



CFS Region 3 regional commander Shane Clinch at the CFS Foundation's family fun day at Waikerie on Sunday. PHOTO: Christine Webster

# Mid Murray CFS volunteers honoured at family fun day

**CHRISTINE WEBSTER**

THE dedication of Mid Murray Group CFS volunteers to the Riverland West community during the recent floods was recognised at a family fun day at Waikerie on Sunday.

During the flood the CFS supported the lead emergency agency the SES by responding to 388 calls for assistance throughout the Riverland and Murraylands.

About 60 people, including CFS volunteers, their partners, children and grandchildren from Waikerie, Cadell, Morgan and Walker Flat, took part in the activities at the local Lions park.

The event was organised by the CFS Foundation and featured a BBQ lunch provided by the Rotary Club of Waikerie, plus face painting and a magician for the younger attendees.

CFS mascot Smokey the Koala also paid a visit.

CFS Foundation CEO Gloria Berni said those who attended had a "fantastic time".

"Distance is always an obstacle for family events," Ms Berni said.

"One volunteer and his family travelled from Walker Flat, a town that was heavily impacted by the floods."

Ms Berni said even though these CFS volunteers worked together on strike teams or training events, they rarely had the opportunity to mingle outside of these occasions with other brigades and their families.

CFS Region 3 regional commander Shane Clinch said the volunteers "very much appreciated" the event organised at Waikerie to recognise the role they played during the flood.

"The CFS Foundation does amazing work in supporting our CFS volunteers," Mr Clinch said.

He said the organisation had provided financial support to some of the CFS volunteers who had lost their homes in the flood.

Mr Clinch said during the flood the CFS assisted the SES with tasks such as sand-bagging and door knocking to warn residents about rising river levels.

"Whilst we did that, we were still maintaining our usual workload," he said.

"We are the biggest provider of fire and emergency services to South Australia, and we are the biggest road crash rescue brigade for vehicle accidents.

"We also respond to hazardous material spills throughout the state."