



**The Country Fire Service
Volunteers Association**

"Representing the interests of CFS Members"

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
October 2023**

This year, like most has been a highly active year for the Association.

The adaptability and flexibility of our CFS volunteers continues to be the strength of CFS and the CFSVA and embodies the generosity of spirit we show repeatedly as our resources are stretched and our professional skills tested.

Chief Officer Brett Loughlin has led CFS for the past year and we welcome his vision for the future and his desire to work proactively with the association as CFS continues to defend and protect South Australia and brings our volunteers home safely at the end of each day.

It is quite amazing to realise that not one day goes past without our volunteers responding to people in need and distress somewhere in South Australia. This is truly remarkable.

There continues to be both challenges and opportunities ahead for the CFS and the CFSVA, and it is important that we grasp these opportunities, and whilst change may at times be uncomfortable, it is sometimes necessary to secure our future. The CFSVA remains committed to this journey and continues to work pro-actively at all levels of government to ensure the best representation of our volunteers.

The association itself, continues to work to a tight budget, increased workload, and increased reliance on the goodwill of our Executive Team, our Management Committee, and our membership.

David Lindner continued to serve as the CFSVA State President throughout this year, and I thank David for his efforts and representation of our membership at all levels.

In February we welcome back Jeff Clark as CFSVA State Vice President. Jeff immediately made his presence known as he progresses matters on your behalf with drive and determination.

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

I acknowledge and thank our Branch Presidents and delegates, for their support of the association, and whilst distance is at times is a barrier, the branches are our lifeline and our direct contact to our grass membership, and your input is an especially important aspect of the CFSVA's work. Thank you to you all, and I look forward to collaborating with you in the future.

I also acknowledge and thank the many members who have been tapped on the shoulder and have given their time and expertise so freely to represent the CFSVA on working groups, and particularly thank those whose journey with the association is ending and welcome those whose journey is just beginning.

Finally thank you to 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.

The CFS and the CFSVA are extremely fortunate to have such a talented and dedicated group of volunteers right across the state who so generously give their time to support South Australian communities. A big thank you to all CFS our volunteers and their families for their continued support; your talent, dedication and commitment is unequalled.

In the last few years our world has changed, whether it be 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 opportunities as they are presented and indeed create our own opportunities as we move forward, and I look forward to being part of this journey.

One of the few constants in this ever evolving world is your goodwill and commitment as CFS volunteers, so who better to guide CFS into the future.

I commend this report to everyone here today.

Sonia St Alban
Executive Director