



Frontline



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**KI BUSHFIRES • AWARDS
ASH WEDNESDAY 25TH ANNIVERSARY
AROUND THE UNITS**



CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

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Chairperson's report



“The SASESVA has been in existence in South Australia for nearly 15 years. Over that time it has consistently represented SES volunteers in supporting their chosen way in which they give back to the community in which they live.”

First up I would like to congratulate Stuart Macleod on being appointed as Chief Officer of the State Emergency Service. Stuart started his career as a volunteer and has consistently demonstrated that he is supportive of volunteers and their efforts to build a better service. I look forward to working with Stuart on his vision of where the service could improve and developing the benchmarks that will service to gauge just how it has improved.

I would also like to congratulate Graeme Wynwood on being awarded the Emergency Services Medal in the Australia Day Honours. Graeme not only manages the Noarlunga Unit but has been involved in many committees and meetings at State Headquarters that have dealt with issues relating to the Service and volunteers.

Hopefully with the launch of the Minister's Volunteer recognition package we will be in the position of acknowledging the efforts of many more volunteers. Who knows, we may have to do what many other volunteer organisations already do and have a formal awards night, whereby family, friends and employers of volunteers can all be invited to share in the achievements of our award winners. Anyway that is something for the future.

The SASESVA has been in existence in South Australia for nearly 15 years. Over that time it has consistently represented SES volunteers in supporting their chosen way in which they give back to the community in which they live, in all manners of volunteering, safety, recognition, in getting a fair hearing from governments and in presenting SES volunteers as highly skilled contributing members of our community.

We, as members of the SASESVA, have served on government committees, have made submissions, have presented and accepted original ideas on how to improve the lot of an SES volunteer, have always been supportive of moves to work with other emergency service volunteers to ensure there is a united voice on issues that affect, if not endanger, emergency service volunteers.

A draft grievance procedure policy framework is just one of the issues we have worked on this year, which is currently with volunteer management and we are awaiting their response. Though it may not always seem like it at times, we do have many friends out there who remember our efforts on behalf of all SES volunteers.

We have not always been as successful as we would like to have been, and at times when keeping the Association afloat and effective has been difficult, it has only been managed by the dedication of a few members who understood the importance of having a recognised legitimate way of expressing our views, and how much we would lose without it.

Currently we are being asked to prove that we do represent the SES volunteers in this state and are in the process of establishing a list of members; if you have already completed a membership form and returned it, I thank you for your prompt actions.

I know many people have a belief that by joining the Association we are going to ask them for contributions. This is not the aim and never will be. However, these same people gladly accept the benefits we gain, talk to us about issues they have, ask for our assistance, demand copies of *Frontline* and the calendar, as well as nominate volunteers for awards that the Association funds. In effect these people are getting a free ride on the efforts of others.

While I can relate to the concept I cannot accept it, especially when there is so much to lose. So if you are yet to complete the membership form, could I ask you to do so and return it as quickly as possible. After all it is in the interests of all SES volunteers.

Warren Hicks
Chairperson, SASESVA

PS: A membership form is included on the last page of this issue of *Frontline* for copying and completion.

Diary Dates for State Training Programs

April – June 2008

April

- 5-6 Road Crash Rescue, Leigh Creek
- 12-13 Land Search Operations, Metro South
- 19-20 Road Crash Rescue, Port Lincoln
USAR Category 1, Noarlunga
Land Search Team Leader, Metro South
Chainsaw Safety

May

- 2-4 Vertical Rescue Technician, Noarlunga
- 3-4 Assess Competence Pt 1, Enfield
Communications Basic Operations/SAGRN, Tea Tree Gully

Executive Officer's report

This message is a combination of congratulations and condolences. Congratulations to all volunteers who were recognised with awards recently and where possible we have endeavoured to recognise these recipients in this issue of *Frontline*.

To Peter Walker's family, our sincere condolences on the loss of a husband and father, both a valued member of Port Lincoln Unit and the Volunteers' Association, who passed away on February 24.

There was also an atmosphere of both commemoration and celebration at the 25th Anniversary of Ash Wednesday, where the SES had an extremely large contingent in attendance, which was pleasing as many forget the major role our members played all those years ago and then again just prior to Christmas on Kangaroo Island where we provided logistics support. In actual fact the number of SES volunteers exceeded the CFS on a percentage basis and the Kangaroo Island community was most appreciative of your role. As always, our SES members are out there in the community and often unrecognised for the huge role they play.

Congratulations also to His Excellency for his appointment as a Companion of the Order of Australia in the General Division in the Australia Day Honours List, as His Excellency has been very supportive of the Association and in particular our members. This was again evidenced at the Ash Wednesday Commemoration Service where he spent considerable time mixing with our volunteers at the completion of the formalities.

Your Association has been involved in many activities and for one, will be seeking input from volunteers in possibly June or July in a general consultation. This is a review by Government Skills Australia of the PUAOO Public Safety Training Package Review: State and Territory Emergency Services (SES) Sector. The general

consultation is imperative as input must be obtained from volunteers, being the people who undertake the jobs, and this provides you with the opportunity as an end user to contribute. (Website: www.governmentskills.com.au)

We have also been involved in both investigating and following up a number of queries and concerns, and you can be assured that the Association is here to assist you and our aim is to do so on a personal and confidential basis. We are happy to follow up and clarify aspects, sort out issues for you and take them up with State Headquarters, as without you, the volunteers, the SES would not exist.

I personally have become more and more aware of your prominent, yet sometimes undervalued, role in the community. So let's all appreciate each other, plus the support given by our family, friends and employers.

I'd like to acknowledge Holdfast Insurance and Lightforce Australia for their support of the Association with donations and also Mrs Sheila Lane, who we look forward to seeing at our 2008 parade. Planning for the parade will commence shortly.

