



Frontline



Official Journal of the South Australia State Emergency Service Volunteers Association Inc.

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**FLOODS IN THE NORTH - PICTURES AND A PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE
PETER GODFREY PLUS DERREN HALLEDAY'S PARTING WORDS
NEW IDEA FOR PROMOTIONS
AND BOTH SIDES OF AN EMERGENCY**

SASES Volunteers' Association Inc.
PO Box 72
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Frontline



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CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

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On the cover: SES Volunteers inspecting the damage caused by the floods.

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Chairman's report



“Remember, the Association is there to help and protect the interests of all volunteers, not just particular Units or Unit Managers...”

It is hard to believe that we are almost four months into the New Year. With callouts and training commitments, it is easy to lose track of time. For me personally, the last few months have been extremely busy as I moved from Port Augusta to Adelaide to take up a teaching position at Henley High School. With moving house, enrolling my children in new schools, beginning work in a new school with more than a thousand students and attending the odd callout with a new Unit, time has flown by.

This is not the first time that I have moved during my time as a volunteer. In 1994, I moved to Port Lincoln to take up a contract position at the high school. Back then, I had to resign from the Unit I was in and reapply with the Port Lincoln Unit. That meant returning all Unit gear which then had to be reissued by my new Unit. These days when an individual transfers between Units, this is no longer the case, which highlights just how far the Service and the Association has come in the last few years.

However, no one told me how hard it would be to resign as Unit Manager and transfer to another Unit. After more than ten years in Port Augusta as either the Deputy Unit Manager or Unit Manager, one becomes attached to the volunteers that make up the Unit. It is only natural; you work side by side, train together and attend the same callouts. Slowly members find a place in your life, even members from neighbouring Units, and for me these people became my extended family. I sought guidance and support from them and I gave guidance and support to them. We did not always see eye to eye on everything but respected each other enough to agree to disagree and move on.

Unfortunately, this is not always the case at a State level. There are too many divisions or reasons to be seen as different from everyone else. It seems at times that it is Unit against Unit, Volunteer against paid staff, and trainers against operational staff. One can think of countless examples of different groups that exist within the Service.

Hence the need for the Association, and while one needs to maintain confidentiality, there have been a number of issues that the Association has been working through over the last couple of months. There are a few other issues that the Association is aware of but has not been asked to assist with. I would ask that if anyone has an issue with the Service to inform the Association of these concerns so that a coordinated approach can be undertaken. If everyone fights their own battles it is very easy to become divided and no volunteer benefits.

Remember, the Association is there to help and protect the interests of all volunteers, not just particular Units or Unit Managers, and membership of the committee is not restricted to Unit Managers or those who hold rank in a Unit. All that is required is a commitment to get involved and help out.

Talk to your local representatives and feed in your ideas or concerns. It is the only way the Association and State Headquarters can build up a picture of what is really going on in the Service.

Till next time, stay safe.

Warren Hicks
Chairman, SASEVA

Executive Officer's final report

EDITOR'S NOTE:

News of Derren's departure came just prior to going to print. His outstanding work will be the subject of articles in the next edition of *Frontline*. From us all GOOD LUCK DERREN!

Unfortunately I need to start my column on a sad note acknowledging the death of Peter Godfrey in the tragic vehicle accident in February.

The Association's condolences are extended to all who knew him and particularly to his wife Michelle, dad Ron and mum Mavis. The SASESVA has also set up a trust fund through the Community CPS Credit Union with contributions going towards income support for Michelle in the interim and to help with the bills. The funeral was a huge event with over 80 orange SES members as well as HQ staff attending. The chapel was full and overflowing to the car park as our membership proudly formed the honour guard, including SAPOL and MFS representatives along with Peter's workmates. He will be sadly missed by his teammates at Northern Districts and Enfield.

Operationally incidents involving many regions at Hawker and Renmark have highlighted the diversity and strength that we have as an organisation utilising strengths from around the state to work on local incidents.

