



# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – February 2008



## Lyndoch CFS Members Australia Day Citizen Award 2008



Lyndoch CFS is proud of the achievement bestowed upon two of its members as part of The Barossa Council Australia Day Awards Ceremony held at the Tanunda Show Hall.

The joint winners were Glyn Schirmer and Brenton Edwards for not only their service to the community as CFS Volunteers but for the efforts they have made in spreading the message **Stay and Defend** or **Go Early** using photos of the Wangary Fires in 2005.

After the fires Glyn and Brenton travelled over to the West Coast and provided support to the community and in particular the Modra family. Our thanks are extended to Theo and Mark for the extensive use of their photos and anecdotes of the fire.

#### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

They have travelled extensively presenting this package to a variety of groups around the state and wish to thank the following people who have supported them in this venture:

- Ø Their families – Jacque and Carol – for the time spent away from them presenting to the masses.
- Ø Phil Herrmann and Jamie Turley – The Barossa Council Fire Prevention Officers
- Ø Jeff Ayres – Community Education Officer with the CFS
- Ø The Lyndoch CFS Brigades – in particular Neville Kies (Captain) for his continued support
- Ø Sonia Post – Regional Fire Prevention Officer – Region 2 (Willaston)
- Ø Campbell Black – Group Officer – Barossa CFS Group
- Ø John Hutchins – Regional Commander – Region 2 (Willaston)

In concluding their acceptance speech they dedicated the award to the memory of the 9 people who lost their lives in the Wangary Fire.

#### Incidents Attended – December 2007 / January 2008

033	21/12/07	540 – Other Assistance Assist Incident Management Team – Kangaroo Island
034	21/12/07	539 – Tree Down Tree blocking lane of Barossa Valley Highway
035	22/12/07	539 – Tree Down Fallen Tree – Lyndoch Post Office
036	28/12/07	163 – Grass or Stubble Fire Assist One Tree Hill – Craigmore Fires
037	30/12/07	Strike Team / Task Force Assist Southern Yorke Group – Warooka Fires
038		709 – Fixed Alarm Fixed alarm - Kellermeister Wines – nothing found
039	21/01/08	352 – Vehicle Accident with No Injuries Vehicle accident – Barossa Valley Highway – near Chateau Barossa

Lyndoch CFS would like to thank its residents for a quiet Fire Season thus far. It is much appreciated by all.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LOCAL CFS BRIGADE, VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.lyndochcfs.com.au](http://www.lyndochcfs.com.au)

Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – March 2008



### On A Serious Note

As a point of interest to the Lyndoch Community, in the first week of February this year, the Lyndoch CFS Brigade lost power to the Station. This was caused by the senseless act of a Person or Person's removing the fuse from within the power box. The person(s) could have sustained burns or been electrocuted.

The Lyndoch CFS Brigade lost power to the telephones, radios, paging systems, computer, charging system to the appliances and building lighting – A complete electrical power failure.

This situation could have dramatically reduced the operational capability of your local CFS Brigade to respond and protect life, property and the environment. The Lyndoch CFS Brigades is a volunteer emergency response organisation established to help the community.

Over the past two years, the Lyndoch CFS has had car wrecks stolen that would have been used for Road Crash Rescue Training, vandalism to car wrecks by smashing windows and lights, cans and bottles used for fund raising stolen from the site and now this act of vandalism to remove a power fuse to isolate electrical power to the Fire Station.

If the person or persons who carried out this act are reading this article, you need to consider that your actions could have caused greater damage to property or greater injury to accident victims, or God forbid a loss of life because the Lyndoch CFS Brigade could not respond or even slowed our response time when somebody from our community (even the person's responsible or the family) need help and assistance at possibly a car accident, house fire or an electrocution.

Leave the Lyndoch CFS Brigade property alone and show some respect for the Lyndoch Community, its people and property.

On a more positive note, thank you to Rex Hodgson for attending so promptly at short notice and repairing the problem. Very much appreciated and thank you again.

#### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

### Incidents Attended – January / February 2008

<b>040</b>	26/01/08	539 – Tree Down Reported Tree Down Barossa Valley Highway
<b>041</b>	27/01/08	901 – Cover Assignment Assist SAPOL – reported Fireworks in area
<b>042</b>	03/02/08	751 – Private Fire Alarm Private Residence – Warm Fluoro light in lounge
<b>043</b>	24/02/08	322 – Vehicle Accident with Injuries Motorbike vs Car – near Rowland Flat

As we commented on in the last article, we have had a quiet Christmas & New Year period and hope this continues. We are usually up around the 60 - 70 calls mark by this time of the year.

The continuing dry and windy weather however does still pose problems for all. Australian Native trees become stressed and as a result are prone to dropping their branches – be aware of these when working around the garden. The increase in dry leaf material around houses is also still a concern, as we drive around our town we still see roofs with leaves and bark banking up around the gutters. Fire will by its very nature consume fuels that are smaller than 6mm more readily than it will fuels larger in size. We need to be mindful now of the continuing risk that fire poses to us and our property and take remedial action as appropriate.

### An Important Reminder

Should you see anyone lighting a fire or suspicious behaviour around Lyndoch's parks and reserves please call the Police immediately on:

**Williamstown Police 8524 6288**

**Nuriootpa Police 8568 6620**



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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

#### Training:

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – April 2008



### Lyndoch CFS History

In 2009 we will see the 30<sup>th</sup> year of registration of the Lyndoch CFS Brigade. As such, a working group has been put together to look at gathering historical information about the brigade both from 1979 to current day as well as its history as an EFS brigade and even prior to this.

We ask for your assistance in a number of ways.

- 1) If you have any photos of crews or fires that crews attended that we may have copies of
- 2) If you have any documentation or historical records of items that were purchased for the appliances or station during that time.
- 3) Contact details of past members who may have left the district.

The Lyndoch Historical Society in 2003 undertook a brief history in the writing of **The Lyndoch CFS – A Volunteer Organisation For The Benefit Of The Community.**

#### Incidents Attended – February / March 2008

In the last two articles, I spoke about how quiet it had been and the status of calls based on previous years – it seems I spoke too soon. Having said that, we did respond to 18 calls in as many days but it was pleasing to note that the number of responses to residences within the Lyndoch area was negligible.

044	29/02/08	322 – Vehicle Accident with Injuries Motor Vehicle accident Rosedale Turnoff - minor injuries
045	01/03/08	110 – Building Fire Tractor fire inside store shed - electrical fault
046	01/03/08	709 – Fixed Alarm Orlando Visitors Centre - nothing found
047	02/03/08	150 – Mobile Property (Vehicle Fire) Assist Concordia - trailer brakes on fire Strike Team / Task Force
048	04/03/08	Assist Concordia - provide members as part of crew for Gumeracha Weir Incident
049	08/03/08	921 – Did Not Arrive (Stop Call) Assist Concordia - Air Conditioner Fire - Stop Call Received

#### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

050	09/03/08	322 – Vehicle Accident with Injuries Reported Vehicle Accident - unable to locate incident or casualty
051	10/03/08	430 – Heat Related Electrical Reported fire in ETSA Sub-Station Transformer
052	11/03/08	621 – Investigation (Smoke) Reported Smoke near Gommersal - dust rising
053	12/03/08	162 – Scrub Grass Fire Assist Williamstown & Forestry SA - Gordon Road Area
054	13/03/08	163 – Grass or Stubble Fire Assist Williamstown – Gordon Road Fire - Comms Centre - Night Shift
055	13/03/08	540 – Other Assistance Assist SA Water with fire protection to fix water mains Trial Hill Road Area
056	13/03/08	539 – Tree down Request by landowner to assist - stop call
057	13/03/08	322 – Vehicle Accident with Injuries Assist Williamstown - RCR single vehicle
058	15/03/08	163 – Grass or Stubble Fire Assist Williamstown - mopping up - Gordon Road
059	15/03/08	150 – Mobile Property (Vehicle Fire) Vehicle Fire – stolen car dumped and torched
060	17/03/08	621 – Investigation (Smoke) Reported Rangoon Fire – no action required – investigate only
061	17/03/08	162 – Scrub, Grass Fire Assist Williamstown – rekindle of Gordon Road Fire

As firefighters we prepare for the worst and hope for the best. It is far better for us to be called and be on the road and have a Stop Call. Calls come at all times, middle of the night, early hours of the morning or right when you're about to sit down for tea – an example of the spirit we have comes from the Lyndoch CFS History article:

