



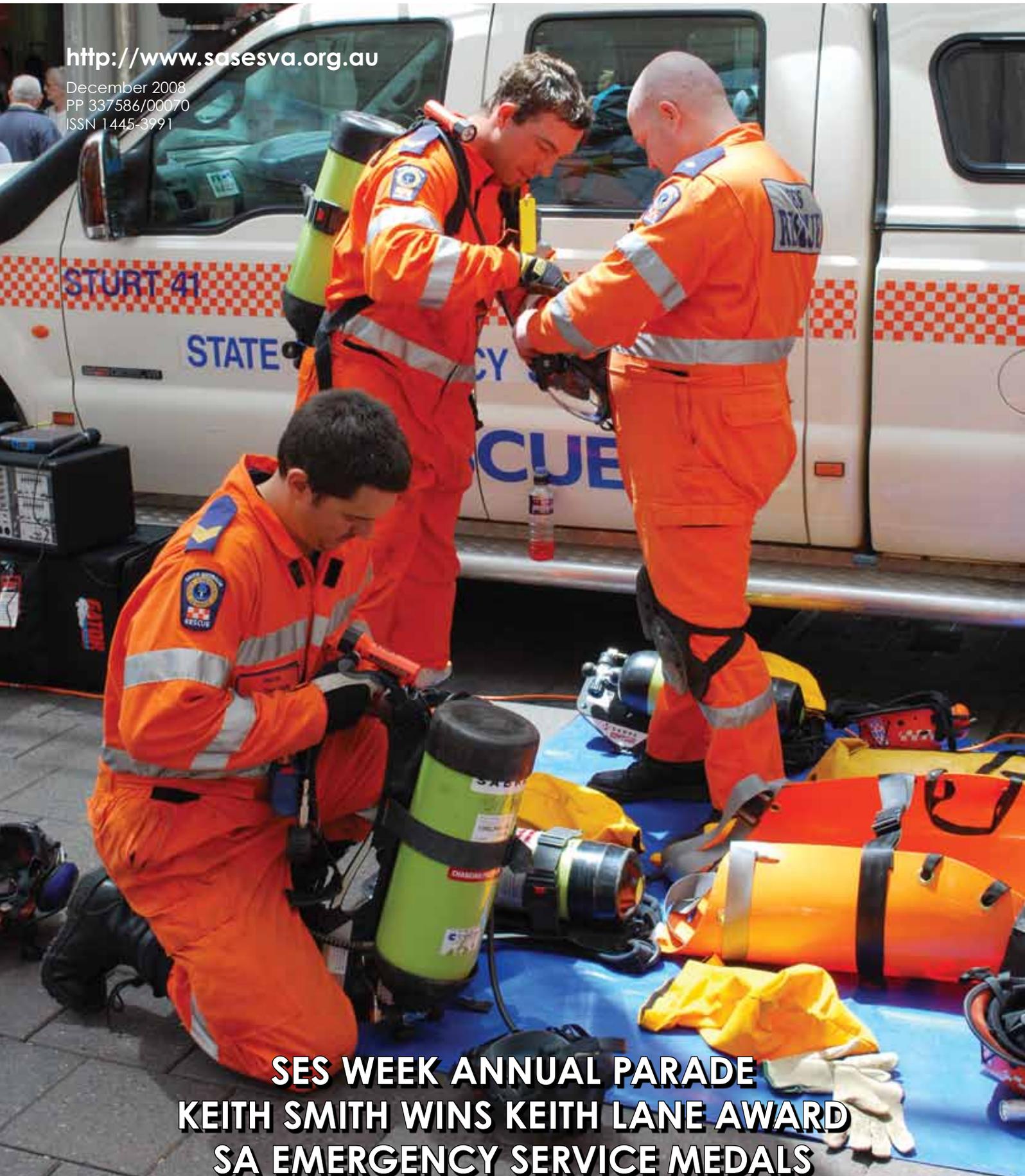
Frontline



Official Journal of the S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association Incorporated

<http://www.sasesva.org.au>

December 2008
PP 337586/00070
ISSN 1445-3991



**SES WEEK ANNUAL PARADE
KEITH SMITH WINS KEITH LANE AWARD
SA EMERGENCY SERVICE MEDALS**

CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

Photography should only be supplied digitally or as original prints. (Please supply stamped, self-addressed envelope for returning.)

Please avoid scanning of any type. Text should be supplied electronically as a Microsoft Word document.

Content deadlines

February 20th
May 21st
August 20th
October 26th

Advertisers Alert

Countrywide Media is appointed by the South Australia State Emergency Service Volunteers' Association Inc. as the authorised publisher of FRONTLINE.

For enquiries re advertising in this magazine, please contact the publishers:

[countrywidemedia](http://countrywidemedia.com.au)

Countrywide Media

Level 2, 673 Bourke St,
Melbourne 3001
Postal: GPO Box 2466,
Melbourne 3001
PH: 03 9937 0200
FAX: 03 9937 0201
EMAIL: admin@cwmedia.com.au

Art & Production:

Jason Jeffery
Kathryn Marchetti
Jacob Mitchell



Cover: Tea Tree Gully and Sturt SES Volunteers who took part in the Rundle Mall Confined Spaces exercise. The full team included Dave Zakrzewski, Matt Skeldon, Matthew Belton and Andrew Gigney.

contents

2	Chairperson's Report	10	Who Said Being Retired is Boring?
3	Executive Officer's Report	11	Unit Managers' Forum
4	From the Chief Officer's Desk	12	SES Week Annual Parade
5	From the Emergency Services Minister	16	SES Week Activities
6	Disruptive or Difficult Volunteers	18	Gordon Hartley Reminisces
7	Rank Insignia	22	Vale Jack Martin
8	Keith Smith Wins Keith Lane Award	23	Letters
9	SA Emergency Service Medals	25	Around the Units

executive committee

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Susan Caracoussis
GPO Box 2706, Adelaide 5001
M 0414 877 374
E susan@sasesva.org.au

CHAIRPERSON
Warren Hicks
GPO Box 2706, Adelaide 5001
Metro South SES Unit
M 0424 435 416
E warrenhicks2@bigpond.com

DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON
Gordon Hartley ESM
West Operations Coordination Unit
PO Box 1632, Port Lincoln 5606
P 08 8683 0504 M 0429 900 840
E hartleygordon@internode.on.net

SECRETARY
Trevor Bond
Tea Tree Gully Unit
PO Box 243, St Agnes 5097
H 8263 5759 F 8265 5405
M 0417 859 196
E bonchbool@arcom.com.au

TREASURER
David Ward ESM
Loxton SES Unit
PO Box 818, Loxton 5333
P 8584 7540 W 8584 6641
M 0414 833 947
E david.ward6@bigpond.com

committee regional representatives

CENTRAL REGION
Trevor Bond
Tea Tree Gully Unit
PO Box 243, St Agnes 5097
H 8263 5759 F 8265 5405
M 0417 859 196
E bonchbool@arcom.com.au

Lyn Little
Enfield Unit
PO Box 782, Salisbury 5108
H 8281 8742
M 0402 987 051
E sle52299@bigpond.net.au

Stefanie Zakrzewski
Tea Tree Gully Unit
PO Box 243, St Agnes 5097
M 0438 840 183
E stefanie.zakrzewski@health.sa.gov.au

EAST REGION
William Job (Bill)
Millicent Unit
PO Box 245, Millicent 5280
M 0417 819 817
F (08) 8733 2936

David Ward ESM
Loxton Unit
PO Box 818, Loxton 5333
P 8584 7540 W 8584 6641
M 0414 833 947
E david.ward6@bigpond.com

Dean Overton ESM
Kangaroo Island Unit
PO Box 460, Kingscote KI 5223
P/F (08) 8553 2374
M 0428 300 353
E deanandbev@bigpond.com

WEST REGION
Peter Codrington ESM
Ceduna Unit
PO Box 386, Ceduna 5690
W 8626 2037 F 8625 3916
M 0427 269 161
E cedses@bigpond.com

Jim Darling ESM
Tumby Bay SES Unit
41 West Tce. Tumby Bay 5605
P 8688 2221
M 0428 882 213
E jimwd@ozemail.com.au

Gordon Hartley ESM
West Operations Coordination Unit
PO Box 1632, Port Lincoln 5606
P 08 8683 0504
M 0429 900 840
E hartleygordon@internode.on.net

NORTH REGION
Simon Kretschmer
Port Augusta Unit
PO Box 212, Port Augusta 5700
M 0411 433 538
E simon@sketsch.com

FRONTLINE

Editorial email: susan@sasesva.org.au

Disclaimer: Countrywide Media ("Publisher") advises that the contents of this publication are at the sole discretion of the S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association Incorporated and the publication is offered for information purposes only. The publication has been formulated in good faith and the Publisher believes its contents to be accurate, however, the contents do not amount to a recommendation (either expressly or by implication) and should not be relied upon in lieu of specific professional advice. The Publisher disclaims all responsibility for any loss or damage which may be incurred by any reader relying upon the information contained in the publication whether that loss or damage is caused by any fault or negligence on the part of the publisher, its directors and employees.