By the time that this column gets delivered it will have been announced that I have applied for and won a position as Regional Commander in the Central Region. I have accepted the position and will have started by the time you are reading this. I have been exceptionally happy working in my role as Executive Officer for the Association and previously as Chair and PR. I have not taken the opportunity previously to look for any work within government, as I have been more than happy representing the Volunteers at the various levels. With John Thorne's imminent retirement and the position being called I figured that this may be a once in a career opportunity, and I went for it. I am more than pleased, as it will give me the opportunity to continue representing my passion, being the SES Volunteer, this time internally, utilising different systems and processes. As I leave the position I would like

to thank several people. Warren Hicks for his strong leadership in the SASESVA, David Ward for his thorough and tireless bookkeeping and Louise Reynolds for assisting me with the Secretarial support in the Association. Gordon Hartley's wisdom from the west has been invaluable and Allan Calleja's editing of *Frontline* has it proudly representing our service as the journal gets sent around the country. I would also like to thank my fellow board members on the Commission Board and the Advisory Board, also the committee members on the State Volunteer Ministerial Advisory Group and the Australian Emergency Management Volunteers Forum. The relationships that I have built up with the VFBA and the previous secretary of the UFU have been volatile to say the least but have always had the best interest of the community at heart. I look forward to keeping in close contact with all of you in my new role.

I guess that's it. I have had the opportunity to visit nearly every Unit in the state from the big hugs from Morwenna at Mintabie and the lamb on the spit at Coober Pedy, to the heated discussions with many Units across the State, I will miss it all. Over the last few years we as a team have been able to enshrine ourselves in legislation and concrete our positive future. The SASESVA has never been in a more powerful position as it goes into the Legislative review process and I look forward to being available to offer my advice into the future (if anyone will listen).

Again thank you. It's been one hell of a ride.



Derren Halleday
Executive Officer
SASESVA



“Again thank you. It's been one hell of a ride.”

from the
CEO's
desk



“Support to families and friends, the direct assistance that is so often necessary, the comforting arm around the shoulder or the empathetic ear when it is needed are all signs that the SES is a close knit family ...”

Iwould like to take this opportunity to reflect on some of the recent tragic events concerning our SES family. The SES Volunteer and staff responses to these tragedies have been outstanding. Support to families and friends, the direct assistance that is so often necessary, the comforting arm around the shoulder or the empathetic ear when it is needed are all signs that the SES is a close knit family and we do look after each other. That is a sign of a very positive culture. Please congratulate yourselves for this. In this day and age it is not a common organisational trait.

We have made some big strides towards improving our OHS&W performance. The appointment of Trevor Arnold as the Technical Rescue and Safety Officer is a deliberate strategy to focus on safety in our rescue and training systems. Trevor's role is to analyse our “systems” of work and detect and mitigate where the risks are that we may not have contemplated. Trevor's rescue technical knowledge is outstanding and I ask you to support him as we strive to make our workplace even safer.

Workplace injuries are not always physical. Our Volunteers and staff are often subject to traumatic occurrences and witness things that

the general public do not usually see. One of the pro-active tools we have to help you is the SPAM program – in a nutshell it is OK not to feel OK when you have been involved in occurrences as previously described. I urge you to use this program – it works. You can access the program as an individual or a Unit with confidentiality. You do not have to put up with peer pressure that urges bravado - everyone is different and keeping these types of problems “inside you” can bring down the toughest emergency service worker in time.

Finally, you would have read that I am handing over the reins to Stuart Macleod until October. There are significant issues to be addressed in the SAFECOM Sector and I want to ensure that the SES receives the full attention of its management team. I hope you will support Stuart over the next few months as you have supported me.

David Place
Chief Executive Officer
State Emergency Service South Australia

Peter Nygaard

The human side of emergency incidents.



Firstly, my deepest sympathy to Michelle, Mavis and Ron Godfrey following the tragic loss of your husband and son. I only knew Peter for a short time but respected his true commitment to those around him in the SES and the community at large. Peter, and his family, will remain in our hearts and thoughts. Peter is “one of our own” and this incident breaches the professional shell that emergency services personnel erect at similar scenes and brings home the sometimes cruel reality that we are not immune to tragedy ourselves.

Many of the incidents the SES and other emergency services attend have profound effects on all of the people involved. The two sides of the coin are the victims of the event and the people who come to their aid.

Late last year, I attended an incident at Henley Beach and witnessed a number of people confronted with substantial fire damage to a house. The house was valued at approximately \$1m and had recently been renovated. It was six days before Christmas and the usual tree and presents were laid out in one of the rooms.

