



Point Brown Training

*Above: Pt Brown: Quad training.
Below: Pt Brown campsite.*



Point Bell Moorings



Unit members remove the 1.5 tonne steel cyclone mooring from the beach.





St Peters Island

Towing exercise of a barge with a vehicle to St. Peter's Island for National Parks and bringing a vehicle off the island.



REGIONS PREPARE JUST IN CASE HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

Our regional teams were kept up to date with skills and information on flood management when the SES held a flood management course at Port Pirie in February.

During the two day course, participants were briefed on the SAFECOM Act. They were reminded that history repeats itself and given a detailed flood history of the region by Chris Wright from the Bureau of Meteorology.

It was an extensive and exhaustive study with topics such as warnings and evacuation procedures, review of flood operations, flood safety by Peter Nygaard; of course an explanation of the Bureau of Meteorology's severe storm warnings and what they mean; as well as what is done in preparing flood maps.

There was also an introduction into AIMS incident control spoken about by Owen Glover from the CFS Course who highlighted a lot of good things we do well as an organisation and where we need to improve in working with local communities to prepare for these events.

By Warren Hicks
Port Augusta



UPS AND DOWNS OF VERTICAL RESCUE

Another group of volunteers successfully completed the Vertical Rescue Specialist Course (previously known as phase 3) held on 3rd to 5th of February at the Noarlunga Unit.

The course started on the Friday night at 7pm. To be eligible, personnel already had their competence in Vertical Rescue Access and Vertical Rescue Technician skills, techniques and equipment confirmed, such as Basic Rescue and Vertical Rescue knots, being able to state key characteristics of equipment and demonstrating ascent/descent mobility (the treadmill). These skills came under the old phase 1 and 2 titles which are now Access and Technician. The run through kept them busy until ten o'clock.

For the next two days it was again a case of going over old territory with a refresher on such skills as setting up and operating a Larkin Rescue Frame and lift lower systems, standard calls and conducting a Standard Touch Safety Check.

Once that was achieved participants then learned new techniques such as a

tensionless anchor, load sharing anchors, figure 8 self-equalising anchors, frost knots, the munter hitch and the skills to rescue a trapped and injured person by effecting a stretcher rescue.

All day Sunday was spent rotating through stretcher rescues so that all students got the opportunity to be assessed on all the skills that they have learned over the course.

One of the course trainers (and photographer for Frontline), Noarlunga based Ray Arbon has been involved in vertical rescue for 11 years and has been qualified as a trainer for four years.

"At Noarlunga, we do about 8-10 vertical rescues per year."

He says those selected for the course not only have to have their basic and senior first aid but what's taken into account in selection is that every unit is catered for in terms of making sure they have the numbers capable of meeting the demands of callouts.



Effecting a stretcher rescue after being lowered to the casualty's position with the Larkin rescue frame and a standard lower. The rescuer managed the casualty's injuries and has put the casualty in the stretcher and is being hauled up the cliff using the lift/lower systems, with a communicator on a separate safety line to be able to relay all forms of communication between the rescuer and the Team Leader/crew.



Practicing the rescuer's mobility around a stretcher after having it demonstrated.



Stretcher rescue with injured person being hauled up a cliff using the Larkin Rescue Frame with the lift/lower systems to effect a safe rescue.



Effecting a rescue of a person who has fallen and been trapped on a tower.

The Vertical Rescue Specialist Course is also a step towards the USAR course.

Nobody directly fails this course. Every effort is made to ensure they reach the standard needed.

“What happens is at the start of the course they are given an assessment features card and then on that card is a list of all the criteria to show a competency in. Assessors tick off everything from rope/

anchors ...to the new stuff like stretcher rescues.

“Once all boxes on the card are ticked they are marked as competent. If they can’t achieve all within the time frame of the three day course they get an opportunity to make that up. Arrangements can be made for them to be assessed at their unit at a later date.

There are lots of varying factors that test those doing

vertical rescue...physical fitness, weather conditions, light, and even the terrain.

Ray was confronted with a real test just recently at the Onkaparinga mouth at Port Noarlunga.

It was Friday night about 7pm, weather conditions were mild and he was just about to begin a vertical course with the rest of the training team when the call came out that a small dog had become trapped on a cliff.

