



CFS FOUNDATION
Supporting Volunteer Firefighters



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023





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ABOUT US

The CFS Foundation provides financial relief to SA CFS volunteers and their families who have suffered tragedy through death, injury or significant loss of property whilst protecting their communities. There are over 13,500 CFS volunteers located in 425 brigades throughout South Australia.

Our purpose is to provide CFS volunteers the same unflinching support they give our entire community daily. Support from individuals and the community is vital to ensure we can continue to assist our volunteers now and into the future.

With a changing climate and forecasts of hotter conditions and more extreme weather events, the demand on volunteers is only likely to increase and the Foundation will be there to support them.'

CFS volunteers give their time freely to protect our community and are often victims themselves. This is where the CFS Foundation steps in, with the invaluable help of partners, sponsors, community and industry, to provide support to them and their family.

*The CFS Foundation
supports those, who
volunteer to protect ...
YOU*



LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN



Dear CFS Foundation volunteers, partners, sponsors and supporters,

This year has seen our CFS volunteers respond to bushfires, floods, car accidents and other incident demands, deepening our appreciation and admiration for the selfless work they do. They never cease to amaze us as they give so much of their time to make others, who they may never know, safe while keeping our state protected and lending a hand interstate and overseas when required.

Reflecting on the sacrifices they make in time alone, with the support of their families and employers, we are in awe as the economic value and community benefits make you wonder where Australia would be without all our volunteers.

“We believe it’s important to recognise they make life a safer place for us all.”

The paramount aim of the CFS Foundation is to provide support to CFS volunteers who are impacted in the line of duty.

This year we supported CFS volunteers from the River Murray area who lost their homes during the floods and who incurred losses while fighting fires.

Beyond financial support, we also create social events to bring communities together such as the CFS Foundation Family Fun Day in Waikerie to recognise and thank the CFS volunteers from the Riverland for their work during the floods.

With thanks to our long-term sponsor ElectraNet, we provided the first atmospheric monitors to CFS brigades. These monitors are vital in ensuring the air is non-toxic before CFS volunteers enter burning buildings.

Together with our sponsors Police Credit Union we’ve been distributing Nespresso Coffee machines to our CFS brigades for the last few years to improve amenities for volunteers.

And in conjunction with the RAA, we have provided funding for Road Crash Rescue Training trailer which is based at Brukunga and travels all over South Australia training volunteers on how to deal with road crash rescues. The RAA has also funded the CFS Community Engagement trailers and provided other support to volunteers such as tickets to major events.

The Foundation is continuing to fund the CFS Wellbeing Officer Jana Wurriehausen - with the support of SA Power Networks.

I also thank Access Datacom and North East Isuzu for their ongoing philanthropic support of the CFS Foundation, which is vitally important to ensure we remain viable.

Our gratitude to Ambassador Nathan Van Berlo for giving our CFS volunteers the opportunity to attend Crows games. We applaud all who support us as we say thanks to our incredible band of volunteers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise those who serve our Board as they too are volunteers. As a Board, we achieve our purpose due to their unbridled passion and enthusiasm and our unwavering commitment to executing a high level of governance to ensure the wellbeing of our volunteers is always foremost to all decisions. We have an incredible collective around our table and I wish to acknowledge them individually and as a team. They are:

- o Sue Renner who provides wise counsel and adherence with the CFS Foundation constitution as that is our rulebook.
- o Anne Lucas who helps makes the messages clear and aligned with our purpose.
- o David Stobbe and Rob Nelson who provide expert stewardship of Foundation funds, enabling us to achieve maximum value to assist the volunteers.
- o Andrew Lawson and Mark Sutton who provide an understanding of the history, culture and mindset of the volunteers through their lived experience and extensive networks.
- o Karen Ross who is the experienced voice of reason, articulate and skilled in all matters of people and a great support as my Deputy.
- o CFS Chief Officer Brett Loughlin who takes us inside the CFS, responds to our information needs and provides insights along with potential alerts regarding the wellbeing of CFS teams.

Last but by no means least to our CEO Gloria Berni, and her assistants Alysha Baldock and Stacey Childs. While they are small in numbers they are large in delivery, promoting the Foundation and liaising with volunteers, sponsors, donors and all supporters with professionalism, consistency and great humanity. We have again achieved all our objectives at a cost-to-revenue ratio of less than 5 cents in the dollar raised, an incredible result from a very dedicated team.

Our residual funds continue to work under-investment advised by Aaron Trombetta of William Buck allowing us to provide continued support to volunteers during and after major events and accidents, as the need does not stop.