Copyright: All content appearing in this publication is subject to copyright and may not be reproduced without the consent of the author/owner, the S.A. S.E.S. Volunteers' Association or the SES. All advertisements appearing in this publication are subject to copyright and may not be reproduced except with the consent of the owner of the copyright.

Advertising: Advertisements in this journal are solicited from organisations and businesses on the understanding that no special considerations other than those normally accepted in respect of commercial dealings, will be given to any advertiser.

Chairperson's agm report



This is my fourth report to members as chairperson of the Association and I would like to formally acknowledge the efforts of past and present committee members along with the efforts of our Executive Officer Susan Caracoussis who has done an outstanding job to ensure the Association remains financial while continuing to provide a service to SES members, albeit on a part-time basis.

The Association held a country meeting at Berri, along with its regular meetings in Adelaide. These meetings are held not only to ensure the Association complies with its funding contract, but to discuss issues that affect or may affect SES volunteers, now or in the future. While the committee may not have all the answers, the combined experiences of the committee allow for some constructive discussions to occur with the final comments being passed onto the appropriate board or focus group. A large percentage of the Association's time is spent giving our views to a number of reviews, legislation, committees or other volunteer organisations.

In our meetings with the Minister of Emergency Services, we have stressed the importance of more funding for the SES to not only employ more staff, such as trainers and flood prevention officers, but also to better equip local units with the resources they need to get the job done.

This year has seen many highlights: the signing of the Volunteer Charter which formally recognises the efforts of SES volunteers, and the relationship that exists between, the State Government, SES, Volunteers and the Association. While this may be seen as a fairly easy exercise, it in fact was the culmination of a number of years work with a number of drafts and redrafts to ensure everything was correct.

The Association has also been able to re-introduce the Defcom card to current members of the Association. Long-term members of the SES may recall that by just signing up as a volunteer with the SES you received a discount card. However, as it was the Association that put in the effort to have these cards re-introduced, and is managing the rollout, the committee felt that it was only fair that members of the Association be entitled to a card. This may seem a bit harsh, but it is only fair to acknowledge those who have taken the trouble to become members of the Association.

One of the key initiatives that the Association has been pushing this year, is the introduction of a service medal for SES, which unfortunately due to administrative hold-ups could not be issued during SES Week as we had hoped, but should be issued before the end of the year. I know many members are divided

on the issue of medals and whether they want them or not. However, my view is that under the existing medal system, the State Government provides no formal recognition for service in the SES. The only medal that does that is the National Medal provided by the Federal Government. The idea for this medal was put forward over five years ago and we would be still waiting for it to be introduced if not for the efforts of the Association. I know some critics will say we would have got it eventually, but how many volunteers who deserve recognition for their service to this State will have left without receiving that recognition? Even one is far too many for me. If we are truly about increasing the profile of the SES, so that we can attract better funding, public profile and more volunteers, we need to be proud of what we do and promote ourselves. These medals are the first step.

It is easy to have a go at the Association and in particular the Executive Committee but those people should remember that only the Executive Officer is paid, all the other members of the committee are volunteers who have chosen to give up more of their time to ensure every SES volunteer has the proper resources to do the job that they have volunteered to do and hopefully bring about changes that make the life of volunteers easier and give them the recognition they deserve. It is not an easy task and at times there just is not enough time, or resources, to deal with everything at the same time, especially when issues arise.

The job of the Association is not made any easier by negative comments nor by the successive budget cuts that have occurred over the last few years. Operating costs have gone up, but with reduced funding the Association has had to cut the number of face to face meetings it has each year and move to teleconferencing, which is not always ideal. The reduced funding has also meant that we cannot always reimburse our representatives for when they travel to visit Units. Again this is not an ideal situation, but one that needs to be managed, but one we are endeavouring to manage.

So it is important that the Association continues to encourage SES volunteers to join the Association and when people have concerns or something constructive to say that they do so in the correct manner. Please contact the representative for your region, or the Executive Officer or myself, and ensure a contact/visit form is completed. If the Association cannot prove that we represent the interests of volunteers, we have little hope of increasing our funding which then means that we will continue to struggle to achieve our aims of ensuring that SES volunteers have the best resources.

Warren Hicks
Chairperson, SASESVA

Executive Officer's report

I'm amazed how quickly the time has passed and what has occurred since the last edition of Frontline.

The Association has been contacted over many issues, and endeavours to assist and respond as soon as possible, but regrettably sometimes the information sought or research necessitated takes longer than we plan. We ask for your patience, as it is imperative to have all facts rather than rushing in on issues which may then prove embarrassing for all concerned.

The Association attended and also participated in the Unit Manager's Forum in October and this provided the opportunity for us to chat with many in attendance on a diverse range of topics. The subsequent flow on liaison and support has been appreciated.

We have also been involved in UMAG meetings and again this has been beneficial to learn about some operational issues, as on occasions, overlapping occurs with issues raised at the Association level.

Additionally, three members of the Association are currently involved with the Continuous Improvement Committee, being established to work through low to medium level issues related to service provision of CRD and ensuring the operational requirements of agencies, which in our case of course, means the SES are being met. The review includes the current service level agreements between the MFS/SES and MFS/CFS to ensure that service provision is consistent. This committee is extremely important and it is imperative that any issue or grievance is reported to SHQ (Graeme Wynwood) to collate as proof of issues which are then tabled at this meeting. I know that sometimes we don't bother to report an issue as it means more paperwork, but this service provision is imperative to the Service. Another aspect of this review moves on to SACAD, which as you know has been approved and now the priority is to ensure that funds and resources are available to ensure data collection and hence the implementation of the system.

As a flow-on to the Charter, signed in June, the Association responded (after consultation with members and Units) to SAFECOM on a Volunteer Consultation Policy which will be presented to the Board this month. Additionally, a framework will be adopted as well to outline how the consultation will occur.

SES Week has only recently concluded and the culmination was the annual parade, and the procession was most impressive; a big thank you to all who participated and made it so successful. Congratulations also to Keith Smith as the 2008 Keith Lane Award recipient.

After formalities, the Association held its annual general meeting and I'd like to take the opportunity to thank Louise Reynolds, who has stepped down as Secretary, for her work over

the years and also welcome Simon Kretschmer, from Port Augusta Unit, who is our new North Region representative.

The Chairman, Secretary and I attended a meeting of all agencies, the CFSVA and UFU, to discuss the review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act and it is hoped that the draft report will be finalised prior to Christmas. We will provide an update in the March Frontline.

Then, I was off to Sydney for the Australian Emergency Management Volunteer Forum Meeting where an update on the project being undertaken on Attraction, Support and Retention of Emergency Management Volunteers was tabled. We were informed that the final report is to be presented at the 2009 Ministerial Council Meeting. The topics that surfaced in the project were: time, spontaneous or shorter bursts for volunteering, training, costs, recognition and recruitment (in a change in focus to women and the Ethnic community). Topics that are regularly raised locally.

The National Emergency Volunteer Support Fund call for grants has now commenced and closing date for applications is the 6th March, 2009. Interestingly, discussion at the meeting was based on a concern that focus appeared to have changed and some smaller groups missed out on funding due to not being skilled in submission preparation. The forum has recommended that this be reviewed for the 2009/10 round, and that an outline of simple contemporary objectives be provided.

A report from FaHCSIA informed the forum that the Department had been "bombarded" with applications for fuel grants and as a consequence, hopes to now finalise assessing all applications by Christmas. So, if your Unit lodged an application, this is why you haven't heard anything to date. The Department is also currently reviewing all its community programs.

Finally, I am pleased to invite Volunteers to nominate for the opportunity to attend a Volunteer Leadership Program at Mt. Macedon, from Friday 17th April to Monday 20th April, 2009, with all costs being covered. The program is intense, and topics include: emergency procedures, personality type indicator, leadership styles, the difference between leadership and management in a volunteer setting, emotional intelligence, goal setting, effective self-management, case studies, dealing with conflict, competing priorities, media liaison and styles of communication, recruiting and retention, etc., plus syndicate activities and evaluation. If you are interested in being considered as a nominee for this program, please contact me. Final selection will occur by the end of February 2009.

Wishing you all a safe festive season, and enjoy the time spent with family and friends.

