



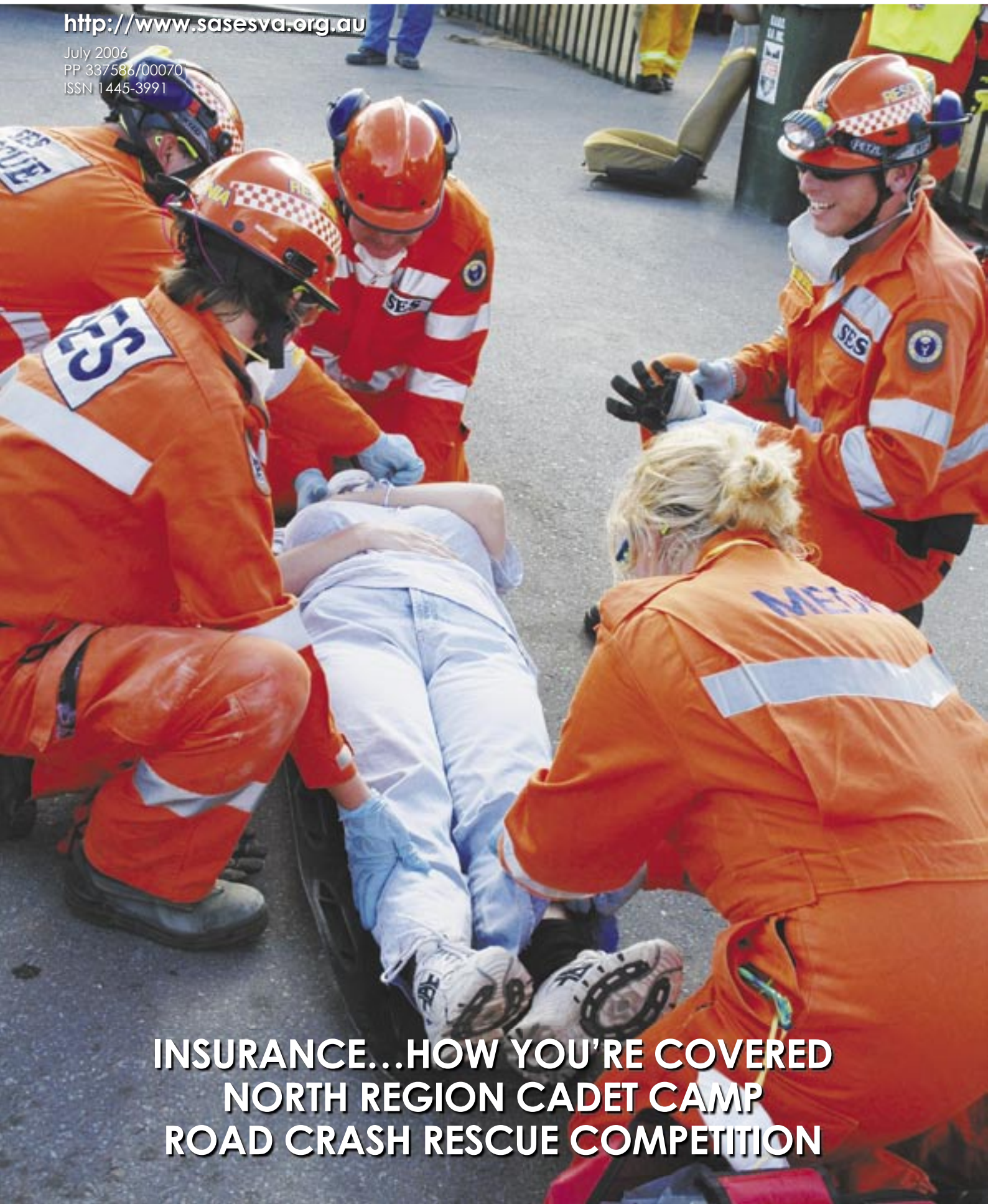
Frontline



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**INSURANCE...HOW YOU'RE COVERED
NORTH REGION CADET CAMP
ROAD CRASH RESCUE COMPETITION**



SASES Volunteers' Association Inc.
PO Box 72
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CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

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Chairman's report



“Recent events have seen some of our members respond to a number of high profile jobs and I must admit to feeling a sense of pride in seeing them on the television and in the paper.”

