphrey Simon.

Mr Simon was alone in the house when the fire broke out about 2.15 a.m.

The blaze was quickly contained by an appliance from the Hoyleton Country Fire Service until two units from Balaklava arrived, shortly later.

The supervisor of the Balaklava Country Fire Service, Mr Trevor Gordon, told the 'Producer' that quick action by the Hoyleton unit prevented the fire engulfing the rest of the new house.

The cause of the fire is thought to be an electrical fault.

A crew from Balaklava remained at the house till 8 a.m. checking for flare-ups.

Editorial/Photo courtesy Mr Hamish McLean, 'The Producer', Balaklava.



VISITOR FROM N.Z. CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL

Mr Ray Curry, Supervisor, Fire Engineering Course A.N.Z.T.C.I., recently made a brief stopover in South Australia to meet with students from his correspondence course.

Mr Curry is also Chairman of the Wellington group of the I.F.E. (Industrial Fire Engineers) and the 1980-81 president of the N.Z. branch of the I.F.E. He corresponds with 260 students, of which sixty are Australian, seventeen come from South Australia.

HISTORY OF SERVICE

Mr Curry first joined the Gloucestershire Fire Service in 1954, became an Industrial Fire Engineer, graduated in 1959 and reached S.O. in the British Fire Service, at Morton on Marsh, he was then seconded to the British Home Office as an instructor.

In 1961 he immigrated to New Zealand. Mr Curry served as District Fire Protection Officer, Wanganui, being responsible for fire protection arrangements for all crown land occupied buildings. A total of 7 000 buildings, five prisons, 250 secondary schools, post offices, railways, police stations etc.

He was invited and made the **first** Fire Inspection Survey of buildings in the Antarctica for a period of three weeks in 1966.

In 1970 he qualified as M.I. Fire.E., in 1974 joined the N.Z. Technical Correspondence Institute, to restructure a 'fire engineering course'. (First Fire Engineer to join the staff).

Since 1954 Mr Curry along with two qualified M.I.Fire.E. colleagues produced 130 assignments on ten subjects, on a course that meets the syllabus of M.I.Fire.E.

PURPOSE OF VISIT

To coincide with Mr Curry's intended business trip to Canberra, he was pleased to accept with his wife, Mr John's invitation to visit South Australia to meet students—to answer questions and advise them on how to study, what to study and how to approach examinations.

DISCUSSIONS

Arising from discussions held with some of his correspondence students Mr Curry now proposes that ideas obtained will be introduced into course supplements to cater for Australian differences.



Heavy in discussion at CFS Headquarters is from left—R.O. Richard Hutchins (Fire Prevention), with Mr Ray Curry, N.Z. Supervisor, Fire Engineering Course, A.N.Z.T.C.I.

S.A. COUNTRY FIRE SERVICES

HEADQUARTERS STAFF

DIRECTOR: Mr L. C. JOHNS, F.I. Fire.E., A.I.M., Churchill Fellow.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR: Mr P. A. MALPAS, B.E.M.

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Superintendent G. A. Keay,
 M.I. FireE.
 Regional Officer D. J. Batten.
 Regional Officer R. G. Grear.
 Regional Officer B. R.
 Menadue.
 Regional Officer R. T. Keynes.
 Regional Officer R. H.
 Hutchins., M.I. FireE.
 Regional Officer P. R. Ferris.
 Regional Officer M. T.
 Sherwell.
 Regional Officer G. M.
 Polomka J.P.
 Regional Officer T. R. Conlon.
 Regional Officer B. W. Hogan.

ADMINISTRATION

Mr N. J. Cooke (Superintendent
 Administration).
 Mr D. M. Ramsden (Chief
 Clerk).
 Mr D. L. Critchley.
 Ms J. McMahon, B.A. Hons.
 Mrs J. H. Robbins.
 Mrs E. A. Martin.
 Miss K. L. Fuller.
 Mrs L. T. Whelan.
 Mrs S. M. Grima.
 Miss C. T. Palmer.
 Miss F. Macgregor.
 Miss B. A. Williams.

RESEARCH & FIRE PROTECTION

Superintendent B. A. Green.
 Regional Officer C. A. Dearman,
 R.D.A., G.D.N.R.
 Regional Officer T. P.
 Crichton.
 Regional Officer J. H. Lloyd.

PUBLICITY & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Mr P. R. Mills A.A.I.A. Dip.

CONTROL CENTRE OPERATORS

Mr W. H. Bryant.
 Mr M. A. Thomason.
 Mr T. B. Modistach.
 Mr N. H. Ellis.
 Mr B. A. Bilney.

Fire ventilation demonstration

Members of the New South Wales Fire Brigade show interest in Email's clear opening ventilator, used for fire ventilation in mainly single storey buildings.

They were guests of Email's Air Handling Products department at a recent fire venting seminar and demonstration at the company's Regents Park plant.



Our photograph shows (from left) Eric Cribbin, John Booth, Bill Reay, Harry Atkinson, John Nella, Manager of Email's Air Handling Products department, and Bert Grey.

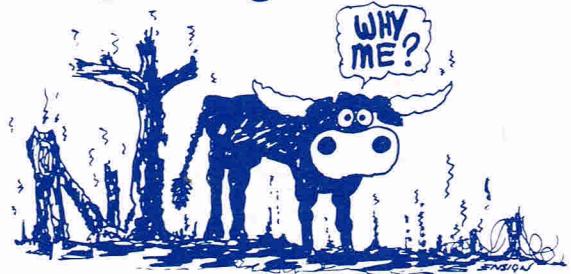
Over 80 people representing local government authorities, major companies, as well as members of the Fire Brigade, attended the function.

In simple terms, fire ventilation allows the fire to be vented to outside atmosphere. The heat, flame and smoke escape above the fire, instead of spreading throughout the building.

Consequently, the fire is isolated and the fire brigade is able to locate it and control it quickly, efficiently and safely.

On the other hand, without fire ventilation, masses of smoke and hot gases quickly roll through the building, under the roof, starting new fires. The dense smoke makes it impossible to locate, let alone reach the source of the fire and from this point, a major disaster can occur.

everything is burnabull



GIVE A POOR COW A FIRE BREAK!



A wreckers yard, a bad fire hazard

*Seasons Greetings
 and a Prosperous
 New Year to all
 Volunteers*

District Association, CFS Fire Brigades and CFS Group Committees

The figure in brackets after the name of the brigade indicates the number of calls reported for the year 1 July 1979 to 30 June 1980.

REGION 1 (CENTRAL)