Also to Sprint Autos who have provided us with some gift packs and are currently looking at other ways to assist the Association.

Finally as a flow on from the Unit Managers Forum and at the request of several volunteers in informal discussions, we have developed a generic nomination form and guidelines for nominating members for Local Government Awards. We also hold the up-to-date contact details for Members of Parliament and Local Government.

Remember the Association is for all volunteers and please feel free to contact us.

Susan Caracoussis
Executive Officer SASSEVA



“I personally have become more and more aware of your prominent, yet sometimes undervalued, role in the community.”

- Navigation Assessment, Central Region
- Road Crash Rescue, Barmera
- 17** Map Reading, Ceduna
- 17-18** Road Crash Rescue, Mintabie
- Storm Damage Operations, Enfield
- Vertical Rescue Trainers Workshop, Noarlunga
- 23-25** Chainsaw Safety (LITA), Adelaide Hills
- 24** Air Observers (Skills Maintenance), Adelaide
- 24-25** Navigation Assessment, Port Lincoln

May-June

- 30-1** Vertical Rescue Specialist, West Region

June

- 1** Map Reading, Renmark
- 14-15** Skills Assessment, Riverland
- Skills Assessment, Coober Pedy
- 21-22** State Training Conference, Adelaide
- 28-29** Road Crash Rescue. Pt Pirie
- Land Search Team Leader, Wudinna
- Assess Competence Pt 2, Enfield

For more detailed information, please refer to the State Training Program.

from the Chief Officer's Desk



“We have managed to overcome a number of administrative hurdles with funding to the Association very recently, and have ensured that money is in place to keep SASESVA alive and active.”

It gives me great pleasure to write for this issue of *Frontline* in my new role as Chief Officer of the State Emergency Service. I consider it a privilege to hold this position in a service that is so critical to the wellbeing and safety of the South Australian community, and which is served by such a dedicated and professional body of volunteers and staff. The SES has always been my “service of choice”, and I look forward to working closely with everyone over the coming years to ensure that the Service remains strong, viable and active.

I also wish to recognise the service of David Place in the Chief Officer's role, and the highly successful manner in which he raised the profile and status of the SES. David brought us out of the quiet backwater we had occupied for so many years, and with a clear vision and set of values, directed us on a path to the future. Many of the concepts and principles that David brought into the SES will serve us well into the future, and our strategic direction will continue to enhance the work he started so well.

We have seen some staff movements recently, primarily concerning the development of the Special Operations, Training and Safety Command. As the Commander, Trevor Arnold is welding together his team of operations and training staff, along with our own OHS&W Officer Peter Nygaard. More information on the specific roles and functions of Special Operations will be provided across the Service shortly, but sufficient at this time to state that the Command provides the overview of all aspects of the three functions, and supports the Regional Commands. The Command also manages the highly specialised rescue operations and training areas, and is focussed on integrating the three functions of operations, training and safety to ensure SES is both safe and effective at all times. Now located into Special Operations Command are Colin Goodrich (Operations Support), Pete Nygaard (OHS&W), and State Training/Operations Officers John Hynes, Pieter Scott and Jennifer Vincent. Very shortly, the permanent Operations Support position and the new position of State Training Coordinator will be advertised and filled to complete the Command structure.

Acting Deputy Chief Officer Greg Reedman is another mobile staff member. He is currently seconded across to the Commission as the Acting Director of Strategic Services for three months. While Greg is away, Matt Maywald is Acting DCO, and a call has been made to fill the ACO position temporarily. A common comment at State HQ these days is that we have more people acting than they do at the Oscars. The position identification document for the Deputy Chief Officer's permanent

position has recently been forwarded to the Human Resource section of SAFECOM for final vetting and approval, and all being well the position will be advertised nationally very shortly.

I also take this opportunity to mention some unsung heroes. Colin Goodrich (Ops Support), Sindy McCourt (Community Liaison), Danny Wood (East Region Training) and Marian Osmon (SHQ Admin) are all agency staff temporarily working with us. Here at State HQ and at the Regions we tend to treat our agency staff as part of the family, for some have been with us for quite a while. We greatly appreciate the contribution that these folks make to our overall success, and the professional manner in which they work. Our Business and Administration Officers also deserve some special thanks and recognition. These staff members are located at each of the Regions and at State Headquarters, and without any doubt are key players in the Service. They provide direct support to Regions and Units, and without them we would be lost. Many thanks to all of you.

Many of our consultation processes have been getting a fair workout lately with issues such as the review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act, and the review of activity based funding. More and more, the Service is coming to rely on the Unit Managers Advisory Groups (UMAGs) as a key element of these processes to ensure that we are all managing effectively. I look forward to an even stronger relationship with the UMAGs and with SASESVA to ensure our communication lines are open. I plan to visit Units widely across the state over the coming months, and this too will help with those important lines of communication. Another element of our communication strategy is the improvement of electronic systems. We currently have all but about five SES Units active with email and web systems, and I encourage all Unit Managers to work with the Regions to complete this coverage so that we can continue to upgrade our information flows and rapid message passing.

I am also committed to working more closely with the SASES Volunteers' Association, particularly through Executive Officer Susan Caracoussis. We have managed to overcome a number of administrative hurdles with funding to the Association very recently, and have ensured that money is in place to keep SASESVA alive and active. We do still have some Ministerial contractual issues to resolve, but feel sure that we can manage all issues so long as we keep communicating at all levels.

My thanks go to everyone in the Service, to your families and friends and to your employers for your continued professional and dedicated service. Stay safe.

Stuart Macleod



AUSTRALIA DAY AWARD RECIPIENTS

Jeffery Kerley was named joint recipient of the District Council of Barunga West (Port Broughton) Citizen of the Year Award. He was recognised for his outstanding contributions to the Port Broughton SES over the past fifteen years. Jeffery was an inaugural member of the SES from its inception in 1992 and prior to being the Unit Manager (appointed in 1997) was the Deputy Controller.

