



CFS FOUNDATION

Supporting Volunteer Firefighters

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022



CFS Volunteers give their time freely, without pay or compensation, so the CFS Foundation was set up to support them when they need it most.

OUR PURPOSE

To provide immediate financial assistance and care to CFS volunteer firefighters and their families to offset suffering and distress caused in the line of active duty.

OUR VISION

A financially sustainable Foundation, which supports and cares for CFS volunteer firefighters.

OUR MISSION

That CFS volunteer firefighters and their families will be promptly supported and cared for in their time of need.

CFS FOUNDATION OBJECTIVES

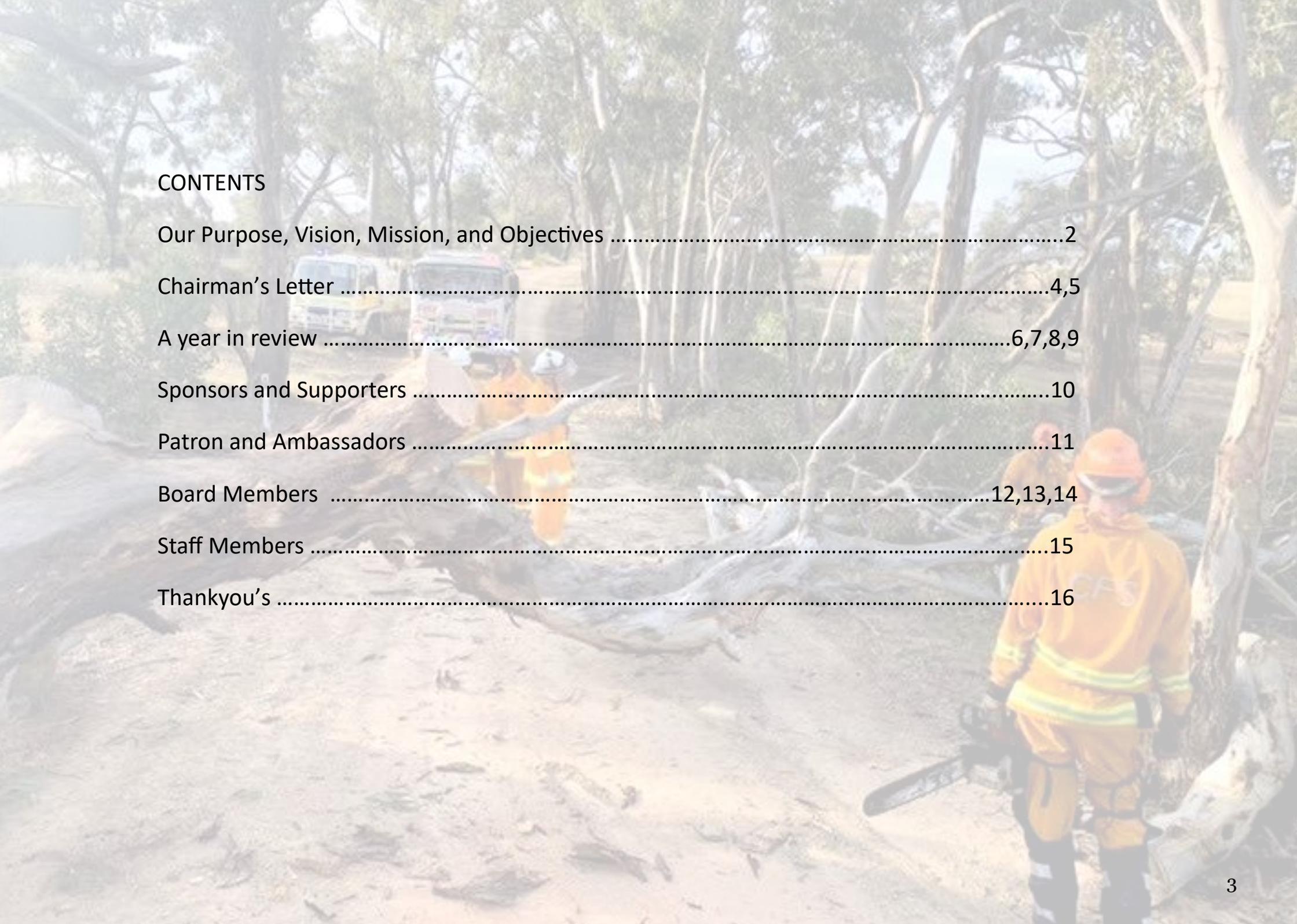
The Country Fire Service (CFS) Foundation Inc. was incorporated on 22 November 2001, with a Deed creating the Country Fire Service Foundation.

The CFS Foundation has DGR1 status.

The sole beneficiaries of our work are the 13,500+ South Australian CFS volunteers and their families located within every community of this state.