Reg'd No.	Regional Officer—Mr. R. T. Keynes, E.D. COUNCIL/BRIGADE	
11	BURNSIDE CORPORATION 1 Burnside (6)	
14	CAMPBELLTOWN CORPORATION 1 Athelstone (27)	
22	DUDLEY 1 Penneshaw & District (—) 2 American River (1)	
23	EAST TORRENS 1 Cherryville (5) 4 Summertown & District (1) 2 Montacute (25) 5 Carey Gully (1) 3 Norton Summit/Ashton (1) 6 Basket Range (—)	
118	VICTOR HARBOR 1 Victor Harbor District FFA (—) 3 Lower Inman Valley (—) 2 Hindmarsh Valley (8) 4 Waitpinga (4)	
46	KINGSCOTE 1 Kingscote (7) 5 Menzies (2) 2 Duncan/Gosse (2) 6 Wisanger (2) 3 Parndana (3) 7 South West (—) 4 Newland (—) 8 Haines MacGillvray (—)	
58	MEADOWS 1 Ashbourne (1) 7 Kangarilla (1) 2 Blackfellows Creek & District (8) 8 Meadows (43) 3 Clarendon (6) 9 Echunga (5) 4 Coromandel Valley (19) 10 Macclesfield (—) 5 Paris Creek (1) 11 Happy Valley (25) 6 Greenhills/Meadows (—) 12 Cherry Gardens (9)	
62	MITCHAM CORPORATION 1 Mitcham Hills (110) 4 M/H Eden Hills (34) 2 Belair (35) 5 National Park (—) 3 Blackwood (33)	
72	MURRAY BRIDGE 1 Murray Bridge (2) 4 Mypolonga (5) 2 Callington (7) 5 Brinkley (1) 3 Jervois (2) 6 Ettrick (2)	
66	MOUNT BARKER 1 Brukunga & District (4) 3 Nairne (14) 2 Hahndorf (11) 4 Mount Barker Inc. (26)	
75	NOARLUNGA 1 Port Noarlunga/Christies Beach (22) 3 McLaren Flat and Blewitt Springs (17) 2 Morphett Vale/Reynella/Hackham (33)	
68	ONKAPARINGA 1 Oakbank/Balhannah (17) 3 Lenswood/Forest Range (2) 2 Woodside (20) 4 Lobethal (40)	
90	PORT ELLIOT AND GOOLWA 1 Port Elliot (7) 4 Middleton (—) 2 Currency Creek (—) 5 Goolwa (8) 3 Mount Compass/Nangkita (—) 6 Hindmarsh Island (3)	
108	STIRLING 1 Aldgate Inc. (32) 6 Stirling (5) 2 Bridgewater (27) 7 Upper Sturt (14) 3 Longwood/Bradbury/Scott Creek (—) 8 Mount George (5) 4 Mylor (6) 9 Mount Lofty Ranges CFS training Centre (1) 5 St. Michaels (—) 10 Cleland Wild Life Reserve (—)	
109	STRATHALBYN 1 Strathalbyn & District (18) 3 Milang (2) 2 Woodchester (4) 4 Langhorne Creek (3)	
113	TEA TREE GULLY Tea Tree Gully (81) 2 TTG Hope Valley (—)	
124	WILLUNGA 1 The Range (1) 5 McLaren District (16) 2 Willunga (1) 6 Aldinga Plains (7) Yundi (1) 7 Aldinga Beach Area (41) 4 Hope Forest (1) 8 Sellicks Hill (15)	
128	YANKALILLA 1 Inman (—) 5 Yankaililla & District (—) 2 Myponga District (3) 6 Rapid Bay & District (2) 3 Parawa (1)	
130	HEADQUARTERS RESERVE SECTION CFS Headquarters, West Beach Road, Keswick (1)	
151	NORTHFIELD (Correctional Services) (28)	
63	Monarto Development Commission (8)	

REGION 2 (LOWER NORTH)

Reg'd No.	Regional Officer—Mr B. R. Menadue COUNCIL/brigade	
2	ANGASTON 1 Angaston (3) 3 Tarrawatta (—) 2 Nuriootpa (13)	
3	BALAKLAVA 1 Balaklava (20) 3 Avon (—) 2 Everard Mount Templeton (4)	
5	BAROSSA 1 Barossa District (1) 5 Mount Crawford (1) 2 Rosedale (—) 6 Lyndoch (5) 3 Concordia (7) 7 Corryton Park (—) 4 Glen Para (1) 8 Poppleton (—)	
27	EUDUNDA 1 Eudunda (4) 2 Neals Flat (1)	
33	GUMERACHA 1 Gumeracha & District (12) 3 Paracombe (18) 2 Birdwood (2)	
42	KAPUNDA 1 Kapunda (28)	
52	LIGHT 1 Gawler River District (1) 5 Sheoak Log & District (7) 2 Freeling (8) 6 Mudia Wirra (7) 3 Greenock (4) 7 The Woolsheds (5) 4 Gomersal (1) 8 Pinkerton Plains (5) 9 Roseworthy (2)	
55	MALLALA 1 Mallala & District (9) 3 Dublin (—) 2 Two Wells & District (4)	
56	MANNUM 1 Mannum (—) 2 Bow Hill (—)	
69	MOUNT PLEASANT 1 Mount Pleasant (2) 3 Rockleigh (1) 2 Springton (—) 4 Eden Valley (—)	
70	MUNNO PARA 1 One Tree Hill (33) 5 Evanston Gardens (32) 2 Virginia (12) 6 Munno Para Central (13) 3 Smithfield (113) 4 Para Wirra National Park (—)	
78	OWEN 1 Hamley Bridge (10) 4 Alma (—) 2 Owen (12) 5 Ridgway (1) 3 Pinery (—)	
99	RIDLEY 1 Keyneton (—) 3 Cambrai (—) 2 Swan Reach (5) 4 Sedan/Towitta (—)	
100	RIVERTON 1 Riverton (10) 2 Tarlee (10)	
102	ROBERTSTOWN 1 Robertstown (1) 2 Bower District (—)	
103	SADDLEWORTH AND AUBURN 1 Manoora (5) 4 Saddleworth (6) 2 Marrabel (—) 5 Auburn (5) 3 Waterloo/Steelton/Tothill Belt (1) 6 Watervale (4)	
105	SALISBURY 1 Salisbury (161)	
111	TANUNDA 1 Tanunda (1)	
115	TRURO 1 Truro— 2 Blanchetown—	

REGION 3 (YORKE PENINSULA)

Reg'd No.	Regional Officer Mr. D. J. Batten. COUNCIL/BRIGADE	
13	BUTE 1 Bute (—) 2 Alford (—)	
16	CENTRAL YORKE PENINSULA 1 Ardrossan (1) 4 South Kilkerran (1) 2 Maitland (12) 5 Point Pearce (—) 3 Port Victoria (—) 6 Mulloowurtie (8)	
19	CLINTON 1 Clinton (—) 4 Price and District (—) 2 Agery/Weetulta (—) 5 Port Clinton and District (—) 3 Nalyappa (—)	
40	KADINA 1 Kadina (—) 3 Paskeville (—) 2 Cunliffe (—)	
61	MINLATON 1 Curramulka (—) 3 Port Vincent (3) 2 Minlaton (8) 4 Brentwood (2)	
95	PORT WAKEFIELD 1 Port Wakefield (8) 2 Nantawarra (1) 3 South Hummocks (—)	
122	WAROOKA 1 Warooka (6) 3 Marion Bay (—) 2 Corny Point (—)	
129	YORKETOWN 1 Yorketown (—) 3 Stansbury (1) 2 Edithburgh (1)	

REGION 4 (NORTHERN)

Regional Officer—Mr G. M. Polomka, J.P.

Reg'd No.	COUNCIL/BRIGADE	
8	BLYTH 1 Blyth (—) 2 Brinkworth (6)	3 Hoyleton & District (3)
12	BURRA BURRA 1 Burra & District (—) 2 Mount Bryan (1)	3 Farrell Flat (3) 4 Booborowie (1) 5 Mt Bryan East (—)
17	CLARE 1 Clare & District (27)	2 Mintaro (—)
21	CRYSTAL BROOK 1 Crystal Brook (4)	
30	GEORGETOWN 1 Georgetown (2) 2 Gulnare (5) 3 Narridy (—)	4 Yacka (1) 5 Huddleston (—)
31	GLADSTONE 1 Gladstone (5)	
34	HALLETT 1 Hallett (4) 2 Whyte Yarcowie (—)	3 Terowie (2)
35	HAWKER 1 Hawker & District (4)	
39	JAMESTOWN 1 Caltowie (—)	2 Jamestown & District (5)
41	KANYAKA QUORN 1 (—)	2 Quorn & District (8)
49	LAURA 1 Laura (3)	
77	ORROROO 1 Orroroo (7)	2 Pekina (—)
84	PETERBOROUGH 1 Peterborough (6)	2 Yongala & District (—)
86	PIRIE 1 Warnertown (—) 2 Napperby (—)	3 Pirie East (5) 4 Wandearah (—)
89	PORT BROUGHTON 1 Port Broughton (1)	2 Ward's Hill (—)
91	PORT GERMEIN 1 Port Germein (—) 2 Wirrabara (2) 3 Melrose (—)	4 Appila & District (1) 5 Booleroo Centre (—)
97	RED HILL 1 Koolunga (—) 2 Red Hill (—)	3 Munderoo (—)
106	SNOWTOWN 1 Snowtown (8)	2 Lochiel (—)
107	SPALDING 1 Spalding (—)	2 Washpool (—)
125	WILMINGTON 1 Wilmington (9)	2 Stirling North (27)

REGION 5 (SOUTHEAST)

