

Minister Tony Piccolo

Minister for Emergency Services



Sunday, 28 September, 2014

Happy Birthday Renmark MFS!

Renmark Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) has celebrated its first 100 years of serving the Riverland community.

Emergency Services Minister Tony Piccolo said 100 years ago, members of Council and local authorities met with SA Fire Brigade representatives to discuss the need for a professional fire service in Renmark.

“Shortly after, the Renmark MFS started operations from their first station on Fifteenth Street,” Mr Piccolo said.

“Then in 1925 the station shifted to the corner of Ral Ral and Murray Avenues before having to temporarily relocate to Palmers Garage during the 1956 flood that devastated the region.

“Since 1959, Renmark MFS Station has been located on Eighteenth Street and over the past century they have responded to thousands of emergencies, including business fires, house fires, miniature cyclones, road crash rescues, storm damage, floods and bushfires.

“All current and former firefighters who have represented the Renmark MFS should be immensely proud of the service they’ve provided and I commend them all for their passion to keep the Riverland community safe.”

The official centenary date fell on 21 September, exactly 100 years after Renmark MFS officially began but was celebrated with a public Open Day at Renmark MFS Station today.

Riverland MFS Regional Manager Commander Kevin Eckermann said it was a special moment to welcome past and present Renmark MFS firefighters, their families, friends and the wider community to mark the milestone.

“Doors to Renmark MFS Station were open from 10am and the event ran until 2pm with firefighters showcasing their station and core skills,” Mr Eckermann said.

MFS Assistant Chief Fire Officer of Regional Operations, Chris Smith said Renmark has been capably served by retained MFS firefighters for a century.

“Retained firefighters respond to emergencies much like volunteers, and often respond to emergencies from their place of work, home or other locations to protect Renmark’s community, property and major infrastructure,” Mr Smith said.

“Retained MFS firefighters make an invaluable, selfless contribution to their local community and we thank them for their service and also thank their families and primary employers who allow them to leave home or work to protect their community.”