Susan Caracoussis
Executive Officer SASESVA



from the Chief Officer's Desk

As I write my contribution for this issue of Frontline, the 2008 State Unit Managers Forum is in full swing at West Beach. Unit Managers from across the state have gathered to address issues of importance to all of SASES, and to exchange information on a broad range of subjects. This process is working well to ensure that our collective communications and information flows continue to develop and improve.

At this year's Forum, each of the UMs who chair the Unit Managers Advisory Groups (UMAGs) has presented a briefing on the activities and outcomes of their UMAG. This interactive session has helped to tie the four UMAGs together to some extent, and to highlight the continuously improving benefits of these advisory groups. Gavin Graetz (Central), Tony Brown (West), Neil Gibson (North) and Commander Scott Turner on behalf of Grant Geyer (East) each testified to the closer relationships the UMAGs have provided, and the breaking down of the old traditional barriers between SES Units.



Stuart Macleod at the Unit Manager's Forum.

Continuing in this vein of information exchange, each of the six Internal Reference Groups (IRGs) briefed the Forum on their activities. The IRGs are only now settling into place, but each has a key advisory role to play in the Service, and each is already clearly focussed on developing targets and challenges they can tackle to move the Service ahead.

Following the IRG presentations, I had the pleasure of introducing Susan Caracoussis to present the activities and targets of the SASESVA to the group. I introduced Susan by describing the critical role of SASESVA as the

legislated consultative body of the SES, a body with direct access to the Minister as well as the Chief Officer. As I stated at the Forum and in the latest issue of OJ, now is the time when everyone in SES should get on board and sign up to join the Association to ensure that it is strong and effective, working to support and enhance the service we all provide. Susan spoke on the involvement of the Association in a very broad range of activities, and she made some very strong recommendations on the way in which Unit Managers can help to make a change.

All the other staff and volunteer presenters spoke on the same theme as the UMAGs, IRGs and Association, but in their own areas of expertise. The overall drive of the Forum was one of working together, and then collectively moving the SES ahead. Whether it was Commander Trevor Arnold providing an update on training, or the robust discussions on the consultation drafts on medicals and operational standards, the drive to work and succeed together was clear and strong. The old adage about the concept of TEAM – "Together Everyone Achieves More" was never stronger.

The UM Forum was also the first opportunity for volunteers to see and handle the sample of the SASES Long Service Medal. The background of this medal has been well covered in previous issues of Frontline and OJ. The message now is that the medal is currently being "struck" by the successful tenderer and that while we will almost certainly miss the desirable issue time of SES Week, the medals will be issued before Christmas this year. This issue will provide long-overdue recognition and reward of the people in SES who make the organisation strong and effective, and it should always be worn with pride by all recipients, volunteer and paid.

The 2008 UM Forum was an excellent example of a Service working together to address and resolve issues of importance. To those volunteers who are not Unit Managers or were not at the Forum, my message is that your Service is in good hands. Your Unit Managers represent you and your SES very strongly and capably. Working together with the paid staff, they form a very professional and committed organisation that works together and is determined to overcome obstacles and move ahead.

As always, my very sincere thanks go to everyone in the SASES, and to your families, friends and employers for your continued professional and dedicated service.

Stay safe

Stuart Macleod

from the Emergency Services Minister

Since becoming the Emergency Services Minister in July this year, I have come to appreciate the extraordinary contribution that our State Emergency Service (SES) volunteers bring to South Australia. Our volunteers respond to all sorts of emergencies and work vigilantly to ensure the safety of communities throughout the State. They also provide invaluable support and assistance to other emergency service organisations.

These dedicated SES volunteers give their time generously, without expecting reward, other than the satisfaction they receive from knowing that they really are making a difference to the lives of others.

In South Australia, we have more than 1800 dedicated SES volunteers spread across the State, who serve their community throughout the year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I commend and thank them for this amazing effort.

Last month I had the pleasure of attending the annual SES Parade as part of National SES Week. This was truly a wonderful and enjoyable experience.

It is very fitting that we have an annual event that celebrates the dedication of those who selflessly volunteer their time and energy to serve their community. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many South Australians celebrate the spirit of volunteering and saluting our SES volunteers and their families. We must not forget that SES volunteers depend on the goodwill and support of their families, friends and employers to enable them to serve their community.

It is imperative that we as South Australians continue to recognise the efforts of our SES volunteers. They really are a unique group of people that are committed to putting others first and doing all they can to protect life and property. SES volunteers are fundamental to emergency management in South Australia and their value and importance is highly regarded by the South Australian community.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the South Australian State Emergency Services Volunteers' Association (SASESVA) who do a superb job in representing the interests of our SES volunteers. The SASESVA provide an additional means of support, consultation and communication for SES volunteers, which is vital for them to continue to perform their extremely demanding and diverse role to such a high standard.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the previous Emergency Services Minister, the Hon Carmel Zollo MLC for all her hard work before me and for the significant contribution she has made to the SES.

The Rann Government is committed to the continued strong support of South Australia's entire emergency services sector. SES volunteers are an integral part of this sector and their contribution is highly respected and warmly acknowledged by the government and myself personally.

I wish you all a happy and safe festive season.

The Hon Michael Wright MP



DISRUPTIVE OR DIFFICULT VOLUNTEERS

In the previous two editions of Frontline, we addressed bullying and the potential consequences. In this article, we will address issues that may arise from a different perspective, *the difficult or disruptive volunteer*, thus we hope providing an honest view from both sides.

Regrettably, while all volunteers are well intentioned in their commitment to volunteering, there is still the occasional volunteer who may cause problems. Sometimes the circumstances causing the situation may have resulted from within the volunteer themselves. Alternatively, many situations are preventable with good volunteer management practices, and then in extreme circumstances dismissal may be appropriate.

We will discuss when termination is warranted, what leadership aspects may need to be addressed in the process and issues to consider that may occur due to the impact of dismissal.

While dismissal is not appropriate for dealing with the often annoying volunteer, or even seriously disruptive volunteer, it may well be appropriate for dysfunctional volunteers.

We will look at when termination is needed, what supervisory details need to be addressed and issues to consider related to the impact of termination.

There are many ways to intervene in working to redirect the energies of volunteers who are causing problems through

disruptive or inappropriate behaviour. Summarised is a “three meeting” approach to identifying and confronting problem behaviour in volunteers.

FIRST MEETING

Talk with the volunteers in private. Document the effect of their actions. Remind them of their commitment to, in our case, the SES and communities they assist.

Provide a time to respond. Get the volunteer to summarise the actions they’d taken.

Ask about any circumstances that could have an impact on them. Avoid any accusatory statements. Just focus on the actions and consequences and move towards setting the next steps for corrective action.

Agree on the next meeting date and make sure your message is one of seeking a positive resolution to the problem.

Establish ways to measure new behaviour and explain that not changing their actions will result in dismissal. Regardless, end on a statement of confidence in their ability to become an even more valuable member.

Provide the volunteer with a copy of all notes taken.

However, if during this first meeting it is evident that the volunteer is simply looking for a way to opt out, then allow them to move on. If belligerence is their response, then suggest they move on.

SECOND MEETING

This meeting occurs with those volunteers who said they were willing to work on correcting their actions. Review what was agreed to at the previous meeting and document any progress.

If none appears to have been made, then the question must be posed of “why”, and then set the adjustments that need to be implemented, and ensure they are put in writing. Make sure that all problems are documented, together with the expected outcomes, so that dismissal is not the end result. Set a short time frame to meet again.

THIRD MEETING

At this meeting acknowledge any successes achieved on the agreed points. If there are some points that had not been achieved prior to this third meeting, then ask the reasons as to “why not”. As a consequence, advise the volunteers concerned that they will be monitored for a short period (maximum of a week) to ensure all behavioural changes are in place.

If none of the goals set have been reached, then remind these volunteers of the possibility of removal from their position. If removal occurs, then thank them for their past service and write up your actions, put them in a letter, being specific about the reasons, and have a signed copy put on file to avoid any retribution.

In summary, confronting problem volunteers can be an uncomfortable and difficult task. The aforementioned three-step method provides a fair model for addressing negative volunteer behaviour.

RANK INSIGNIA

(OR WHAT DO ALL THOSE DIFFERENT EPAULETTES ACTUALLY MEAN?)

In October, at the Unit Managers' Forum, the much awaited Dress Regulations document was finally released, yet most volunteers probably haven't been able to get hold of the CD to view. These new regulations replace those listed in the MOGI (or manual of general instruction for our newer members) and contains interesting information such as what colour socks to wear with what uniform. While it may seem that I am making fun of this new document, I should point out that as a service it is important that we all know what the standard of dress is so that we can abide by it. It helps with our public image and if we are serious about raising this image to attract more volunteers and thus funding, so that we can support our communities in time of need.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not going to go around checking to ensure everybody dresses the same, that can be someone else's job.

