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# PROFILE

## ROD KERSHAW

### CENTRE OFFICER, UNLEY

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*Rodney Kershaw joined the St. John staff in 1970. He is married with three children and lives at Greenhill. His association with St. John has spanned 30 years.*



Rod Kershaw first joined the Brigade at the age of eight, but because of regulations, he had to wait two years before he could officially enrol. He recalled that most of the children at that time were very keen to join the Cadets as soon as possible.

He was first involved with the Kilburn Cadet Division (which was incorporated into the Prospect Division) and later the Cadet Drum and Bugle Band. The Cadet

Band gave Rod the chance to see most States of Australia at a fairly early age due to tours and various competitions conducted interstate. Apparently, there was little opportunity for the Cadets to "play up", as the accompanying Senior Officers never let them out of their sight!

At the age of 17, Rod transferred to the Northern Transport Division (now Prospect) as a Senior. As a teenager, he was employed in the music industry, an industry for which he still holds a great deal of regard. His experience in the Cadet Band certainly put him in good stead for a career as a drummer. Unfortunately, it never took off and his father talked him into taking a position with the meat works.

Despite his father's reservations, Rod stuck with his music and backed a number of overseas artists. Probably the most famous group he played drums for was the "Ink Spots" at the Princeton Hall (now the Burnside Town Hall). He is also very proud of the time he played at the Wonderland Ball Room with a 10-piece big band. At the moment, he leads a 5-piece band specialising in 60/40 style. When not playing, he likes to listen to Roy Orbison, Barry Manilow and the Daly Wilson Big Band.

During the day, Rod was working with his father at the meat works and doing duties with the Northern Transport Division. In 1970, the opportunity arose for him to join St. John regular staff. The considerable wage drop didn't worry him, as he always had an ambition to be involved in the caring profession in a full-time capacity.

Since 1970, Rod has gained considerable experience in many areas of St. John. After four years in Communications, two of those years as a Supervisor, he

accepted the position of Centre Officer, Royal Adelaide Hospital Clinics, a position he held for 14 months. He was appointed to the current position of Centre Officer at Unley in 1980.

In June 1980, Rod was selected to do the initial Advanced Care Course. The field of Advanced Care holds particular interest and he would like to see an Advanced Care Programme developed for the Services as that which exists in Victoria and New South Wales.

Rod sees excellent prospects in St. John for advancement and training. Ultimately, he would like to be promoted to the position of Assistant Superintendent. To achieve this aim, he has undertaken a number of courses related to the Ambulance Service. He is currently undertaking a four year, part-time course in Transport and Administration, which is a Certificate Course run by the Croydon Park College.

Despite his studies and present work load, Rod still finds time to pursue a number of interests. He enjoys the occasional round of golf (he refused to tell us his handicap!), and has been a member of the Pilot Flying Club for the last seven years. He does have one regret, though, he was forced to give up weight-lifting and wrestling — a sport he said, "that certainly kept me fit and trim but, once you stop, the muscle tends to sag!" He says he'd like to take it up again, but with St. John, family, studies, golf ...

As Rod and his wife, Pam, live at Greenhill (an area recently ravaged by the bushfires), he has a vested interest with the local CFS. He has taught a six-week First Aid Awareness Course to Greenhill residents and held a review exactly one month before Ash Wednesday. The review concentrated on treatment of burns and eyewash and many residents have since thanked him for his foresight in conducting the course.

Rod and his family were one of the luckier families at Greenhill, but it was touch and go whether or not the house would burn. The heat was so intense that all the window drapes had scorch holes in them. Rod believes Pam's insistence on pure wool curtains saved their house from going up in flames.

Of the future, Rod would like to join the Lions Club, but until his studies are completed, that project will have to be shelved. As far as St. John is concerned, he is still involved with the Brigade on the supplementary list as a Superintendent. He believes St. John is a "marvellous organization with excellent opportunities, but only if we pull our weight as a team and not as individuals. This way our service can only continue to improve."