Regional Officer—Mr M. T. Sherwell

Reg'd No.	COUNCIL/BRIGADE	
6	BEACHPORT 1 Mount McIntyre (—) 2 Woakwine (1) 3 Wattle Range Mount Graham (1) 4 Beachport Town (1)	5 Thornlea (2) 6 Piccaninny (1) 7 Furner/Fox (1) 8 Mt. Burr (—) 9 Wattle Range West (3)
20	COONALPYN 1 Coonalpyn Downs District FFA (—) 2 Field (5) 3 Yumali (4)	4 Tintinara (3) 5 Coonalpyn (8) 6 Colebatch (1) 7 Coombe (5)
47	LACEPEDE 1 Kingston (8) 2 Reedy Creek (1) 3 Marcollat (1)	4 Wangolina & District (2) 5 Keilira & District (2)
54	LUCINDALE 1 Lucindale District (4) 2 East Woolumbool (1) 3 Conmurra (—) 4 South Joyce (1) 5 Callendale (2)	6 Spence (4) 7 Avenue Range (—) 8 North Joyce (—) 9 Biscuit Flat (—) 10 Mount Bruce (—)
59	MENINGIE 1 Lower Murray (—) 2 Meningie (14) 3 Tailem Bend (22) 4 Cooke Plains (8)	5 Narrung (—) 5 Malinong/Ashville (—) 7 Salt Creek (1)
60	MILLICENT 1 Rendelsham (6) 2 Hatherleigh (1) 3 Nangula (—) 4 Wylie (—) 5 Emerald (4) 6 Millicent (50) 7 Mayurra (6)	8 Sebastopol (—) 9 Cellulose (1) 10 Apcel (1) 11 Tantanoola (2) 12 Glencoe (2) 13 Southend (1)

76.	MOUNT GAMBIER 1 Benara (3) 3 Mil Lel (4) 4 Moorak (3) 6 O.B. Flat (6) 7 Pleasant Park (—) 8 Wandillo (3) 9 Yahl (5)	10 Compton & Gambier West (7) 11 Suttontown (5) 12 Glenburnie (5) 13 Tarpeena (2) 14 Mount Gambier District FFA (38) 15 Wepar (—)
74	NARACOORTE 1 Naracoorte (46) 2 Frances (7) 3 Kybybolite (—) 4 Wrattontully (1) 5 Binnum (4)	6 Movhall/Stewarts Range (1) 7 Lochaber (5) 8 Hynam (—) 9 Keppock (10)
82	PENOLA 1 Comaum (2) 2 Maaoupe (—) 3 Coonawarra (—) 4 Wattle Range North (—)	5 Penola (11) 6 Kalangdoo (—) 8 Nangwarry (3)
93	PORT MACDONNELL 1 Port Macdonnell (—) 2 Kongorong (—) 3 Allendale East (2) 4 Mount Schanck (1)	5 Eight Mile Creek (1) 6 Donovans (—) 7 Nene Valley (—)
101	ROBE 1 Robe District (11) 2 Robe Town (—)	3 Greenways (—) 4 Bray (2)
112	TATIARA 1 Tatiara (—) 2 Bordertown (28) 3 Keith (20) 4 Tatiara Senior (7) 5 Willalooka (2) 6 McCallum (2) 7 Mundalla (3)	8 Wolseley (3) 9 Padthaway (8) 10 Wirrega/Lowan Vale (1) 11 Western Flat (—) 12 Kongal (5) 13 Bangham (—) 14 Brimbago (—)

REGION 6—(EYRE PENINSULA)

Regional Officer—Mr P. R. Ferris

Reg'd No.	COUNCIL/BRIGADE	
18	CLEVE 1 Cleve (4) 2 Darke Peak (3) 3 Wharminda (—) 4 Rudall District (—) 5 Arno Bay & District (5)	6 Verran (—) 7 Gum Flat (—) 8 Tooligie Hills (4) 9 Palkagee (3)
24	ELLISTON 1 Lock & District (18) 2 Murdinga (1) 3 Elliston & District (—) 4 Port Kenny (—)	5 Elliston/Musgrave Association (—) 6 Sheringa (1) 7 Mount Wedge (—)
28	FRANKLIN HARBOUR (Cowell) 1 Franklin Harbour (—)	2 Mangalo (4)
45	KIMBA 1 Kimba (25) 2 Kimba/Buckleboo (8)	3 Waddikee (1)
50	LeHUNTE 1 Warrambo (1) 2 Minnipa (3) 3 Wudinna (2)	4 Cootra (2) 5 Mount Damper & District (1)
51	LINCOLN 1 Cummins & District (1) 2 Karkoo (5) 3 Lincoln (20) 4 Yeelanna (5) 5 Wangarry (—) 6 Wanilla (—)	7 Coultas (4) 8 Coffin Bay (—) 9 Ullippa (1) 10 Edillilie & District (3) 11 Louth (3) 12 Brimpton Lake/ Kapinnie (1)
80	MURAT BAY (Ceduna) 1 Nunjikompita (5) 2 Ceduna/Thevenard and District (18)	3 Smoky Bay (4)
110	STREAKY BAY 1 Poochera & District (—) 2 Streaky Bay & District (6) 3 Wirrulla & District (11)	4 Cungenia (—) 5 Calca (1) 6 Haslam (—)
116	TUMBAY BAY 1 Koppio (2) 2 Lipson District (3) 3 Butler (—) 4 Port Neill (—)	5 Stokes (1) 6 Brooker Ward (1) 7 Moody (—) 8 Tumbay (2)

REGION 7 (UPPER MURRAY & MURRAY MALLEE)

Regional Officer—Mr B. R. Menadue

EQUIPMENT SUBSIDIES PAID TO FIRE FIGHTING ORGANISATIONS OVER THE LAST 26 YEARS

(1955 to JUNE 1979)

Reg'd. No.	COUNCIL/BRIGADE	Claims	Total CFS Expenditure \$	Total Subsidy Paid to Date \$	Percentage Subsidy Paid
4	BARMERA 1 Barmera CFS (—)	3 Cobdogia (—)			
7	BERRI 1 Monash (6)	2 Glossop (—)			
10	BROWN'S WELL 1 (—) 2 Meribah (1) 3 (—)	4 Peebinga (—) 5 (—)	1955 51 238 1956 54 670 1957 81 878	14 142 25 690 31 084	20 MV 50 other 50 50
43	KAROONDA/EAST MURRAY 1 Karoonda (9) 2 Perponda (—) 3 Marama (—) 4 Wynarka (—)	5 Kulkawurra (1) 6 Borrika (—) 7 Copeville (—) 8 Halidon & District (—)	1958 64 132 1959 86 538 1960 70 048 1961 110 014 1962 148 102 1963 117 828	28 452 30 434 29 886 44 548 74 052 73 914	50 50 30 MV 50 other 50 50
48	LAMEROO 1 Lameroo (5) 2 Kulkami (—)	3 Geranium (5)	1964 158 768 1965 164 576 1966 155 618	79 378 96 279 77 809	45 50 50
53	LOXTON 1 Loxton & District (—) 2 Moorook (1)	3 Taplan (—) 5 Wunkar (—)	1967 170 805 1968 234 840 1969 227 240	85 403 111 733 113 620	50 47½ 50
65	MORGAN 1 Morgan (—)	2 Cadell Training Centre (6)	1970 178 286 1971 224 194	95 379 112 097	50 50
79	PARINGA 1 Paringa (13)	2 Lyrup (—)	1972 187 052 1973 154 944	93 526 77 472	50 50
81	PEAKE 1 Peake (3) 2 Sherlock District (—) 3 Netherton (—) 4 Jabuk (2)	5 Commandook/Moorlands (3) 6 Livingstone (1) 7 Yumali (4)	1974 250 000 1975 460 741 1976 512 150 1977 713 368	125 000 230 117 256 075 357 000	50 50 50 50
85	PINNAROO 1 Pinnaroo (4)	2 Parilla (—)	1978 589 320 1979 907 283	291 963 452 623	50 50
119	WAIKERIE 1 Waikerie (19) Services (21)	National Parks & Wildlife	1.1.80-30.6.80	329 147 164 581	50
131	132	133	Woods & Forests Dept. (15) State Planning Authority (—)		
			\$6 427 380	\$3 172 257	