Human behaviour at the site was interesting. Some of the comments in a “scattered array” from both bystanders and emergency service personnel: “Nice house, but looks like they can afford to rebuild”, “Hope they are insured”, “Shame, so close to Christmas”, “Will it affect my house?” “Is it all gone?”.

Interesting that not once did I hear anyone comment on the wellbeing of the occupants. Sometimes those around us perceive our perspective on life differently.

We should never lose track of the fact that we are all human and are all affected by the circumstances around us. Due to every person’s capabilities being different, it can be difficult to identify the effects on us at some incidents we attend. Often effects emerge days later in troubled sleep or even our patience with others. There are many symptoms.

The crucial point is to look after yourself and the other members of your team/Unit. We have processes in place to offer assistance when required. It is not a sign of weakness to utilise this service (Stress Prevention and Management).

Another exercise I attended was Exercise Luminary. The brief scope was a terrorist bomb detonation on bus travelling to a conference with international political delegates. The incident was in North Terrace and SAPOL, MFS, SES, SAAS and other government departmental representatives responded.

There were numerous “fatalities” and “casualties” in various stages of significant trauma. A secondary incident was the discovery of a “bomb” in the railway station. SAPOL bomb techs “defused” the item.

The crowd of bystanders that gathered to watch the show supplied interesting feedback. It was amazing to see some people panic at the initial visual impact, find out it was an exercise and then get quite upset that we had wrecked their normal day. Others were supportive of the

“Many of the incidents the SES and other emergency services attend have profound effects on all of the people involved.”

“Nice house, but looks like they can afford to rebuild”, “Hope they are insured”.



whole concept and asked how they could "get involved next time". A few bystanders still need to look at what is going on around them and maybe even learn how to follow safety warnings and stay out of barricaded areas. Once again, diverse human behaviour. Most of these actions required a reaction from those involved in the exercise which added to the level of learning/training.

On the administrative side of things, the State OHSW Committee will have met for the second time by the time this goes to print. We will table the review recommendations for the new policies and procedures (OHSW). Once this is agreed to, the formatting and distribution of the new Policy and Procedure CD can commence.

It was amazing to see some people panic at the initial visual impact, find out it was an exercise and then get quite upset that we had wrecked their normal day.



The OHSW Representatives for the SES are: Andrew Crawford (Kapunda), Peter Burgess (Mintabie), Allan Cuk (Sturt), Anthony Salter (Clare), David Hean (Tumby Bay), David Jaensch (Bordertown), Ken Robertson (Western Adelaide), David Hall (State Headquarters Unit), and Reg Sparham (Tea Tree Gully).

Thank you to all of these volunteers who have raised their hands to offer an additional service to all the members of the SES. Please consult with them on OHSW matters/issues. Bear in mind that they are volunteers like the majority of the service and not paid staff. They have commitments to their families and their employers on top of the extra load we give them so exercise patience.

Stay safe.

Peter Nygaard

OHSW Officer
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P.S. I will be on temporary secondment to the Central Region as Senior Regional Officer for up to six months. I have enjoyed writing an interactive article for the Association and will endeavour to provide more articles where possible in the future.

from the **Editor**

When I sat back and started editing all the material that I had assembled for this edition, I realised it has a human theme running through it.

You'll read lots of references to the tragedy of Peter Godfrey. Sindy McCourt gives us a personal account of the massive floods up north. Sindy was part of the preparation and response to the January floods while also suffering personally from the effects. Also worth reading is Peter Nygaard's column which takes a look at both sides of the coin in emergency incidents.

Congratulations to those who picked up awards recently ... we have some listed from those Units who informed us. If any of your members pick up awards then pick up a camera and drop us a line.

And have a read of a new way to present the awards day and end of year party, take the family, and still come under budget.

Frontline is a magazine for Units to pass on experiences and information between all the volunteers. The goal is to cover activities and issues. That's especially important for country and metropolitan Units where distance and

resulting isolation leads us to think "they don't know what we're going through here". It is also especially important for balance that the views of more Units are heard as well as a response from head office, so please feel free to contact *Frontline* by sending an email to me allancalleja@netspace.net.au or ringing me on 0415 446 031. I also urge you to read this edition's column from Warren Hicks on where he and the Association fit into the picture.

I'm looking for more contributions, from as many Units as possible, on any topic. You might also just want to send social pictures with a brief explanation. Just remember, when you shoot those pics, not only have them in focus but also have faces clear in shot. Be creative.