*“Another fire broke out on Mattner's property at Trial Hill in January 1894 and rapidly spread into neighbouring farms of Messrs Gilbert, Koch, and Munchenberg on a two mile front. Over 100 persons from the surrounding district put in an appearance, and battled against the devouring element, and they had the satisfaction of knowing that their efforts probably saved much property from destruction.”*

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – May 2008



## Fire Danger Season Ends – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2008

### FIRST: THINK FIRE SAFETY!

1. Please ensure there is a four metre clear space around and above your rubbish heap.
2. If you think your rubbish heap is too big or too close to trees or buildings, make several smaller heaps in safer areas. Smaller heaps are likely to burn more efficiently anyway.
3. Please ensure you have a rake or shovel on hand together with a water hose that is capable of reaching to the far side of the fire.
4. Please do not leave the fire unattended at any time.
5. Please be considerate of your neighbours with regards to wind direction and smoke.

### SECOND: THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) HAS STRICT RULES FOR DOMESTIC BACKYARD BURNING!

1. Backyard burning is only allowed **Monday to Saturday**.
2. Fires **must not be lit before 10am**.
3. Fires **must be completely extinguished by 3pm**.
4. **Only perfectly dry wood, paper and prunings can be burnt** in a clean hot burn.
5. Leaves, lawn clippings and other garden refuse should be composted or disposed of via the "Green Waste" pickup service. The Barossa Council encourages these options.
6. It is an offence to burn Treated Pine and items containing plastics.
7. Smoke that is offensive to neighbours is reportable.
8. The only fires allowed at night are home heaters and outside fires principally used for cooking or "comfort fires" not exceeding 1 metre by 1 metre, using clean dry wood.
9. Penalty - on the spot fines may be issued by The Barossa Council or the EPA.

**Bonfires at locations outside township boundaries must not be burnt at night and must comply with items 1 to 7 above.**

#### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

### PLEASE NOTE:

These are EPA regulations, not CFS or The Barossa Council regulations.

The Barossa Council administers the regulations along with the EPA and SA Police.

The local CFS Fire Brigade only puts out the fires.

If you require further information on domestic or rural burning, pick up a "fact sheet" from your local Council Office or call Phil Herrmann at The Barossa Council on 8563 8444, **before you burn a hole in your pocket.**

### Incidents Attended – March / April

062	27/03/08	180 – Outside Rubbish Fire Small Campfire in backyard
063	28/03/08	110 – Building Fire Assist Williamstown – Structure Fire
064	28/03/08	709 – Fixed Alarm Nothing Found – Alarm reset and liaise with Staff

### Senior First Aid Course

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008, 11 members of the Lyndoch CFS Brigade undertook their Senior First Aid Course – this course is mandatory for all CFS Members who undertake Road Crash responsibilities. The course also had 3 members of Concordia CFS. Thanks must be extended to the Steve Wallace-Yarrow, Principal of Lyndoch Primary School for the use of the Utilities Room which was used for this course.

### Outside School Hours Care

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Neville Kies, Richard Sanders and Vaughn Elsworth took the CFS appliance to the Lyndoch Primary School for a show and tell to the local OSHC kids. The session lasted about 90 minutes and during that time the group of 13 asked questions and were shown over the appliance.

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – June 2008



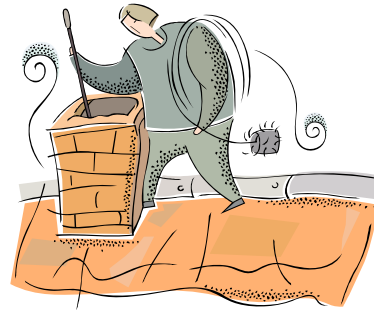
## Chimney Fire Preventions

**Now is a good time to check if the flue or chimney needs cleaning!**

A pre winter check for wood fires includes:

### Flues:

- Clean the flue using a cylindrical wire brush available from most hardware stores
- Check the flue for corrosion, particularly the sections that are out of sight in the roof cavity
- Check that the flue is central in the heat shield and if the conical shroud on the external heat shield has been dislodged, check for bird nests and accumulation of leaf litter



### Chimneys:

- Clean the chimney using a wire brush and look out for big chunks of mortar or brick in the soot which will indicate decay inside the chimney
- Check the section of chimney within the roof space for loose or missing bricks or mortar

While you are thinking about your wood heater, consider the distance to the nearest flammable material like a lounge, cupboard or curtains. Has something been moved closer to the fire over summer that may now present a danger? If you are unsure on what is a safe distance, consult the Operators Manual or check with the supplier

Should your chimney catch fire, please call the fire service immediately and ensure all occupants are accounted for and safe.