The citation stated: "Jeffery has shown initiative and leadership on several occasions and was instrumental in ensuring the establishment and construction of the new SES building was undertaken, is heavily involved in recruiting new members to ensure the group retains a strong membership, along with

arranging significant training courses that have seen a large number of members Nationally Accredited in Road Crash Rescue and Storm Damage procedures.

Recently Jeffery was acknowledged for his efforts with a Ministerial Commendation for his work with the Port Broughton SES.

Group members strongly believe that Jeffery's voluntary contribution is the reason the district has a strong SES unit, with the equipment to carry out their tasks."

Sydney McDowell of Hallett, Regional Council of Goyder Citizen of the Year was recognised for his community work which included being

Captain of the CFS since 1987, being made a life member and a member of the SES and a major instigator of the pools conception, which he continues to help. Syd had never been acknowledged for his commitment to his local community. He is a highly respected member for all the hours he gives to maintaining his community assets by fixing broken water pipes, mowing lawns, pruning, replacing posts around the Memorial Gardens, maintenance work on the hall, green keeping at the local bowling club and the swimming pool in summer months. Many locals believe that Syd's commitment to Hallett benefits both locals and tourists.

Photograph courtesy of Yorke Peninsula Country Times

Peter White, Unit Manager Spalding, was named the Northern Areas Council Citizen of the Year and in presenting the award to Peter, Allan Woolford, the Chairman of the Council, said "Peter is a long standing resident of the Spalding district, his contribution to the Spalding community and the wider region has been one of a life-long commitment.

At the age of 19, Peter became a member of the CFS, of which he has now served as a volunteer for 34 years. At age 20, Peter also became a member of the SES.

Peter has served many roles in both emergency service organisations, including 25 years as Unit Manager for the Spalding SES.

The list of Peter White's volunteer efforts is long and distinguished. Peter has taken on many leadership roles in his community; these roles include Chairman of the Spalding Rural Buying Group, a Justice of the Peace, volunteering on the School Council, a Lay Reader with the Lutheran Church and numerous positions within local sporting clubs.

Peter has also provided voluntary service in state-level leadership positions; one of the most public and outstanding contributions Peter White has made to rural South Australia is his involvement in the South

Australian Farmers Federation, of which he is currently the Senior Vice President.

Peter, it is evident that you have provided the community of Spalding, the Northern Areas region, and the State with an immense amount of leadership through your time spent as a volunteer. I am sure that the volunteer efforts you have provided are invaluable to the many community groups and organisations that you have worked with.

I am pleased to announce Peter White as a most worthy recipient of the 2008 Australia Day Citizen of the Year Award."

Diane Bilka, Administration and Finance Officer, Andamooka SES Unit, was named Andamooka Citizen of the Year for her work with the SES, CFS and other local community groups.

While Noarlunga Unit Manager **Graeme Wynwood** was recognised in the Australia Day Honours list with the Emergency Services Medal (ESM), South Australia.

Graeme has pursued operational excellence at the Noarlunga Unit of the SES and across the region in all areas of his responsibilities. He has developed one of the most efficient Volunteer Units within South Australia,

both in training and operational activities to the extent that several of its members are trainers on State courses for all SES members. His management of the Noarlunga Unit, his involvement in Emergency Management Planning and his operational management abilities demonstrate his dedication to the efficiency of the organisation. He has been involved in the Urban Search and Rescue Category 2 program, which has required him to dedicate countless hours of his own time to the management of this specialist activity. He also has specialist knowledge in the area of structural shoring and is South Australia's leading instructor in this field. His leadership in emergency situations is outstanding, both within his Unit and representing the region in situations from major storm events to assisting the Country Fire Service during fire campaigns. Graeme has most recently been successful in gaining a grant to provide

operational information to all operational volunteers in the form of a printed aide memoir. This should assist the operational members in conducting risk assessments and safe operating procedures for most regularly undertaken tasks. The SES anticipates that his work in this area will further assist in SES's risk mitigation strategies. He has also applied for and received previous grants from Emergency Management Australia, particularly for specialist lighting to enhance operations in all types of weather and for training in breathing apparatus for use in hazardous locations. His involvement in emergency management extends to the South Coast Emergency Management Committee, on which he represents the SES. The cooperation between the emergency services and police is a very high priority to Graeme, and this is exemplified by the high regard he is held in in all the services, both during training and operations.

And Other Award Winners

Tumby Bay Unit member **Garry Smith** received an SA Great Regional Community Individual Award for the Eyre Peninsula for his contribution to his local community. With the support of the SASES, Garry maintains and operates a marine radio station at his home in Tumby Bay from which he provides daily scheduled weather forecasting and position reporting to mariners off the Spencer Gulf, together with emergency message monitoring.

While the **Laura SES Road Crash Rescue Competition Team** (Robert Klemm, Edward Davenport, Geoffrey Klemm, Michael Victory, Peter Zwar and Scott Watson) received a Ministerial Commendation Award, presented by the Hon Carmel Zollo, MLC Minister for Emergency Services. At the same function, SA Emergency Service Medals were presented to **Terri Purvis**, State Training Officer and **Sindy McCourt**, Community Liaison Officer.

Congratulations to all our award recipients.



DO YOU REMEMBER CIVIL DEFENCE?



As you involve yourself as a volunteer, being a part of the large “orange army” of efficient, well equipped and trained SES Units confidently coping with massive storm and flood damage or major accidents, have you ever given any thought to how it all began?

