

# FRONTLINE

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

❖ KEITH LANE AWARD ❖ WEST UMAG ❖ NOARLUNGA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS  
❖ FLOODSAFE ❖ YORKE PENINSULA FIELD DAYS ❖ SES ANNUAL PARADE



**DECEMBER 2009**

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## ON THE COVER

This year's Keith Lane Award winner, Brian McCourt.

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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

WARREN HICKS

**THE FESTIVE SEASON IS UPON US AND THAT MEANS THAT MANY UNITS ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO A QUIET TIME OVER THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR BREAK, AWAY FROM TRAINING COMMITMENTS.** Callouts go on no matter what the season. This point was reinforced to the public through this year's SES Week promotional poster with "They volunteer 24/7". A point often overlooked by the public and the media.

Hence the importance of a National SES Week, it is our opportunity to show the public what we can do and remind them that we are in fact volunteers. These events need to be local as you are trying to highlight what your unit does to help your community; sure a little more publicity at a State level would not go astray. But advertising campaigns cost lots of money and any publicity agent worth their salt will tell you that you need to target your audience to have the best result. There lies the problem with such a diverse service, one advertisement is not going to fit the promotional needs of every unit. So that's why I think it is important that every unit does what it can to promote itself, especially during SES Week.

In Adelaide, SES Week means the Annual Parade through the streets of the city. This year, as with the past couple of years, the parade has been held on a Saturday morning in an effort to get as many volunteers and their families and friends to help promote what the SES does. This move of days, from a public relations point of view has not been as successful as some people would have liked. But every year we try something new and are getting better. I should point out that the Association no longer has sole responsibility for the running of the parade, for that last couple of parades, it has been done as a joint project with State Headquarters staff. A lot of time and effort goes into the organization of the day, but you never know to the last minute how many units and volunteers are going to show up. Every year I am amazed at the number of country units who make the effort to be here for the parade, some travelling considerable distances. I would like to acknowledge and thank them and the paid staff for their commitment to the day.

**“ EVERY YEAR I AM AMAZED AT THE NUMBER OF COUNTRY UNITS WHO MAKE THE EFFORT TO BE HERE FOR THE PARADE, SOME TRAVELLING CONSIDERABLE DISTANCES. I WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THEM AND THE PAID STAFF FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE DAY.**

These days all things have a review and the Association has already had discussions with Stuart on how the parade could be improved. Such as more presentations of awards, changing the time, day, route and location of the parade to ensure the parade continues. It has established itself as an important part of SES Week and needs to continue.

The parade also means the announcement of this year's winner of the Keith Lane Memorial award. This year the award went to Brian McCourt, Unit Manager of the Hawker unit. While working at Port Augusta there were many times that I worked with Brian, so I know how committed and passionate about the service he is. I know he was surprised to win but he was more surprised to find out that he not only received a trophy but prize money as well. The Association will take nominations for the award at any time, they need to be in writing and highlight why you think this person has gone above and beyond what would be expected of a volunteer through out the year.

The Association also took the opportunity to hold its Annual General Meeting after the parade and you can read my report to the committee elsewhere in this edition of *Frontline*.

One thing that was discussed was the need to develop a register of people who have the skills and abilities to sit on a number of different committees and working groups that are formed to discuss various issues that may impact on volunteers. It is a great opportunity to get your message across, so if you can find the time and are interested, please let us know.

I think it is important to remember that the Association is about volunteers looking after the needs of volunteers and to remind people that volunteering does not mean slavery and you can do what you like with volunteers.

On that note I would like to remind everyone that the festive season is all about spending time with family and friends. I hope that during this time you will be able to devote your attention to your families rather than responding to callouts. After all, family is supposed to come first.

Stay Safe.

# CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

STUART MACLEOD

**IT'S GOING TO BE A VERY LONG, VERY HOT, AND VERY BUSY**

**SUMMER.** Today, the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, SASES has just issued a media release advising everyone that the State is standing down from an extreme heat event that has lasted more than 10 days. During that event, we moved through the three stages of the coordination plan in close company with all services but particularly with Health and Families & Communities. The actual work output has been restricted to a few State HQ staff working their tails off, but the profile and image outcome for the SES has been fantastic. No one is in any doubt that the SES is the Hazard Leader and Control Agency for extreme weather, and that we have coordinated and managed the extreme heat campaign very effectively.

The event broke all the records. A heat wave in Adelaide in November may have happened once before in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, although there seems to be some dispute about that fact. Certainly the 43 degree day (in Adelaide) we experienced yesterday was unprecedented, and hammered home the harsh reality of climate change to all the doubters in the community. For the first time, South Australia proclaimed catastrophic fire risks, and the CFS has responded to more than 130 fires in 24 hours. As I write this, three significant fires are still running albeit with conditions cooling down and the promise of some rain very soon. SASES has responded to more than 50 tasks across the state, mostly involving trees failing under the strong wind gusts as the thunderstorms rolled through the state.

Pausing for a reality check, this is November. This is spring, and we have months of our South Australian summer still to come. The motto of the clan Macleod is "Hold Fast", and that is precisely what I look to all SASES members to do. Hold fast with your communities to protect them, with your own teams to work together and look after each other and hold fast with our sisters and brothers in the CFS as they take the operational front line.

Back at the start of our heat wave issues, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> of November was a very hot and dry day, and SES volunteers hit the streets of Adelaide in the SASESVA & SASES annual parade. This was another great PR activity, promoting SES volunteers and the critical roles that they play in the South Australian

community. I was honoured to take the salute on King William Road with His Excellency the Governor of South Australia Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and the Hon Michael Wright MP, the Minister for Emergency Services. The Chief Officers of all the emergency services were there, as were Mr Mark Goldsworthy MP representing the Leader of the Opposition and Councillor David Plumridge representing the Lord Mayor. Talking to all of our guests at the parade, I was very pleased with the high esteem in which they hold the SES and our volunteers. His Excellency, the



Chris Rendell (left) and Stuart Macleod abseiling down the wall of Adelaide High School on 26 February 1977.

Governor, spoke very highly of the spirit of volunteering and service in SES, and the Minister praised SES volunteers and thanked them on behalf of the Government and the community.

I too will add my thanks to all of the members of this dedicated and committed SES. I believe that this Service is very special in the manner in which its members, volunteers and paid, serve above and beyond the call of duty and protect the community. No where else in the world is the volunteering and serving spirit so strong or so critical, and for that everyone should be grateful.

Take care and hold fast as we head towards summer. Try to get a break for Christmas and spend time with your families and friends. Don't forget to thank them and appreciate the sacrifices they make to enable you to serve.

# Insight

**Water is trouble**  
by the bucket

Mike Smithson on  
testing times ahead

PAGE 74

## When the me the hot shot

As the state swelters, Stuart Macleod is the man in charge of keeping South Australians safe - and alive. He spoke to **BRAD CROUCH**

**W**HEN the heat is on, South Australia's hot weather overlord works overtime. Stuart Macleod has a pretty simple aim when the mercury rises - to ensure everyone survives extreme weather events like the record heatwave we are now enduring.

With a faint Scottish brogue and a dinkum determination, Mr Macleod, chief officer of the State Emergency Service, is overseeing a focused new approach to dealing with horrendous heat events.

The changes date back to the terrible heat wave of late January-early February, when a wave of deaths was blamed on the heat and Premier Mike Rann called on the community to invoke the Anzac spirit to look after each other, particularly the elderly.

In an era framed by fears of climate change, that heatwave was a huge wake-up call.

There had been conflicting messages to the public - lack of communication; missed opportunities; an absence of overall co-ordination between agencies ranging from fire and ambulance services through to health, transport, power and water utilities, even on-the-ground groups like home nursing and Meals on Wheels.

While departments such as Health and Families and Communities Services were well geared to deal with heatwaves, there was no overlord.