Don't forget the Keith Lane Award nominations for 2007 are now open. See the Association's website for details.

Thanks once again to those who have helped with this edition including our PR man Andrew Macmichael.

Allan Calleja
Editor



POSTCARD FROM THE VAN

The SASESVA Public Relations Van hits the road.

Net geeks would have heard of Bob the Barf bag. It's an airline sick bag that is sent around the world on a plane and photographed in exotic locations. Of course he's assisted by airline staff. Bob's presence actually sparked a bomb scare that caused a US bound flight to return to Sydney. The pilot was told a note was found saying B.O.B. He interpreted it as "bomb on board" but it was actually "Bob On Board".

Why mention this? Well we hope that, like Bob the Barf Bag, our own SASESVA Public Relations van gets to travel extensively in South Australia and we'll publish its postcards from wherever. We're sure he won't spark an emergency!

Any suggestions for a name for the van?

In February, the van completed a month long trip to Port Lincoln. The Port Lincoln Unit used the equipment and the PR Van during the Tunarama Festival during the January long-weekend.



Activities included the street parade, blocking the jetty for the fireworks and an SES banner used on the rescue boat during the 'Blessing of the Fleet' sail past.

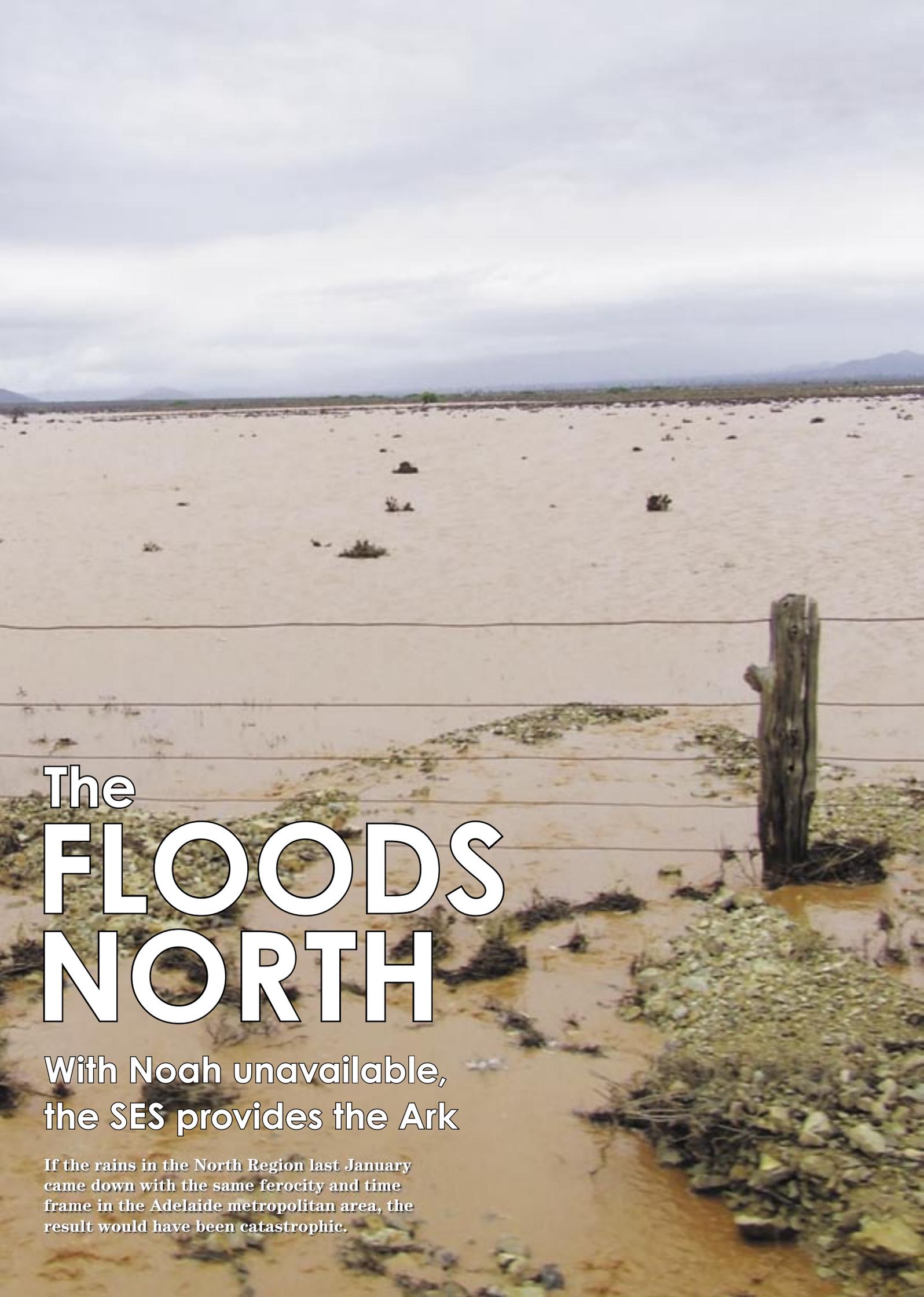
After the festival was finished, the van was used in a series of small displays around Port Lincoln helping to increase the profile of SES in the district.