Thank you all for the privilege of being your Chairman and we look forward to your continued support.

John Lynch OAM
Chairman
Country Fire Service Foundation

A YEAR IN REVIEW - EVENTS

Opening of CFS Happy Valley Memorial Garden for Louise Hincks

The CFS Foundation created a memorial garden to honour Louise Hincks which was opened by Premier Peter Malinauskas in September 2022. It was made possible by working in conjunction with the Government of SA, Onkaparinga City Council, Happy Valley CFS Brigade and Louise's family including daughters Alice and Addie. The garden features cherry blossom trees which were Louise's favourite along with the Firestar Rose, donated by Knight's Roses. This garden is open to the public and will always be a special place for Louise's family and friends to remember her.



Celebrating the CFS Foundation's 21st Anniversary

October 2022 saw us celebrate 21 years of supporting our wonderful South Australian CFS volunteers. A luncheon was held at the Adelaide Pavilion with 130 guests attending including our corporate sponsors and supporters, CFS executives, MFS, SES, Safecom staff and many more. CFS Ambassador and CFS volunteer, Brenton Ragless was the MC for the lunch, which featured speeches from our Patron Vince Monterola and also a very candid chat with Tony, the brother of fallen CFS volunteer Louise Hincks. CFS Parndana Lieutenant and Kangaroo Island garlic farmer Shane Leahy also gave guests an update on the current situation in Kangaroo Island. Funds were raised for the CFS Foundation through silent and major auctions along with a wine wall and the sale of comfort koalas and FireStar roses.



Support to the Riverland CFS volunteers

The CFS Foundation held a 'Family Fun Day' event in Waikerie to bring CFS volunteers and their families together to recognise and thank the CFS volunteers from the Riverland for their work during the floods at the beginning of 2023. With the support of Bickford Drinks, Krispy Kreme and OTR, the volunteers and their families enjoyed a relaxing afternoon with entertainment by a magician, face painter and Smokey the CFS mascot. A special thanks to Rotary Waikerie for their amazing support with the set up and cooking the BBQ on the day.



A YEAR IN REVIEW



Update on the CFS Mental Health 1st Aid Trainer

Jana Wurriehausen continues to deliver Mental Health First Aid training to CFS volunteers around South Australia thanks to the support of one of our major Sponsors – SA Power Networks. CFS volunteers frequently encounter potentially traumatic situations that can profoundly affect their mental well-being and their families. This program aims to empower and instil confidence in participants to enable them to approach fellow CFS volunteers who might be grappling with difficulties and provide structured, informed assistance. Between January and July 2023, 22 training courses were conducted across the state, resulting in 222 members receiving this crucial training to date.



CFS Community Engagement Trailer

We would like to express our gratitude to the RAA for their generous sponsorship of the CFS Community Engagement Trailer. Their commitment to supporting initiatives that promote community safety and resilience is truly commendable. Thanks to the RAA's contribution, we have been able to enhance our outreach efforts and bring crucial fire safety information directly to communities. The CFS Community Engagement Trailer serves as a vital resource, and the RAA's support has played a pivotal role in making this project a reality. Their dedication to fostering community well-being aligns seamlessly with our mission, and we are sincerely thankful for their partnership in creating a safer and more informed environment for everyone.



AFL Emergency Services Round

To thank our Emergency Service members for their immense contribution in protecting the safety of South Australians every day, the South Australian Government, in conjunction with the Adelaide Football Club, hosted a dedicated Emergency Services Match. This year's match saw the Adelaide Crows play West Coast at Adelaide Oval. Members from South Australia's emergency services went into a ballot to have the opportunity to receive free tickets to the game. The CFS Foundation along with SA Police Legacy and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation joined forces on the day to fundraise for the charities that support our valued Emergency Services members. We thank the Adelaide Football Club and SA Government for initiating this wonderful event.

Small Equipment Grants

Thanks to our major sponsor ElectraNet, we gave CFS brigades the opportunity to apply for Small Equipment Grants of between \$500-\$2000. The small equipment grant process saw a variety of requests for items that needed replacing or items that make their volunteering experience a little more comfortable. We had an overwhelmingly positive response and are proud to say that we have been able to issue many brigades with a variety of items like gazebos, TV screens for training, portable LED lighting, fridges, BBQs for training nights and much more. We thank our sponsor ElectraNet for this great opportunity.



Launch of the new Comfort Koalas

The CFS Foundation launched the new “Smokey the Comfort Koala” to support children during emergency incidents, thanks to our supporter Stewart & Heaton Clothing.

