**Scott John Lloyd Rockbank 2001**

Scott Lloyd was a young man in the prime of life, finding his place in the world and showing leadership potential in a job that he loved, as a volunteer firefighter with the CFA. He died in the line of duty, far too young.

Born to John and Wendy Lloyd in 1975, Scott grew up unsure of the direction he should take in life, but that all changed when he became a volunteer firefighter.

Scott began with the Sydenham Fire Brigade, which became the Hillside-Sydenham Brigade and then the Caroline Springs Fire Brigade as amalgamations took place. He became a dedicated volunteer, rising to Second Lieutenant and earning the nickname of “Mr Safety” as he took on a training role for other volunteers. Scott developed many skills as a firefighter, and was gaining a lot of experience. In the 12 months before he died, he had attended one hundred calls with his Brigade.

On the 19th December 2001, another call came in. A farmer’s burn-off had got out of control near the local community of Rockbank. Several firefighters and firetrucks responded, including Scott on the so-called Hillside Quick Attack – a small four-wheel drive with 400 litres of water, a pump and other firefighting equipment. Scott was Sector Commander on the west of the fire, using his vehicle for transport and radio control.

A neighbouring farmer had spotted the fire and arrived on the scene with tractor and plough to dig a firebreak, extending into the burn-off property close to where both Scott and two Brigade tankers were operating. The brigade tankers left to restock their water supplies while Scott left his vehicle to approach the farmer digging the firebreak. Disaster struck. Unbeknown to the farmer, Scott was caught by the machinery, dragged some distance, and was dreadfully injured. He was discovered some minutes later by other tanker crews and airlifted on life support to the Alfred Hospital in Melbourne.

Scott’s father John remembers the day clearly. He was working in Melbourne as a State Fire Coordinator for what was then the DSE. He had just finished his shift when he was alerted to the incident, though no names were released. As anxiety heightened, the DSE Chief Fire Officer finally broke the news to him that the victim was Scott.

John rapidly coordinated the family to the Alfred Hospital to say their goodbyes. Scott died that night. He was 26 years old.

It was a devastating time for all, for John and Wendy and for Scott’s sister Joanne, recently married to Peter – a close mate of Scott’s. Scott had been groomsman at their wedding just a few months previously. Scott also left behind a young son, Jason, who would grow up not knowing his father.

If tragedy brings lessons, the subsequent coronial enquiry and other investigations into Scott’s death resulted in changes to CFA procedures to improve safety standards. Other firefighters would benefit from safer procedures and that was something that Scott took so seriously during his lifetime.

He is lovingly remembered by his family as a fine young man and dedicated firefighter who had found purpose and who was looking forward to a strong future, but whose life was so tragically cut short.