Thanks to the volunteers who assisted in transporting the PR Van via Ferry to Port Lincoln.

Sadly, the clutch gave out as Trevor Fuss pulled into Hindley Street in the return to Adelaide.

The van is available to everyone and we urge you to use it. Contact our Public Relations person Andrew Macmichael to book it in.





The FLOODS NORTH

With Noah unavailable,
the SES provides the Ark

If the rains in the North Region last January came down with the same ferocity and time frame in the Adelaide metropolitan area, the result would have been catastrophic.



Over the three day period, up to 183 mm (more than seven inches in the old money) came down in an area from Coober Pedy drifting to Hawker in the Flinders Ranges, impacting on Whyalla and down to Port Pirie.

That's about 600 square kilometres.

If it was the metropolitan area imagine how houses, roads, bridges and buildings would have been washed away and population devastated.

In the country areas, there's less infrastructure, less population. But don't let that give you an impression that the water just fell on open plains and wide brown land and didn't cause major destruction.

The SES operation for these floods turned out to be one of the biggest I have worked in and comparable to recent events like Virginia and Glenelg.

As you can see in the pictures, roads were washed away and trees down. On our own property at Hawker, my husband and I lost 15 kilometres of fencing, banks and dam infrastructure as well as having buildings inundated by torrents of water. Muddy, disgusting water.

From the Thursday to the Saturday, other remote communities from Innamincka, Oodnadatta and William Creek, who became isolated when roads were cut, endured the first flood damage.

I was on the phone the whole time so we could ensure supplies such as medicines, food, resources.

But once again, it showed how resilient and well prepared these communities are.

For example, Innamincka turned out to be self sufficient for eight to twelve weeks of no road access before they would run out of essentials,

After three days of biblical proportion rains, we were left with roads, such as the Cradock to Yendalue Road which lost up to 3 metres of soil, and main arterial roads that left Hawker and even large towns like Whyalla isolated for up to 48 hours.



from bread to toilet paper and medical supplies.

They are so isolated and so well organised even country towns near the metropolitan area would struggle to be as well prepared.

That early contact gave us an early warning ... an idea of what we were facing. Of

24 hours before the large influx of water, those SES in the north region were being proactive in sandbagging and preparing in their local communities for the flood.

As a result, in Hawker, some of the buildings managed to survive with minimal damage due to the efforts of the crews.

“We had five crews working out of Port Pirie, the Hawker crew being assisted by the CFS as well as teams in Whyalla and Port Augusta.”

course we had the weather reports from the Bureau, but the first hand reports gave us what we needed.

Innamincka would supply us with levels in Coopers Creek which gave us an idea what levels were flowing down and whether it was increasing or decreasing, we'd get a more accurate picture.

They were down there at midnight on Friday night sandbagging the hotel and businesses throughout the area. It was done within hours and just in time.

Rain started to fall about 2am on the Saturday morning.

I went back into work at North Region headquarters at 7am to find there had been large









rainfall. And what rain. At that point, we had issues at Hawker, Port Pirie and Whyalla.

We had five crews working out of Port Pirie, the Hawker crew being assisted by the CFS as well as teams in Whyalla and Port Augusta.

My job was to be Media Liaison Officer. That involved getting the information out as often as possible so the public were kept up to date. I also had to do co-ordination so I didn't do any television. I left that for the guys with the cocky shit on their shoulders.