On a recent visit to State Headquarters with my nine year old daughter, Ashley, the question was raised about whether or not she was an SES volunteer in the making. My initial response was I hope she would have more sense than to follow in her father's footsteps. As a parent, you want the best, for your children, so why would you want to expose them not only to the death, damaged property and emotional distress that many Units see on a regular basis, but the seemingly constant battle to get the recognition, training and resources that we need to do what we do? But then again, if it was easy, everyone would want to do it. Hopefully, by the time Ashley is old enough to decide if she wants to be an SES volunteer things, will be better.

Recent events have seen some of our members respond to a number of high profile jobs and I must admit to feeling a sense of pride in seeing them on the television and in the paper. It is about time that SES volunteers are given the chance to put into practice the skills they have spent hours developing. Yet I am also aware that not everyone is happy with SES volunteers being at these types of incidents. The argument goes that you need to be paid in order to be professional. These incidents have shown that this is not always true. Well done to those crews that responded, you showed the State what SES volunteers are capable of.

RCR Competitions

Congratulations must also go to the Laura Unit for doing the Service proud once again at the Road Crash Rescue Competitions. While not being able to attend the competitions due to work and family commitments, I have received some excellent comments on them. Hopefully, next year more Units will take up the challenge

and have a go. Most Units would have received the survey on what is stopping Units from attending. While not everyone might agree with the concept of competitions, they are a good way to develop teamwork and hone your skills and I encourage Units to take the time and answer the survey honestly.

Surveys

All of you should have received a survey in the mail from State Headquarters. Please take the time and send back your responses. While personally not agreeing with the depth given to some of the questions, I think it is important to get as many different views on how the Service is going as possible so a balanced view can be constructed. Some individuals may have also received another survey from the Australian Emergency Management forum through Anglicare on what it costs to be an Emergency Services volunteer. This information will then be presented to government in the hope that some type of reimbursement for volunteers could be organised. The Association has and will continue to monitor the outcomes from this project.

Uniforms

By the time you receive this copy of Frontline, the new uniforms should also be making their way to Units. I know many Units have been waiting some time for them and at times it did seem like we were 'living on a prayer'. Let's hope we don't have a repeat of this situation in future. Rest assured the Association will be doing everything in its power to ensure that it doesn't.

Till next time stay safe.

Warren Hicks
Chairman, SASESVA

from the
CEO's
desk

On Monday May 1, 2006, the SAFECOM sector held a strategic planning day at which the Board's strategic directions were tabled and workshopped to determine the strategies required to achieve them.

A couple of things were noticeable - firstly, how unified all the Managers were - tables were mixed with SES, MFS, CFS and SAFECOM, with a sprinkling of the Commission and Advisory Board members also participating. The second noticeable item was the general consensus to drive towards providing a safer community together! I have seen the great frontline working relationships evolving recently with SES, MFS and CFS working side by side at recent flood events. This is also matched at the highest levels within the sector so there is a great spirit to achieve the benefits through working together.

The vision statement (a statement about where we want to be) has been slightly expanded and now reads: "A safer community through integrated services". The mission statement (our purpose or reason for existence) now reads: "Leading a unified approach to community safety and delivery of emergency services".

The direction for the sector is very clear - improve community safety by working more closely together and sharing our expertise and resources.

The workshop discussed and debated many of the strategic enablers and key outcomes expected to achieve our goals. The SES VA was well represented through its various Board(s)

members and provided significant input to the discussions. Once we have the sector plan into a reasonable draft, we will be discussing this with all of our people in more detail. The SES strategic plan will fit into this overarching direction and the aim is to have both completed by the end of June this year.