Regional Fire Fighting Associations

Name of Regional Fire Fighting Associations (within Local Government Area)	Name of Regional Fire Fighting Association (outside Local Government Area)
1. Adelaide Hills	12. Eastern Districts
2. Barossa Ranges	13. Far North West
3. Eyre Peninsula	14. Far West
4. Kangaroo Island	15. Kingoonya
5. Lower North	16. North East
6. Lower South East	17. Upper Murray
7. Northern	18. Northern Flinders
8. Riverland and Eastern Upper Murray	19. Wilpena
9. South Eastern	
10. Upper South East	
11. Yorke Peninsula	

**Country Fire Services Manual Amenities Fund
Statement of Receipts and Payments
For the year ended 30 June 1980**

RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS
Donations 135.00	Engraving trophies etc. 4 501.10
Advertisements 888.20	Refund of payment for medallions 360.75
Trophies 1 639.57	Auditors fees 37.90
Badges 91.00	Money Order (B.F.S.A.) 5.93
Bank Interest 124.58	
TOTAL RECEIPTS 2 878.35	TOTAL PAYMENTS 4 905.68
FUNDS 1.7.79	FUNDS 30.6.80
Bank Balance 4 682.94	Bank Balance 2 087.09
LESS unrepresented cheques 577.52	
Cash on hand 9.75	Cash on hand 0.75
6 993.52	6 993.52

Chairman, Country Fire Services Manual Amenities Fund

TIMES SCORES OF PREVIOUS COMPETITION CHAMPIONS

HOSE AND PUMP DRILL			
	Secs		
1947 Mount Gambier	87.0	1964 Mount Barker	92.1
1948 Mount Barker	81.5	1965 Clare	82.9
1949 Mount Barker	83.5	1966 Yorketown	87.8
1950 Belair	84.5	1967 Nuriootpa	84.6
1951 Mount Barker	86.5	1968 Nuriootpa	83.7
*1952 Nangwarry	80.0	1969 Mount Barker	86.8
1953 Nangwarry	81.8	1970 Nuriootpa	87.3
1954 Nangwarry	84.2	1971 Cellulose	82.0
1855 Nangwarry	86.7	1972 Clare	86.9
*1956 Cellulose	72.3	1973 Mount Barker	84.1
1957 Clare	79.3	1974 Eden Hills	83.2
*1958 Clare	54.3	1975 Mount Barker	87.2
1959 Jamestown	93.5	1976 Mount Barker	86.4
*1960 Nuriootpa	82.7	1977 Nuriootpa	81.9
1961 Clare	101.1	1978 Blackwood	78.0
1962 Cellulose	94.2	1979 Blackwood	73.5
1963 Clare	97.9	1980 Nuriootpa	78.3

*Special Drill Movements due to wet conditions
N.B.—From 1961 onwards the current drill was used.

INDUSTRIAL FIRE SERVICE INC. v. CFS

DRY HOSE DRILL			
1960 Jamestown EFS	65.0	1970 Clare EFS	63.8
ICI Ltd	77.2	Tubemakers BTM	72.4
1961 ICI Ltd	62.2	Cellulose EFS	60.0
Clare EFS	63.7	Tubemakers BTM	67.7
1962 Cellulose EFS	69.2	Clare EFS	61.9
BTM Ltd	70.2	GMH Elizabeth	62.9
1963 Mt Barker EFS	63.4	GMH Elizabeth	61.5
ICI Ltd	65.0	Mt Barker EFS	62.6
1964 GMH Elizabeth	58.0	Tubemakers BTM	58.8
Mt Barker EFS	62.4	Eden Hills EFS	60.0
1965 BALM Paints Ltd	61.6	Tubemakers BTM	60.2
Clare EFS	65.8	Nuriootpa EFS	61.5
1966 Nuriootpa EFS	66.0	Tubemakers of Aust.	61.4
		Mt Barker CFS	63.9
1967 GMH Elizabeth	68.0	Nuriootpa CFS	59.9
Nuriootpa EFS	58.6	GMH Elizabeth	62.0
1968 GMH Elizabeth	63.0	Blackwood CFS	56.9
Nuriootpa EFS	62.0	Dulux Aust. Ltd	70.2
1969 BTM Ltd	62.4	Blackwood CFS	53.7
Nuriootpa EFS	62.0	GMH Elizabeth	55.3
BTM Ltd	66.0	1980 Nuriootpa CFS	56.0
		GMH Elizabeth	60.2

PORTABLE PUMP ALARM RACE

1950 Montacute	42.8	1965 Stirling No. 1	36.4
1951 Belair No. 1	40.0	1966 Yorketown	35.0
1952 The Range (Willunga)	39.9	1967 Yorketown	35.0
1953 Montacute	39.0	1968 Woodside	33.0
1954 Woodside	38.5	1969 Nangwarry	35.5
1955 Woodside A	35.0	1970 Woodside	30.1
1956 Montacute B	36.0	1971 Woodside No. 1	34.4
1957 Woodside No. 1	32.2	1972 Eden Hills	30.8
*1958 Montacute	29.0	1973 Eden Hills	30.3
1959 Montacute	35.0	1974 Woodside No. 1	32.4
*1960 Montacute No. 1	28.0	1975 Stirling	33.5
*1961 Montacute No. 1	22.6	1976 Stirling	32.1
1962 Montacute No. 1	40.0	1977 Belair	20.1
1963 Cherryville	35.0	1978 Belair	36.2
1964 Montacute No. 1	39.0	1979 Belair	28.9
		1980 Belair	30.3

BEST AND MOST EFFICIENT APPLIANCE AND CREW

1958 Mount Barker	1969 Nuriootpa
1959 Mount Barker	1970 Koolunga
1960 Nuriootpa	1971 Nuriootpa
1961 Mount Barker	1972 Nuriootpa
1962 Eden Hills	1973 Mount Barker
1963 Eden Hills	1974 Bordertown
1964 Eden Hills	1975 Nuriootpa
1965 Yorketown	1976 Nuriootpa
1966 Kimba	1977 Nuriootpa
1967 Two Wells	1978 Nuriootpa
1968 Angaston	1979 Nuriootpa
	1980 Nuriootpa



TROPHIES

Gas cooker started fire for campers

On the morning of 13 October, a gas cooker ended a pleasant weekend at Millicent for a visiting Adelaide family.

They lost their new two-room tent valued at \$200 and other camping gear and clothing—a total of nearly \$500.

The cooker started a fire inside their tent at Millicent Lake Caravan Park.

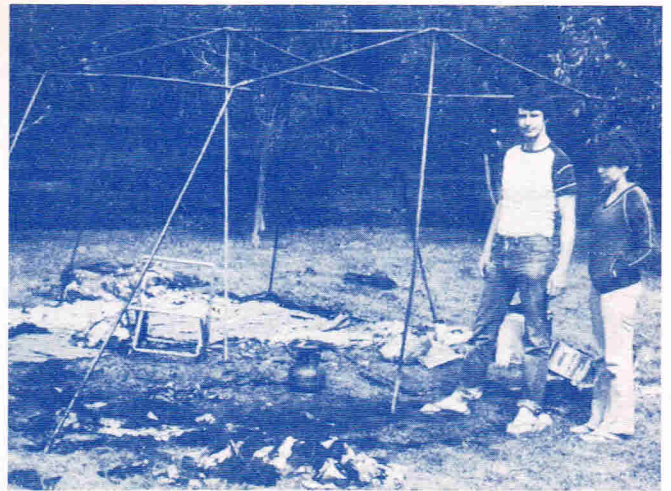
The owners were Mr Paul Helyard and his wife Anne, from Rostrevor, who were camping with their family, Michelle 9, David 6, Matthew 4.

Mrs Helyard said leaking liquid at the base of the cooker had blazed at about 8.30 yesterday.

The lessee of the caravan park, Mr Bill Kegel immediately notified the CFS but the crew could do nothing as the tent and most of its contents had burned very quickly.

Mr and Mrs Helyard are pictured in the empty tent frame, with the cooker in the middle foreground.

editorial 'South Eastern Times'



J.P.&D.J. McAvaney & CO.