Saturday the work was so immense we flew a crew from Port Broughton into Hawker to help out.

After three days of biblical proportion rains, we were left with roads, such as the Cradock to Yendalue Road which lost up to 3 metres of soil (see in the picture the grate was left standing on its own), and main arterial roads that left Hawker and even large

towns like Whyalla isolated for up to 48 hours.

Luckily there was minimal damage to buildings with most of the damage done to roads. But remember, in these isolated communities, these arterial roads bring the life blood to them all.

“The landscape was changed by this immense flood so much that I reckon even a local going through for first time after the flood would be lost.”

Millions of dollars damage and many months of repair ahead. No human lives were lost and town was affected for weeks to come. What volunteers did over that time was amazing especially when you consider what happened. The landscape was changed by this immense flood so much that I reckon even a local going through for first time after the flood would be lost.

Trees, big ones with five metre bases ... just washed away, banks of creeks are now up to fifty metres wider.

For me, the immediate task was like any other victim. I've done the fence repairs. I took a week off and helped with my family to clean up

the immediate mess in the sheds and fencing so we could contain stock.

As you could imagine with such a wide area, earth moving equipment is in such wide demand that the completion of the repairs will be many months ahead.

I haven't even really looked at the final bill but at about \$2,000 a kilometre for fencing and about \$20,000 of hay and

stock loss, my husband and I might be up for about \$80,000 in loss. But certainly, others in Cradock would fare worse. Some lost up to 70 kilometres in fences and larger stock losses ... mostly sheep.

I'd personally like to thank all those crews who helped on the operation but also those who found out I was personally affected. I had volunteers from Adelaide willing to send crews to help on the property, paid staff in headquarters offering to help. I was blown away with the support and I thank you very much.

By Cindy McCourt
Hawker



AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to everyone who has received awards for their efforts in volunteering.

Congratulations to Roger Murdoch, the Unit Manager Warooka SES who has been recognised in the Australia Day Awards with an Emergency Services Medal (ESM) for conspicuous and outstanding service to the community.

Also, inaugural Keith Lane Award winner Ian Bonython of Noarlunga SES was declared Citizen of the Year 2007 by the City of Onkaparinga.

Ian was acknowledged at the Australia Day Award Ceremony held at Noarlunga College Theatre, Noarlunga Centre, for his contribution to the Community through SES, specifically for his rescue training.

And also Senior Rescuer David O'Shannessy from Sturt SES is the very worthy recipient of the City of Marion Young Citizen of the Year for 2007. David also maintains the Association's web pages.

Right: David O'Shannessy of Sturt SES receives his award from the Mayor of Marion, Felicity-ann Lewis.



Mayor Lorraine Rosenberg with Ian Bonython.



TUMBY BAY STUFF UP AWARDS

Three members of the Tumby Bay Unit were awarded with their Stuff Up Trophies for the Year 2006.

Julian Cousins was awarded the Golden Propeller award for his stuff up by messing up while negotiating the marina entrance. To win, all Julian did was go across the channel entrance almost beaching the boat instead of following the channel.

Jim Darling (centre) was awarded the Golden Clutch Award for his reversing the rescue boat trailer down the boat ramp. His winning achievement was reversing the vehicle almost into the water instead of going forward up the ramp.

Nigel Carr was awarded the Golden 'Caught Short' Award for getting caught short with no paper during a call out. Nigel had to tear pages out of a training program as there was not any toilet paper available in the vehicle while on road block duty out in the bush. Another good reason to have a copy of Frontline on hand!



Photo sent in by Pye

ART, STAN, DINGER IN THE FJORD?

... ARE STAN'S DINGS IN THE FORD?

... OUT STANDING IN THE FIELDS?

OUTSTANDING IN THEIR FIELD!

Nominate your colleague now for the Keith Lane Memorial Award for the Outstanding Individual in the South Australian State Emergency Service presented each year to the volunteer nominated by their Unit.

Check out the Volunteers' Association website or see your Unit Manager for details.

Proudly sponsored by the South Australian SES Volunteers' Association and Countrywide Media, publishers of Frontline.

FAMILY DAY

SES – Spalding North Region, 12 November. Family Fun Day a hit.

North Region tried something very different to finish off 2006 and it's something more of you might want to consider.