The reaction from government was a little clumsy. Even the hasty announcements on Saturday, January 31 - when the heat was most extreme - about huge efforts to help people masked the reality that some public servants who would be doing the work were not actually working that sweltering weekend.

However, the lesson was learned. The Emergency Management Council, comprising major government agencies swung into action, ordering an overarching co-ordination scheme.

Because the SES is responsible for dealing with extreme weather events, it was given the task of becoming the overarching agency to co-ordinate a whole-of-government response to extreme heat.

And as SES boss, Mr Macleod became SA's heat tsar. The nickname might sound grand, but it means he has responsibility for lives.

If people die in this heatwave or the next - and there will be another - Mr Macleod will be the one answering to the Coroner, the Premier, to grieving families and the community as a whole.

"I think we have saved lives in this heatwave, and touch wood, that will con-



**HEAT VICTIMS**  
extreme heat  
75-year-old

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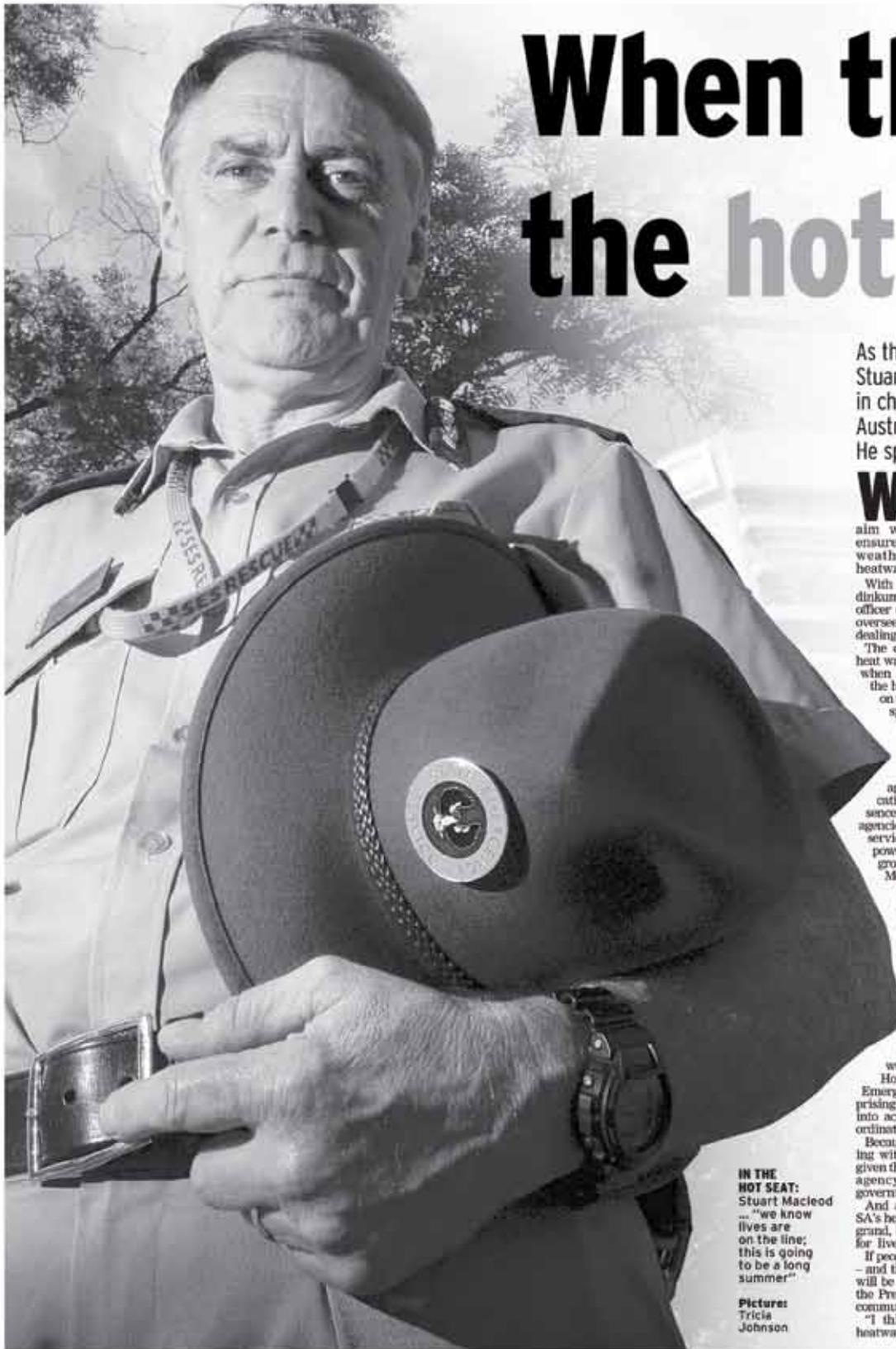
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**IN THE  
HOT SEAT:**  
Stuart Macleod  
... "we know  
lives are  
on the line;  
this is going  
to be a long  
summer"