In a similar vein to the above, SES has now transferred its Call Receipt and Dispatch from CFS to MFS as well as the State Control Centre. While we have had some teething problems (which are being addressed), we have found ourselves being dispatched to cases where we were previously not considered. These have included some significant cases in the City and we have been asked to support MFS which is a great testament to the professionalism of our volunteers.

The willingness to make this work by MFS people has been outstanding and no doubt greatly contributed to the success. I have said this many times, but we do need to gratefully acknowledge the support we have received from CFS for the CRD handling for the last 7 years. We formally acknowledged this at the formal opening of the new centre by the Minister of Emergency Services.

So as the sector enters an exciting new era, so does SES. We have rearranged the organisation and are gearing up for an exciting future.

David Place
Chief Executive Officer
State Emergency Service South Australia



“I have seen the great frontline working relationships evolving recently with SES, MFS and CFS working side by side at recent flood events.”

Executive Officer's report



“We have been having ongoing discussions with management regarding the need to improve resourcing for our volunteers...”

As I write this column, I notice the boxes of shoulder patches and rank markings being delivered. They will be divided up and at the Regional HQs by Monday 22 May, 2006, ready to be distributed to Units. The Volunteer Association will have a small amount of spares available for sale if the Units require more than their allocation.

From the Association perspective, I have noticed that there are a large number of Units that won't be receiving new PPC. There can only be 2 reasons why.

1. The Unit didn't place an order with their Region,
or
2. The Region did not forward the order to SHQ. The final uniform order of some 3 months ago was sent back repetitively to Regional Commanders to ensure that all their Units' orders were included.

The positive side to all this is that there will soon be overalls in the system to ensure sizing is right and you can place orders via the Regional Business Support Officers, who can then place the orders on line and get the new gear in a timely manner.

Enough about clothing.

I continue to travel the State with the State Leadership team and pay specific attention to the issue trends that continue to arise. It will be no surprise to hear that PPC and Training are the

lead complaints levelled at the CO and his crew. The Association continues to work with State to progress these issues, either directly (as with the PPC) or indirectly by being involved with the interview process of the 2 new training officers for Central and West respectively. We have been having ongoing discussions with management regarding the need to improve resourcing for our volunteers and the need to relieve the administrative burden on Units. SHQ have been fully aware of these issues and continue within resource limits and budgets to manage the ongoing pressure on our members.

The Association will continue to work with SHQ to ensure that we can progress these issues in the SAFECOM Forum and also politically as needed. Please feel free to raise any issue that is concerning you with your local representative so as it can be discussed and solutions found if possible.

Regards

Derren Halleday
Executive Officer
SASESVA

Peter Nygaard



Once again, a busy month. Actually, I cannot recall having a quiet month since I started. I am starting to receive more and more feedback from our volunteers regarding a broad range of issues. I welcome the opportunity to communicate directly with you and encourage any volunteer to discuss their viewpoint on OHSW issues they have on their mind. I enjoy getting out and about visiting as many members as I can at their Units or on a task. I believe this strengthens the bond between all members and demonstrates that we are in fact one service, working together to achieve a positive result in whatever we take on.

One of the issues that has affected members and the SASES as a whole is the notification of an asbestos exposure on a NSW Fire Brigade training site. Members of the SASES and SAMFS have attended this site and are currently undergoing a number of processes in conjunction with SAFECOM, SASES, SAMFS and NSWFB.

Consequently, the SASES and SAMFS contracted an independent asbestos consultancy company to conduct asbestos testing on all rubble piles used for training within SA. Unfortunately, all SASES sites (3) were found to contain asbestos in various risk categories and quantities. Even though the actual risk rating for these results were deemed to be at the lowest category on the asbestos risk scale, the Chief Officer of the SASES directed that all three rubble piles were to be removed forthwith. As Responsible Officer to each and every member of the SASES, the Chief

Officer has a Duty of Care to provide a safe workplace for all members.

