



**The Country Fire Service  
Volunteers Association**

*"Representing the interests of CFS Members"*

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**October 2022**

This week marks my 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the CFSVA, and I can honestly say that it has been rewarding and at times a challenging experience and feel proud of what has been achieved.

When I reflect on the fact that we have amongst the best Work Cover protection in the state for our volunteers; that we have secured presumptive cancer legislation; that we have secured and maintained the 25kms speed limit past emergency vehicles; that we have signed a strengthen CFS Volunteer Charter; and that we have fought off several attempts at amalgamation, just to name of few achievements, it make me proud to be part of the leadership team who delivered these outcomes for all of you.

It goes without saying that flexibility and adaptability has always been a strength of CFS, and as we farewell Chief Officer Mark Jones, we welcome Chief Officer Brett Loughlin, and look forward to working with Chief Officer Loughlin to enable CFS and the CFSVA to be the drivers of CFS' future and for volunteers to be proactively involved in determining how CFS will be defined as we move forward.

There are opportunities and challenges ahead for CFS and the CFSVA, and now is the time to establish a 5, 10 plan which is in line with the CFS Strategic Plan and makes us the masters of this plan. This may create challenges, but CFS has on many occasions demonstrated its strength and tenacity when challenged which has made CFS a highly respected South Australian icon.

We must all realise that sometimes changes are necessary, and may be uncomfortable, but it is essential that we remain openminded and receptive to change; not change for the sake of change but change for the better. With every door that closes others open, and we must grasp these opportunities with both hands. I look forward to being part of this journey and pro-actively representing volunteers with diligence, pride, and consideration.

The CFSVA has also been reviewing its own structure and the through the Management Committee and general membership has carefully considered the association's future and its sustainability. Proposed changes to the CFSVA Constitution were endorsed at the April General Meeting and we look forward to the benefits of these changes. The association itself, continues to work to tight budget and every increasing workload, with its reliance on the goodwill of the Executive Team and our members becoming an increasing impost.

This year we welcomed David Lindner as State President, and I would like to congratulate David for all his work over this past year and for the vision and foresight he has brought to the association.

I would also like to acknowledge Steve Carn as the CFSVA Deputy Vice President for all his efforts over the last year, and for the dedication and passion he brings to the role.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the members who have been tapped on the shoulder and have given their time and expertise to represent the CFSVA on CFS working groups.

I would also like to acknowledge Tim Cooper, Richard Hirstle and Steve Cornwell who have each served as Branch Presidents for number of years and thank them for their support of the CFSVA. Our branches are our lifeline and our direct contact to our grass membership, and an especially important aspect of the CFSVA's work. Thank you to all you all.

I would also like to acknowledge Kirsti Oliver who is an invaluable member of the CFSVA Executive Team and my back stop, without her support many things would just not be possible.

I am indeed fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated team of people who generously give their time to support the CFSVA, and of course a big thank you to all CFS volunteers and their families for their continued support; your dedication and commitment is unequalled.

Undoubtedly our world has changed, whether in our personal lives, the way we do business or the way we respond as CFS volunteers, and it is up to us all to make the most of it and seek and create opportunities as we move forward, and I look forward to being part of that journey.

If there is one lesson, I take from the past 10 years is that the only constant is the goodwill and commitment of CFS volunteers, so who better to carry CFS into the future.

I commend this report to everyone here today.

Sonia St Alban  
Executive Director