**Pictures:**  
Tricia  
Johnson



**Most fashionable movies of all**

We chart the big screen's best styles

PAGE 72-73



**Street gangs of Adelaide**

What you have to say about them

LETTERS, PAGES 76-77



# Mercury's soaring, this is you hope is on the boil



A distressed woman is taken to Royal Adelaide Hospital during the heatwave in January. RIGHT: One of those who died during the heatwave, Clarence Todd, whose caravan at Balaklava was reported to be stifling



...e case," he said. "You never yourself but we know lives e. This is going to be a long. we want to keep people alive

...uary heatwave unfolded, the working with all other players all agencies were talking and each put in place were coo

...ged from monitoring elec- es and dealing with train- ing in the heat, through to the asking people to check on especially the elderly and io sure they were staying

...message revealed the best and outh Australia - from young ling suburban streets giving to neighbours they had never e workers finding dozens of with their air conditioners he "heat" setting.

...literally cooking themselves e had told them how to work es.

...more elderly people were uldcing messages - for ing their air conditioners off e government agencies were to save power.

...ad closed up in houses in the ead of opening doors and welcome cooling breezes. es now talking to each other problems were identified and e were grabbed.

...cept that going every since,

...acting as co-ordinator and broker," Mr Macleod said.

"We work with a key stakeholder group of about 14 people representing agencies such as Health, Families, NGOs, Red Cross and so on.

"In this situation, the SES really has four functions.

"One is to bring together all players and make sure it happens. The second is to make sure we are all talking together on the same sheet of music.

"The third is to make sure public information is flowing out, so the public is being told what to do, how to look after themselves, their family and friends, and neigh-

...hours." The fourth function suggests being a heat tsar does not automatically mean building an empire.

"We are going to get a fire in extreme heat - we have to make sure we are dynamic and flexible and able to stay out of the way of Country Fire Service messages of importance," Mr Macleod said. "While we know the risk to individuals is high in a heatwave, the immediate threat is fire - we have to avoid confusion. We might have to back off a bit and make sure the CFS gets its messages across." Mr

...Macleod emphasises the new system is under constant review, to see how it can be improved. But so far, so good. There have been no deaths reported so far directly blamed on the heat.

Part of this may be due to lessons the public learned after the January-February scorcher. While this heatwave is unseasonably early, many people remember the simple lessons of last time - keep the house cool, stay hydrated, use the air conditioner, check on relatives and neighbours, take special care with children, make sure pets have shade and water. The new system of dealing with extreme heat involves much more than Mr Macleod

...looking out of his city office window and deciding it is going to be a hot day.

The SES has taken advice from technical specialists in agencies such as Health to determine at what temperatures people start to suffer and that something needs to be done.

Based on this, this year the Bureau of Meteorology designed a new product for the SES, advising what average temperatures are going to be in three days' time, with certain temperature forecasts triggering warnings.

...The term "average temperature" is important. It is calculated by adding the maximum day-time temperature with the minimum night-time temperature then dividing by two.

For example, a day reaching 30C and a night falling to 20C results in an average of 25C. The key to this is if the night does not offer any cooling relief, the heat hazard rises significantly.