Then, use a fire extinguisher if available and where possible, restrict the flow of air to the fire by closing doors and windows. Beware when using water because it will create steam, which can also cause burns.

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7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

**Finally**, as the season breaks, please take extra care on the roads. The roads have a build up of dust, oil and rubber which becomes extremely slippery in light rain.

### Incidents Attended – May 2008

May was an extremely quiet month for the Lyndoch CFS Brigade.

### Lyndoch 24 Appliance

Some of you may have noticed that another appliance has arrived at Lyndoch. Lyndoch 24 now replaces Lyndoch 14 which has gone to a new home. Neales Flat has relinquished its 24 appliance and taken the 14. Lyndoch 24 is currently set up as our Vehicle Rescue / Rapid Intervention appliance and this will be the case until a replacement for Lyndoch 34 occurs sometime within the next 6 months.



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### Training:

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – July 2008

### More Winter Hazards

#### DO YOU DRY CLOTHES IN FRONT OF THE HEATER?

**There are real risks associated with drying clothes, towels or indeed any fabric in front of a radiant heater whether the heater is wood fired, gas fired or powered by electricity.**

**The main risk is radiant heat.**

Radiant heat will readily ignite fabrics including clothes, towels, curtains and mats. While most people are aware of the dangers and place items at a safe distance, the things that do go wrong are:

- A slow combustion wood fire is stoked up in the morning after being closed down overnight resulting in an additional burst of heat. Clothes already dried overnight and not shifted further from the heater catch fire.
- A freestanding heater is moved closer to furniture through accidental movement of the power cable or gas lead. The concentrated radiant heat soon has the furniture burning.
- The fire screen in front of an open fire is not replaced after stoking the fire creating additional direct radiant heat. Again, clothes left too close can easily catch fire. There is also the risk of a fire started from sparks escaping the fire.
- Clothes are draped over a fire screen. Apart from placing fabric too close to the radiant heat, most fire screens are not designed to support a load and are easily toppled onto the fire.
- Washing hung out on an airer to dry in front of a heater is piled on making the airer unstable; the airer is accidentally bumped sending the washing toppling onto the heater, catching on fire within seconds.

#### What can you do?

Firstly, make sure that whatever the clothing is being hung on is stable, then make sure fabrics are kept at least two metres from direct radiant heat. This may mean things will take a little longer to dry but consider this scenario.

A seemingly wet linen tea towel was placed on a stick two metres from a hot campfire and in less than five minutes it had dried and caught on fire. People were standing within two metres of the fire but not catching on fire. What was the difference?

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Although at the same distance, the people were turning and moving from time to time, while the tea towel remained static and the heat built up until it caught fire.

#### EPA – STRICT RULES FOR DOMESTIC BACKYARD BURNING!

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5. Leaves, lawn clippings and other garden refuse should be composted or disposed of via the "Green Waste" pickup service. The Barossa Council encourages these options.
6. It is an offence to burn Treated Pine and items containing plastics.
7. Smoke that is offensive to neighbours is reportable.
8. The only fires allowed at night are home heaters and outside fires principally used for cooking or "comfort fires" not exceeding 1 metre by 1 metre, using clean dry wood.
9. Penalty - \$100 on the spot fine issued by The Barossa Council or the EPA.

**Bonfires at locations outside township boundaries must not be burnt at night and must comply with items 1 to 7 above.**

#### Thank You

**DONATION:** CFS would like to extend it's thanks to Annette Hoffmann and Shannon Hoffmann (son) for their donation of \$200.00. At the last minute the caterers for Shannon's 21<sup>st</sup> were unavailable and Lyndoch CFS was approached. Lyndoch CFS looked after the BBQ and general catering for this event. This money has gone towards a new mobile phone for Lyndoch 34.