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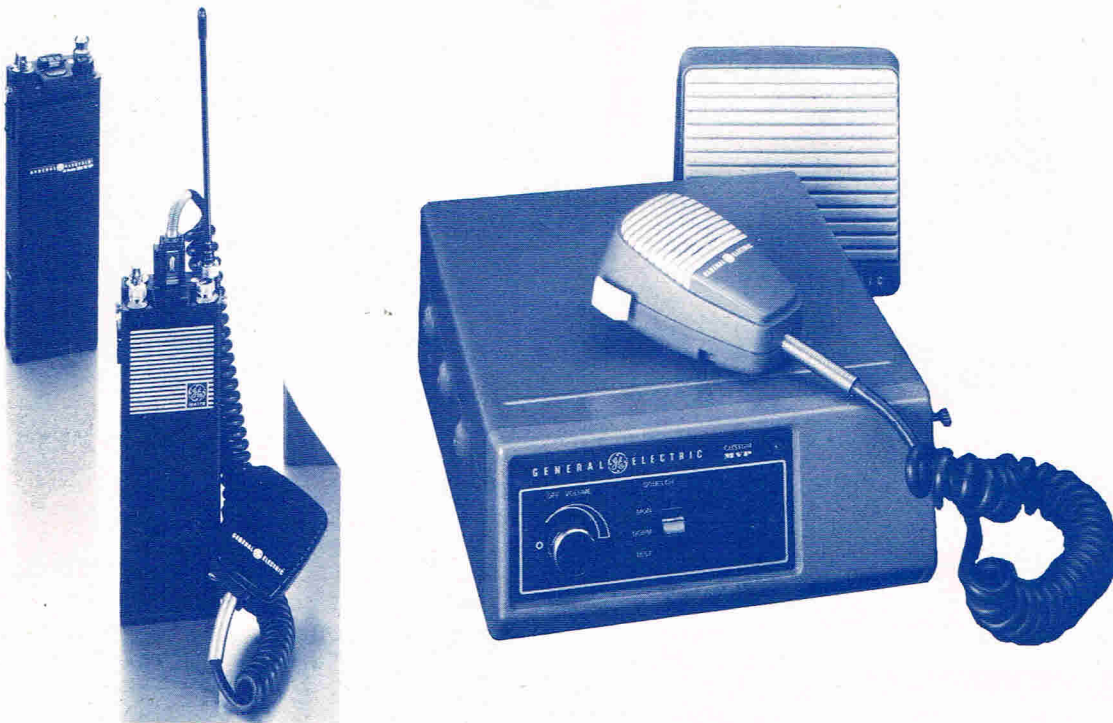


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ADELAIDE S.A.

TRANSCIVER LICENCE HOLDERS CALL SIGNS AND FREQUENCIES

Name of City/Town/ District Council	Call Sign	Frequency
Angaston	VL5BQ	163.360
Athelstone	VL5JX	163.060
Balaklava	VL5JB	163.075
Barmera	VL5BM	163.090
Barossa	VL5AF	163.360
Beachport	VL5FW	163.270
Blyth	VL5DG	163.540
Brown's Well	NIL	—
Burra Burra	VL5GN	163.195
Burnside	VL5NO	163.060
Bute	VL5JF	163.300
Carrieton	VL5AJ	HF2580
Central Yorke Peninsula	VL5LL	163.300
Clare	VL5CG	163.195
Cleve	VL5ME	163.210
Clinton	VL5AG	163.300
Coonalpyn Downs	VL5EX	163.090
Crystal Brook	VL5DX	163.540
Dudley	VL5JZ	163.165
East Torrens	VL5GG	163.060
Elliston	VL5CV	163.150
Eudunda	VL5MX	163.570
Franklin Harbour	VL5HC	163.165
Georgetown	VL5AB	163.510
Gladstone	VL5JG	163.510
Glossop	VL5BM	163.090
Gumeracha	VL5GS	163.360
Hallet	VL5LO	163.195
Hawker	VL5EU	SSB 2581.5 2669.5
Jamestown	VL5FF	163.510
Kadina	VL5JD	163.300
Kanyaka-Quorn	VL5IN	163.270
Kapunda	VL5FG	163.570
Karoonda/East Murray	VL5MY	163.150
Kimba	VL5DF	163.060
Kingscote	VL5JZ	163.165
Lacapede	VL5GK	163.060
Lameroo	VL5IZ	163.300
Laura	VL5HZ	163.510
Le Hunte	VL5GD	163.090
Light	VL5BL	163.525
Lincoln	VL5GZ	163.165
Loxton	VL5EV	163.210
Lucindale	VL5JP	163.060
Mallala	VL5FZ	163.525
Mannum	NIL	—
Meadows	VL5CM	163.150
Meningie	VL5DH	163.090
Millicent	VL5IL	163.270
Minlaton	VL5NP	163.090
Mitcham	VL5BA	163.300
Monarto	VL5XO	163.090
Morgan	VL5ZZ	163.570
Mount Barker	VL5AE	163.060
Mount Gambier	VL5AM	163.360
Mount Pleasant	VL5HU	163.360
Munno Para	VL5AS	163.420
Murat Bay	VL5QJ	163.300
Murray Bridge	VL5EW	163.090
Naracoorte	VL5BN	163.150
Noarlunga	VL5TB	163.090
Onkaparinga	VL5AO	163.420
Orroroo	VL5IK	163.510
Owen	VL5IW	163.525
Paringa	VL5AL	163.210
Peake	VL5FC	163.090
Penola	VL5CP	163.300
Peterborough	VZ5FB	163.510
Pinnaroo	VL5IA	163.090
Pirie	NIL	—
Port Broughton	NIL	—
Port Elliot and Goolwa	VL5GE	163.150
Port Germein	VL5AC	163.405
Port MacDonnell	VL5AY	163.360
Port Wakefield	VL5IQ	163.075
Redhill	VL5IV	163.540
Ridley	VL5LG	163.360
Riverton	VL5NB	163.075
Robe	VL5LH	163.510
Robertstown	VZ5AY	163.570

Saddleworth and Auburn	VL5NE	163.075
Salisbury	VL5FS	163.270
Snowtown	VL5GA	163.540
Spalding	VL5DQ	163.195
Stirling	VL5ES	163.210
Stirling North	VL5BB	VHF 163.405 163.270 SSB 2581.5 2669.5
Strathalbyn	VL5CS	163.150
Streaky Bay	VL5CT	163.420
Tatiara	VL5AZ	163.090
Tea Tree Gully	VL5DZ	163.270
Truro	VL5BQ	163.360
Tumby Bay	VL5LK	163.285
Victor Harbor	VL5FM	163.285
Waikerie	VL5OT	163.210
Warooka	VL5EZ	163.150
Willunga	VL5JY	163.285
Wilmington	VL5DL	163.405
Yankalilla	VL5GH	163.285
Yorketown	VL5EY	163.150

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Improved Aerial Ignition System (U.S.A.)

Thanks to a new fuel—a mixture of gasoline thickened with a gelling agent—aerial ignition has become a more reliable tool for setting prescribed burns and controlling wildfires. Unlike gasoline-diesel fuel mixtures, which tend to burn out or break up before reaching the ground, the gelled gasoline holds together and keeps burning as it falls through the air to the ground.

The gelled gasoline is pumped out in golfball-sized lumps from a 'helitorch' that is suspended from a helicopter cargo hook.

The helitorch consists of 55-gallon tank, igniter, and electric pump. The new system has been approved for Forest Service use.

The helitorch is capable of carrying 55 gallons of gasoline along with about 10 pounds of a gelling agent that is similar in texture to a powdered laundry detergent. The pilot controls the flow and ignition of the gel. The helitorch is in the pilot's sight at all times and can be jettisoned if necessary.

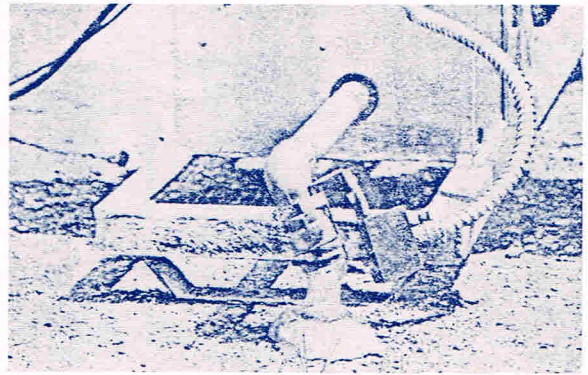
The new gel enables pilots to drop fire from helicopters with greater accuracy from higher altitudes and faster speeds, increasing safety and efficiency.

