# END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER



#### **ALL HANDS ON DECK!**

It's been an unusual start to the fire season with wild weather wreaking havoc around South Australia!

Our CFS volunteers were recently out in full force working alongside other South Australian emergency crews cleaning up and making the streets safe after the recent wild weather caused chaos and destruction throughout our suburbs and regional towns with trees down, roofs blown off, damaged cars, streets & houses flooded, damaged powerlines causing power outages and much more!

Unfortunately, we had one CFS volunteer seriously injured, which reminds us of the risks our volunteers take when they are out protecting our communities.

The CFS warns the unusually wet season has increased the fire danger risk in South Australia with the exponential growth of vegetation, which means there will be more fuel to burn when the weather heats up, keeping our CFS volunteers on high alert.

> Gloria Berni Chief Executive Officer







#### SA CFS CHIEF OFFICER APPOINTMENT



In September we farewelled Mark Jones as the South Australian Country Fire Service Chief Officer and welcomed Brett Loughlin into this

Brett brings to the role nearly 20 years of emergency service experience and immense internal knowledge. Brett has worked for CFS since 2015 when he took up the post of Region 1 Commander. Since that

time, he has performed the role of Director of Preparedness Operations and Director of Regional Operations and most recently, the role of Executive Director Operations. Before joining CFS, Brett served with the NSW Rural Fire Service for over 10 years.

We wish Mark and his wife all the best with his move back to the United Kingdom and thank him for his input and professionalism as a CFS Foundation Board Member.

We are excited to begin working alongside Brett and congratulate him on his new appointment.

### **CFS WELLBEING OFFICER APPOINTMENT**

We are very proud to introduce Jana Wurriehausen, our CFS Wellbeing Officer, whose position has been funded by the CFS Foundation. Jana will be delivering Mental Health First Aid® training around the state to our CFS volunteers who are interested in having the skills to support their colleagues.

Mental Health First Aid® training will teach our volunteers that it is more than just knowing what to say. It is being able to recognise subtle signs of a decline in well-being in others and having the courage to initiate a conversation not knowing where it may end up. It is about having the confidence to assist someone in their time of need and supporting them until professional help is available.



The CFS Foundation would like to thank our major sponsor SA Power Networks and independent groups like "Walk for a Veteran" who have donated and fundraised to make this appointment of CFS Wellbeing Officer a reality.

THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR SPONSORS













#### LOUISE'S MEMORIAL GARDEN

On November 26, a Memorial Garden in honour of fallen CFS volunteer "Louise Hincks", located at the Happy Valley CFS brigade, will be officially opened by the Hon Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia, who will cut the ribbon to declare the garden open. Louise's daughters, Alice & Addie, will be the first to enter the garden where they will unveil their mother's special plaque.

The creation of this garden was proudly co-ordinated by the CFS Foundation with an array of people contributing financially and physically to the establishment of this beautiful garden.

A special mention of the SA Government who contributed \$15,000 and the City of Onkaparinga Council who made a contribution of \$5,000 towards to memorial garden.

A special mention must also go to the following businesses and people who helped make this Memorial garden possible - Aldgate Tree Farm, Bunning Reynella, Adelaide Tree Farm, RDB Earthworks, Big Buys Garden Centre, Glenthorne National Park, Happy Valley CFS volunteers, Clarendon CFS Brigade, Heysen Group and Veteran Affairs.

The garden is open to the public to view at any time.





### LIZ WITHALL'S 1/2 MARATHON

A big SHOUT OUT to Liz Withall for her fantastic efforts in fundraising for the CFS Foundation. Liz was personally touched by the loss of CFS volunteer Louise Hincks and ran a half marathon in Louise's honour. Liz completed a PB on the day and she says those last 4kms were unbelievably hard, but she pushed on just as Louise did when she ran the same marathon.

Liz said "It was an honour to undertake the half marathon in memory of Lou and raise funds and awareness of the incredible work that the CFS Foundation does along the way".

An absolutely incredible achievement and the CFS Foundation team are so proud!

#### CELEBRATING THE CFS FOUNDATION'S 21ST ANNIVERSARY

Late October saw us celebrate 21 years of supporting our wonderful South Australian CFS volunteers. A luncheon was held at Adelaide Pavilion with 130 guests attending including our Corporate Sponsors and Supporters, CFS executives, MFS, SES, Safecom staff and many more.

Our wonderful Ambassador 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 the 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 our FireStar Rose – the official rose of the CFS Foundation.

The CFS Foundation team and board members would like to sincerely thank everyone who attended our luncheon, as well as those who so generously donated items towards the auctions and other fundraising items.

We look forward to next year's event which will be something new and exciting.









#### SA POWER NETWORKS INCREDIBLE DONATION

We would like to pass along our genuine thanks to Rob Stobbe and SA Power Networks for their incredible donation of \$100,000 which was presented to our Chairman John Lynch OAM at our luncheon.

SA Power Networks has been a long-standing sponsor and supporter of the CFS Foundation and they value the role CFS volunteers play in supporting their Linesmen in disastrous incidents.

This level of support ensures we can continue to implement initiatives to support our South Australian CFS volunteers into the future.



#### **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 and their ongoing support.



#### CFS ROAD CRASH RESCUE TRAINING TRAILER

Courtesy of our generous sponsor - RAA, the CFS now has a state-of-the-art Road Crash Rescue (RCR) training trailer.

The RCR trailer has been travelling across South Australia to various CFS brigades delivering vital training to CFS volunteers in dealing with road crashes and other tragic events.

The Revalidation Training is held at a brigade or at the State Training Centre for each brigade approximately every 3 years. This training ensures our volunteers are upskilled and taught new techniques.



#### LAUNCH OF THE NEW COMFORT KOALAS

The CFS Foundation has 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, was 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.



#### COFFEE MACHINE ROLL OUT

One of our major sponsors, Police Credit Union (PCU), generously donates 20 Nespresso Coffee Machines to CFS brigades several times each year. To choose the lucky brigades we run a competition, and then where possible, PCU aims to personally deliver the coffee machines to the winning brigades.

We thank the Police Credit Union for this wonderful gesture as it allows our dedicated CFS volunteers to enjoy a delicious warm coffee during a training session or between callouts.

# EMERGENCY SERVICES DAY The CFS Foundation team attended the F

The CFS Foundation team attended the Emergency Services Day in late October at the National Military Vehicle Museum within Edinburgh Parks. Though it was a cold rainy day, it didn't keep visitors away.

The event featured an exhibition of the state's Emergency Service personnel such as SA CFS, MFS, Ambulance SA, Military and SAFECOM, honouring the employees and volunteers that serve our country in time of need.









The CFS Foundation relies on donations and sponsorship to continue supporting our CFS volunteers in more ways <u>than one.</u>

# **DONATE TODAY**

cfsfoundation.org.au

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE COMMUNITY LOTTERY

For only \$2.00 per ticket you can be in the draw for your chance to win some incredible prizes and show your support of the CFS Foundation at the same time!

Scan this QR code to buy your tickets or visit the People's Choice Credit Union Lottery website and choose THE CFS FOUNDATION.





\*for further details and the T&C's please visit communitylottery.com.au.

Competition closes 2 March 2023.

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