**KINDY VISIT:** On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Lyndoch 34 with Neville Kies, Shane Emms, Richard Sanders and Andrew Mansfield visited the children at Lyndoch Kindergarten. They explained what CFS does as well as going through the evacuation procedure of "Get Down Low and Go, Go Go!". About 20 children and 4 teachers were involved in this session.

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



# Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – August 2008



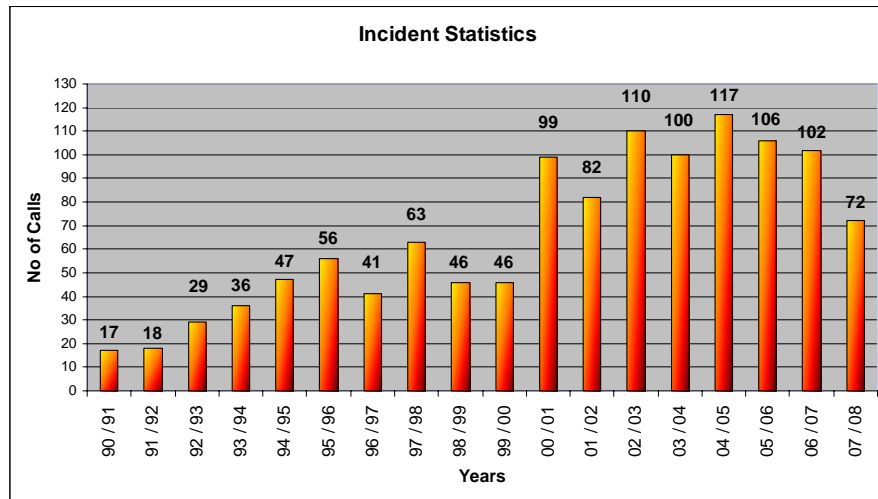
## Callouts

### Statistics for 2007 / 2008

We've now entered another financial year and as a brigade we spend a little time looking at what we have responded too over the last 12 months. The table below shows the breakdown of incidents over the last 12 months.

110 - Building Fire	2	539 - Tree Down	1
150 - Mobile Property (Vehicle Fire)	4	540 - Other Assistance	2
162 - Scrub / Grass Fire	2	621 - Investigation (Smoke)	3
163 - Grass or Stubble Fire	8	623 - Equipment Malfunction (CFS)	1
180 - Outside Rubbish Fire	7	709 - Fixed Alarm	10
322 - Vehicle Accident with Injuries	4	751 - Private Fire Alarm	2
352 - Vehicle Accident with No Injuries	6	901 - Cover Assignment	1
430 - Heat Related Electrical	1	921 - Did Not Arrive (Stop Call)	3
520 - Assist Other Agencies	1	Strike Team / Task Force	6
530 - Severe Weather	8		

For more information visit the Lyndoch CFS web site and click on the Callouts Details box on the left hand side of the main page.



### Vandalism

It is disappointing to see that for the first time, the side wall of the Brigade Station has been tagged by individuals within our community. This incident happened on the evening of Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July and those concerned left their tags in gold paint on the shed. It seems that this was not their only target that night – the school and the back of the council offices were also targeted. This matter has been referred to the Williamstown Police.

### General Warning to the Community

**IF YOU HAVE HALOGEN DOWNLIGHTS IT IS WORTH YOUR TIME TO CHECK THAT THEY ARE NOT A FIRE WAITING TO HAPPEN.**

Media reports in the past have highlighted the problems that can be caused by halogen downlights whether they are 12 volt transformer type or 240 volt type.

These downlights generate enormous amounts of heat during operation. A fire caused by an overheating downlight recently destroyed a house undergoing renovations in Adelaide.

Some of the fire risks are:

- Halogen downlights placed next to timberwork in the roof space.
- Halogen downlights surrounded by insulation.
- Halogen downlight transformers not properly fixed to allow adequate ventilation.
- Wiring for halogen downlights resting against the light fixture.

If you have observed any malfunction of your downlights e.g. lights dimming, cutting out or perhaps blowing globes on a regular basis or have any doubts about your downlights, please have them checked by an electrician as soon as possible.