If you are a long standing member perhaps you remember the early days of SES, back when it was called Civil Defence. Back when the uniforms were blue and as well as Rescue, the Units had Welfare, Warden, Signals, Scientific and First Aid sections, each recognisable by a different colour helmet. The Government provided some money for equipment and if the Unit was lucky, their local council matched it. Back in the beginning it was quite usual for the Rescue Section to consist entirely of a small trailer of equipment which was then towed behind a private car.

In the early years, female members joined the Welfare Section, or possibly Signals, but certainly not Rescue. In Welfare, many hours were spent learning to build brick and pug ovens, the idea being that there would be bricks from the damaged buildings after an earthquake and Welfare members would be able to feed the hungry hordes with soup and scones. The Warden Service divided their Council areas into wards and each patrol warden was put in charge of several streets or about 400 people, and plans were made where to house these people, such as in local halls or schools etc., in the event of a major disaster. When the Unit needed to be called out it was done by telephone, on the pyramid system, with Signals calling one person and that person calling two more and so on down the line, no pagers or mobiles in those days! Signals training included laying miles of cable to connect ex-WWII field phones and turning the handle to make it hopefully ring at the other end. The Scientific Section, which included Geiger counters amongst its equipment, gave instructions on how to survive an atomic blast by throwing oneself face down in the nearest gutter at the flash.

Top: Civil Defence Rescue Display. To help publicise Civil Defence and recruit new members, just like today, most units would put on displays at local community events such as this one at a school fete in the late 1960s.

Above left: Welfare using a Dustbin Oven. Members of the Welfare Service cooking scones in a dustbin oven with a hot plate cooker still being built at the rear in October 1966.

Above right: Warden Post, Echunga Exercise. The Emergency Rest Centre and Warden Post making good use of the existing materials at the combined exercise at Echunga in August 1968.



Opening of Enfield Headquarters. The official opening in October 1972 of the "new" Enfield HQ with the Mayor and Mayoress of Enfield and invited Warden Service and the one on the right, complete with antenna, safety warning light and rear spotlight, was fitted out for the Signals Service.

Opposite page: Civil Defence State Headquarters Staff: Brian Lancaster, Ron Nichols and Ken Dowell. Taken at Civil Defence State Headquarters at the Police Barracks, Thebarton in 1965.

Right: 1968 Festival Parade. Civil Defence ladies taking part in the Candle Light Parade as part of the 1968 Festival of Arts.

The Advertiser of the day advised it was planned to turn off the street lights as the "blazing torches were carried along by the members of the SA Fire Brigade, EFS and Civil Defence personnel".



Arno Attema, History Project Coordinator and Unit Manager SES Enfield.

Much of this may sound very amusing now, but this was all happening quite seriously in the 1960s and early 1970s, and State Headquarters has realised that efforts should be made to preserve as much as possible of the early history of the Service.

To further this aim, it has been decided to start collating what information still exists in Units around the State with the aim of preserving the history of Civil Defence and the SA State Emergency Service before much of it becomes lost forever.

We would like to find out what records and material there may be in each Unit's local archive. If you know of material held by members, both past and present, or media records of major events at your Unit that can be copied as part of this project, we would like to know. We are not after general training or personal records, but old photographs or scrapbooks covering major events that have occurred in your region, and hence are part of the history of the Service we are keen to preserve.

We need volunteers who may be interested in becoming involved in some manner with this ongoing project. To achieve what needs

to be done, we require lots of help, so even if you can only help occasionally or possibly assist by documenting the records at your own Unit, all will be of great assistance.

We are also considering the possibility of recording interviews with past and long-standing members of both the Civil Defence and SES, so perhaps you or someone you know, may be interested in being interviewed.

If you know of something that you think might be suitable for the project I can be contacted by email at sases.history@internode.on.net or via PO Box 1007 Clearview 5085. In the first instance, we are seeking information, and this will be followed up with material at a later date.

Arno Attema
History Project Co-ordinator

FROM ROUTINE TRIP TO NIGHTMARE



What should have been a leisurely tour of the south coast of Kangaroo Island for a group of international visitors in December last year, turned into a frightening nightmare in the path of raging bushfires.

For local four wheel drive tour driver and Kangaroo Island State Emergency Service volunteer Rob Ellison, guide Catrin Blight and their ten guests, a routine trip to Flinders Chase National Park ended up being a race against time and nature's fury as they dodged and weaved their way through fires and lightning strikes.

Following is an account of their ordeal as told by Rob:

"Our office informed us mid-afternoon that a fire had started at Western River, which wasn't going to affect what we had planned for the rest of the day along the south coast," Rob, who works for Exceptional Kangaroo Island,

told *The Islander*.

"As we drove out of Flinders Chase shortly after 3pm, I noticed smoke billowing over the trees on the left which looked too low and thick to be from Western River.

When we reached the West End Highway intersection, it became apparent that the smoke was originating from a second blaze in Flinders Chase, fanned by strengthening northerly winds.

We drove a short distance up this road to see where the fire was located and could see the flames crowning through thick and inaccessible vegetation about three kilometres in from West End Highway and running parallel to the road.

At this point, this was the only

fire visible to us and we were wondering if perhaps there was a misunderstanding about the position of the Western River fire and that we were looking at the only fire burning on the Island at that time.

With this in mind we decided to continue our tour along the south coast, which given the gravity of what ensued later Thursday afternoon seems a bit foolhardy looking back, but it was possibly a decision that potentially saved our lives.

We dropped in to Hanson Bay for a walk on the beach, all the while keeping an eye on the smoke from the Flinders Chase fire which was blowing out to sea west of our position.