What I did find relevant was the new rank insignia, now I know people have been wearing them for some time, but not everybody has caught up what each epaulette means. Most volunteers would be able to identify which rank applies to each insignia, but what

happens at a State or Regional Level? I know a fair few people are unsure of what they mean and where these positions then fit in the rank structure of the organisation, as I have often been asked to explain them. So for those of you who have not managed to secure a copy of the dress regulations, here they are complete with pictures. I have not put names to the rank, as by the time you get to read this, some positions are bound to have changed.

For those of you who are unsure what a Gorget patch is, it is a dark blue cloth patch of approved design affixed to the lapels of shirts and tunic jackets which are to be worn by the Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer and Assistant Chief Officer. The approved design shall comprise a single row of gold oak leaf.

For those newer members, I have also featured the insignia worn at unit level, just in case it was not covered during your induction process. Perhaps one day we may be able to produce a poster explaining all the structure and insignia for display at each unit.

Warren Hicks

HEADQUARTERS RANK STRUCTURE



Chief Officer: A gold wreath enclosing a gold pip, with one gold pip and one gold crown. Gorgets worn on collar.



Deputy Chief Officer: A gold wreath enclosing a gold pip, and with a gold crown. Gorgets worn on collar.



Assistant Chief Officer: A gold wreath enclosing a gold pip, and with two gold pips. Gorgets worn on collar.



SES Commander: A gold wreath enclosing a gold pip, and with one gold pip.



State Functions: (VMR, Assets & Infrastructure)
A gold wreath enclosing a gold pip.



Senior Regional Officers, Manager Ops Support, Senior Project Officers, and OHSW Officer: One gold crown with two gold pips.



State Training Officers: One gold crown with one gold pip.

UNIT LEVEL RANK INSIGNIA



Unit Manager: One gold crown.



Deputy Unit Manager: Three gold pips.



Unit Service Officer (eg; Rescue Officer): Two gold pips.



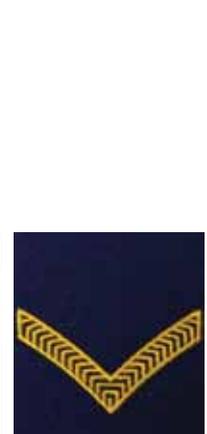
Deputy Unit Service Officer: One gold pip.



Team Leader: Three gold chevrons each 8mm wide and 100mm long placed 3mm apart.



Deputy Team Leader: Two gold chevrons, each 8mm wide and 100mm long placed 3mm apart.



Storeman/Driver: One gold chevron, 8mm wide and 100mm long (or should that be Store person).



KEITH SMITH WINS KEITH LANE AWARD

Keith Smith

The late Keith Lane, both in his time with the SES and then in the Volunteers' Association, was always recognised as an exceptional volunteer, leader and someone who went above and beyond the call of duty in the roles he undertook. In memory of Keith, the annual Keith Lane Award was introduced in 2004 to recognise a volunteer who is currently providing outstanding service to the SES.

The 2008 recipient, was another Keith, Keith Smith, who commenced duties with the Western Adelaide Unit in September 1997. Despite his supposed senior years, (76 years young), Keith fits in well with all Unit members and provides the Unit with a proficient and reliable commitment, while also being a mentor to new recruits.

He has the ability to generate whatever is required to ease difficult situations. His ability to adjust and respond to the demands of each situation is a quality few possess.

Keith's assistance is regularly sought and he does so willingly, providing leadership at the annual SES parade, ANZAC Day Parade and the Christmas Pageant. He also supported the Regional Manager, Metro East, to organise and run a successful Police and Emergency Service Games in 2004.

A major role of the SES focuses on public perception, often under harsh conditions. The ability to deal with it all in a confident and knowledgeable manner is a necessity. Once again Keith, as the Deputy Unit Manager Western Adelaide has adapted to such demands, and always conducts himself in a professional and credible manner.

As mentioned, Keith has been attached to Western Adelaide Unit for the past 11 years and has held the positions of Unit Controller and Deputy Unit Manager during this period.

Keith has, and continues to impress with his dedication to the task at hand and his willingness to learn and develop his capabilities resulting in a more effective and efficient service to the community.

Keith is a professional and competent officer who is a credit to the service. The assistance and knowledge he provides to the SES is of the highest quality and has been instrumental in making the Western Adelaide Unit what it is today.

With no knowledge that a nomination for the Keith Lane Award would be forthcoming, the Association in August, agreed unanimously to a proposal to present Keith with honorary life membership of the Association in recognition of his outstanding contribution and support. Keith was one of the founding members of the Association and for over ten years has provided support in coordinating the parade. He was Deputy Chair for four years and for three years hosted all Association meetings.

Keith received his award from the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Wright MP, assisted by Keith Lane's daughter Chris Hughes, who is an SES volunteer herself at Quorn (pictured above).



Gordon Hartley with the Minister.

Additionally, the Association awarded a second honorary life membership to Noel Hodges, who served for seven years as the first President of the Australian Institute of Emergency Services (South Australia chapter), and was the Emergency Service representative for the Year of the Older Citizen. He was involved in the establishment of both the dog squad and horse search team.

In those early days when there was a lack of local government support, Noel and his wife provided a struggling mid north Unit with a substantial interest-free loan over two years.

Noel was associated with the SES for 42 years, firstly as a volunteer from 1963 to 1985, and then as a salaried Regional Officer from 10th February 1985 until his retirement on 20th January 2005.

He was the instigator and developer of an extensive Emergency Services library, again at his own expense and being available for use by any interested person.

Noel asked Gordon Hartley, to collect his honorary life membership from the Minister.

SA EMERGENCY SERVICE MEDAL AND MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS

Emergency Service Medals and Ministerial Commendations were presented by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Wright MP, on Monday 24th November at a function held at the Stamford Plaza and extracts from SES recipients citations are featured below.

The first recipient of a Ministerial Commendation was *John Edge*, Training Officer and Business Manager, SES and Lieutenant 3 Equipment Coordinator and committee member for the CFS, Yankalilla. John has previously received Campaign Medals Malaya, FESR, Active Service, VLMSM, Defence medal.

John's commendation was based on his service with NSW Forestry Commission (10 years as a radio technician), the SES and CFS.

John has been an extremely active member of the SES/CFS since joining, and has attended over 90% of callouts and training sessions, as well as volunteering for most strike teams, including the NSW floods.

He has been active in volunteering his services for many community events and now conducts training with the Yankalilla Area School.

The second recipient was *Shane Leedham*, Deputy Unit Manger, Enfield. Shane has previously received Service Medals for 15 and 25 years of Service with the SES and CFS.

Shane had a large influence in getting the Salisbury, Elizabeth and Gawler councils to support SES units in the Northern Districts.

Following 11 years as Deputy Rescue Officer for Enfield SES, he is now the Deputy Unit Manager and is also a qualified trained officer, who willingly goes to many country areas to help train other volunteers.

Shane never asks his crew to do anything he wouldn't do himself and the safety and welfare of his crew always comes first. Some say Shane goes beyond the call of duty when it comes to his crew. Shane is very knowledgeable in all aspects of the SES due to his many years experience, which helps him tackle some of the more difficult jobs that most units may not be able to undertake.

The third recipient was *Lynette Little*, a Rescue Officer with Enfield Unit, who has previously received a 15 year service medal.

Lyn has been with the SES for 17 years, firstly spending 3 years with NAD as communications officer and communication training.

Lyn commenced at Enfield Unit 14 years ago as rescue crew and has worked her way through to Rescue Officer. She has been training officers for the last 12 years in both metropolitan and regional areas.

Lyn is extremely dedicated to the SES and especially her crew. She also always goes that extra mile to give her crew the training and support she feels they may need.

The fourth recipient was *Peter Nygaard* who was nominated for his role as an OHS&W Officer, with SAFECOM (SES). Peter has only recently commenced in his new role as Regional Operations Officer, Central Region.

Peter has previously been awarded a National Medal.

Peter wholeheartedly supports every aspect of the SES and its many and varied roles. In his previous role, he provided a very personal form of support to SES volunteers and staff alike, and continually strived to provide direct support to volunteers who had been injured or otherwise involved in accidents. He worked tirelessly to develop and implement safe systems of work and to support SES units and the organisation in the development of procedural doctrine to ensure a safe environment.

The final recipient, whilst an SES volunteer, received his Ministerial Commendation for Volunteer Marine Rescue. *Dean*



Top left: Lyn Little at the parade.

Top right: Jennifer Vincent and Peter Nygaard.

Centre left: Shane Leedham.