### Brigade Annual General Meeting?

All brigade members are reminded that the Annual General Meeting of the SA Country Fire Service – Lyndoch Brigade is to be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008. This is not an election year although some positions may become vacant requiring nominations. It would be greatly appreciated if all members could attend this meeting. Thank you.

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### Training:

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# Lyndoch CFS

## Grapevine Article – September 2008



### Brigade Annual General Meeting?

The Brigade Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008 and a number of positions were declared vacant due to people stepping down. This is was not a formal election year. All positions will not become vacant until 2009.

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Captain.....                      | Neville Kies                              |
| Lieutenant 1 .....                | Shane Emms                                |
| Lieutenant 2 .....                | Gavin Laycock                             |
| Lieutenant 3 .....                | Vaughn Elsworth                           |
| Senior 1 .....                    | Reuben Batten                             |
| Senior 2.....                     | David Pritchard                           |
|                                   |   |
| Administrations Coordinator ..... | Jacque Edwards                            |
| Training Coordinator .....        | Vaughn Elsworth                           |
| Communications Coordinator .....  | Shane Emms                                |
| Logistics Coordinator .....       | Mick McNally                              |
| Equipments Coordinator .....      | Paul Preece                               |
| OH&S Representative .....         | Richard Schiller                          |
| Brigade Liaison Officer .....     | Richard Sanders <b>** ELECTED 2008 **</b> |
| Brigade Review Officer .....      | David Pritchard                           |

### Management Committee

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| President.....                      | Brenton Edwards                          |
| Vice President.....                 | Andrew Nesbitt <b>** ELECTED 2008 **</b> |
| Captain (Ex-Officio).....           | Neville Kies                             |
| Admin Coordinator (Ex-Officio)..... | Jacque Edwards                           |
| Brigade Representative 1 .....      | Gavin Laycock                            |
| Brigade Representative 2 .....      | Vaughn Elsworth                          |
| Brigade Representative 3 .....      | Andrew Watson                            |

### Thank You Glyn & Brenton – from Lyndoch CFS

Glyn has stepped aside from his responsibilities as Vice President of the Management Committee. Glyn has been an active member of the Management Committee for a significant period of time and has brought much valuable input to the varied roles he has held. Thankfully he has not left the brigade but merely opted to take a step back and assist in the mentoring of other members into these leadership roles.

Glyn is however working with Brenton Edwards on another project which they both have been active in for some time – bringing the message of **Fire Prevention and Preparedness** to the local and regional communities. These two individuals were acknowledged for this in being awarded The Barossa Council Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award.

They have now been acknowledged by the Chief Officer of the Country Fire Service Euan Ferguson who had a meeting with Glyn and Brenton where they provided an overview of their presentation. The following is the excerpt from the Chief Officers **Firewire** Weekly Newsletter.

#### Lessons and Experiences From The Wangary Bushfire

*Recently I had a briefing from two **Lyndoch CFS Brigade volunteers, Glynn Schirmer and Brenton Edwards**. Glynn and Brenton were part of the recovery volunteer army following the Wangary bushfire. In collaboration with Mark Modra and Mark's parents, Glynn and Brenton have developed a thoughtful and inspiring audio visual presentation that uses Wangary fire lessons and applies them to CFS bushfire safety messages. Using many photos, and the Modra family narratives, Glynn and Brenton relay lessons about individual and household preparedness; vehicle safety and farm fire unit safety; what to do when the fire strikes; actions in the hours and days after; looking after stock; and protecting those things that are most valued. CFS is assisting Glynn and Brenton to produce multiple copies of this straight talking DVD and presentation to make it available to a wider audience. The work has been done very professionally and is a reminder of the incredible talent and inspiration within our volunteers.*

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

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#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.



## Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – October 2008



### Prepare for Summer!

It is likely that the Fire Danger season will start early again this year as it did last. It is therefore important that you begin preparing your house and surroundings now rather than leave it to the last minute. The gentle rains of late have prompted consistent growth and this should be dealt with before we enter the Summer Months. The warmer weather we are also having is now starting to dry off this new growth of grasses.