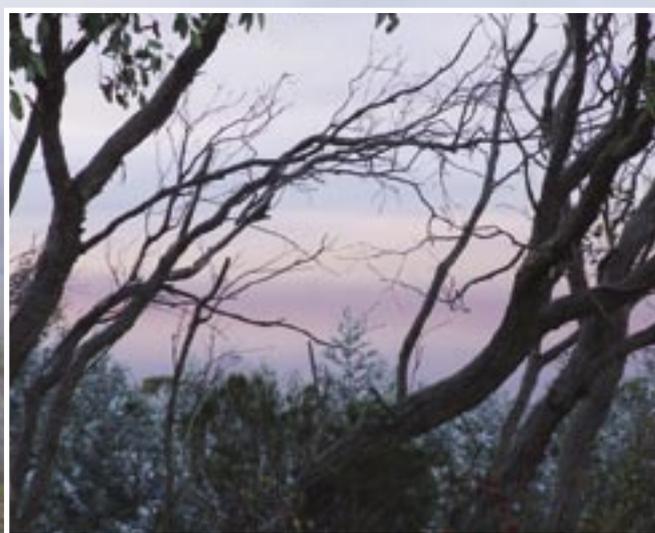
After about 15 minutes the wind increased quite

considerably and shifted direction to the north-west. All of a sudden it became quite dark and eerie, and out of nowhere, a massive mushroom cloud of smoke descended on top of us.

We piled into our vehicle and headed back towards South Coast Road, turning right assuming that West End Highway would be cut or threatened with the wind change.

As we travelled further east, we could see another fire raging in front of us, and about three kilometres west of Vivonne Bay we rounded a corner just as it jumped the road, blocking our exit.

Had we not detoured to Hanson Bay we would have ended up right in the middle



The landscape under siege.



Exceptional Kangaroo Island tour guide Rob Ellson had a lucky escape from the flames on Thursday afternoon.

of the Vivonne Bay fire and I don't like to think of the implications of that scenario. We were then forced to turn around and head west back

down South Coast Road, but knowing that our other major escape route, West End Highway, was probably no longer available to us.

It was now really hard to tell where one fire stopped and the next one started, as the smoke from the fires north of our position was making visibility extremely poor.

About the only way out for us was to head north up Mt Stockdale Road and then Mt Taylor Road, however there was another fire burning adjacent to those as well.

Hemmed in on three sides and with ash and embers raining down on the vehicle, we climbed our way uphill tantalisingly slow and just when we thought things couldn't get any worse, lightning started hitting the ground right in front of us.

Surrounded by pine plantations and scrubland and blanketed in

smoke, we had no choice but to soldier on and it was a great relief to finally hit the bitumen at Playford Highway.

Even then we still had the 'Riverleas' fire to the north obscuring our view and threatening our last remaining escape route, but fortunately we made it through unscathed, albeit more than a little shaken.

It was an experience I hope I never have to go through again and I take my hat off to all the firefighters who put themselves in harm's way to save others' lives and property – every single one of them deserves a medal."

Our thanks to the KI Islander for allowing us to reprint this story and for providing the photograph of Rob.

Elvis alongside a fuel tanker.



FROM A ROAD CRASH RESCUE COURSE TO BUSHFIRES – A HECTIC CONCLUSION FOR KI SES

Kangaroo Island State Emergency Service members had a busy conclusion to 2007, with a road crash rescue course and major bushfire incident dominating activities.



Bomber dumping its load at the end of operations for the day (bombers are loaded as soon as they land and if not required dump their load as they cannot land with a load).



Security on gate.

State training officer Terri Purvis and instructor Stewart Lambert, along with his 'patient' wife Sue, enjoyed a working holiday on Kangaroo Island for the road crash course that saw three members gain their accreditation for the first time and a further five members refresh their skills and technique.

Once the mandatory theory was out of the way on Saturday morning, the long awaited sound of shattering glass and crushing panels began to reverberate across the Island's main town Kingscote.

The eight local members involved were broken into two groups to hone their skills in the areas of hazard identification, patient care, glass handling and of course access and extrication techniques.

Thanks to the generosity of an Island property owner, the practical sessions were held on the outskirts of town where eight vehicles were set aside

from a collection of more than 100 wrecks that the KI blokes in orange had been eyeing off for some extra curricular activity.

Instructor Stewart Lambert did a great job keeping his pupils on track and was ably assisted by his wife Sue, who found herself carefully extricated from vehicle after vehicle. State training officer Terri Purvis floated around the scene with her clipboard and pen poised.

By the end of day two, all members emerged from the course with the required proficiency and memories of an enjoyable weekend where professionalism was blended with a generous helping of humour and good fun that the State Emergency Service is synonymous for.

The dust had hardly settled on this weekend when the Kangaroo Island community found itself in the grips of its worst bushfire on record, with 13 blazes sparked by lightning strikes on Thursday afternoon, December 6.



Patient 'patient' Sue Lambert anticipates imminent release as Kangaroo Island SES members Bevan Garmeister (back), Rob Ellson and Mark Crump perform a dash roll.



Expert instructor Stewart Lambert takes notes as Kangaroo Island SES members Rob Ellson, Mark Crump and Graeme Olsen prepare a spinal board for patient extrication after a roof roll.



Kangaroo Island SES members Michael Hickman and Richard Ley perform an oyster lift during the road crash rescue course.



Kangaroo Island SES members Anton Jamieson and Phil Jarmyn perform a dash roll.

Hot, dry and shifting winds fanned the fires over the two week campaign and pushed multiple fire fronts towards farm houses and public infrastructure on numerous occasions. It was a logistical nightmare for the incident management team coordinating personnel and equipment transport, accommodation, catering, negotiating extremely challenging terrain and of course formulating and implementing the firefighting efforts.

Kangaroo Island's State Emergency Service members were utilised in a number of roles over the duration of the fires, from evacuating property owners on the first night, to supporting air operations at locations across the Island.

Most of the KI SES effort was focussed on the fixed wing air base north-west of the incident headquarters in the central town Parndana. Refilling the air-tractors, with as many as seven rotating through the base on one afternoon, kept local members on their toes, while site security was also

undertaken at the height of the fires.