After working to the successful formula of a formal dinner with presentations, organisers wanted to do something that involved more of the SES family. So they came up with a Family Fun Day with activities, presentations and food that proved to be a winning formula.

Initially there was some resistance from other parts of the SES to the idea.

“Once we decided this was the way to go, we threw in as many family activities as possible,” says organiser Sindy McCourt.

“We had a rock wall and ride on battery operated vehicles. That was great. Unfortunately, it rained for the first time in six months so that spoilt things a little bit.

We had a bouncy castle, barbecue lunch and even had ice cream for dessert – that itself was a huge hit.

Everything we arranged was constantly busy and the feedback from the members and families who attended was fantastic.

We made the focus on the families that support the volunteers because, let's face it, if the families don't support them it makes it difficult to volunteer.

Previous years we've had a formal dinner which the partners can only attend. But by having the Family Fun Day the whole family, including extended families, could attend and they could not only have fun but be involved in the medal presentations.

It was cost effective and we came in under budget for the normal presentation evening. So we've decided to make it the annual event for the region.”



Pamela Case, North Region



Watching the cricket.

Below: Kerry Stephenson, Spalding Unit - First Clasp.



Below: Richard Burnett, Mintabie Unit - Natinal Medal.

Below: Keith Copley and Kym Paterson, Bute Unit - National Medals.



Below: Trevor Boulton, Spalding Unit - National Medal and First Clasp.





All the cooks - Spalding Unit.



Monica Tunks.



Even the rain did not stop the fun.



Keryn Maywald climbing the wall.



Kaylene Wilson and dad Murie.



Warren Hicks PTA UM and Tony Somner HAL UM.

30 YEARS' SERVICE

Chris Rowley of Victor Harbor has been serving with the South Coast State Emergency Services (SES) for more than half his life.

The 53-year old was awarded a certificate of service for his 30 years' association with SES on November 3, 2006.

Chris joined up in 1974, one year after the very commencement of the South Coast Unit.

He thought it was a good way to put something back into the community, and thought his knowledge gained from working in the motor vehicle industry might help him in the role.

Dealing with the tragic situations his involvement with the Unit has put him in touch with, has been difficult, but according to Chris, you learn to accept it.

"You never get over it, but you live with it," he said.

"We all stick together pretty well, and everyone supports each other."

"You need a certain amount of understanding from the rest of your family to be able to cope, with not only what you find on the road, but also with the callouts."

Being called out to assist late at night, in the early hours of the morning or during a family dinner or gathering comes with the territory, he said.

Chris' family have thrown their support behind him, as well as the SES generally, with service to the organisation becoming a real family affair.

Chris' wife Marjory began her involvement by making sandwiches for the members, and eventually became a member herself, serving for several years.

Their eldest son Matthew, now 30, signed up as soon as he was able to, at age 18.

"As young people do, he drifted away for a while," Chris said,



Thirty years' service ... Chris Rowley has been involved with the South Coast State Emergency Service for 30 years. He was presented with a certificate of service for his efforts on November 3.

but Matthew is again back with the SES, in Mount Barker, where he now resides.

Their younger son, Peter, 28, has also assisted with training courses, serving as a patient for the South Coast Unit to practice on.

Chris believes the benefits of being an SES volunteer are

the pride in accomplishing something as a team, the camaraderie within the group of people he considers his friends and that feeling of satisfaction at the end of the day.

**Fleurieu Life,
The Times
Victor Harbor**

NEW WEBSITE PLANNED

State headquarters is planning to reinvent its website.

By the end of this year, every volunteer could have their own personal message system on the official SES website with your own email and access to the latest incident information as well as any forms you need to fill in for a training program.

State headquarters is planning to re-invent its website.

Assistant CEO Greg Reedman says the idea is still in the concept stage but the intent is to improve communication between volunteers and SES management and operations.

"One of the things that came out of the survey was the difficulty in communication."

"From the paid staff to the managers, I've sent out a broadbased high level scoping

document asking them to tell me what do they want happening in a website, what do they think a document could do.

Volunteers will also be asked to contribute ideas.

"It's not being seen as just a PR tool or a shop window which they often are seen to be. The secure part of the web site will be of greater significance to us as an organisation. Some of the ideas, and that's all they are - we haven't costed them. I have it in my head that it would be a place where every member would have their own account. You type in a password, log in your details and you have messages. You would have all your online forms such as information on the state training program.