In preparation for haymaking, please check mowers, rakes and balers and do pre-season maintenance on bearings, belts, chains and drive shafts to minimize the chance of overloaded or overheating equipment. While you may prevent a fire, you will probably also avoid costly damage, downtime and repairs. While you are checking the machinery, don't forget to fill, check and test firefighting equipment that you may rely on if a fire does start. The right equipment and quick action to extinguish a small fire have obvious benefits.

It is also time to spray grass around the home, sheds and fence lines as part of your fire prevention strategy. Once the grass has died off, removal of dead grass, leaf litter, twigs and old timber will remove a potential path for fire to reach your buildings.

After the driest winter on record and with no significant rain forecast, preparing for the fast approaching Fire Danger Season requires immediate action.

#### Keep in mind that:

- Autumn growth has added to the already significant fuel load around the district.
- Winter vegetation is drying rapidly creating an early and therefore very long Fire Danger Season.
- The Fire Danger Season may be brought forward from the usual 1<sup>st</sup> December start.

#### Actions should include:

- Thinking, "fire safe" for all activities.
- Clean up around houses, sheds and fence lines with a view to eliminating paths for fire.
- Disposing of rubbish adjacent to buildings that could provide fuel for a fire.
- Discussing with your family or employees your plans to "Stay" or "Go" in the event of a major fire.
- Developing or revisiting your escape plans, both for your home and for your property. This applies to everyone.
- Filling and testing firefighting equipment and making sure potential operators know how to use it safely and efficiently.
- Preparing a suitable firefighting pack including clothing, food and drinking water.

#### If you are going to burn rubbish, please remember:

- You have a responsibility to ensure that the fire does NOT get away.
- Burning is only permitted between 10am and 3pm Monday to Saturday.
- Only dry garden prunings and dry wood can be burnt.
- Burning of green prunings, mulch, plastics of any kind or treated pine is illegal and persons doing so can expect a hefty fine.

Despite publicity by The Barossa Council regarding the EPA rules for backyard burning and reminders by the Lyndoch CFS through "The Lyndoch Grapevine", illegal backyard burning continues in and around Lyndoch.

#### Please note:

- If the CFS is called to a fire, regardless of its type or location, we are required to respond.
- SA Police may also be called.
- If the fire is considered to be illegal, the Fire Prevention Officer from The Barossa Council will be notified. The Fire Prevention Officer will assess the incident and issue the appropriate warning or fine.

#### Next Month: Stay and Defend or Go Early!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR LOCAL CFS BRIGADE, VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT [www.lyndochcfs.com.au](http://www.lyndochcfs.com.au)

Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
Mobile: 0417 245 128

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#### Fire station attended:

7.30pm to 9.30pm Wednesdays - Phone (08) 8524 5623 Fax: (08) 8524 5128

#### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.

For more information please refer to the CFS fact sheets:

- #2 How houses burn,
- #5 Plan now to stay and defend your home or go early,
- #8 What to do in a bushfire
- #11 Sprinkler systems

These fact sheets and others are available from the CFS website [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au) or at your regional CFS office.

A link is also available through the Lyndoch CFS Website by clicking on Community Info

## Bushfire Information & Warning Messages

The CFS has developed an information and warning system to keep the community informed about significant bushfires.

On High Risk Fire days you should listen to your local ABC radio station or 5AA for these bushfire messages.

The messages are designed to provide important information about bushfires. The information provided is likely to include:

- the location of the fire;
- where it is expected to move next;
- the risks faced by people in the area;
- what the public is advised to do about those risks; and
- what the CFS is doing about the situation.

Although the CFS will provide as much information as possible, it is the responsibility of every South Australian to ensure they are adequately prepared for a bushfire and know what to do should one occur.

Please note the Information and Warning messages are not a substitute for good planning on your part.

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Neville Kies

Captain - Lyndoch CFS Brigade  
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*This information is provided from the CFS Bushfire Action Plan brochure*

### Fire station attended:

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## Lyndoch CFS Grapevine Article – November 2008



## What will you do, Stay or Go?

**If you live in the bush, the suburban fringe or in regional South Australia, then you are in danger of experiencing a bushfire.**

The decision whether to Stay and Defend your home, or Go Early, is critical and it needs to be made before a bushfire occurs or well before the fire danger season arrives.