"The health advice we have been given is it is not the maximum temperature during the day that gets you, it is the fact it doesn't cool down at night," Mr Macleod said.

"The advice is if it is still hot at night, people don't bounce back - there is no recovery."

The new heatwave warning system has three trigger points, Mr Macleod explained.

"When the bureau tells us that in three days' time we will commence a consecutive run of three days with average daily temperatures of 25C or above, that is when we start telling all the agencies something is starting to happen," he said.

"We issue an extreme heat advice that is purely internal advice to agencies to wake up, dust off the plants and be ready to move. If the bureau tells us in three days' time for three consecutive days it will be 30C or above we issue an extreme heat watch - we send it to all agencies and also to the public.

"If the bureau tells us that in 2 days' time we are going to have three consecutive days with an average of 30C or above we move to an extreme heat warning."

In an extreme heat warning, as occurred this week, Mr Macleod asks the co-ordinator of state emergency management - currently Police Commissioner Mal Hyde - to chair a meeting at the state emergency centre in Carrington St of all relevant agencies to ensure everyone is fully briefed and co-operating.

Then one day out from the expected heatwave, a public health warning is issued through any and all means the heat tsar's team can find: newspapers, radio, TV, websites, posters, welfare agencies and more.

The warnings are genuine lifesavers, Mr Macleod believes, alerting people to take common-sense precautions to deal with the heat.

"I reckon, collectively, the Government of South Australia and all of its agencies in February this year pulled off an absolute boulder in getting those messages to the public - we had some of the deepest penetration of public information messages we have ever seen," Mr Macleod said.

"But obviously it doesn't reach everyone and there are still vulnerable communities - the elderly and the young are the ones most at risk.

"When talking about turning air conditioners on, we are trying to specify to people they should be on the cooling cycle because we know in February we had elderly people who turned the air con on but had them on the heat setting."

After a career in emergency services over the four decades since he emigrated from Scotland - after pinpointing Adelaide as the best place in the world and with two scans he proudly notes also an emergency service work - Mr Macleod observed that times such as these bring out the best in people.

"We saw some incredible community spirit in the last heatwave - it was a really Australian effort to look after each other," he said.

"There were great reports of young people taking bottles of water up their streets and just door-knocking to make sure elderly neighbours, people they had never met, were OK. This is a really good time to be neighbourly."

**KEY MESSAGES**

- Drink lots of water
- Check on elderly and very young relatives and neighbours regularly
- Dress in lightweight, light-coloured clothing
- Keep out of the sun as much as possible - use sunscreen, hat and sunglasses
- Use the air conditioner, fans, curtains, awnings and blinds - go to air-conditioned public places such as shopping centres, if necessary
- Ensure pets have shade and water
- Call 1800 022222 for medical advice, or 000 in an emergency

# EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SUSAN CARACOISSIS

**THE CONSULTATION PROCESS HAS NOW BEEN COMPLETED WITH MANY ISSUES BEING RAISED AT THE NUMEROUS MEETINGS HELD ACROSS THE STATE.** The report is currently being compiled from all the input provided, and in the March issue of *Frontline* we will have an article on the outcomes.

One of the most pleasing aspects of the consultation process to date has been the positive feedback provided and suggestions put forward. The need for open communication has been a key aspect and one that State Headquarters has also acknowledged.

The need for communication and feedback is already being addressed with the introduction of the Chief Officer's weekly E-news and at units for Long Service Medal presentations and other events, the verbal updates being provided by the Chief Officer or Deputy Chief Officer have increased an awareness of what is going on and what is being mooted. This communication is appreciated by all.

The Association has also been busy during this period and has discussed ways to also seek more input from all, and in particular, to find the right person for the many committees where volunteer representation is sought, Which Warren has already mentioned in his update and which I would like to reiterate.