A major advantage of the torch is that it eliminates the dangers of sending crews into heavy brush, downed logs, and steep slopes to set fires by hand. Ground firing crews have incurred many serious injuries from slips or falls during firing operations.

Once the gasoline has gelled, it is less volatile than gasoline-diesel fuel and can be dropped at speeds up to 55 mph from heights of 500 feet. With a full tank, the helitorch can operate continuously for up to 5 minutes. Tests in May 1979 on the Mendocino National Forest in California showed that the helitorch ignited a chaparral-chamise brushfield in 3 minutes that would have taken 8 hours using ground crews, because of the travel time on foot in rough terrain.

Fast, timely ignition is a major advantage of aerial ignition. In areas where burning days are strictly regulated, valuable time can be lost positioning ground crews and preparing the burn site. By the time everything is ready, conditions may have become too dry to permit burning.

Aerial ignition with gelled gasoline also eliminates many of the problems hampering ground crews—varying weather conditions, rough terrain, and excessive fuel moisture—that can result in incomplete burning. The gelled gasoline produces a hotter fire, making ignition possible under more humid conditions.



The gelled-gasoline helitorch was developed in 1978 by Western Helicopter Services, Inc., of Newburg, Ore. (The original helitorch, using a gasoline-diesel fuel, was developed several years ago in Canada, but was little used in the United States.) Western has applied for a patent on the system and arranged with Simplex Manufacturing Co. of Portland, Ore., to build and market the helitorch. The equipment has received the approval of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Simplex sells the helitorch for about \$3 400. The gelling agent used in the helitorch tests is Alumagel, a product from Whitco Chemicals Co., Los Angeles, Calif. The gel comes in 50-pound cartons and costs \$2.09 per pound fob Los Angeles (\$2.01 fob Chicago) for orders under 2 000 pounds. Prices are discounted 5 to 9 cents per pound on larger orders.

According to Western, burning costs with the helitorch range from \$3 to \$12 per acre in logging slash, however, costs will vary considerably depending on the vegetation. Western's specifications show that the helitorch uses 1.5 to 3 gallons of fuel per acre and is capable of firing 100 to 200 acres per flight hour.

The Missoula Equipment Development Center (MEDC) began evaluating the gelled-gasoline helitorch in the fall of 1978, and worked with both Western and Simplex on design improvements. Approval to use the gelled-gasoline helitorch on a Servicewide basis was obtained in February 1979.

The above information came from the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Equipment Development Centre, Fort Missoula, Montana., 'Equip Tips', April 1980, courtesy of Mr Dick Fores, Cooperative Forestry and Fire., USDA Forest Service, San Francisco.

... Editor.

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Emergency Services Relay —15 February 1981 (Approx. 50 miles)

VICTOR HARBOR TO GLENELG CHALLENGE RELAY

Those people who wish to compete under the CFS colours or are interested in further information, please contact R.O. Tony Crichton at CFS H.Q. Telephone (08) 297 6788. Each runner would be expected to run about ten miles over all in the relay, possibly in extreme heat. General information is listed below:

1. Reference A provided a brief introduction to the Holdfast Bay Rotary Club Festival and the proposed Victor Harbor to Glenelg relay scheduled for 15 February 1981. A meeting was held on Wednesday 22 October to discuss the relay, formulate rules and co-ordinate the preparations.

2. Team members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Fire Brigade clubs were present with Mr Millard, representing the Rotary organisation. The following points summarise the discussion which took place.

a. Route. No change from 1980 (see Annex A).

b. Timings. Relay to begin 8 a.m. Expected first team arrive Glenelg 12.30 p.m. Last team to arrive no later than 1.45 p.m. Any team still running at 1.45 p.m. is to return by vehicle to the Glenelg Rotunda for the presentation at 2 p.m.

c. Rules. Same as last year.

- (1) Only five runners per team.
- (2) Runners must touch hands when change over occurs.
- (3) All runners are to remain on left hand side of road (on the north bound side of the road).
- (4) Team members must be on the posted strength of the State based organisation (i.e. no ring-ins).
For example: only soldiers posted to S.A. based units can be members of the Army team.
- (5) No change of runner is to occur after the Diagonal Road-Brighton Road lights.
- (6) The only modification to the previous rules is for the safety of the team, a vehicle **MUST** accompany the runner at all times. (A second vehicle is therefore required to position successive runners.)

d. Team Colours. It has been decided that teams should attempt to wear identifying colours.

Army—Green and Yellow
Navy—Blue and White
RAAF—Double Blue
Fire Brigade—Red and White.

Other teams wishing to participate are to advise me of their team colours.

e. Sponsors/Assistance Required. Teams that participated last year are to collect the TIMEX cloth patches for use again in 1981. TIMEX is to be advised of the shortfall and asked to prepare and distribute others so that all runners wear the identifying patch.

Two 'CAUTION RUNNER AHEAD' signs are to be made available for each team for display on their vehicles.

St Johns Ambulance is to be asked to provide an ambulance to accompany the relay.

The Police are to be asked to provide patrolmen at the Brighton Road lights and intersections to control the traffic whilst the runners cross.

The Army is to be asked to provide communications along the entire route and to notify the placings to the finish area every 15 minutes.

Parking for the team vehicles is required at the finish area.

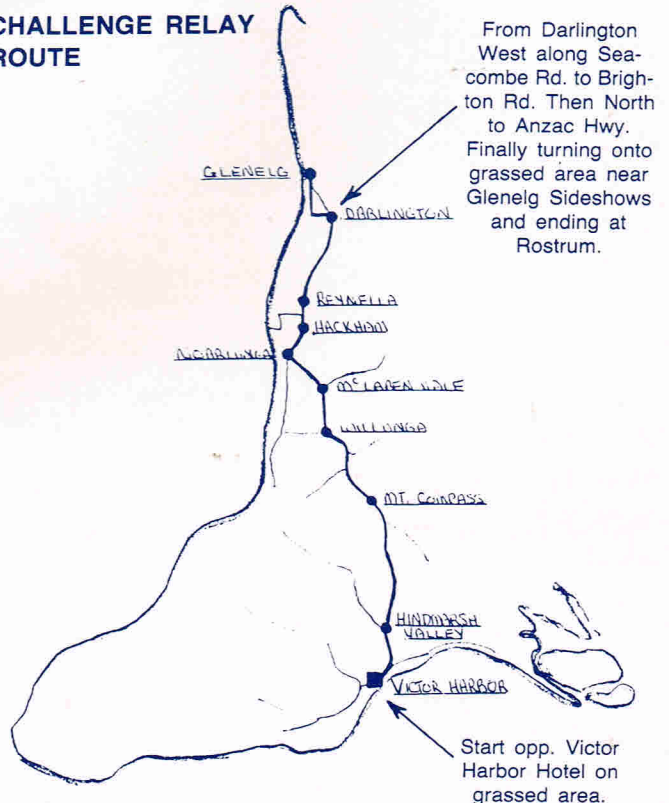
f. Publicity/Advertising. It was suggested that the Victor Harbor Rotary could assist in advertising the challenge and develop interest and competitiveness by arranging for local businesses and organisations to back the teams. Hotel/Motels may be interested in providing accommodation for the teams on Saturday night (14 February) and a pre-race get together could be arranged/publicised.

Mr Millard suggested that the last runner for each team carry a 'flare' to announce his arrival at Glenelg. It was decided that the last 3-500 yards should be a team effort with a flare being carried by members accompanying the last runner. In the event of a close finish the last runner would race to the finish and the remaining team members would jog in together shortly after.

3. Those teams who wish to enter the relay but were unable to attend the first meeting are to contact me as soon as possible on the above telephone number to confirm their interest or otherwise.

Annex: A. Challenge Relay Route

CHALLENGE RELAY ROUTE



'Need to clean Up!'



Crozier Road resident Mr Ted Trainor inspects thick undergrowth near his back fence.

Concern follows grass fire

Victor Harbor Fire Brigade and four CFS Units attended a grass fire off Crozier Road on Wednesday 22 October.

The fire burnt about an acre of scrubland between Crozier Road and Lawson Street and destroyed a brush fence.

It occurred at about 6.55 p.m.