**If you plan to Stay and Defend your property, you will need to consider the following:**

- 1) Are you physically fit to fight spot fires in and around your home for up to 10 hours or more?
- 2) Are you mentally and emotionally able to cope with the intense smoke, heat and noise of a bushfire, while implementing your plan?
- 3) Are you able to implement your plan while caring for distressed young children, elderly or disabled people in your home?
- 4) Do you have the resources and equipment to effectively fight a fire – a water supply of at least 20,000 litres (a water tank, pond, dam, creek or swimming pool) and a petrol powered fire-fighting pump with adequate lengths of hose?
- 5) Does your home have a defensible space of at least 20m cleared of flammable materials and vegetation?
- 6) Is your home in a location that puts it at higher than normal risk or makes it difficult to defend, such as on a steep slope or in close proximity to bushland?

If these questions make you doubt your ability, or you are for any reason unsure about staying and defending your property, then you should prepare a "Go Early" Plan.

### Training:

Every Wednesday commencing at 7.30pm at the fire station.

## Go Early

(Most bushfire fatalities occur because people leave too late and are overtaken by the fire.)

### Preparing your home for a bushfire.

A properly prepared home will be more likely to survive a bushfire without you, and fire fighters will be better able to defend it.

Create a defensible space around your property.

Consider the following:

- ÿ Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home.
- ÿ Prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home.
- ÿ Cut long grass within 20 metres of your home.
- ÿ Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other flammable materials close to your home and shed.

On high fire risk days or actual fire days:

- ÿ Block drain pipes and fill gutters with water.
- ÿ Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats).

## Stay and Defend

(A well prepared home will be more likely to withstand a bushfire and you will be better able to defend it.)

### Most bushfire fatalities occur because people leave too late and are overtaken by the fire.

If you are ever unsure, you should prepare a “Go Early” Plan as well. When completing your Bushfire Action Plan, the points below are some examples of what you need to consider.

### When to leave.

- ÿ Plan your relocation early enough to avoid being caught in smoke, the fire, or on a congested road.

### Where to go.

- ÿ Consider Low Fire Risk Areas (i.e. the local shopping centre, a well prepared neighbour’s house, etc).

### How to get there.

- ÿ Consider a number of travel routes.

### What will you take?

- ÿ Prepare a relocation kit (blankets, water, first aid kit, medications, change of clothes, children’s toys, important documents).
- ÿ Organise household members and make arrangements for pets.

## Preparing Your Home for a Bushfire

- ÿ Remove dead branches, leaves and undergrowth from around your home.
- ÿ Prune any tree limbs less than two metres from the ground or overhanging your home.
- ÿ Cut long grass within 20 metres of your home.
- ÿ Remove bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and other flammable materials close to the home and shed.
- ÿ Ensure you have an independent adequate water supply (i.e. no less than 20,000 litres from a bore, rain water tank, dam etc).
- ÿ Ensure you have equipment to fight fires (a petrol powered pump, long hoses, buckets, bins, sprinklers).
- ÿ Keep gutters clean

### Prepare for your safety

- ÿ Prepare a bushfire survival kit – e.g. long-sleeved wool or cotton clothing for all persons; a torch; a battery powered radio; spare batteries; spare set of hose fittings; drinking water.

### As the fire approaches (in vicinity of your property)

- ÿ Dress in appropriate clothing (i.e. made from natural fibres).
- ÿ Patrol property for spot fires to extinguish.
- ÿ Wet vegetation near the house with a hose or sprinkler.
- ÿ Block drain pipes and fill gutters with water.
- ÿ Remove flammable items from the exterior of the house (e.g. blinds, outdoor furniture, door mats etc).
- ÿ Stay close to the house, drink water and check the welfare of others

### As the fire front arrives

- ÿ Move inside the house.
- ÿ Prepare inside of the house (e.g. remove curtains, move furniture, close doors and windows).
- ÿ Soak towels and place under external doors
- ÿ Stay inside the house and be alert to extinguish any fires.
- ÿ Ensure you can exit the home should it catch alight.
- ÿ Monitor the fire, but keep away from windows.
- ÿ Keep hydrated.

### After the Fire has passed

- ÿ Patrol property (including roof space) to extinguish fires.
- ÿ Continue to drink water.

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#### Training:

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