This does not mean we will not have future training rubble piles. However, *all* future sites will be authorised by the Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer. This will enable a guaranteed safe, systematic and uniform approach to the way we authorise, construct and use our training facilities. The process will also enable consultation with volunteers, staff and other stakeholders to take place before the first 'stone' is dropped on site.

The WorkCover Gap Analysis has been conducted and the final report will be sent through in late May. Most of the issues that were discussed are systems based and we will strive for continuous improvement in this area. Thank you to the Units that we visited. Your hospitality and willingness to assist was appreciated.

To close the article, I would like to express the sense of pride that I felt being a member of the SASES when I attended a few of the more nasty incidents this month at St Paul's Restaurant and on construction sites north of Adelaide. The volunteers responded to these incidents in a very safe, professional and competent way whilst displaying a high sense of dignity to those involved. Stay safe.

Peter Nygaard

OHSW Officer
State Emergency Service
South Australia
nygaard.peter@safecom.sa.gov.au

“I enjoy getting out and about visiting as many members as I can at their Units or on a task.”

from the
Editor



This edition of Frontline is one all volunteers should read carefully and keep for reference. Several months ago, the issue of insurance for volunteers was raised after tragic accidents involving volunteers interstate.

At a meeting of the SASES Volunteers Association there were some who weren't quite clear on how extensively volunteers were covered in case of accidents.

As a follow-up Judy Arthur, Manager Health Safety Welfare at SAFECOM, was invited to address the May meeting of the Association.

She spoke passionately about the issue, briefing the meeting on procedures and the need to follow through as soon as possible once an incident occurs.

In this edition, we publish her reasoning and essential facts you need to know - including

contact numbers. Keep a copy aside. It may come in handy one day.

We've also got articles on the life of George Averis who passed away in March as well as Gordon Hartley's story on the elder members of our SES on the Eyre Peninsula and some great pictures from a recent Cadet camp - sounds like they had fun!

As usual, I look forward to contributions from around the state. Remember you can write to me by email at allancalleja@netspace.net.au or ring me on 0415 446 031.

Happy reading!

Allan Calleja
Editor



Judy Arthur addresses the May meeting of the SASES Volunteers' Association.



Photo: Nathan Granger – Andamooka.

CADETS' VIGIL

North Region Cadets from Mintabie and Andamooka, represented the SA SES for this year's Anzac Vigil.

From 6pm on the 24th to 6am on the 25th, cadets from 12 different organisations kept the vigil over the War Memorial at North Terrace Adelaide. Every 30 minutes throughout the night they change the guards and during the 30 minutes they change position almost consistently. All the cadets that attended were very proud to be there and although it was a very long night, it was well worth the effort.

“All the cadets that attended were very proud to be there...”

REUNION

All Wrans, former and current Royal Australian Naval Women are invited to a reunion to be held in Adelaide from 22nd to 26th April 2009.

For expressions of interest and further information:

Telephone 0408 292 503

Email wrans.reunion2009@yahoo.com.au

Postal Address PO Box 594, Two Wells, SA 5501

Further details in future issues of this magazine.

Continuing the Service

NEW CADET PROMOTION

New literature has been released to support the cadet scheme.

Two pamphlets and a business card have been issued. Joining in the SES Cadet program now has advantages for young people.

The Induction and Basic Skills package has been approved by the Senior Secondary Assessment Board of SA (SSABSA) for accreditation towards the SA Certificate of Education (SACE).

Cadets who complete the package can present their original SES certificate to the SACE Coordinator (teacher) at their school. Cadets are eligible to apply for recognition of 2 SACE Units at Stage 1.

The SES Cadet program is open to those aged 13 to 18. It provides an opportunity for young people to develop self-esteem, learn new skills, have new experiences, grow in confidence and become members of a team. It also promotes a greater understanding of the value and importance in providing a community service and becoming actively involved in their community. And a chance for young members of your family to get involved.



WATTLE RANGE SCHOOL VISIT

These kids got a chance to get into the spirit (and gear) when the Wattle Range SES Unit visited them as part of SES Week last year.