It took about twenty minutes to effect the rescue but “Access to the dog wasn’t easy. We had to get through shrubs and thick bush. It was only a distance of fifteen metres from the anchors to the edge but it was a crumbly surface down the cliff to where the dog was.”

Fortunately the mission was successful and appreciated. “The dog was obviously very scared but didn’t put up an argument to be saved.”

POSITIONS AVAILABLE!

VOLUNTEER HARASSMENT CONTACT OFFICERS

Harassment and Bullying? Not in my Unit!

The State Emergency Service is committed to providing an environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, sexual offences and other unacceptable behaviour. All volunteers have a basic right to work in an environment free from harassment and discrimination. All volunteers have an individual responsibility to treat others fairly. If a volunteer is told their behaviour is offensive or discriminatory to another person or persons, then the behaviour must stop immediately.

The State Emergency Service has policies and procedures, which deal with discrimination, harassment and bullying. Workplace Dignity Training is available to all Units to inform volunteer members about safe work practices and how the policies and procedures work. The State Emergency Service also have Volunteer Harassment Contact Officers (HCOs) who have been trained and are available to support volunteers experiencing discrimination, harassment or bullying. HCOs are usually the first point of contact for a volunteer who wants support in the areas of discrimination, harassment or bullying.

HCOs will discuss the options available to resolve issues and provide support to the volunteer in determining the most appropriate course of action. The HCO also can refer the volunteer to other services, such as the SPAM team.

HCOs are responsible for acting as role models and champions of the principles of safe work practices. They must remain impartial (not taking sides) and maintain confidentiality, except when the issue affects the safety of the public and/or other members of the Emergency Service Organisations.

WHAT IS DISCRIMINATION?

Discrimination can be defined as any practice which makes a distinction between individuals or groups so as to advantage some and disadvantage others, as outlined in the Equal Opportunity Act 1984.

WHAT IS HARASSMENT?

In general, harassment is behaviour that is uninvited and unwelcome. It is likely to cause a hostile or uncomfortable workplace by making a person feel:

- Humiliated (put down) and/or
- Seriously embarrassed and/or
- Offended and/or
- Intimidated

WHAT IS BULLYING?

Workplace bullying is the unwelcome, persistent ill-treatment of an individual by one or more members of an organisation. The ill-treatment has a negative effect on the individual's health, productivity or relationships inside or outside the workplace.

Bullying occurs when someone inappropriately uses threat or physical force and can include:

- Isolating someone
- Intimidation
- Spreading false rumours
- Verbally abusing team mates or subordinates

Your Harassment Contact Officers have been trained to promote safe work practices, to help build and improve workplace relationships. They can provide information in relation to discrimination, harassment and bullying.

The Volunteer Management Branch is currently calling for applications for the Harassment Contact Officer role for the State Emergency Service. Harassment Contact Officers are required in all regions.

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

- selection by application and interview
- initial two-day training over a weekend in August at a location and date to be confirmed.
- followup training and networking opportunities for one day every quarter (dates and locations to be determined)
- full support from the Volunteer Management Branch including:
 - travel, accommodation and training expenses covered
 - Volunteer Support Officers available for support following training
 - Central phone number for confidential referrals managed by the Volunteer Management Branch (protecting your privacy)
 - Posters, brochures and business cards for each unit and member
 - Workplace Dignity Training in units which supports your role

For a Role Statement and Application Form, please contact your Volunteer Support Officer through your regional Office or Adaire Palmer of the Volunteer Management Branch on 8463 4101 / 0408 792 762 or email palmer.adaire@safecom.sa.gov.au. Applications close Friday May 19, 2006.

ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Location: Adelaide

This is a part time funded position of 24 hours per week based on ASO6 level \$64,060 - \$67,988, for a contracted period of two years. The SASES Volunteer Association is the representative voice of volunteers within the SA State Emergency Service.

As Executive Officer of the Association, you will be required to further the ideals of the Service volunteers.

To be successful in this role you will need:

- An understanding of the volunteer ethos:
- An understanding of the emergency service sector and the role of volunteers:
- A knowledge of legislative requirements with emphasis on volunteer involvement.

- An ability to work as the executive officer of the Association management committee:
- Be able to progress the directions of the committee for the benefits of the volunteers.

