



CFS Foundation  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2020 - 2021**



**CFS FOUNDATION**  
Supporting Volunteer Firefighters



**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 and supporters,

Bushfires, car accidents and demands on our CFS staff and volunteers ensured the year was as busy as ever but of course it now comes with the complications of COVID-19.

Credit 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 wish to acknowledge CFS Chief Officer Mark Jones and his team for their significant leadership in coordinating our statewide responses and at times national and international assistance.

***Thank you also to all our volunteers where ever you may be. Your efforts were selfless, untiring, and inspirational providing us all with great comfort and assurance as you went about protecting all of us and our property and possessions. How you all managed to maintain the fight with the grit you exuded is difficult to comprehend but you make us all so proud.***

While our volunteers were on the front line, we received ongoing support from our sponsors and the community at large despite the economic impacts of COVID on both employment and disposable income. Again, we say thank you 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.

In tight economic circumstances, we are grateful to have 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 18 CFS volunteers and their families who were impacted during the Blackford/Lucindale and Cherry Gardens bushfires.

We can further advise that the residual funds are working 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.



**John Lynch OAM**

**Chairman of the Board**



To that end, we can also report that with the generous pro bono support from Mark Sallis (Wallmans Lawyers) we have amended the Foundation's Constitution which will allow for engagement across more areas of support for our volunteers and their families.

The Trust Deed, which is quite specific in its support definitions, remains unchanged and the funds currently held will continue to meet those specific purposes.

Thank you for the privilege of being Chairman of this wonderful Foundation. I assure all current and potential donors that we are focused on using the funds for the purposes that you gave them and we are doing so at a cost to revenue ratio of less than five cents in the dollar.

In closing, I also wish to pay tribute to the Foundation Board and Management team led by CEO Gloria Berni and supported by Stacey Childs and Alysha Baldock for their diligence and astute management of our funds while never losing sight of the need to be there for our volunteers.

**John Lynch OAM**

**Chairman—Country Fire Service Foundation**



# A YEAR IN REVIEW

## Lucindale/Blackford Bushfires & Cherry Gardens Bushfires

The 11th January 2021 saw the **Lucindale** bushfire in SA's South East destroy thousands of hectares of land and a heart-wrenching amount of livestock, yet many homes were spared thanks to emergency services crews. The Lucindale fire began on a hot and windy day with extreme fire danger conditions at Blackford, near Mount Scott Conservation Park, not far from Kingston SE. The fire burnt through 14,047ha and destroyed 27 buildings, including four homes.



Shortly after on 24th January, a bushfire broke out in the Adelaide Hills near **Cherry Gardens**.

Over 400 CFS volunteers fought to bring this bushfire under control. The fires destroyed 2 homes, 19 outbuildings, 2 vehicles and scorched 2,700 hectares of land.

The CFS Foundation provided financial assistance to a large number of CFS volunteers who were impacted by both of these bushfires.

## 2020 Christmas Drinks

SA Power Networks generously sponsored Christmas drinks for our sponsors, supporters and key CFS personnel in the beautiful Botanic Gardens.

Minister Tarzia was in attendance to show his appreciation for all involved. Pictured are some of the CFS Foundation Board members & CEO with Minister Tarzia.



## Toyota's Footy Tickets for CFS Volunteers



Our generous friends at TOYOTA supplied 10 double passes to CFS volunteers to each Adelaide Crows home game through out this season.



Due to a number of these CFS volunteers being based in regional areas, it was an exciting opportunity for them to make a weekend out of it and really sit back and enjoy the game. It was a lovely way to say "THANKS" to some of our incredible CFS volunteers.

## Nespresso Coffee Machines for CFS Brigades

Our major sponsor Police Credit Union recognise the hours and commitment our CFS volunteers make to the community and decided to make their time at the brigade more enjoyable by donating Nespresso Machines to various Brigades. With CFS brigades located all around South Australia – PCU plan to roll out 20 coffee machines per year which is a sensational feat. PCU are also providing other special offers specifically for our CFS volunteers and we thank them for their support.



## Firestar Rose

The Fire Star is the official rose of the CFS Foundation, where a portion of each rose sold goes to the CFS Foundation.

We thank Knights Roses for their ongoing support to the CFS Foundation.

Look out for the rose at your local nursery.







### Visit to Kangaroo Island

CFS Foundation Chairman, John Lynch and CEO, Gloria Berni visited Kangaroo Island in July to check on the welfare of some of the CFS volunteers who were severely impacted during the bushfires.

Shane Leahy, a garlic farmer has recovered well and was most appreciative of the support he received from the Foundation.

### International Firefighters Day

The 4th May 2021 was International Firefighters Day. It is a day we give thanks to all those firefighters who risk their lives every day and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. We paid tribute to our CFS volunteers across the state, and the agencies who support them, to help keep our communities safe.