One local member, after just a few days at the main air base, was entrusted with managing his own air base at Kingscote's main airport, a reflection of the professionalism of Kangaroo Island's SES members throughout the campaign.

Kangaroo Island State Emergency Service also provided a mobile refilling and refuelling service for air operations' helicopter contingent, locating safe and accessible landing sites for up to six aircraft, including the 'Elvis' sky-crane.

Local State Emergency Service personnel were extremely appreciative of the fantastic contributions mainland SES members from far and wide made during the fires. It was a great team effort by all involved.

Rob Ellson
KI SES

AND THANKS FROM ARTHUR TINDALL, CFS MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

Dear All,

The past few weeks have been extremely hectic with the two week campaign fire on Kangaroo Island and the release of the Eyre Peninsula bushfire coronial findings. Whilst it has been a busy and stressful time, it has also highlighted the fantastic working relationship that exists between CFS and SES. Without the support of SES, my team's efforts to support the operational activity on Kangaroo Island would have stalled or even failed. For this support I give a heartfelt thanks as words cannot truly express how much that support was, and is, appreciated by the CFS logistics team along with the firefighters and support crews who came from all over Australia to help us. Thank you.

In closing, I wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable festive season and look forward to working with you again in the new year.

Please accept my apology for not having sent Christmas cards. I will make a donation to the Salvation Army in lieu of this. Merry Christmas and a Happy and incident free New Year.

25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION OF THE 1983 ASH WEDNESDAY BUSHFIRES



**HELD ON SATURDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2008 AT
MOUNT LOFTY BOTANIC GARDENS**

The anniversary of the Ash Wednesday fires a quarter of a century ago had special significance not only for the Country Fire Service volunteers, but also for the volunteers of the State Emergency Service, the Salvation Army and St John Ambulance.



Adelaide Hills and Edinburgh Unit members at Mount Lofty Summit.

Many SES volunteers from around the State attended the service which brought back memories to many and at the same time renewed old acquaintances. The service comprised a reading by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce AC CSC RANR, Governor of South Australia, an address by the Hon Mike Rann MP, Premier of South Australia, who paid tribute to the emergency service volunteers who battled the fire. He said "On such a typically Adelaide summer's afternoon, it can be too easy to forget that we are gathered in what just a quarter of a century ago, was a battle zone." He also said "A quarter of a century may have passed, but our heartfelt gratitude to you all remains undimmed."

Other speakers included Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Leader of the Opposition, who stated "25 years ago today brought the devastating bushfires that consumed a large area of Southern Australia – a terrible permanent reminder of the first day of Lent, known to Christians as Ash Wednesday. On that fateful day, 25 years ago, weather conditions conspired against us. Already in the middle of a severe drought, gale force hot and dry northerly winds, scorching temperatures above 40 degrees and extremely low humidity provided the perfect conditions for the unstoppable spread of fires.

The state braced itself. The South Australian fires tragically claimed 28 lives. 383 houses were lost. A total of 208,000 hectares in the Adelaide Hills and in the south-east of the state were

incinerated. More lives and homes were lost across the border.

The day will forever be etched in the minds of Australians. Today we remember the tragedy and suffering of those affected by the fires. Those who lost their homes, or in some instances, both their homes and loved ones, described the pain of losing everything – 'it was though they had never lived' they said. But today we also remember and pay tribute to the selflessness and courage of those men and women who fought the fire. The South Australian Country Fire Service, along with members of the State Emergency Services, the Metropolitan Fire Service, South Australia Police, staff from the Department for the Environment and thousands of volunteers risked death as they fought the fires. Their selflessness will be remembered. In the wake of the Ash Wednesday Bushfire, we pledged that it would never happen again – we would be better prepared, more alert. We must hold firm to this pledge and stand ready to this ever-present threat."

The final speaker was the Hon Dr John Bannon AO, Premier of South Australia in 1983, who spoke of the need to prevent a tragedy such as Ash Wednesday ever occurring again and then reflected how soon after Ash Wednesday we experienced the devastating floods. He stated "We have learnt a lot of lessons but too often those lessons are forgotten as time passes."

At the conclusion of the formalities, the official party mingled with volunteers as they remembered and reflected on that day 25 years ago.



David Hall and Daniel Jones.



Peter Marsh with His Excellency and Mrs Scarce.



Paul Passehl with Martin Hamilton-Smith, Leader of the Opposition.



The Hon Mike Rann, Premier of South Australia.

9th Annual Memorial Service in honour of the fallen volunteer firefighters of the SA Country Fire Service (held at Mount Lofty Summit) following the Ash Wednesday Memorial

Whilst this service was predominantly for the CFS, a wreath was also laid by the Chief Officer, SES, Stuart Macleod ESM, and at the completion of the service the wreaths were taken to the actual memorial stone located to the south of the obelisk. The pathway to the stone was lined with SES members from Adelaide Hills Unit who created, whilst impromptu, an impressive guard of honour. Ironically, within minutes of the ceremony concluding, the Unit was paged and had to hastily depart for a task at Macclesfield.

Ash Wednesday memories

Shane Leedham: I was a member of the Smithfield CFS (Dalkeith) and a member of the Salisbury SES (Edinburgh), and like many others on the day, was on stand-by and dispatched to the fire at Houghton, where after fighting the fire, myself and five others where caught up a pine drive-way, which caught alight at both ends, which meant we had no choice but to reverse the truck out and then went up the road, but had to return to where we had started from and the only escape was by crashing onto the golf course. I then found myself and several others woken up in the golf club rooms to the order we have to evacuate the area. Instead we continued to fight the fire all day until early evening when relief crews arrived. We returned the next day to assist in fighting and then mopping up.

After being stood down from the fire, I then assisted with loading hay on trucks to feed the animals that were affected. I did this for two days with some of the crew from the SES.