The new Comfort Koalas, aptly named Smokey, were launched in August at the Australasian Fire & Emergency Services Authorities Council Conference and Exhibition, held at the Adelaide Convention Centre where the Hon Joe Szakacs MP, Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services and (former) CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones officially announced the launch.

Stewart & Heaton Clothing generously donated 500 Comfort Koalas to the CFS Foundation who will distribute them to South Australian CFS brigades to have on their fire appliances and Road Crash Rescue vehicles to provide relief and comfort to children in the event of a road accident or other incidences.



FUNDRAISING

Generating income through various initiatives and third party fundraising occurs on a regular basis and this financial year saw a myriad of fundraising events which raised almost \$100,000 including lotteries, lunches, flower sales, meat raffles and much more! A big thank you to all businesses and individuals involved in fundraising for the CFS Foundation.



People's Choice Community Lottery - Lottery Tickets were sold with a portion of ticket sale being donated to the CFS Foundation. Overall the CFS Foundation came second in the most supported charity within the lottery.

Osteria Oggi have been running their "Bread for Success" program raising \$23,000 for the CFS Foundation. On top of their incredible food, diners are also supporting our dedicated CFS volunteers.



Two Well Florist grew a special sunflower especially for the CFS Foundation. With its stunning colours and "flame like" petals it was named Flame Sunflower with profits of the sale being donated to the CFS Foundation.

Choo Roo sauces and spices are long time supporters of the CFS Foundation. Each market they attend, they donate a portion of sales to the CFS Foundation.



GRILL'd ran 2 promotions through out the year where customers would go into the store and order their meals and be issued tokens that they put into selected charity jars. The CFS Foundation featured in Tea Tree Plaza's monthly selection and the Summer Heroes' Promotion.

Direct Collect have a 10c can recycling program in place. They will deliver the bin to your workplace and replace it when its full. You can look after the environment and also nominate the CFS Foundation to be the recipients of the cash back from your cans.



Bequest Acknowledgements

The CFS Foundation has been privileged to receive bequests from benevolent individuals seeking to establish an enduring legacy for our CFS volunteers.

These bequests are held in our Volunteer Support Fund in order to provide immediate financial support to CFS volunteers and their families when they are impacted whilst volunteering for the South Australian Country Fire Service.

These bequests are graciously received and valued.



SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS



PATRON & AMBASSADORS

Vince Monterola AM AFSM - CFS Foundation Patron



Vince Monterola AM AFSM - 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.”



Brenton Ragless - 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”.



Nathan Van Berlo - Ambassador

We are proud to welcome Nathan Van Berlo as an Ambassador for the CFS Foundation. Nathan recognises the value CFS Volunteers provide to our communities and is excited to see how he can provide some positive assistance to the Foundation. “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”.

BOARD MEMBERS



John Lynch OAM - Chairman

John retired in 2018 as the Chief Executive Officer with the Royal Flying Doctor Service and joined the CFS Foundation as a Board Member in March 2019. He commenced working with the RFDS at its Broken Hill base as Accountant in 1986 and assumed the position of CEO in 2000. His passion and commitment to the RFDS ensured the organisation experienced unprecedented growth and financial security. John has continued to work to expand RFDS primary health care and aero medical reach beyond rural and remote regions and into the city realm. He is also a Chairman of Foundation Broken Hill and Board Member of the Flinders & Upper North Local Health Network Board.



Karen Ross - Vice Chair

Karen is currently the Group General Manager People and Culture at Flinders Port Holdings based in Port Adelaide. She has over 25 years experience in senior management roles in a diverse range of industries and is a subject matter expert in the field of industrial relations, organisational development and driving HR strategy to align with business outcomes. Karen was previously the General Manager, Innovation, Digital and Brand at Elders Ltd and prior to that held positions in financial services, airlines and utilities sectors as well as leading the integration of another agribusiness following an international merger. Her experience ranges from running large operational business units as well as corporate services.



David Stobbe - Treasurer

David has a Bachelor of Business (Accounting) and is a member of CPA Australia with over 15 years' finance experience gained in the private sector utility industry. David has a strong business acumen; sound accounting proficiency in the areas of management reporting, budgeting and forecasting and business partnering. Through his other board/ committee appointments he has extensive experience in governance, sponsorship and fundraising with a community focus.