Centre right: Dean Andrew.

Bottom left: John Edge.

Andrew, has been a member of the SES since 1966, and is currently a member of the West Operations Coordination Unit in Port Lincoln. In addition to performing active duties within that Unit during major incidents on the west coast, for many years Dean has operated a Volunteer Marine Rescue Limited Coastal Listening Station from his Port Lincoln home, where he issues routine weather and safety broadcasts, receives vessel movement reports and monitors marine emergency frequencies.

Dean has previously received a National Service Medal and Dean's contribution towards marine safety in the Port Lincoln area over a long period has not only reflected greatly on him personally, but also on the SES.

And the Emergency Service Medal recipient was *Jennifer Vincent* who is the State Training Officer and Volunteer Team Leader at Noarlunga Unit. Jennifer has previously received a National Emergency Services Medal.

Jennifer was nominated for her dedication to the State Vertical Rescue program in providing high level training to SASES volunteers in Vertical Rescue and other agencies in respect of Vertical Rescue Safety.

She was also commended for the rescue of a family of 3 from the cliffs at Hallett Cove in September 2007. Only 3 hours after returning from an interstate deployment, Jennifer's volunteer unit was called to rescue 2 children and an adult caught out by rising tides, down a 70 metre cliff. Jennifer was lowered down the cliff 3 times to complete the rescue and bring the victims to safety. The weather conditions were bad with strong winds and rain making the rescue very difficult and physically draining.

Whilst the rescue was a team effort with other members providing haul crew and communications support, Jennifer's professionalism and courage ensured the victims were supported and encouraged throughout their ordeal.

Congratulations to all recipients.

WHO SAID BEING RETIRED IS BORING?

Who said it would get easier when you retired?

Well Port Lincoln Unit Manager Tony Brown retired this year from Australia

Post and has subsequently commented that he now cannot seem to find enough hours in a day to find time to even have a nanna nap.

Tony, together with Michael Geeves, Gwen Hartley and Gordon Hartley decided that climbing ropes or training in storm damage etc did not suit their needs, so they all decided to go to the Port Lincoln TAFE and upgrade their computer skills.

The skills that they are taught are then used in SES Command Centres. Michael and Gwen are full-time students, while Tony and Gordon are part-time students, attending two half-days a week, while full time is three full days a week.



Josel's Computer Class for oldies, seated from left to right: Gordon Hartley, Gwen Hartley, Tony Brown and Michael Geeves with teacher Josel..

Gordon provides all members of Western Operations Coordination Unit with the opportunity to

undertake computer training and the Unit pays all the costs. The offer has been accepted by a few members

over the last two years, and now they are happy and confident as they use the Unit computers.



UNIT MANAGER'S FORUM

Unit Managers and their Deputies attended the annual Unit Managers, Forum at West Beach on Saturday 18th October, where an update was provided to all on “Future Impact”, the Strategic Direction Planning Day and establishment of the Internal Reference Groups, Training, the Medical and the Long Service Medal, with a sample set being displayed. Reports from each regions Unit Managers’ Advisory Group Chair were presented and this resulted in many questions and sharing of ideas.

An interesting statistic reiterated what we all already knew, in that 74.3% of floods and storms applied to insurance claims in South Australia compared to 2% for bushfires, yet our funding allocation is so low.

Stuart Macleod in his presentation, emphasised the fact that volunteer priority had to be their job and family before the SES, especially with the change in many employment conditions.

The Association was afforded with the opportunity to make a presentation and provided an update on its role, budgetary constraints, Continuous Improvement Committee, SAFECOM Volunteer Referral and Consultation, EMA review of volunteer attraction and retention, its forthcoming annual general meeting, a

reminder for Keith Lane Award nominations and a call for membership.

It was most pleasing to subsequently note the number of Unit Managers who have reinitiated membership drives within their Units. To them we thank you.

The day provided the opportunity for all, in attendance, to ask questions, raise concerns which seemed to focus on the fact that the SES demands are increasing, yet on a funding basis, we appear to be sliding backwards. Ideas were shared and overall the day, enabled discussions, sometimes debates to take place, both formally and informally. A comment from one attendee was the concern that the SES was required to be the masters of all trades, whereas the CFS's, in some regions, sole focus was that of bushfires.



Neil Gibson responds.

Below: Gary Habils.



Break time.



Below: Scott Turner.



Medals.



Below: Trevor Arnold.



SES WEEK ANNUAL PARADE



Fine weather and volunteers from around the State attended this year's annual parade as the culmination to SES Week in South Australia.







We were delighted to see the Mounted Unit and quad bikes from Kapunda and of course the Dog Operations Unit. Tumby Bay Unit brought over its vessel SES 007, while two vehicles from Port Lincoln were noticed in the parade. The number of vehicles from all areas was most impressive and as the parade passed the official viewing area, the salute was taken by the Chief Officer and Deputy Officer who were joined by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Michael Wright MP, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Stephen Wade MLC, David Place, Commissioner SAFECOM, Warren Hicks, Chairman SASESVA and other invited dignitaries.

At the conclusion of the parade, the dignitaries moved to Torrens Parade Ground where the participants had assembled. The Minister then inspected the group and chatted with volunteers prior to the commencement of the formal proceedings.

Special thanks must be given to Peter Nygaard and Pieter Scott for their coordination of the whole operational side of the parade, in its lead-up, then on the day from assembly at MFS Headquarters in Wakefield Street, through to its conclusion at the parade ground.

Formalities commenced with the Chief Officer Stuart Macleod thanking all volunteers for their efforts and participation prior to introducing the Minister.

The Hon Michael Wright MP then addressed everyone in his capacity as Minister for Emergency Services and representing the Premier.

The Minister said: "It was a very impressive parade and your pride in representing the State Emergency Service was obvious for all to see".

He then outlined the number of SES volunteers in South Australia and their role, together with that of supporting other emergency



service organisations.

He then said: "Today marks an important day in the calendar for members of the SES, and indeed all South Australians to extend their appreciation and gratitude.

We simply could not do without our SES volunteers."

The Minister then summarised the number of tasks responded to so far this year and cited examples of the April storm and damaging winds in September.

He then provided additional information on the recently approved SES Long Service Medal for 10 years service. Recipients will then receive a bar or clasp for every additional 10 years service, bringing South Australia into line with other interstate SES agencies.

The Minister then acknowledged the significant support provided by both families and employers.

He concluded his speech by saying: "You really are a unique group of people who are committed to putting other people first and doing all you can to protect life and property.

On behalf of the government, I would like to thank you for inviting me to share, with you, this special day.

You should be proud to be a part of this parade, which will remind the public that you are there to assist them in times of need.

I wish you all well for the coming year of continued service to our community."

Warren Hicks then announced the 2008 recipient of the Keith Lane Award, Keith Smith, and the awarding of honorary life membership to Keith and Noel Hodges (refer separate story).

Stuart Macleod wound up the formalities, and asked all to assemble for a group photograph before enjoying a sausage sizzle provided by the Salvation Army Emergency Services catering arm.

SES WEEK ACTIVITIES

To launch SES week in the City, members from Tea Tree Gully and Sturt Units showcased several of their skills in Rundle Mall on Sunday 9th November 2008. A recruitment drive was also undertaken by VSA, Andrea Haig, while Arno Attema of Enfield Unit took a detailed photographic record of the activities.

Demonstrations included a vertical rescue exercise from the roof of the Rundle Mall Plaza building (the old David Jones building) with its slippery granite surface, heavy lifting where a person was rescued from under a concrete block and then completing a rescue in a confined space, where the crew in breathing apparatus used a perspex prop as a simulated collapsed building.

While around the State, activities included a "Come and Try" day for Tumby Bay SES Unit at the Lions Park Foreshore as a function for this year's SES Week, after holding a very successful one last year resulting in three new volunteers.

Tumby Bay decided to repeat this format again this year. The day was open to the general public with the aim that they could come along and meet with the local SES Unit and find out what they were about. The day started at 10.00a.m. and finished at 3.00p.m.

Visitors were able to see rescue equipment in operation by the local members and then they were invited to try if they wished. Tasks included rope work, stretcher lashing, hydraulic equipment, welfare and marine operations.

The Unit handed out promotional materials and emergency contact information. The Unit's rescue truck was on display and created much interest.

Everyone was invited to a free sausage sizzle. The weather was perfect and everyone appeared to enjoy themselves. The Unit gained one new member.

Burra Unit held a display in the main street, as did Berri Unit in the Riverland Plaza.