A week later I then went to Gawler where we were evacuating houses in the low areas and also lassoing caravans that were going down the Gawler River from the adjoining caravan park.

I have been with the Emergency Services since early 1971 but due to Ash Wednesday had some time off.



This is a watered down version of what happened on the day and at least one week later, the rest remains in my memory and thoughts still linger on the loss of a member who took his life because of Ash Wednesday, and also with the crew that lost their lives after being caught by the fire. I served with the CFS for some fourteen and a half years as a senior fireman up until Ash Wednesday and have also served nine plus years with SES as a deputy controller and have been a member of Enfield since October 1994.

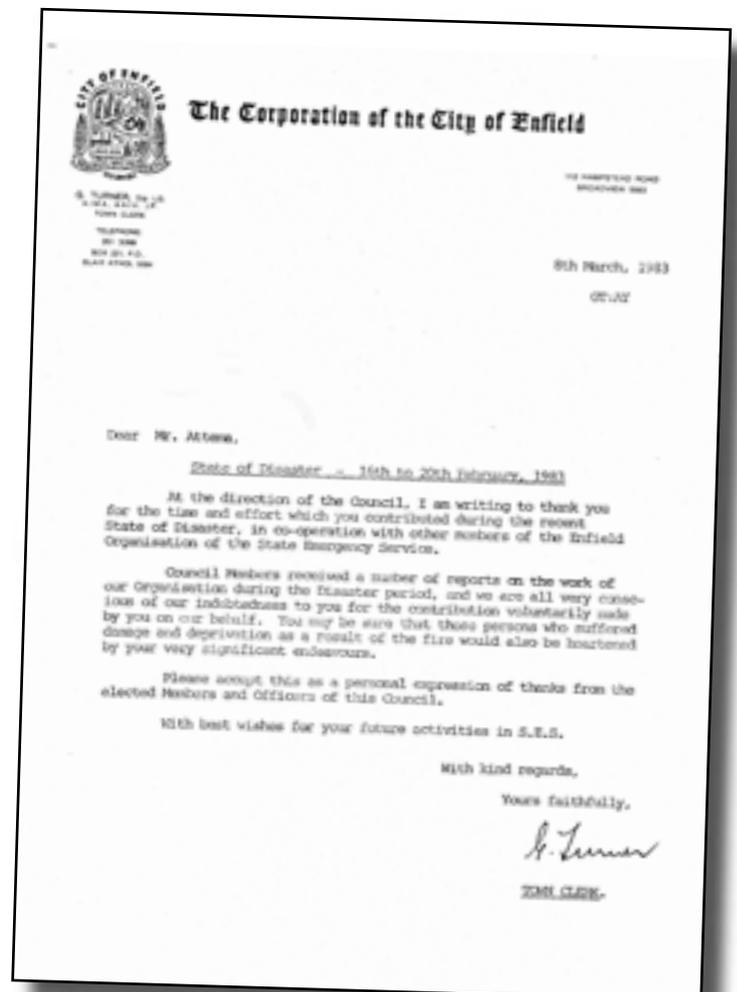
Michael O'Donoghue: I joined the State Emergency Service in 1975 and remained a member until 2005. Being a member of "The City of Mitcham" Unit (later renamed "Metro South"), I attended the Ash Wednesday disaster. My role during the event was to lead a small three man team, on a Mobile Anti-Looting Patrol within the proclaimed Disaster Area, on each night of Operations. Ten prosecutions for looting, trespass and arson, resulted from actions taken by my patrol and numerous unlawful acts were prevented or curtailed, by our presence.

Louise Reynolds: I was involved in the Ash Wednesday fires, as a member of the Sturt Unit.

Unfortunately most of the members (Sturt Unit, previously Happy Valley Unit) of that time have moved on and as far as I am aware are not members of the SES anymore.

Arno Attema: The letter is a personnel thank you from the Council for my involvement during Ash Wednesday fires and I assume it was sent out to all Enfield members who participated during the disaster.

From distant memories my work involved Communication and Operations management, as I was the Communications Officer for the Enfield Unit at that time. The radio network was a very basic VHF network with Enfield normally acting as a control station due to its antenna system and site location. During the event I was also doing shift work for the TV media covering the fires so probably got very little sleep for a couple of days.





ADELAIDE HILLS & STRATHALBYN SES UNITS

Strathalbyn Show

Adelaide Hills and Strathalbyn SES Units combined to put on a display at the Strathalbyn Show.

Activities on the day included:

- a static display comprising the numerous vehicles and equipment used by both units
- a promotional display comprising photographs of taskings undertaken
- a demonstration of a coordinated land search
- a large crane truck provided by City Cranes and driven by Adrian Brown, Deputy Unit Manager, Adelaide Hills Unit, was the perfect vehicle for stimulated vertical rope work which provided the public with another aspect of being an SES volunteer
- these rope activities also included several rescues of a 'climber' by another climber from approximately six metres above the ground
- for children a 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road' comprised a route to the various SES displays where SES literature, stickers and keyrings were collected
- a vertical rescue over the back of Adrian's long trailer using a Larcombe Frame and litter. Adrian 'volunteered' to be the patient and there was a coordinated effort to erect the frame, abseiling down to the patient by two members to extract the patient up the stimulated cliff.

The day enlightened locals and visitors on both the capabilities and value of the State Emergency Service .

John Brown
Adelaide Hills



AROUND THE UNITS



Stuart Macleod, Chief Officer; Derren Halleday, Regional Commander Central Region and Nigel Woods, Rescue Officer, Tea Tree Gully.



Stuart Macleod with Robert Metcalfe, Unit Manager, Edinburgh.

CENTRAL REGIONAL HQ



Keith Smith, Deputy Unit Manager, Western Adelaide.