Firemen play water onto a burning area during Wednesday night's grass fire.

Meanwhile, following the fire, local residents said they felt that the fire could have been much worse if it had burnt into vacant land fronting Lawson Street.

One of them, Mr Ted Trainor, played water from a hose onto his shed as sparks flew over the fence during the fire.

He said it was several years since the land had been cleaned up.

Some of the undergrowth near his back fence was about 6 feet high.

CARE ON THE ROAD CAN REDUCE FIRE RISK

Motorists could help reduce the fire risk this Summer through exercising care when travelling in country areas, the Deputy Director of the Country Fire Services, Mr Peter Malpas, said recently.

By exercising care, motorists would be helping to ensure greater self protection for themselves and fellow road users. They would also be observing general fire safety obligations required of them.

Mr Malpas said it was an offence to throw lighted cigarettes, matches or any burning materials from vehicles. A good habit was to always use the car's ash-tray, and to keep litter within the vehicle until this could be correctly disposed of in proper litter bins.

Vehicles used within three metres of flammable material, e.g. dry grass and stubble, must be fitted with an effective spark arrester.

It was strongly recommended that motorists planning to drive in country areas should have their vehicle's exhaust system fully checked beforehand. If the exhaust pipe or muffler were faulty, these should be repaired or replaced.

Mr Malpas said many motorists often overlooked the potential danger of driving through high grass or stubble on days of extreme fire danger. The heat from the exhaust system could cause a fire.

'Our suggestion is that motorists should stay on tracks and stop only on bare ground. If it is necessary to drive through grass or stubble, motorists should check immediately afterwards and remove any dry grass that may have become caught underneath the vehicle,' he added.

Barbecues and camp fires should only be lit in areas as specified by local councils or national parks. In all instances all flammable material must be cleared for at least four metres around the fire, which must not be left unattended and must be extinguished before the motorist leaves.

There was an obligation on all motorists to observe fire bans—whether they be imposed under the authority of local councils or the Director of Country Fire Services. Fire bans issued by the CFS Director were broadcast daily, while many councils had restrictions on the lighting of fires in the open during the summer period.

Outside district council areas, seasonal bans may be placed on the lighting of fires.

The Deputy Director said all caravans must be fitted with an effective fire extinguisher when being towed or used outside townships.

It was also strongly urged that motorists towing caravans equipped with gas refrigerators, ensure that the gas burners were turned off before entering any petrol service station.

Without the burners turned off, there was always the grave possibility of petrol vapors entering the caravan through ventilation vents and causing an explosion and fire. There have been instances of these fires with considerable damage to the vehicles and service station property.

Should a motorist become trapped in a bushfire while driving, these precautions can help to prevent a tragedy: stay in the car; park in the area of least vegetation (try and find a cleared spot); turn off motor and switch on headlights; close windows, doors and air vents; crouch below window level and cover all people in the vehicle with rugs, etc. to avoid radiant heat.

When the peak of the fire has passed and the outside temperature is lower than that inside the car, get out and check all around and underneath the vehicle for any burning tyres or other debris.

Because some late model vehicles have been fitted with plastic fuel lines, they must not be parked in dry grass or other flammable material.

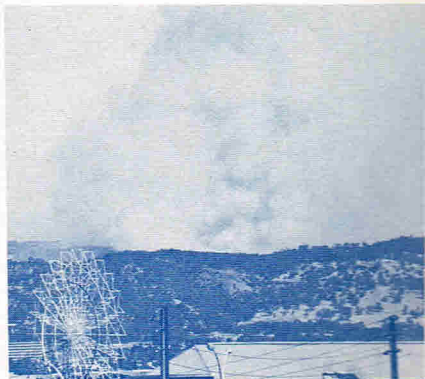
'We want all motorists to adopt a sensible approach to motoring during the summer period. By doing this they will be helping to protect themselves, their fellow travellers, landholders, and the State from the dangers of bushfires,' Mr Malpas said.

Further information may be obtained from CFS Headquarters, Phone (08) 297 6788.



Wednesday 10th December 1980, Brown Hill Creek/Crafers West Fire

In searing 30° heat fanned by 30 to 40 kp/h SW to NW winds (predominantly NW) and strong gully breezes on Wednesday 10 December at 1300 hours (1.00 p.m.), a large grass fire started in the Brown Hill Creek area, in inaccessible timbered terrain.



The fire occurred approximately 7 km from the city, and within an estimated three hours it had ravaged 400 ha, transforming gum trees into blazing torches and sending a blanket of thick brown smoke over the Adelaide foothills.

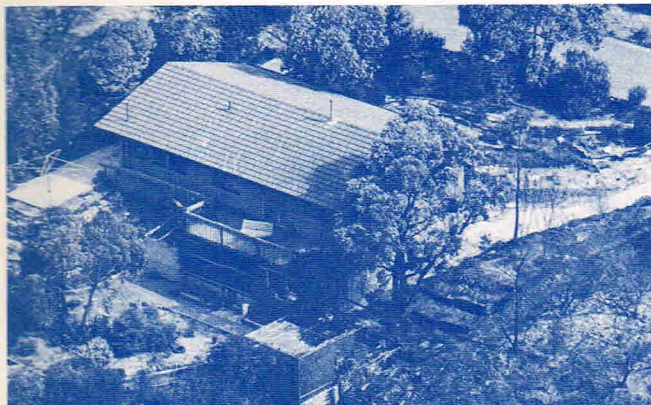
Forty-seven CFS units and 300 men, co-emergency service units, National Parks and Wildlife, the Police and a fleet of water tankers (converted from concrete trucks and petrol tankers) were called out. A command post was set up on the Stirling Oval . . . the fight was on. Until approximately 1615 (4.15 p.m.) the fire threatened only a few isolated properties. No damage occurred.

Moving in a south-westerly direction the fire was reported to be nearing urban dwellings on the fringe of a gully. As a precautionary measure some residents in the path of the fire on Emmett Road were evacuated. Residents before evacuating played garden hoses on their homes, filled their gutters with water, soaked their roofs and prayed.

A wall of orange flame roared up the gully devouring the tinder dry scrub in its path. Flames licked around houses shrouding them in dense choking smoke.

The fire came within metres of several houses at the western end of Emmett Road, a dead end scrub and heavily timbered road located along a hilly split between two gullies.

Volunteer Fire Fighters played water on the houses as the fire approached and moved to combat the flames. When the smoke cleared the faces of sooty weary fire fighters showed relief. Miraculously only one house was singed by the fire, the others seemed lucky to have been saved.



House that was singed in path of fire.

One Belair CFS fire truck was trapped in the bush for a short time as the fire roared towards it, hose was lost, no one was injured.

Another truck . . . a Burnside unit overbalanced on a steep slope. A Burnside CFS 4-wheel drive unit quickly assisted, lit a fire break around the first truck and righted it after the fire passed.

The inferno then jumped Emmett Road. Police discussed the need for some evacuations further south along Charlick Road, near where a backburn was to take place. Residents were alerted.

Gully breezes whipped the fire around to the south-east and back into inaccessible terrain.

By now fires were burning in Brown Hill Creek south of Wyley Road and on a south-easterly front, Crafers West at a fork near Hawk Hill Road, Emmett Road and Hillcrest Avenue near Mount Barker Road.

To stop the forward spread, backburning commenced on the northern edge near the top of the Gully below Eagle on the Hill and near the fork to the South-East.

Fire fighting operations were greatly enhanced with the use of the State Wales Rescue Helicopter, with fire supervisor John Penno, (Mitcham Hills CFS) and HQ Personnel relaying on the spot information to fire fighters.

The Operations Room at CFS Headquarters, Keswick was the scene of great activity through the afternoon and evening.

Anxious radio messages told of the fire fighters plight as the wind changed.

Backburning slowed the fire spread and a report came through that the fire was 'contained'. A later report stated that the 'backburning was working . . . progress of the fire was extremely slow but active, sufficient fire units were in attendance, but visibility was poor.

