

# 2016/17

## ANNUAL REPORT

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**CFS Foundation**  
For our local heroes



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# CFS FOUNDATION INC.

The CFS Foundation is a non-for-profit organisation, which provides vital and immediate financial assistance for the CFS volunteer firefighters and their families, should they come to harm in the line of service.

The SA Country Fire Service (CFS) rely largely on their volunteer fire and emergency service personnel, whom are dedicated to protecting life and property in our community, during times of great danger, 24/7, 365 days of the year.

In South Australia, we are fortunate enough to have approximately 13,500 volunteers across 425 brigades.

Every year, volunteers dedicate in excess of 3 million hours and respond to approximately 20,000 incidents annually, including bushfires, building and motor vehicle fires, road crash rescues and hazardous material spills.



While protecting the community, CFS volunteer firefighters are often victims themselves – suffering injuries, losing property to fire, and in some cases, even their lives.

*'I remember being told that one of the big challenges CFS volunteers often face when seriously injured is the "Superman Syndrome". We are the rescuers but who rescues the rescuer? Along with my wonderful partner, my CFS mates and friends, I found other groups who rescue the rescuer... the CFS Foundation! I would like to express my appreciation for their support. It was such an uplifting feeling knowing that others are thinking of me and working towards providing support when you are down and in need.'*

CFS volunteer supported by the CFS Foundation

# CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Friends of the CFS Foundation,

The past year has been very busy, fundraising and re-organising how the Foundation is to be administered and re-structured into the future.

After the 2015 Sampson Flat and Pinery fires, it became obvious to the Board that we needed to increase our fundraising activities and to raise funds more urgently to grow the Volunteer Support Fund.

In the Pinery fire, one volunteer was very badly burnt and we were able to provide immediate cash support to assist his family manage the situation (by the way, there were two volunteer fatalities in late 2014, which demonstrates the risks our CFS volunteer fire-fighters take every day to serve our communities). During the year we also assisted families who lost their homes in bushfires.

In the analysis after the Pinery fire, the CFS advised potential truck burn-overs and other close-calls, could have resulted in multiple fatalities – which would have been tragic and would have stretched the cash reserve held in the Volunteer Support Fund.

The re-prioritised focus of the CFS Foundation over the next few years, led by new CEO Mark Howells, is to increase sponsorship and donor revenue and to bolster the Volunteer Support Fund.

We have been blessed during the year with ongoing major sponsorship arrangements with ElectraNet (thank you to Steve Masters) and SA Power Networks (thank you to Rob Stobbe), and various donors, in particular The Hackett Foundation (thank you to Ford Topham).

At the end of the 2016/2017 financial year, the assets of the Foundation were approximately \$1.565M (2016 \$1.149M) and the surplus for the year was \$399K (2016 deficit \$18K).

We thank all sponsors, donors and supporters of the CFS Foundation and look forward to your continued (and growing support) in the years ahead.

We recognise the good work delivered by our CFS volunteer fire-fighters and the risks they take 24/7 each day of the year.

The primary purpose of the CFS Foundation is to support our CFS volunteers in their time of need.

**“taking care of those who take care of us”**

Thank you.  
Rob Snowdon  
Chairman  
CFS Foundation



**ROB SNOWDON**  
Chairman of the Board

Principal, Rob Snowdon Advisory  
Chairman, Astera Group  
Former General Manager, SA  
Power Networks  
Former General Manager Football  
Port Adelaide & Sydney Swans

# BOARD MEMBERS



**DI DAVIDSON**  
Founder Davidson Viticulture



**CHRIS DOUDLE**  
Founder and Managing Director  
Corporate Conversation



**CHRIS KENNEDY**  
Treasurer  
Director of William Buck Wealth  
Advisors (SA) Pty Ltd



**GREG NETTLETON**  
Chief Officer SA Country Fire  
Service



**PETER VENNING AFSM JP**  
Representative Country Fire  
Service Volunteers Association



**ROBERT MILLS**  
Principal Jones Harley Toole



**KAREN ROSS**  
General Manager Innovation,  
Digital and Brand Elders



**GORDON (JIM) SANDFORD**  
Representative Country Fire  
Service Volunteers Association



# AMBASSADORS & PATRON

## Vince Monterola - Patron

*“For more than 50 years I have served in EFS/CFS, as a fire-fighter, Station Officer, Brigade Captain, Group Officer, Deputy Board Chairman, Chief Executive and other roles. Over all that time, rather than becoming blasé about the service and commitment of our volunteers I have become increasingly impressed by their selflessness and their professionalism.*

*I have seen the sacrifices they have made and the suffering they have endured; family, vocation, leisure time, have all been neglected at times because community demands for safety from fire and other emergencies were given priority. Because I hold our volunteers in such high regard and know the dangers they often face I have been keen to support them through the Foundation since it began almost 20 years ago. To have been invited to serve as Patron is a great honour and I look forward to further serving these worthy men and women.”*

## Nathan van Berlo - Ambassador

*“It’s a great honour to be involved with such a wonderful and proud organisation and I encourage people to donate so we can provide support to CFS volunteers and their families when they most need it”.*