We need volunteers with the knowledge or interest appropriate to the committee where representation is sought. So what does this mean, we are seeking from you, expressions of interest, in that we wish to establish a register of volunteers with their area of expertise, interest etc., so that when we are approached for a volunteer to

represent the Association on a SAFECOM or SES committee, we can contact you and ask whether you wish to be considered.

Many of you are unaware of the many committees on which the Association has representation, such as:

- ❖ SAFECOM Learning and Development Committee
- ❖ SAFECOM Risk and Resource Modelling Working Party
- ❖ Continuous Improvement Committee (includes CRD issues)
- ❖ Cadets
- ❖ OHS

And we are aware of several committees that are to be established in 2010, as a part of the revamping of the IRG groups, where we will be seeking your involvement.

So please remember the SES is dependent on its volunteers and your input and contribution is essential.

Also don't forget if you have any issues or suggestions that you'd like raised with SHQ, the Chair and I both now meet with the CO and DCO to discuss matters pertinent to the SES and as apart of this process is to discuss your issues or concerns and then respond to you.

The Association also wishes to ensure more recognition of volunteers and is willing to work with you in preparing nominations for awards. Sometimes we are reluctant to nominate someone, but let's improve and ensure recognition occurs.

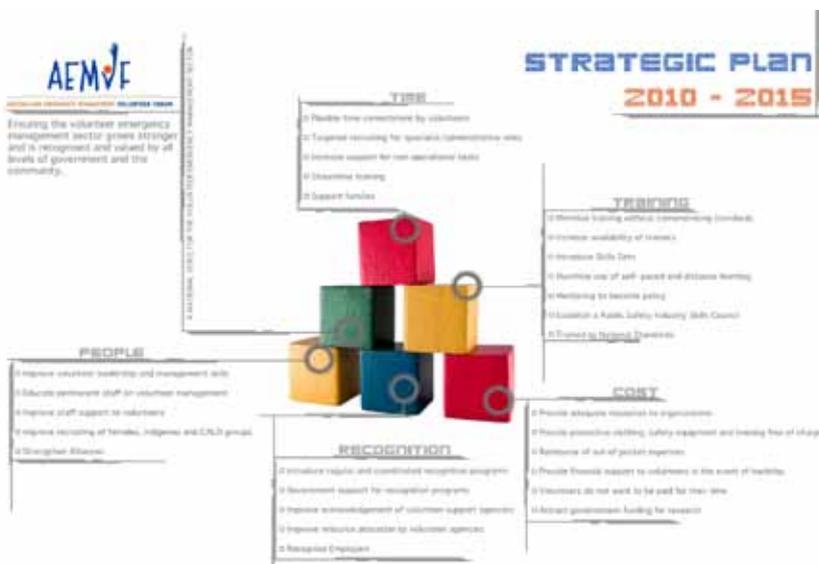
Of course, the SES is not alone with many of the issues raised and pasted below is the strategic plan for the AEMVF, a forum that I attend. And key issues always seem to come back to leadership programs, volunteer attraction, support, retention, funding needs, training etc. Sound familiar? I have included the AEMVF Strategic Plan below.

Finally, congratulations to the **Community Flood Safe Project** which also won the national Collective Councils category in the 2009 Australian Safer Communities Awards. This program has become one of the key public faces for the SES and has also provided volunteers with another avenue for active involvement and support of the SES. Congratulations.

Well the festive season is well and truly upon us, and I sincerely hope that your pagers remain quiet so that you can enjoy your time with family and friends.

Wishing you a happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

**NOTE:** Our thanks to Megan Lloyd, Editor, *Sunday Mail*, for allowing us to reproduce the article on heatwaves and the role of the SES in this issue of *Frontline*.



INDISPENSABLE TO COMMUNITIES AND GOVERNMENT · COMMUNITY BASED · VOLUNTEERS STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SASESVA ON SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2009

WARREN HICKS | NOVEMBER 2009

AS IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN A BUSY ONE FOR THE ASSOCIATION AND FOR THE COMMITTEE. ❖

**A**fter last year's highlights of the signing of the Volunteer Charter and the introduction of the South Australian State Emergency Service, Service Medals, issues that the Association had worked long and hard to have implemented. This year, however has seen the Association focus on ensuring that volunteers are consulted about changes that affect them and working through some of the day to day issues that occur from time to time. A considerable amount of time and effort has been directed towards ensuring that we comply with the various requirements of our funding agreement and ensure records of the Association's activities are up to date.