Brett Loughlin AFSM GAICD - CFS Chief Officer

Brett started with the South Australian CFS in 2015, when he took up the post of Region 1 Commander. Since that time, Brett went on to perform the role of Director, Preparedness Operations and Director, Regional Operations, CFS Executive Director, Operations and was appointed CFS Chief Officer in September 2022. Prior to joining CFS, Brett served with NSW RFS for over 10 years, in that time he worked in the Northern NSW and led the Namoi/Gwydir (North West NSW encompassing Narrabri and Moree) and Mid North Coast (Coffs Harbour) Teams. These were demanding and dynamic roles in which Brett delivered strong support across regional farming areas, and managing issues associated with large population centres, both areas frequently dealt with significant complex incidents.



Andrew Lawson AFSM - SA CFS VA Representative

Andrew is a strategic thinker, experienced in turning conceptual ideas into achievable policy and realistic outcomes. With ten years of executive level experience with the South Australian Country Fire Service (CFS) as Deputy Chief Officer and thirty years' experience in the South Australian Emergency Management sector Andrew understands effective emergency service delivery, from operational, preparedness, response and recovery perspectives. In his roles with CFS, Andrew worked closely with the South Australian State Emergency Service, ForestrySA, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Bureau of Meteorology at regional, State and national levels.

BOARD MEMBERS



Sue Renner

Sue has experience in legal, risk management and governance gained over a number of years and joined the CFS Foundation Board in 2019. Prior to her current role, Sue was Principal of Sue Renner Advisory and previous to this she was employed by ElectraNet fulfilling in-house legal roles where she was responsible for a range of functions including input into major transactions, contracting services, regulatory compliance and management of legal issues. Sue has extensive experience on Boards including in the not for profit sector.



Rob Nelson

Rob has more than 15 years senior management experience and has been a leader of successful business and project teams across multiple business units, with extensive experience in the financial services and agricultural industries. He is current the Commercial Manager at Tarac Technologies and joined the CFS Foundation Board in 2019. He is highly experienced in developing strategy and risk management programs, managing compliance and governance, and post-merger and acquisition business integration. Rob is a Fellow of CPA Australia. He holds a Degree in Accounting from the University of SA and an MBA from the University of Adelaide.



Mark Sutton - SA CFS VA Representative

Mark Sutton is the Director of the Office for the Outback Communities Authority, a State Government of South Australia Statutory Authority responsible for community development and limited “local government” function in the out-of-councils area of the state. Mark has a deep seeded passion for emergency management, having served with the South Australia Police from 1990 to 2002 and in the Country Fire Service from 1999 to present where he holds the rank of Deputy Group Officer in Flinders Group located in Region 4. He is the Chair and member to a number of committees across South Australia.



Anne Lucas

Anne is a highly experienced communicator, marketer and change specialist with a background in journalism and public relations and is assistant Director Engagement for the Murray-Darling Basin Authority. She has more than 10 years of experience in senior positions in the financial services sector and has played a key role in delivering successful engagement communications and change projects, including national marketing campaigns. Anne has a track record of raising money for charity and experience on not-for-profit Boards and is in her second year on our Board. She holds a Master of Communication Management, Graduate Diploma in Marketing and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of South Australia.

STAFF MEMBERS

Gloria Berni - Chief Executive Officer



Gloria joined the CFS Foundation in 2018 and has over 30 years' experience in senior management roles across a diverse range of industries including 13 years managing the local television station in Port Lincoln between 2000 – 2013. During her time there, she experienced first hand the devastation bushfires can cause and how important CFS volunteers are to keeping the community safe. Since returning to Adelaide, Gloria has worked for a range of not-for-profit organisations in business development and general management before joining the CFS Foundation, initially as joint-CEO and then taking on the role full-time as Chief Executive Officer in January 2020 during the ravaging bushfires of that summer.

Alysha Baldock - Administration Manager



Alysha joined the CFS Foundation in 2018 and manages the administration and social media platforms plus provides support to the Chief Executive Officer. Her extensive background in management and administration from varying industries has ensured she brings a multitude of skills to this small team including marketing, promotion and events. Over the years, Alysha has developed a strong passion for assisting CFS volunteers and values their important roles in keeping regional communities and Adelaide fringe areas safe and continually seeks ways the CFS Foundation can improve their volunteering experience.

Stacey Childs - Administration Officer



Stacey brings a wealth of administrative experience to the CFS Foundation, having previously worked in Local Government in the Corporate and Community Services Departments. Prior to this Stacey worked in the media and marketing industry. Stacey feels proud to be part of a great team at the CFS Foundation and looks forward to continuing to assist the foundation with the amazing work they do for our CFS volunteers.