### SA Emergency Service Medal Presentation

Our CEO Gloria Berni represented the CFS Foundation at the 2020 SA Emergency Service Medals and Ministerial Commendations that were presented by Vincent Tarzia - Member for Hartley.

It was a special day across the Emergency Services Sector as many of our state's volunteers and staff were recognised for their bravery and dedication to serving our communities. Many of our CFS volunteers were recognised for their extraordinary efforts during the horrific bushfires in 2019/2020. Congratulations to all of the 69 Emergency Service Medal recipients. We thank you for your service to our communities and to the state of South Australia.



### New Office for the CFS Foundation

The team at the CFS Foundation have made an office move from the city to Morphettville racecourse as we patiently wait for the new CFS Headquarters in the SA Emergency Services Building at Richmond to be completed later in 2021.



### 'Standby' Cup supported by VCASA

Thankyou to the Vietnamese Community in Australia - SA Chapter Inc (VCASA) for preparing and delivering 100 free meals to our hand working CFS Volunteers on Australia Day at the 'Standby Cup' — a cricket match on Dublin Oval between CFS Brigades within the Australian Plains councils area. It was a great day and enjoyed by all. We give our thanks to the 'Standby' Cup participants and also the Vietnamese Community in Australia - SA Chapter Inc.



### Feature in the Advertiser—Bushfire Recovery

CFS Foundation CEO, Gloria Berni, organised News Corp executives Ish Davies and Penny Fowler, to meet CFS volunteers Mark Hawkins and Dave Scullen at Cudlee Creek CFS brigade yesterday. They were taken on a tour of the fireground and to Dave's Cudlee Creek home where he recounted his personal story of the events of the day, as he fought the bushfire to save his home.



# FUNDRAISERS

## Naked Wines Australia

Naked Wines Australia were extremely grateful to the CFS volunteers who worked tirelessly through the 2019/2020 bushfires to save lives, property and vineyards in the Adelaide Hills and generously donated \$29,000 to the CFS Foundation. We thank Naked Wines for their incredible support!



## 2020 Walk for a Veteran with PTS

SmartBar Walk for a Veteran with PTS - An annual fundraising walk to support programs assisting Veterans and Emergency Services personnel and their families physical and mental health. The event was a huge success, with two thirds of the 300 registered walkers, taking on the full 35km course in wintery conditions in the Adelaide Hills. Their tremendous efforts raised over \$70,000 for four chosen charities, including the CFS Foundation. Well done and thank you to Chad McLaren and his team.



## Support from Maxiplus Tanks

The CFS Foundation would like to sincerely thank Maxiplus for their support, raising over \$24,000 for the Foundation through a tank promotion they held earlier in the year. We would also like to thank all the retailers who were involved and anyone who purchased a tank during their promotion. A fantastic result and we are extremely grateful, thank you!



## 2021 TelethonSA Home Lottery

### This house could be yours!

The Square - Woodville West  
5km to the beach  
10km to the city

TICKETS  
STILL ONLY  
\$10

EARLY BIRD  
CLOSING SOON!  
Sunday, 16 May



The CFS Foundation was selected as one of 22 lucky charities to be a beneficiary of the 2021 TelethonSA Home Lottery where a portion of each ticket sold was donated to the CFS Foundation.

1st prize was a new built home at The Square in Woodville West. All ticket winners were announced on the TelethonSA Home Lottery website.

## Melba's Chocolate Factory

In December 2019, Melba's Chocolate Factory was saved by emergency services personnel many of whom were CFS volunteers, for this, they say they "will be forever thankful".

In the lead up to Christmas and over summer, to show their appreciation, they raised awareness and almost \$7,000 for the CFS Foundation and our CFS volunteers!



## The Arkaba Hotel Support

On Friday nights, the Arkaba Hotel Sports Bar hold a meat tray raffle where all of the proceeds go to the CFS Foundation.

Thanks Hurley Hotel Group, we greatly appreciate your support!





# SPONSORS



*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 to support 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 worked in the media and marketing industry for many years and more recently in management of two Adelaide non-for-profit organisations prior to joining the CFS Foundation in 2018.

She is a strategic and creative thinker with a Can Do attitude and has the ability to get results.

Gloria is very passionate about the welfare of our CFS volunteers who give their time freely to protect our communities.



**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.



**ALYSHA BALDOCK**  
Administration Officer

Alysha is the Administration Officer for the Foundation and has a strong background in management and administration in varying industries.

Alysha has been with the CFS Foundation for a long time and has an in depth knowledge of the beneficiaries, management of databases, controls the social media updates, marketing and accounting areas. She is excited to continue to assist the foundation and looks forward to supporting CFS volunteers and the great work that the CFS Foundation is doing.



# THANK YOU

*To everyone who donated to our Foundation, hosted or organised fundraising events, our corporate sponsors and most importantly our incredible CFS Volunteers.*