This role will see you networking with Government, Agencies and Association membership and so having the ability to communicate at all levels is essential.

To obtain a Position Description and the Job and Person Specification, visit the SASES Volunteer Association Website www.sasesva.org.au. Enquiries can be directed to the Chairman on 0419 867 712 preferable outside of normal business hours.

Closing Date for Applications: 1st May 2006.

OFF THE NET

NEW WEBSITE FOR VOLUNTEERS

Australian Emergency Service Volunteers have a new website. It is being developed by Sportal, as a result of the National Emergency Volunteers Support Fund initiative managed by EMA. The website address is www.emergencyvolunteersforum.org.

A grant was provided to AEMVF for this purpose through the Working Together to Manage Emergencies Program. There are biographies from many of the organisations – with photos as well as a page that will feature a volunteer.

This will change perhaps weekly, with a different volunteer from a different organisation.

The photos will be continuously updated so the website is continually being revamped.

It's intended to keep the website current, vibrant and contemporary with occasional papers, good presentations, good news, opinion pieces, etc., downloads and a forum. There will also be a section on news and events. But it's still in its early phase.

The website will not have a chat room but there will be a Contact Us section and Forum members will be able to answer questions asked.

We need to make sure there is version control on the draft governance documents, so we know which one is the latest. They need to be dated.

EMERGENCY CORPORATE CRISIS

Study shows emergencies have greater impact on company share prices than corporate crises.

A new study shows that mass fatality accidents have an enormous influence on a company's reputation and a greater effect on share value than corporate crises in general.

According to Dr Rory Knight, Chairman of Oxford Metrica, "How the company's management responds to the situation and handles the catastrophe will be closely scrutinised by the media, investors, industry and the general public.

"In non-fatal crises, the key determinant of whether a company's reputation and share value will recover after the height of the crisis has passed depends on the ability of senior management to demonstrate strong leadership and communicate with honesty and transparency. Companies generally recover with their reputation and share price intact when the CEO responds with the sensitivity and compassion to victims' families and the response team carries out their logistical work with greater efficiency."

If you want to read the full study go to the following website <http://www.kenyoninternational.com/> and download the document.

WORLDS FUNNIEST

The following joke was declared "WORLD'S FUNNIEST" on the internet.

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn't seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps: "My friend is dead! What can I do?"

The operator says: "Calm down, I can help. First, let's make sure he's dead."

There is a silence, then a shot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says: "OK, now what?"



SOUTH OZ RESCUE

Hot on the heels of the State Road Crash Rescue Challenge in April, SAFECOM is proud to be hosting the 2006 Australasian Road Crash Rescue Challenge in Adelaide between the 20th and 23rd of July 2006. This will incorporate teams from all over Australia and also New Zealand.

The venue will be the Wayville Pavilion at the Showgrounds – at 7,500 square metres, the only facility large enough to accommodate the event, which will also be open to the general public. For emergency service members, additional attractions will be a Learning Symposium, Swap Meet and Trade Expo featuring displays from national companies.

Merchandise featuring the Perentie, logo of the 2006 Australasian Challenge, will be on sale in the form of souvenir polo shirts, rugby tops, jackets, baseball caps, coffee mugs etc.

ADDRESSING THE DRESS OR OUR PATCH IN YOUR PATCH

Those of you still waiting for new overalls have a few more weeks to wait.

The ongoing problem of lack of supply of safety uniforms/overalls was once again raised with CEO David Place at the last meeting of the Volunteers' Association. It's been raised as an issue with meetings at Units for months and came to a head with Unit Controllers

such as management restructuring as they were about whether or not they had basic overalls and gear.

Trading between Units has become common in a bid to find clothing.

This issue was first raised by the Volunteers' Association with David Place nearly two years

ago during an informal meeting before he officially started.

At the first meeting of the Association for 2006, David Place took the criticism aboard and apologised.



The excuse given was that Headquarters did not have the personnel to address the problem and the person who was responsible did not address the task.

Further adding and totally separate to the delay was the ongoing matters over the

change in the SES emblem. Some members didn't like the change and even took the issue with their local MP.

After that Volunteers' meeting, Headquarters appointed a project officer to oversee the ordering and delivery of the catchup order.