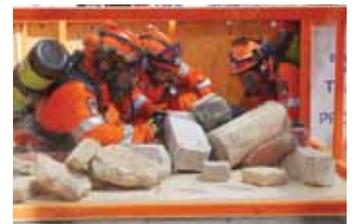
Port Lincoln also decided on a sausage sizzle and used the aroma of sausages and onion as an enticement for potential volunteers, while also having one of their vehicles and equipment on display.



Checking breathing apparatus for the confined space rescue.



Confined space rescue.



Surveying the scene from the roof of Rundle Mall Plaza.



Vertical rescue Rundle Mall Plaza.



Heavy lifting demonstration Rundle Mall.



Port Lincoln's sausage sizzle and display.



Tumby Bay's "Come and Try Day".



WE NEED MORE NEW MEMBERS

When nature's at its worst, and/or your Unit has been operational for an extended period of time the thought suddenly goes through your head that you need a few more people to help out. It is then that you realise "We need to do some recruiting!"

"How should we go about it?" you may well yourself.

When thinking about a recruitment plan you may need to firstly decide what roles do you need. Is it Rescue Crew or is it Operational Support Personnel?

There may also be a need for people to help around the Unit. A little creative thinking may identify some other positions that would ease the load of your existing volunteers.

Is there a person who would be willing to contribute by coming in and keeping the place clean and tidy?

Is there somebody in your community who may be interested in maintaining your grounds?

An office assistant maybe?

A Public Relations person?

As a first step you should phone your Volunteer Support Officer, as Volunteer Management Branch has a variety of presentations that can assist with recruitment. Remember, you can contact your Volunteer Support Officer through your SES Regional Office.

Volunteers are the SASES's most valuable asset, giving their time and effort to the community while asking for very little in return.

Let's have a quick look at some of the reasons why these people may want to volunteer at your Unit:

- Help the community
- Utilise untapped skills
- Learn new skills
- Build self confidence
- Do satisfying work
- Meet new challenges
- Enhanced responsibilities
- Gain experience in different roles

- Have fun and make new friends

In return we need, as an organisation, to be able to satisfy a few of their needs as well as providing the appropriate environment. Can your Unit do this?

Here is my suggested checklist developed from assessing needs at various levels over the years:

- Provide a safe work place (Remember Equal Opportunity and Occupational Health and Safety Legislations apply to volunteers as well)
- Provide adequate supervision and support
- Supply appropriate tools including equipment, materials, space with the appropriate training
- Acknowledge the need for reasonable hours
- Never exploit recruits
- Have coffee, tea or spring water available at your Unit
- Reimbursement for expenses (as deemed reasonable)
- Provide appropriate orientation and training
- A suitable job (matched to skill set)
- Have job descriptions for all roles
- Explain how each job fits into the operation of the Unit
- Knowledge of the organisation and its role in the community
- Even as a volunteer potential for advancement
- Freedom to change job role if not satisfied
- And lastly and most importantly is recognition for their efforts

If your Unit can satisfy the needs and desires of its Volunteers, your Unit will increase in size while retaining existing members. The number one reason that volunteers leave is ... it's no longer fun.

Let's make it enjoyable!
Happy Recruiting.

David Baker
Volunteer Support Officer

NEW ROLE FOR OLD BARRACKS



ABOVE: Members of Port Lincoln Rotary and Apex Clubs and State Emergency Service members get the old police barracks on the road to its new role as the centre for emergency services.

GORDON HARTLEY REMINISCES ON HARTLEY'S HEROES (1978-1984)

As we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Port Lincoln Unit State Emergency Service.

A public meeting was called by the Mayor of Port Lincoln, Mr G.R. Davey, on Friday 17th November 1978, commencing at 8.00pm in the Port Lincoln Civic Hall Supper Room.

Present were His Worship the Mayor, Mr G.R. Davey in the chair, Ern Aston, Director, State Emergency Service, Brian Lancaster, Staff Officer, Inspector Graham Fields, K.G. Lindsay, the Town Clerk, R.S. Trevor, the Assistant Clerk and L.S. Perry, the Works Manager. There were also 54 other interested members of the community in attendance and 12 apologies were received. All present were asked, if interested in joining the proposed Unit, to register their names.

Gordon Hartley was nominated as the Controller of the Port Lincoln Unit, and the Unit became known as "Hartley's Heroes" throughout the region.

The officers of the Unit, who were appointed by the Controller comprised:

- Bob Cooke, Deputy Controller
- Lesley Watts, Administration Officer
- Robert Pycroft, Training / Rescue Officer

The Unit met and trained at the Civic Hall Supper Room on Thursday evenings.

Darion Stringer was appointed Regional Officer, a full-time paid position, stationed at Port Augusta and with an area covering 1.3 million square miles. He also helped with training, obtaining equipment, and in assisting the West Coast Units to get up and running.

I am sure we would never have achieved our 30 years without his initial support, thank you Darion.

The Unit's first vehicle was a two-wheel trailer, built in the Civil Defence days and transferred from Petersburg. That vehicle served as a rescue trailer for years. An adjustable lighting tower was subsequently built on it and then a generator was fitted in the trailer, and this generator is still in use today.

In those early days, we had to tow the trailer with our own private vehicles.

The Unit budget of \$5,000 comprised a \$2,500 State Government grant and \$2,500 from the Local Council.

For communications we were given our first radios, three 27Mhz hand-held CB's. We thought it was Christmas. Then we had to learn how to use them.

With the support of the police, and in particular, Inspector Graham Fields, we were able to lodge a bid for the old Police Barracks in Washington Street. Being successful, we then needed a site to erect the building on, and one of the prerequisites was that it required good radio coverage and had to be located outside all possible disaster areas, eg. the grain silos, fuel storage tanks etc. The present site at Les Watts Road was chosen. It was a dense shrub block that Council owned and had to be cleared and levelled, work which Council agreed to carry out.

The old Police Barracks were situated in the centre of the shopping area and now we had the job of relocating them over 2 kilometres to the new site. First, we had to have them lifted onto a low loader. This meant disconnecting all services, water, electricity and telephones,



South Australian State Emergency Service
 Police Barracks
 Thebarton
 South Australia 5031

21st September 1978

Town Clerk, Corporation of Pt. Lincoln
 Box 127, P.O.
 PT. LINCOLN 5606

Dear Sir

In response to our telephone conversation of 18th September; and your request for information on the setting up of a local State Emergency service I advise as follows:
 The State Emergency Service in South Australia is a volunteer organisation. The formal structure (outline) within the state consists of:

- (a) State Headquarters
- (b) Units (autonomous) raised at Local Government level (each under a Local Controller) and sponsored by the Local Council. Membership is voluntary and members receive no pay or remuneration.

In essence it is directed at providing the means for organising training and co-ordinating the volunteer element of the community to give support to the local authorities in emergencies.

The functions of the Service are:

- The registration of voluntary groups and associations.
- The co-ordination of members of the public (including volunteers and members of volunteer groups), material and resources for counter disaster purposes.
- The promotion of, and assistance with counter disaster planning by volunteer groups.
- The education and training of members of the public (including volunteers and members of voluntary groups) for counter disaster purposes.
- The provision of public information programmes.
- Civil Defence programmes affecting the civilian population. As a basis for training and operations, and expansion.
- Reconnaissance service.
- Rescue service.
- Communications service.
- Welfare service.
- Monitoring service.
- First Aid service.

State Headquarters administers support programmes directed at providing assistance to the Local Government Authorities sponsoring units. The programme items are:

- A State Government subsidy on a dollar for dollar basis to a maximum annual contribution of \$2,500.
- Provision of emergency equipment (under the Department of Defence - Natural Disasters Organisation support programme).
- The training of volunteer and professional members at the Australian Counter Disaster College, Mount Macedon, Victoria. Costs associated with travel and accommodation at the College are met by the Department of Defence.

More detail concerning the service is contained in the document "Responsibilities and Structure of the SES" annexed.

I strongly support your Council's proposal to set up a Local Organisation to deal with emergency situations.

I would point out that in emergency / disaster situations the Police are the approved co-ordinating authority at all levels, and therefore should be involved in local planning.

I would be pleased to attend the proposed meeting of local instrumentalities, organisations and services and will communicate directly with you on this aspect.