Central Regional HQ celebrates move to Bowden with a BBQ and awards presentation

Central Regional HQ celebrated its relocation with a barbecue and awards presentation in February. Whilst the move had occurred in November with assistance provided by many volunteers and staff, the open house was deferred due to the KI bushfires.

The opening also provided Stuart Macleod with the opportunity of officiating at his first function as the newly confirmed Chief Officer.

Volunteers and families toured the facilities, before tucking in to a gourmet barbecue which was prepared under the supervision of VSO, David Baker.



Peter Mundy, Deputy Unit Manager, Prospect.



Stuart Macleod, Andrew Woolman, Tea Tree Gully, Andrew Macmichael, State Headquarters, Nigel Woods, Tea Tree Gully and Derren Halleday.



PROSPECT SES UNIT

Ho Ho Ho it's Rosco

Ross Johnston managed to help out Father Xmas and attended the Anglicare C.C.C. Christmas Children's Picnic held at St Helens Park, Prospect on Sunday, December 2. He was ably assisted by helpers Bryan Kirchner and Merise Adamson, who gave out all the presents from Father Xmas to the lovely children. All parents, relatives and friends had a wonderful picnic day.

75 Years of Service at Prospect

Don Rose Unit Manager, Ross Johnston Rescue Officer and Phil Wilkin received medals for their years of service. Don Rose



received his 1st clasp for 25 years, Ross Johnston received his 2nd Clasp for 35 years of service and Phil Wilkin received his National Medal for 15 years of service.

Congratulations to all of them for a job well done.

Lightforce Australia Donation

Lightforce Australia donated the prize money it won at the Royal Show to the SASES Volunteers' Association from winning the Ute Muster Competition. Merise Adamson, who works for Lightforce Australia, Hindmarsh, entered the Company Ute and won a couple of prizes, a 1st place for the Best Business or Sign Written Ute and a 2nd place for the Best Trade Ute. The donation was very much appreciated by the Association.



Merise Adamson
Prospect

CEDUNA SES UNIT



Ceduna SES conducted a Marine Rescue Exercise on Sunday, February 3, 2008.

The Ceduna SES Rescue Vessel "Protector" and two privately owned Volunteer Marine Rescue certified vessels, plus the Ceduna Fisheries Patrol vessel and National Parks vessel undertook Marine Rescue Training on Murat Bay.

The training involved all vessels operating in a coordinated group searching Murat Bay for a person who had been thrown overboard from a small craft when it had struck the reef off Pinky Point at speed.

The search pattern swept most of Murat Bay with the "missing person" being located 1.1nm NNW of the Ceduna Town Jetty. The "missing person" (an anchored white foam buoy with a grinning face painted on it) looked very happy to be found.

Despite a couple of nervous fishermen in "tinnies" who were surprised to see a fleet of vessels approach their vicinity, the exercise went extremely well and provided good training in search techniques and communications between all the vessels involved.

Peter Codrington
Ceduna SES
Unit Manager

Mr Peter Codrington
Unit Manager Ceduna
State Emergency Service SA
Ceduna SA 5690

Dear Peter,

Thank you for the advice you gave Alex and I on the morning of Saturday 19th January, 2008, about the motor on Fisheries Patrol Vessel Gannet. Your excellent advice and communication skills resulted in Alex and I being able to simply clean out a filter and quickly get underway rather than spend a considerable amount of time waiting for assistance and the potential embarrassment of being towed ashore.

Thanks also for meeting us when we came ashore and passing on even more from your wealth of knowledge about all things nautical.

We greatly appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you and your crew should you ever require our assistance.

Yours Sincerely

Trevor Puckridge
Senior Fisheries Officer
Ceduna PIRSA Fisheries Service

WAROOKA SES UNIT



Warooka SES Retrieves Stolen Scooter

On Sunday, January 27, six Warooka SES members retrieved a stolen scooter from a cliff-side near the Troubridge Lighthouse. Edithburgh CFS, Edithburgh SAPOL and Yorketown SAAS were also in attendance.

The scooter was reported stolen just before Christmas, but was only sighted on Wednesday, January 23 by a driftwood collector.

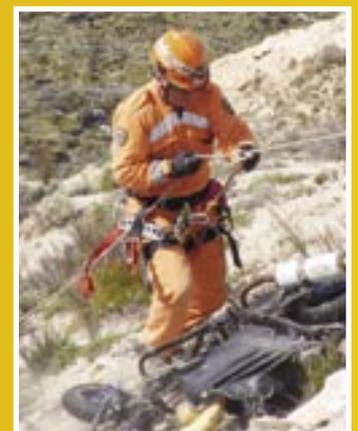
In total, it took approximately two hours for the SES members to locate the scooter, hook it up to the rope safely and haul it to the top of the 20m cliff, with the CFS providing extra manpower for rope support. SAPOL were in attendance due to the scooter being a stolen vehicle.

All the emergency services worked extremely well together, under the control of Warooka SES Controller.

Scott Germaine

Minlaton CFS

Photographs supplied by Scott and Peter Germaine



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE S.A. S.E.S. VOLUNTEERS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

NAME IN FULL.....

ADDRESS

TOWN / SUBURB..... POSTCODE.....

MAILING ADDRESS (if different to the above address)

.....

TOWN / SUBURB..... POSTCODE.....

EMAIL

TELEPHONE OR MOBILE

FACSIMILE.....

UNIT.....

I wish to apply for membership of the Association and in terms of the Association's Funding agreement with the Minister via the S.A. S.E.S., plus its Constitution and Rules, declare that I am an Ordinary member of the Association, being a current serving S.A.S.E.S. Volunteer Member.

Signed:..... Dated:.....

Please return your completed membership application form to:

S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association
G.P.O. Box 2706
ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

Or Email to: susan@sasesva.org.au
Or Fax to **8410 3115**