The contract is now signed off as an ongoing contract meaning the same supplier/manufacturer will be responsible.

For you, that means a size 97 in the year 2006 will be a 97 in 2007.

And they'll be made to set standards.

The Dress and Equipment Working Party, comprised of a majority of volunteers, has worked tirelessly to develop a specification for overalls and all dress to meet out needs into the future.

However, you may have to put up with the current problems for a bit longer.

At the time of going to print, ordering was completed with an expected delivery May and maybe as late as June.

“During that meeting, some Controllers expressed real frustration, calling it “embarrassing” with volunteers having to contend with tatty, stained and ill-fitting clothing.”

expressing more than just frustration at supplying volunteers.

During that meeting, some Controllers expressed real frustration, calling it “embarrassing” with volunteers having to contend with tatty, stained and ill-fitting clothing.

Other comments were made that this was affecting the corporate image of the SES and volunteers weren't as concerned about Headquarter's other priorities

ago during an informal meeting before he officially started.

At that meeting, representatives described it as the number one priority. They strongly expressed views that there were long term problems of irregular supply and, just as frustrating, that because of changes in the supplier/manufacturer each year, size numbering was erratic.

In another meeting since that initial talk, the Association was told the issue would be

NOMINATE YOUR BEST

Nominations are now open for the Keith Lane Award for the most outstanding contribution by a member.

This is the penultimate award from the SESVA and is named after one of the founding members of the Association. Now entering its third year, this award is your Unit's chance to recognise outstanding work by an individual.

They don't have to be superhuman. They don't have to be the best in everything. The person just has to be showing outstanding contributions within their range.

Remember, the SES is about teamwork and this is your chance to spotlight an outstanding team member.

The award comes recognised with a perpetual plaque, an individual plaque and \$1000 cash provided by sponsors Countrywide Media (publishers of Frontline) to spend on whatever you want either for yourself or your family.

Last year's winner, Graeme Olsen from Kangaroo Island, even got to share a hotdog with the Governor, Marjorie Jackson-Nelson!

All you need to do is discuss with your Unit leaders about who should be nominated, provide a photograph and some details why this person should win and send it in to Frontline.

We will progressively publish the nominees throughout the year with the winner being announced at the 10th Annual SES Volunteers' Parade.

Don't leave it too late. Send the nominations in now!

The nomination is showing your team member that you as a Unit appreciate their effort.

Make an effort for the person who has made an effort for the team.

letters

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Make your job EASY!

29 November 2005

Unit Manager - Mr Gavin Graetz
SES Sturt
PO Box 72
O'Halloran Hill
SA 5158

Dear Gavin,

Please accept our thanks for your assistance at our Darlington site last Thursday night, when a truck crashed into our branch building.

Your volunteers did a terrific job, supporting the building structure and removing the truck, working throughout the night, and enabling us to open for business the following morning.

Our staff on site were most impressed with the calm, efficient and professional manner of operation.

Can you please convey our gratitude to your SES volunteers, who gave up their time to help us.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Vines
Area Manager SA
Kennards Hire

Unit Manager Mr G Graetz
SES Sturt Division
PO Box 72
O'Halloran Hill
SA 5158

Sunday 20th November, 2005.
Cliff Rescue Onkaparinga/Clarendon

Dear Gavin,

Your actions in rescuing our son were instrumental in his well being. Flinders Medical Emergency doctors stated "That whilst your son Richard is lucky to be alive, his on the spot care and correctly carried out procedures were instrumental in him not being further affected with his spinal trauma than what had occurred due to his fall."

We as his parents are more than thankful for your actions in his rescue. Richard, now at home, whilst extremely sore and in considerable pain is surprisingly up and about, albeit just a walk of 5 metres from bed to loo/bathroom.

Myself, having visited the site with CFS volunteer Phillip Scroop, I do not mind admitting that I cried when I saw the clifftop to creekbed scene.

We are indeed lucky to have him alive...that he is not a para or quad is indeed a stroke of good luck...a miracle.

Just know that your contribution in his physical wellbeing is greatly appreciated. (That is an understatement.)

To you all, thank you from his parents and on behalf of Richard, (Richard is not up to writing as yet) thank you.

Kindest regards

Russell Iles