## Phil Smyth - Ambassador

*“When I was asked to support the CFS volunteer fire-fighters, I was honoured to do so. I’ve met a few of the guys and girls, and the fact the CFS Foundation is supporting them in the event they get hurt, has my full support. We are blessed that nearly 14,000 volunteers put themselves at risk on a daily basis, and I hope the community appreciates their efforts.”*



Ambassadors Nathan van Berlo (left) & Phil Smyth (right), pictured with Para Reserve volunteer firefighters

## Dom Cassisi - Ambassador

*“It’s an honour to support the CFS Foundation and the state’s brave CFS volunteers. Those guys put themselves on the line, risk their lives and make enormous sacrifices to keep the community safe, purely out of goodwill. They deserve as much support as they can get so this foundation is a fantastic way to give something back to them, so I’m delighted to be involved”.*

## Brenton Ragless - Media Ambassador

*“My interest in the CFS began at the age of five when I tagged along with dad to the Eden Hills Brigade, and on finishing school in 1993 I followed in his footsteps to become an active volunteer firefighter. Over the years I’ve also been a full-time CFS spokesman, supported many CFS Volunteers Association projects, and joined the Cherry Gardens Brigade to provide ground support for air operations. I’m delighted and privileged to be a CFS Foundation Ambassador and hope that you’ll join me in supporting your local heroes”.*

# PROUD SUPPORTERS



## Major Sponsors



## Supporters



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Beneficiaries

Captain Chris Coombe, a CFS volunteer of 35 years and his wife and son - also volunteers, had their home burnt to the ground due to an electrical fault in the ceiling (pictured right). Seven appliances and the local brigade of volunteers were unable to stop the blaze. The CFS Foundation supported them in the rebuilding of their home.



Captain Chris Coombe's family home ablaze

Other beneficiaries included Michelle Bambling, Greg Tynan & Mr & Mrs Petrie.

## Major Sponsors

### ElectraNet

ElectraNet Sponsored 5 CFS volunteers to attend an educational conference held by the Australian Youth Authorities Council.

### SA Power Networks

SA Power Networks has been a year on year supporter of the CFS Foundation and we appreciate their donation which went to the Volunteer Support Fund.



National Pharmacies donating Oxy Vivas to the CFS Foundation

## Donated Equipment

Through generous donations from major sponsors, we were able to present equipment to various CFS brigades around South Australia. Due to the aging nature of our volunteers, and the high risk of cardiac arrests, this equipment was well received.

ElectraNet donated 8 Defibrillators and National Pharmacies donated 10 Oxy Vivas (pictured left).

## Future Leaders Program

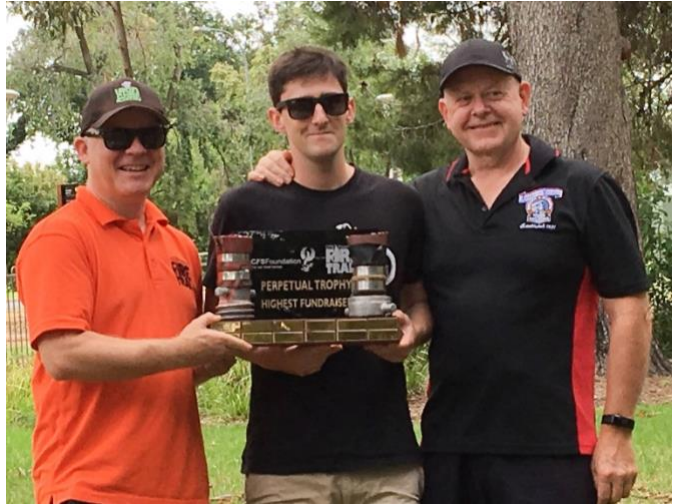
Proudly sponsored by Australian Executive Trustees, the Future Leaders program was created with the aim to inspire and assist young CFS volunteers to increase their leadership potential through education and development opportunities.



### 2016 Fire Trail

The inaugural CFS Foundation Fire Trail, a car rally from Adelaide to South Australia's mid north and lower Flinders Ranges region, commenced on the October long weekend and saw 20 cars participate in the community event.

We congratulate Alex Turner and his team for winning and thank Kristian Appelt, the chair of the Fire Trail Taskforce and his team of volunteers for their efforts.



Alex Turner (pictured centre) member of the winning team of the perpetual Fire Trial trophy

### Additional monetary donations

We also acknowledge and thank our other supports QBE Foundation and Beyond Bank for donations towards to Volunteer Support Fund.

### Board member lunches

Supporters Channel 9, Phil Hoffman Travel & ElectraNet all donated corporate boardroom networking lunches to allow for SA business leaders to be made aware of the good work of the CFS Foundation.



### Lotteries

Lotteries 4 and 5 ran throughout this year with prizes generously subsidized by supporters, Mitsubishi, John Deere, Metropolitan Machinery Pty Ltd, Barbeques Galore and Phil Hoffman Travel.

Congratulations to Maria Rubino of Murray Bridge (pictured left) who won the first prize of Mitsubishi Outlander in Lottery 4.