Radio stations were asked to broadcast that one lane on the Mount Barker freeway was closed, visibility was very poor, due to heavy smoke



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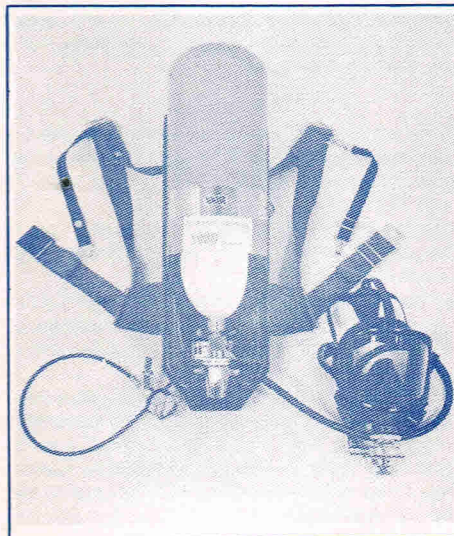
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. . . and requested that motorists particularly sightseers keep away. Throughout Wednesday night weary CFS Volunteers while backburning had to combat many flare ups. Early Thursday morning the fire was reported to be under control, and mopping up had already commenced. Many units were replaced after having fought for over twelve hours without a break.

Fire Supervisors Messrs Penno and Rosewarne after surveying the scene from the air reported three problem areas—flare ups and hot spots on Wyles' Ridge, Emmett Road and in the quarry area near Eagle on the Hill.

Five (5) CFS Units on patrol and undertaking mopping up procedures extinguished the flare ups, aided by some forty-four army personnel and water tankers. The patrol was then increased to twelve CFS Units, numerous water tankers and two National Parks and Wildlife service units.

The fire remained under control although minor flare ups continued throughout Thursday but were quickly put out.

Wind speeds reduced to 15-25 km/h and fire units carried weary fire fighters from the charred/blackened area.

Sixty-three Volunteer fire fighters were treated by St John for either smoke inhalation, minor injuries, eye irritation or heat exhaustion.

At 1700 hours (5.00 p.m.), Thursday evening two brigades were still attending to minor hot spots, that flared up, mostly from trees still smouldering.

An outbreak occurred at 1845 (6.45 p.m.) Thursday evening on the western side of Brown Hill Creek.

The blaze burnt an additional area of 5 ha, before being controlled by three Mitcham Hills units, assisted by Stirling, Burnside and Greenhill CFS units.

Three firemen from the Eden Hills CFS collapsed and were taken to the Royal Adelaide Hospital suffering from heat exhaustion . . . they were later released.

Fire units from Evanston Gardens, Aldinga Beach and Area, Northfield, Blackfellows Creek and McLaren Vale were brought in to relieve exhausted local crews.

Footnote

Weary from fighting the fire, before the McLaren Vale CFS unit could return to its station a broken axle (caused at the fire scene) had to be replaced by the volunteers at CFS Headquarters. This took them another four hours, without rest.



Mopping up.

On Wednesday 10 December the CFS received twenty-two fire calls, four were false alarms, and the remaining were one vehicle fire and seventeen grass fires. Some serious.

Mr Johns said that the risk of more fires in the Adelaide Hills concerned fire fighters.

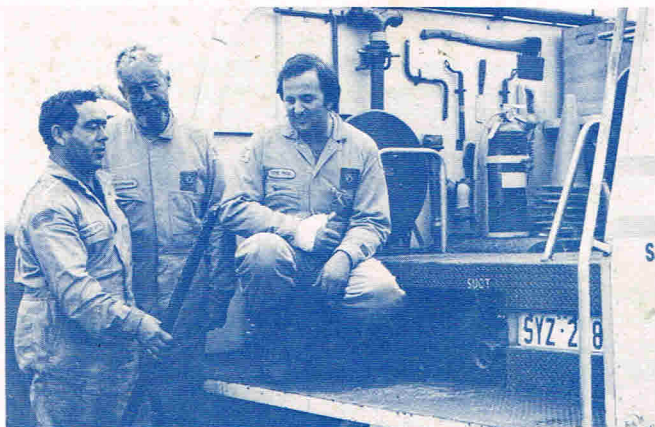
'Our concern now is about the thick grass and undergrowth in other parts of the Hills. Only eighty per cent is cured. When the remaining twenty per cent is cured in a month or so, it too will become a further serious fire hazard'.

'We can only repeat our message to all Hills residents to take steps now to complete hazard reduction work and to make their homes and properties as safe as possible'.

'There has to be a major input of self help if homes are to be saved,' the Director added.

FIRES REPORTED: as at Thursday 11 December 1980.

1. HYNAM, South-East (grass fire)—under control.
2. MILLICENT, South-East (grass fire)—controlled.
3. BANGHAM, South-East (grass fire)—going.
4. MINIMAY, South-East (grass fire)—out of control, believed one house lost on Victorian border, Country Fire Authority in attendance.
5. TEA TREE GULLY, Perseverance Road, (scrub fire), originally broke out Monday, threatened houses, destroyed 100 ha scrub, twenty-five units and over ninety volunteers battled fire for nearly twenty-four hours before under control. Fire reached within fifty metres of residential areas, threatened thirty homes. No homes evacuated. Flames leapt thirty metres from blazing gum trees on hill sides. Fire breaks made, fire controlled. **Outbreak occurred Wednesday. Thursday fire out.**
6. CABOWIE, Yorke Peninsula (grass fire)—out.
7. HAHNDORF, Echunga Road—two ha grass burnt, two units attended—out.
8. ONE TREE HILL, Hillbank Road, (grass fire), two units attended—still going.
9. GOLDEN GROVE, Seaview Road, (grass fire)—under control.
10. GUMERACHA—false alarm.
11. MOUNT LOFTY, near Hahndorf—false alarm.
12. MYLOR—false alarm.
13. YATALA VALE—false alarm.
14. ELLISTON—(scrub fire) attended by three units, re-kindled—going strong.
15. CRAFERS, Wyles Lane—(scrub fire)—controlled.
16. ELIZABETH FIELDS—(grass fire)—out.
17. EAGLE ON THE HILL, southern side—controlled.
18. COWELL, Kimba Road, Eyre Peninsula. Fire first threatened homes on outskirts of township, moved to inaccessible country. 900 ha burnt. Cowell CFS unit attended, fifty personnel, three bulldozers and graders prepared fire breaks and backburning. Quietened down, then going fiercely again.
19. BALLAST HEAD, Kangaroo Island, (scrub fire)—burning towards sea, under control, safe.
20. BROWN HILL CREEK, Olive Grove—controlled.
21. WISTOW, (vehicle fire)—out.
22. CAPE HART, Kangaroo Island, Fire commenced Tuesday 9 December, burnt for two days. Fire fiercely fanned by strong South-East winds moved to inaccessible country. Thursday at first light—bulldozers controlled west flank. On the eastern flank in spite of manpower concentration fire broke away over the Cape Hart Road, into and up to ¼ of a mile into dense dry scrub. The area east of Cape Hart was at risk—breaks were burnt to protect grazing property along Cape Willoby Road at to NE Breaks held fire. Expected SW change produced flare ups but fire contained. At 1613 (4.13 p.m.) Thursday—fire under control with Penneshaw CFS patrolling. 10 000 acres burnt, 1 500 to 2 000 acres pasture, haystack, and crops destroyed. No building or stock loss. Attended by bulldozers, forty-five men and five fire appliances.



McLaren Vale District CFS Volunteers from left: Cyril McGaffin, holding axle, with Peter Barrowman and Steve Imrie.

On Friday light rains further aided in dampening down the area. At 11.30 a.m. Friday 12 December 1980, the fire was reported to be out. Small hot spots did flare up mostly from still smouldering trees. The cause of the blaze is still not known.

Mr Johns, Director, Country Fire Services stated that 'following the Ash Wednesday holocaust the CFS had prepared a fire fighting and control plan for any similar emergency'.

'This plan was put into effect at the Brown Hill Creek/Crafers West fire, and while we go on learning from fires, I feel that it can be recorded as a highly successful operation in so much that injuries were only minimal and no houses were lost'.

He praised highly the untiring efforts of all CFS volunteer fire fighters, brigades and co-emergency services. Including Police, National Parks and Wildlife Services, St John Ambulance, Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the Army, with backup support provided by fleets of concrete trucks and petrol tankers (converted to water carriers) to maintain water supplies to the fire fighting units.

'The dedicated efforts of all concerned and particularly our own volunteers fire fighters is a credit to all', Mr Johns said.