NORTH REGION CADET CAMP



A Cadet Camp was held in the North Region on April 22 & 23.

The camp was held in Andamooka with a total of 16 Cadets and 8 leaders participating in the weekend. It brought in members from Port Pirie, Mintabie, Burra, Roxby Downs and Andamooka.

We all arrived Friday night and enjoyed an evening meal together and spent some time getting to know each other.

Saturday saw everyone up early ready for breakfast. After brekkie, we were off to start the day programme - Basic Rescue. The Cadets were all given an opportunity to be involved in a body recovery, allowing them to use a lot of skills they often do not get a chance to use. The body was known as Dead Fred.

Saturday night, a Night Search was conducted and the Cadets had a great time with this.

The night search was out by Lake Torrens, about a 6 kms square area with natural boundary of creeks and a road.

They were given a brief of a male, middle age, who was travelling with traffic cones (as they are reflective and a little easier for them to find) and was last seen travelling in a north-east direction. So we used Dead Fred again and the boundary of our search area in the creek and left a number of traffic cones along the way.

On Sunday they all had a go at opal mining with everyone finding something, some thinking they were now millionaires.

This camp was the first time for most of the Cadets to go opal mining (some who live in the area have seen it all before!). They only collected small amounts.

Most of the Cadets involved haven't followed in their parents' footsteps. Only 2 of the 16 have parents who are SES members.

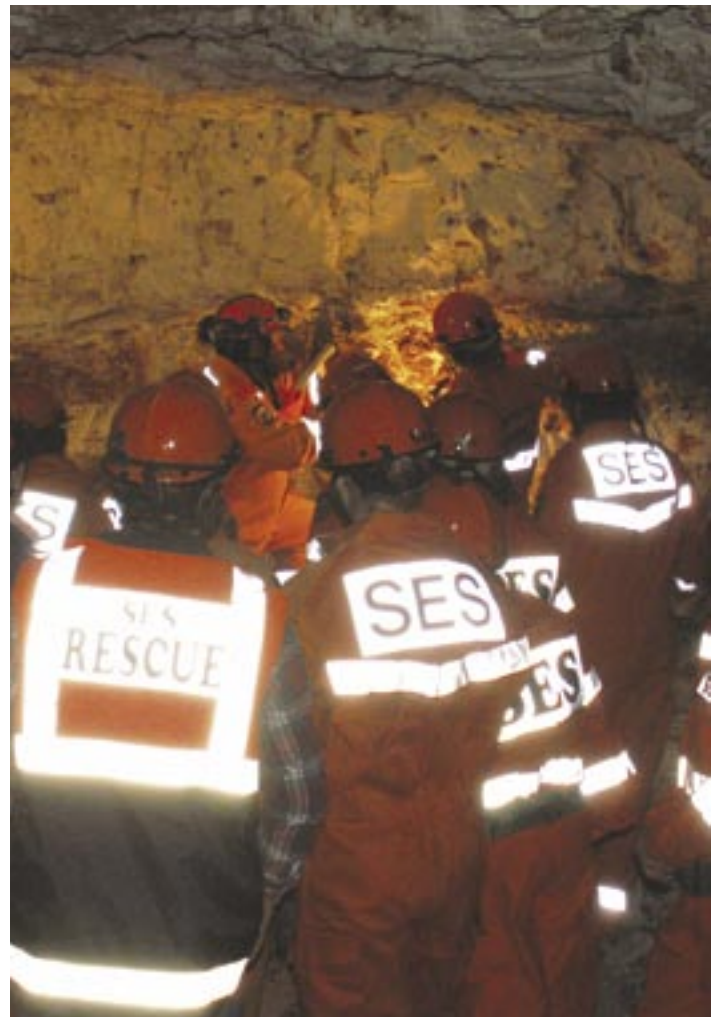
By Cindy McCourt
Project Officer - North Region



The Cadets have a go at opal mining.



Below: Dead Fred.





ROAD CRASH RESCUE

Displayed here are photos showcasing some of the action from this year's Road Crash Rescue Competition

