



fire fight

Each issue of *Vital Signs* will trace a contemporary story back through the records. This issue we focus on firefighting ...

Scenes of danger and devastation greeted New South Wales on Christmas Day 2001. Some people lost everything except the clothes they were wearing. Others were ordered to evacuate, taking only a small selection of personal records, such as photo albums and passports. Most people experienced the Christmas fires second-hand via slivers of ash through kitchen windows and scenes of firefighters battling two-storey flames on the evening news.

How has the work of firefighters previously been recorded and their valour celebrated?

All photos are records from the State archives collection.

← Firefighters battling flames at Goldsbrough Mort & Company's Wool Store, Pymont, 1935; CGS 553



← Smoke helmets,
Fire Station No1, 1905;
NRS 15454/1/13-20

↓ A special fire brigades display,
depicting the Hero fire engine
of 120 BC at Headquarters,
Fire Station, Sydney, on the
occasion of the visit of the
Governor of NSW, Admiral
Sir Dudley de Chair, 1926;
CGS 547



You can search *Archives Investigator* for online details of records related to firefighting, created by the following agencies (agency numbers in brackets)

www.records.nsw.gov.au

FIRE BRIGADES BOARD (agency # 616) 18 Mar 1884 – 1 Jan 1910		
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS (agency # 618) 1 Jan 1910 – 31 Dec 1990		
	BUSH FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (agency # 743) about 30 Sept 1937 – 8 Dec 1949	
	BUSH FIRE COMMITTEE (agency # 641) 9 Dec 1949 – 4 Jun 1970	
	BUSH FIRE COUNCIL OF NSW (agency # 642) 5 Jun 1970 – 31 Aug 1997	
NSW FIRE BRIGADES (agency # 619) 31 Dec 1990 –		DEPARTMENT OF BUSH FIRE SERVICES (agency # 814) about 1 Jul 1990 – 31 Aug 1997
	RURAL FIRE SERVICE ADVISORY COUNCIL OF NSW (agency # 813) 1 Sept 1997 –	NEW SOUTH WALES RURAL FIRE SERVICE (agency # 815) 1 Sept 1997 –