Budget cuts have seen the Association tighten its belts and move from face to face meetings with committee members to teleconferences, usually held on a Friday night. While these allow committee members to keep in contact and keep up to date with issues the lack of time spent on discussions can be frustrating. On the other hand the lack of travel time for some committee members is a blessing. Teleconferences also make it difficult for all our members to attend meetings, while the revamped website goes some way to solving the problem of informing our members of what is going on, it is not a solution that suits all. Communication with our members is something that the Association is always mindful of and working towards improving. *Frontline* provides general information to all volunteers only more detailed information needs to be accessible via other means.

Some of the issues discussed at our meetings have included the policy around the new Service medals over broken years of service, how years of service for cadets fit into the system and the new medicals and the policies around them to highlight a few. At some of our face to face committee meetings we have invited guests such as the new Co-ordinator of Training and Development for SAFECOM,

Bronte Moran, who explained a project aimed at introducing online learning throughout SAFECOM. This is aimed at reducing training hours away from home and support skills maintenance, even physical ones which could be interesting.

Mark Groote, Manager of the Volunteer Strategy and Support Branch, also attended this meeting to explain how their review was going and what activities around recruitment, retention and recognition were being planned. Again not ground breaking information, but keeping the Association in the loop.

Then in August, David Norton, Director Corporate Services, joined our teleconference meeting to discuss the proposed review of the SES and the format it would take. These consultations are now nearing completion and a report will be submitted to the SAFECOM Board in December. Also all volunteers will be sent a report on the consultations that took place.

The Association's Executive Officer, Susan Caracoussis and I have also meet with the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Michael Wright, MP, to discuss funding, recognition for volunteers and issues with the Service, Minister for Volunteers, the Hon. Tom Koutsantonis, MP to discuss recognition for SES volunteers. These meetings have given the Association the opportunity to talk freely with these ministers and so far have been useful in getting our messages across.

Susan has also attended a meeting with the Minister for Road Safety, the Hon. Michael

O'Brien to discuss possible changes to the 25 kilometres per hour speed limit pass emergency situations and has been involved in discussions re Heavy vehicle log books. Along with attending meetings with the SAFECOM Board, Country Fire Service Volunteer Association meetings and State Headquarters, making for a fairly full schedule for the year.

The Association has an ongoing role in selecting suitably qualified people to sit on a number of committees or boards, sometimes we approach these people but at other times we struggle so if you think you may have the skills and abilities to sit on a committee please

make yourself known. That way we don't overload the people we have.

In closing I feel that the SASES Volunteers Association has been, as always, very productive, it is in a strong position and its future and that of the Service is secure. I

would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all the committee members, some of whom regularly travel large distances to ensure they visit units and attend meetings.

I would like to thank them along with all those who have contributed time and effort into the Association and invite them and anyone else who might be interested to continue to assist the Association in the future. ❖

**“ IN CLOSING I FEEL THAT THE SASES VOLUNTEERS ASSOCIATION HAS BEEN, AS ALWAYS, VERY PRODUCTIVE, IT IS IN A STRONG POSITION AND ITS FUTURE AND THAT OF THE SERVICE IS SECURE. ”**

*Please note: The Association's financials for the year ended 30 June 2009 may be viewed on our website: <http://www.sasesva.org.au> in the Member's only section.*

# BRIAN McCOURT WINS 2009 KEITH LANE AWARD

THE 2009 KEITH LANE AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO A MAN WHO EPITOMISES THE ETHIC OF VOLUNTEERISM AND ONE WHO WE KNOW WOULD HAVE MADE KEITH PROUD. ❖

So much of what needs to be done often goes largely unnoticed, yet things happen. This certainly is the case where Brian McCourt of Hawker SES Unit is concerned.