Yours faithfully

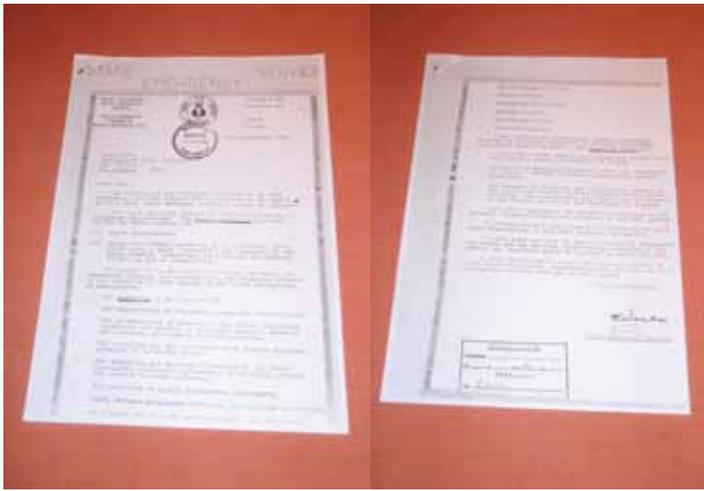
E ASTON,
 Director
 State Emergency Service

then smashing the floor in the wet areas, cutting the building from its foundation and, as we then found it was too long to shift in one lift, we had to cut in two halves, then it was jacked up high enough to place the trailer under it.

All this work was done by volunteers from the Rotary Club, Apex Club, Amateur Radio Club and the Unit members.

After three weeks, it was ready for the shift and repositioning on the new site. Then came the job of restoring the building and services. In the meantime, the Lions Club assisted by erecting the vehicle shed which had been donated by the District Council of Port Lincoln, now the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula, and they also erected a perimeter fence.

The City Council applied for a grant to relocate the building from E.M.A. on a 50/50 basis and was successful in obtaining it. Many hours of volunteer labor was forthcoming to see this project through to fruition, and a special thanks went and still goes to all service clubs for their support.



The building was ready to be officially declared open on December 2, 1979, by the Director General of the Australian Natural Disaster Organisation, Rear Admiral Swan.

A parade was held comprising members of SES Units from Tumbly Bay and Cummins as well as Port Lincoln, supported by the St. John Ambulance Service, Navel Reserve Cadets and the police.

Now the Unit started training in earnest, for light and heavy rescue, search and rescue, cliff rescue, map reading and welfare training.

During the Tunarama weekend of February 3, 1980, the Rotary Club of Port Lincoln donated a second-hand Toyota Land Cruiser to the Unit. This was our first motor vehicle. Our second motor vehicle was made available through a grant from the Federal Government, and we received it in April 1980.

Also, that same year, we decided to carry out sea rescue operations and trained using Unit members' own boats. We are thankful to those members, namely, Adrian Polomka and Trevor Hombsch. After carrying out numerous sea rescue operations, and as Port Lincoln has the biggest fishing fleet in the southern hemisphere, it was agreed the Unit needed its own boat.

After a lot of research and from the advice provided, it was decided to purchase a 25ft aluminum Star Craft powered by a diesel inboard motor. The cost was \$25,000 including a trailer, and then we wondered how were we actually going to purchase this boat. Out came the bingo tickets. We placed them in numerous shops who had agreed to sell them, held raffles in Woolworths and went to the bank to see if we could obtain a cheap loan, The National Australia Bank came to our assistance with \$10,000. We then applied for a State Government grant for vehicles through the Local Council, approached our local fishermen, Boat Suppliers, the local boating business, and the public.

The new boat was ordered and fitted out to our specifications. All the electrical and electronic equipment was fitted by Bill Berkhuisen a volunteer member, again saving us a lot of money. The boat was named "City of Port Lincoln" and launched by Mrs Angela Bannon, wife of the Premier.

I can also remember in the early days of weekend training, we had to go out and bunny bash on the Friday nights, then skin and cook the rabbits to make a stew, and then sleep on the hard depot floors in sleeping bags. Nowadays, it's motels.

I can say from the commencement of the Unit in November 1978 until January 1984, there was big growth and expenditure, plus the necessary fundraising in the birth of the Port Lincoln Unit; remember in the 1980s \$20,000 was a huge amount of money, yet we paid the boat loan off in three years. Today, the Emergency Service Levy is supposed to meet our capital and operational needs.

I left the Unit in January 1984 to become the first Regional Officer for Eyre Peninsula.

Without the support of officers, volunteers and their families, plus that of the community and service clubs, we could not have achieved this 30-year milestone.

For many, it will be sad to see the Unit shift from its present location in 2009 -2010, to its new state-of-the-art premises in Matthew Place. But then that's progress.

The 30-year celebrations will be held on Saturday, January 31, 2009, commencing at 2pm with the official naming and handover of the new rescue boat, by the Hon Michael Wright MP, Minister for Emergency Services, followed by a dinner that evening. On Sunday 1st February, an open day will be held at the Unit on Les Watts Drive with a BBQ lunch and storytelling of those old times.

Past and present members and families are most welcome to join us. To assist with catering, please let Port Lincoln Unit know if you will be attending by either telephoning 0427 794 588 or emailing pt_lincoln@ses-sa.org.au

Gordon Hartley ESM



VALE JACK MARTIN

Western Operations Coordination Unit has lost its oldest SES member in John Joseph (Jack) Martin. He will also be sadly missed by the community of Port Lincoln.

JACK WAS BORN ON THE 17TH MARCH 1920 AND DIED ON THE 20TH AUGUST 2008, AGED 88 YEARS. HERE IS A MAN WHO PLAYED AN INTEGRAL ROLE IN THE START OF MANY THINGS.

Jack's working career started as a cadet with the Adelaide Electric Supply, and then he enlisted in June 1940 with the 7th Signals as a wireless operator. He served in the Middle East in Syria, then in the Pacific and on the Kokoda trail campaign.

After the war, Jack resumed with the Adelaide Electric Supply and then went to work with the Post Master General's Department as a Radio Technician in the Transmission Laboratory. He passed his Broadcast Senior Technician exam, and became involved in building the equipment used.

For the first channel from Alice to Darwin, he returned to Port Lincoln and took up the role as Senior Technician with the ABC.

His other achievements were as an engineer with Phillips, where he was sent to install radio equipment in Sarawak, and then Nuremberg Germany. He was then Manager of Kent Instruments prior to having a period where he operated a caravan business from 1974 till

1985 when he returned to work again as a Technician with Radio 5CC, a position he held until 1999. He then undertook some preliminary field work for the new FM radio station.

When television first commenced, Jack was associated with the first broadcast from Sydney to Melbourne.

Besides his working roles, Jack's community involvement was also extensive, being involved with many community organisations; he was also a Justice of the Peace; for ten years was the local District Governor of Lions International and Life member of LEPSH and the Port Lincoln sub branch of the R.S.L. where he was president until 2007. He was also a Scout Master, and he started up the Lower Eyre Peninsula Amateur Radio Club, holding the position of secretary until his death.

Jack always reminded us all how amateur radio was the only form of communication that got a message out of Darwin re Cyclone Tracy and he was the person who



received the first message after the cyclone hit.

His State Emergency Service involvement stemmed from 1978, when he attended the first public meeting. With his

radio background, Jack was involved with the choosing of the current site for all round communications. Then with his fellow Amateur Radio Club members, helped dismantle the old single men's quarters disconnecting the electricity etc., and re-assembling the quarters on the new SES site.

After it was decided to start up the Eyre Headquarters Unit, Jack was approached to see if the Radio Club members would join with us and then let us use their building. Jack then became more involved with the SES.

The amateur radio boys are our special radio operators and are involved with EPERB tracking and attend meetings and train with us.

Gordon Hartley, Unit Manager, said that Jack was an inspiring mentor and a good friend. He will be sadly missed by both the SES and the community of Port Lincoln.

Gordon Hartley

15 September 2008

North East Local Service Area
PO Box 56, Port Pirie, SA 5540

Gerry Habils
SES Acting Regional Manager North Region
PO Box 483, SA 5540

Dear Gerry,

I write to thank your members for their excellent effort and assistance they provided to Port Pirie Police with the boating accident, search and recovery operation that occurred on Wednesday/Thursday, September 3-4, 2008.

The circumstances of this operation are that at about 2340 hours on Wednesday 3 September 2008, Port Pirie Police were advised of an overdue boat which had last been seen at the Port Pirie Boat Ramp at 1730 hours. Further information was that debris from the missing boat was located floating in the Port Pirie River channel and also at Channel Marker 44. The boat was subsequently located on the sea bed near Channel Marker 44. This operation initially resulted in a land and sea search for the missing person involving SES volunteers, Nyrstar security staff, local police, police SARMC, Rescue Helicopter and Marine safety officers. Unfortunately, the sole occupant of the boat was located deceased by the police divers in the cockpit of his sunken boat.

SES resources led by SES Operations Manager Sindy McCourt were deployed on the night as the primary searches to assist with the search for the missing person and later assisted police divers in the recovery operation. Deployed were the Port Pirie SES rescue boat, inflatable boat and quad bikes staffed by SES crews from Port Pirie, Port Augusta and Port Broughton. Port Pirie SES also provided members to manage communications between forward command and searchers in the field. I was impressed with the enthusiasm and cooperation of SES volunteers in responding to both the search and assistance with the boat recovery. This is particularly so when considering some of the challenges posed through having to search relatively inaccessible mangrove areas by both sea and land.