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



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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear CFS Foundation volunteers, partners, sponsors and supporters,

Bushfires, car accidents and demands on our CFS staff and volunteers ensured another busy year for our selfless volunteers and rekindles the appreciation and admiration we have for all of them.

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 when required.

When we reflect on the sacrifices, they make in time alone we are in awe as the economic impact along with the community advantages makes you wonder where Australia would be without our volunteers.

“They make life a more comfortable and safer place for us all”

Credit again must be given to our state leaders for their management of our communities as it has been done with great consistency, empathy and understanding while maintaining concern for other jurisdictions.

The Board of the Foundation acknowledges CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones and his team for their significant leadership in coordinating our state-wide responses and at times national assistance.

To Mark Jones we also say farewell as he has indicated a return to the United Kingdom come October. There is absolutely no doubt in the Chief's commitment and passion to the role, focusing on the wellbeing of staff and volunteers and a genuine empathy and love for the community of South Australia, whilst also contributing significantly to the governance of the Foundation.

Thank you also to all our volunteers wherever you may be. Your efforts were selfless, untiring and an inspiration to us all.

You make us all so proud.



John Lynch OAM

Chairman of the Board

While our volunteers were and will always be the focus of our agenda and action, we received ongoing support from our sponsors and the community at large. We express our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your support, encouragement and ensuring we are ready and able to assist any future claims from our wonderful volunteers who may suffer losses when sacrificing their efforts for the greater good of our state.

We are again extremely proud of our team led so wonderfully by CEO Gloria Berni and assisted by permanent part time support from Alysha Baldock and Stacey Childs as due to their commitment and endeavours we have again met revenue targets and we are proud of our ability to make support payments to many volunteers and their families in a timely fashion. During the last financial year, we were able to give direct financial assistance to a number of CFS volunteers and their families who were impacted during the year.

We have again achieved all our objectives at a cost to revenue of ratio of less than 5 cents in the dollar raised which is an incredible result from a very dedicated workforce/team.

Our residual funds continue to work under investment advised by William Buck to provide continued support for our volunteers as we are aware that the need to support them does not stop because the fires stopped burning or accidents occurring.

I also wish to pay tribute to the Foundation Board members, Karen Ross, David Stobbe, Sue Renner, Andrew Lawson, Mark Sutton, Rob Nelson, Anne Lucas & Mark Jones who all contribute their time, skill and passion as absolute volunteers because they too want to improve the wellbeing of all impacted as a result of caring for our community.

John Lynch OAM
Chairman
Country Fire Service Foundation



A YEAR IN REVIEW

Mourning the loss of a very special CFS volunteer

January 2021 saw us lose a very special CFS volunteer, Louise Hincks who was killed fighting a bushfire near Coles in the South East in January this year.

Louise was a committed CFS volunteer for 28 years and a beloved member of the Happy Valley CFS brigade where her daughters are also cadets. She was formerly a staff member of SAFECOM where she delivered mental health programs across the state to fellow CFS volunteers. Her loss has been felt across many areas of the Country Fire Service family. In the same incident, another volunteer was seriously injured but thankfully is recovering.



CFS Happy Valley Memorial Garden

The CFS Foundation proudly offered immediate financial assistance to both families which gave them some peace of mind following the tragic accident.

Louise's commitment to the Country Fire Service has been acknowledged at the South Australia Volunteer Fire Fighters Museum memorial and in Canberra at the National Emergency Services Memorial. A memorial garden is currently being developed at the Happy Valley CFS brigade in honour of Louise.

Rest In Peace Louise



Move into Emergency Services Headquarters

January 2022 saw the CFS Foundation move into offices on the ground floor of the new South Australian Emergency Services Headquarters, located at 37 Richmond Road, Keswick. The purpose-built facility houses the headquarters for the Country Fire Service (CFS), Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS), State Emergency Service (SES), and the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM). We would like to recognise the South Australian Government for giving us this office space at no charge. Being in the same building as the CFS certainly makes building relationships and communicating with CFS staff and management much easier.



Celebrating 20 years of supporting CFS volunteers

In October 2020, the CFS Foundation held a lunch at The Sanctuary, Adelaide Zoo to celebrate 20 years of supporting CFS volunteers. This lunch was also the ideal opportunity to thank the sponsors who continue to support us plus celebrate our recent achievements. Brenton Ragless, a CFS volunteer and Ambassador of the CFS Foundation was the MC and he introduced some wonderful speakers including Shane Leahy, garlic farmer and Parndana CFS brigade lieutenant who relayed his stories of the devastating bushfires of the 2020 summer.

We would like to thank everyone who supported this event.