"You could see how

subscribed the courses are - whether there are any vacancies. It could have the prerequisites before you could go too far and then all you have to do is press submit.

"It would then be forwarded to the Unit manager to verify and when that person hits submit, it goes through to the Region. And they submit and it finishes in the training program.

"I've asked them to think outside the square and not to think about other websites. We've only just started to do it."

Another idea Greg has is a link in a secure section that allows any member access. A map of South Australia would come up showing all the incidents running or occurring over previous days or even year.

"Things now available in paper form could be available to any

member at any time, like at three o'clock in the morning when they come off their work shift. At the moment, how could they do this?

It is hoped the new website will be up and running by the end of this year.

"I am very loathe to make any predictions about a time frame for what is quite uncharted waters. All I can do is a statement of intent. I would be very disappointed if we don't have the specifications by late this year. But I may well be disappointed. I may come up against a few barriers that I can't foresee at this point."

And don't forget the Volunteers' Association already has its own website worth putting on your favourites list.

You'll find it at www.sasesva.org.au



**Australian Institute of
Environmental Health**

Mr David Place
Chief Officer
State Emergency Management
Level 2, 20 Carrington Street
Adelaide SA 5000

November 17, 2006

Dear Mr Place,

Re: Emergency Management Training for Environmental
Health Practitioners

After twelve months of planning, the Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH) South Australian Branch held its first Emergency Management Training course at Fort Largs Police Academy on the 5th to 9th November 2006.

The feedback from the course indicates it was a great success with the objectives met.

The course could not have been a success without the invaluable guidance and assistance of Mr Allan McDougall (State Emergency Management Training Officer). Allan not only opened up to us a network of people with vast experience in emergency management, but also advised of a range of suitable topics to ensure a comprehensive program. During the course, he presented topics, facilitated proceedings, linked all topics together, answered questions, engaged participants and networked with EHOs. The course would not have had the desired outcome without his invaluable assistance and experience, for which the organising committee thanks you. We look forward to working with Allan to prepare for the second course to be held in February 2007.

The course has also had the effect of stimulating participant's interest and desire to implement Emergency Management Plans within their own organisations. As such, we are considering further education to provide them with the tools necessary to perform their duties in an emergency situation effectively and competently. The AIEH looks forward to an ongoing working relationship with the State Emergency Service and other relevant agencies.

Yours Sincerely

Cathy Isbester
President
Australian Institute of Environmental Health (South Australia)



Sindy McCourt
Project Officer
State Emergency Service North Region
Short Street
Port Pirie SA 5540

October 27, 2006

Dear Sindy,

On behalf of the Innamincka Progress Association Inc., I would like to thank you and Matt for inviting our members to train to become part of the SES volunteer network in SA.

All the IPA members who attended and took part in your training course were impressed with your presentation, and all agreed that they gained new knowledge and skills.

Some members have also indicated that they would like to further their skills in relation to first aid and further training if needed.

Your course was also a chance for local people to get to know each other outside of their jobs and to work together as a Community.

Regards

Joan Osborne
Secretary



Jennifer Rankin MP
Member for Wright
P.O. Box 1111
Golden Grove Village 5125

December 4, 2006

Mr David Place
Chief Officer
State Emergency Service
GPO Box 2706
Adelaide 5001

Dear David,

I am writing to express my appreciation to the State Emergency Service for their participation in my annual Community Safety awareness promotion held at the Golden Grove Village Shopping Centre last week.

As always, the Search and Rescue dogs were especially popular with local shoppers, particularly the kids.

I would be most grateful if you could pass on my thanks and sincere appreciation to your officers who attended on the day, and in particular to Craig Brassington for his involvement once again.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to your future involvement.

Wishing all at the State Emergency Service a very happy Christmas and safe New Year.

Yours Sincerely

Jennifer Rankine
Member for Wright

Dear sir,

I am just writing a small note of thank you for your Northern Unit's (Elizabeth West) help. On the 11th of November I had need of their services when heavy rain from a thunderstorm started flooding my kitchen and bedroom (I was having the roof replaced). I was very impressed with the prompt, courteous and efficient help provided by the Unit that attended. They were just young people who you should be very proud of. Once again, thank you. Please pass on my family's gratitude to that crew.

Yours Truly

Errol Congdon