Police divers have also asked me to convey their gratitude to those members who assisted them with the recovery of the boat, debris and deceased and also with ensuring a safe work area for the diving recovery operation to take place.

On behalf of the North East Police Local Service Area, I would like to express our thanks for the fantastic effort and expertise provided by these willing and able volunteers. South Australia Police recognises that without this valuable interagency support, the high level of service that is delivered to the community in these types of situations would not be possible.

It would be appreciated if you would pass on my gratitude and appreciation to all of those members of the SES units who were involved. We look forward to our continued association and cooperation.

Yours sincerely

Steve Kameniar
Inspector 2700/9
A/Officer in Charge
North East LSA

30 September 2008

Mr Robert Charlton
State Emergency Service
Regional Commander – West Region
PO Box 2057, Port Lincoln SA 5606

Dear Mr Charlton,

On behalf of the APA Group which manages and maintains Envestra's Whyalla natural gas networks, I wish to convey our thanks for the understanding and support from yourself and local Emergency Services staff and volunteers during and following last May's disruption to natural gas supplies in Whyalla.

It was an unwelcome inconvenience for many gas consumers, organizations and individuals involved in the restoration of gas supply. However, it was a great example of a community pulling together, along with the help that came from other parts of the Spencer Gulf Cities region and further afield in Adelaide.

Now that the dust has settled, I want to pass on the thanks of the APA Group and our employees to you for both your individual assistance and support and the support of State Emergency Service staff and volunteers at both a strategic and "in-field" level in what was a difficult and trying situation. We appreciated the response, professionalism, patience and understanding of you and the people from your organization in helping APA deal with the problem.

The shut-down and safe turn-on of more than 3,300 premises by APA staff would not have happened as quickly as it did without the magnificent efforts of State Emergency Services, police, local emergency service volunteers, State Government departments, the Whyalla Council, community groups, local plumbers and media.

For everyone involved, it provided a wonderful example of what can be achieved with teamwork and patience when a serious problem arises.

My sincere thanks,
Yours truly

Mick McCormack
Managing Director



WORK SAFE – PLAY SAFE – HOME SAFE

On Sunday, October 12, Enfield SES Unit mounted a static display of rescue and safety equipment that SES uses for both training and then operational role at the Transfield Services theme day for families and employees at Broadspectrum Oval (West Adelaide), as a part of the company’s ongoing commitment to the environment, health and safety.

Enfield Unit has been attending the Health Safety and Environmental (HSE) theme days for a number of years, and Unit members look forward to the event and appreciate the positive feedback provided from the families attending on the day.

The Organisers conduct a “yellow brick road” with all attending receiving an empty showbag at the gate and a sheet of where to go to collect their “goodies” from and get their sheet stamped. This way all the families attending visit all the Health, Safety and Environment display stands in turn and have a look at the displays while talking with the people at each display.

Other exhibitors in attendance represented areas including personal health, protective equipment, recycling, Life Be In It etc and then of course there were some fun activities and rides for the children.

This year the SES was supplied with 450 sports hand towels with the Company logo and HSE theme on them to hand out to the families; last year we had water bottles. All “showbag” items are supplied by Transfield during the setup in the morning, so there are no expenses for exhibitors attending on the day.

Whist the day was hot, it didn’t deter the crowd of four hundred plus and Transfield ensured that there were plenty of free drinks etc on supply all day for both the families and exhibitors in attendance.

Pictured are the SES display tent just before opening time, and Karen Shippen, an Enfield Unit member (and friend), modelling her new style “air cushioned” safety headwear that warns you when you get too close by exploding!

Arno Attema
Enfield Unit



AROUND THE UNITS – RIVERLAND RIVERLAND SKILLS CHALLENGE

The Riverland Skills Challenge was held at the recent Riverland Field Days. The Skills Challenge was held in a large Marquee and consisted of demonstrations and displays by various organisations who are involved in training. A display was set up by David Baker, VSO, for the SES and CFS. The display showcased the training delivered to Emergency Service volunteers, how it will benefit them, their

careers and even provides another dimension to their resumes. Information was also available to employers and potential employers of Emergency Service Volunteers, outlining ways to assist them to manage the release of volunteers during times of need in their local community. A volunteer from both the SES and CFS, assisted David with the set up and then in manning the stand.

RIVERLAND FIELD DAYS

Hi, my name is Daniel Schulz from Loxton SES Unit. I am currently in Year 11 at Loxton High School in the Riverland. I was asked by David Baker our VSO to participate in the SES Recruiting stand at the Riverland Field Days. Promoting volunteering in the SES was a new experience for myself, and I enjoyed every minute of it.



Talking to the public about what the SES is about, what we do as an organisation and how they could become involved was great. It was inspiring to see the many people who were motivated about

joining the SES and helping the community in which they live. I have always had an interest in the emergency services in general, and have found the SES a great service to develop skills in this field of work. I am very passionate about helping the people of our community by giving something back.

I am a very proud member of the SES, and thoroughly enjoy training and getting involved in the many different areas of the organisation. I found it easy to encourage others to join the service and live the amazing experience which the State Emergency Service is already providing me with.

Daniel Schulz
Loxton SES Unit



A new style of recruitment banner is now available for SES Units to use, featuring the faces of our volunteers. Volunteer Management Branch successfully obtained a grant from Emergency Management Australia and immediately set about designing some new recruitment equipment that was both modern and eye catching.

The horizontal banner features an area that can be written on with whiteboard markers. This allows SES Units to add their personalised local contact details. There is also a vertical pull-up style banner that can be used both inside or out (weather permitting). The "A" frame display boards can also be written on.

Did I hear you say "Who do I borrow these items from?"

This new equipment is available via your regional Volunteer Support Officer. So contact your VSO or give your SES Regional Office a call to arrange for a loan. Two full sets are held in each SES Region.

Merise Adamson

MURRAY BRIDGE SHOW

On September 25th and 26th, the Murray Bridge SES Unit attended the local show to raise awareness of the service to the community. Unit members elected to be part of the “Show Organising Committee”, including some of our newer members and three working sessions were held before the event to gather P.R. tools such as showbags, a unit photo display board and rescue equipment. Seven members volunteered on each day and promoted the service by giving away showbags, tattoos and balloons. The first day dawned hot and windy, making conditions hard for those on duty. We also assisted with three first aid treatments compliments of having our back pack first aid kit on display. We had so many people come through our site that by mid morning on the first day I had to get more supplies, buying every orange balloon in town. Of course, I did the mandatory Iced Coffee run at the same time! The onboard air compressor was invaluable blowing up around 700 balloons over the two days. Nearly every child we could see was wandering around with an orange balloon in their hands and those without them approached us asking for one!

The rescue truck took part in the Grand Parade which was a highlight of the day for our Unit Manager who was in the driver’s seat.

I was in attendance again on the Sunday when the weather was milder. Having learnt our lessons the previous day, those ‘if only we had’ items were added to the caravan’s load of promotional material and the display set up was far quicker. Numbers were lower than the previous day, but there was still a constant trickle of people through our site. There was a lot of interest in the “Jaws of Life” and other equipment we carry, with many people looking through the vehicle. Some of the children got to operate the “red & blues” and a lucky few even got to quickly turn the siren on. The smiles on their faces were priceless.

We also ventured down sideshow alley handing out balloons and there was a sea of orange by the time we’d finished. Much of our promotional material was picked up and we found children were very interested in learning how to look after their pets in an emergency.

Three of us managed to brighten up the wildest ride at the show, in our SES orange, as we fulfilled a dare from other unit members. We also had to provide photo evidence. Daniel decided that someone needed to hold hats, sunglasses and take pictures, thus managing to keep his feet on solid ground.

It was a great bonding experience for those who attended. We had a bit of fun, lots of talks & buckets of fairy floss. Involving the newer members in the planning of the event provided them with great experience, learning and also brought new ideas to the table. We also learnt more about each other, having a good mix of old and newer members in attendance on each day. Discussions have already been held on the possibilities and improvements for next year and I will be volunteering to be on duty again.

We need to thank Dave Baker for helping out with display boards and banners and South Coast Unit for the loan of their P.R. Caravan. Without their caravan, we would have melted on the first day and not been able to provide cold drinks to members in attendance. The ‘show crew’ deserves special attention for their hard work, along with the members who volunteered over the two days. As well as making the community more aware of the service we provide to them, a number of people expressed interest in learning more about what we do.

Carmal Foster

Administration Officer / Rescue Team Leader
Murray Bridge SES



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**