Comfort Koalas

We are happy to have distributed over 250 'Comfort Koalas' to CFS brigades at no charge over the last few years. These koalas are kept in CFS trucks and are given to children involved in vehicle accidents or other incidents. A Comfort Koala can be a way of providing ease for a distressed child and can shift the attention away from the incident and towards something soft, gentle and soothing.



Expanding our Constitution

This financial year also saw the CFS Foundation Board approve the expansion of the CFS Foundation Constitution which enabled us to provide a wider range of services to CFS volunteers and Brigades including being able to purchase vital equipment for Brigades and fund other initiatives to assist our CFS volunteers and Brigades.

Thanks to our sponsor Police Credit Union, 20 brigades each year receive a Nespresso Coffee machine.



Courtesy of our sponsor RAA we contributed \$10,000 to the CFS Road Crash Rescue training trailer which delivers training all over the state.



Thanks to our sponsor ElectraNet we were able to purchase \$20,000 of items such as portable LED lighting, training equipment, whitegoods for CFS brigades and more.



Through our various Sponsors and other generous organisations, we initiated incentives to provide product discounts, complimentary tickets to events, as well as other special benefits to our CFS volunteers and staff.



CFS Foundation visiting our CFS volunteers

During the 2021-22 financial year, CEO, Gloria Berni travelled to various regions to connect with CFS volunteers and their families attending Field Days, Regional Volunteer Management meetings, local shows and other events involving CFS volunteers and staff.

Chairman John Lynch OAM made the time to participate in many of these trips and was always warmly welcomed by the volunteers and Board member Andrew Lawson represented the CFS Foundation at several events in the South East.



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, rose sales, meat raffles and much more! A big THANKYOU to all businesses and individuals involved in fundraising for the CFS Foundation.



SA Telethon Home Lottery saw lottery Tickets sold with a portion of ticket sale being donated to the CFS Foundation.



A Walk for a Veteran held their annual walk raising significant funds along the way. We thank A Walk for a Veteran for their ongoing support.



Choo Roo Chilli Sauce



Campbelltown City Council



Calla Lilly



Arkaba Hotel



Wine Direct

SPONSORS



SUPPORTERS



We would like to extend our genuine thanks to our incredible sponsors and supporters of the CFS Foundation. Each and everyone of these business have assisted us to continue our work in supporting our CFS Volunteers in their time of need.

PATRON & AMBASSADORS



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 held positions in Financial Services, Airlines and Utilities 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. She has also completed consulting work for a private company in the health sector.



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.

BOARD MEMBERS



MARK JONES
CFS Chief Officer

Mark is a Career Fire Officer with 35 years' experience of firefighting, Command and Public Service Management. His career has included working as a fire officer in various UK Fire and Rescue Services, secondments to the Scottish Government in Her Majesty's Fire Service Inspectorate and service as a leader of London Ambulance Services Emergency Preparedness and Resilience team, overseeing the preparations for, and responses to, large scale emergencies, events and terror related incidents. After retiring from the UK Fire and Rescue Service, Mark moved to Australia in 2016 and served as the ACT Emergency Services Agency's "Director of Strategic Reform" for two years before returning to the UK in 2018. He served in many roles as a volunteer for the UK's Firefighters Charity, rising to the level of Deputy Chairman. Mark returned to Australia to assume command of South Australia's Country Fire Service in October 2019.



ANDREW LAWSON ASM
Representative CFSVA

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.



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 in, 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.

BOARD MEMBERS



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
Representative CFSVA

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 of the Far North Emergency Management Committee, Member of the Outback Bushfire Management Committee, Deputy-Member of the State Bushfire Coordination Committee, Chair of Regional Development Australia Far North Committee, Member of the SA Arid Lands Natural Resource Management Board and Public Officer of the Outback Community Foundation Inc. Emergency Service, ForestrySA, Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, Bureau of Meteorology at regional, State and national levels.



ANNE LUCAS

Anne Lucas is a highly experienced communicator, marketer and change specialist with a background in journalism and public relations and is the current 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 communications and change projects, and national marketing campaigns. Anne has a track record of raising money for charity and experience on not-for-profit Boards.

She holds a Master of Communication Management, Graduate Diploma in Marketing and Bachelor of Arts in Journalism from the University of South Australia. Anne also has qualifications in Neuro Linguistic Programming, Language and Behavioural Profiling and the neuroscience of change.

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.

Gloria's aim is to ensure the welfare of our CFS volunteers is paramount and the Foundation has the financial capacity to continue to support them well into the future.



ALYSHA BALDOCK
Administration Officer

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 joined the Foundation early in 2020 as the fires were burning around South Australia.

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 the CFS Foundation is doing.

THANK YOU

To everyone who donated to our Foundation, hosted or organised fundraising events, our Corporate Sponsors, Supporters and most importantly our incredible CFS Volunteers.