Brian has assisted a number of North Region units with vehicle fit outs for their road

crash rescue tools, has installed UHF and satellite phone car kits and continues to do any other job that needs to be done.

A unit has to only ask for help and Brian is there.

All of these so called "Projects" are

somehow carried out in Brian's spare time which he juggles between being self employed and looking after his property, carrying out duties as Hawker Unit Manager, a unit that he has revitalised, and responding to the frequent vehicle accidents and searches for people that manage to misplace themselves in the Flinders Ranges.

Brian was certainly a worthy recipient of the 2009 Keith Lane Award which he received from His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce and also in attendance were Keith's son Chris and his granddaughter Tammy.

After the presentation, Warren Hicks, Chair of the SASES Volunteers' Association presented His Excellency with a SES Bear to add to his collection.

Thanks must also go to Sindy who managed to get Brian to Adelaide without him knowing the reason why, which certainly made the presentation moving for them both. ❖





❖ From the Archives: Stuart Macleod gives a briefing, with Phil Green on his right and the late Keith Lane is standing in the front with his back to the camera.



# MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE BY THE HON MICHAEL WRIGHT. ❖

**M**inister for Emergency Services on Wednesday 25th November at the Festival Centre. Master of Ceremonies for the event was Stuart Macleod.

Prior to presenting the Emergency Service Medals and Ministerial Commendations guests were addressed by David Place, Chief Executive SAFECOM and then the Minister.

Davis Place in his address said that: These awards are part of the Australian system of honours and awards and recognise diligent and outstanding service in the organisations that protect life and property at personal risk.

This is the ninth year of these awards and it is the State's way of recognising and rewarding the tireless and extraordinary work of those who contribute to community safety through the operational emergency service organisations and associated agencies."

He concluded by saying: "You may all represent different organisations, but you are all united by your common goals – and that is to ensure the safety of your communities and the environment.

We live in an environment that is prone to disasters – whether they are natural or man made, and, it is the continuing dedication, passion and hard work of both our paid staff and volunteers that ensures that our communities are able to bounce back from adversities.

As emergency services personnel and those that are there to support the frontline – you are always there when the community needs you – and the community in turn has no hesitation in putting their trust in you – when someone is trapped in a burning building or facing a medical emergency or facing adversity through

flood, fire and storm, they trust you to enter their homes or put their lives in your hands, knowing full well they will be safe.

The best systems, training, resources and equipment mean very little if we do not have the very best on the front line and behind the



❖ Pictured from left to right: The Hon Michael Wright, Minister for Emergency Services, Craig Brassington, Peter Larvin and Trevor Arnold.

scenes, and, the cream of this is represented here in this room."

The Minister emphasised the passion, commitment and dedication of all volunteers in the emergency sector as they strived to achieve common good.

He then presented the awards and the SES recipients of Ministerial Commendations were Unit Managers Craig Brassington, Tea Tree Gully and Peter Larvin, Western Adelaide.

Craig has recently completed a twelve month contract as the acting business support officer for the SES Central Region and during this time demonstrated exceptional commitment to all 12 Central SES units.

Craig, who has been a volunteer since 1981, as the business support officer, was always willing to go above and beyond the call of duty to visit units advising them on appropriate action to ensure their unit functioned effectively within their budgets. Craig sacrificed

many personal hours to actively involve himself in improving the management of the volunteers in regard to good business practices, as being both a volunteer and Unit Manager himself, he was conscious of the importance of good management.

Craig also became a member of the Regional Duty Officer Roster, again providing many hours of personal time to provide an operational focal point for the entire region.

Craig's commitment to his fellow volunteers and his work colleagues combined with his general work ethos is an invaluable asset to the SES and of course, the South Australian community.

Peter is the Unit Manager for the Western Adelaide SES Unit leading the Unit both by example on call outs and then through strategic leadership.

Peter has been instrumental in increasing the membership of Western Adelaide, a Unit which now has a waiting list for volunteers and also has a trained and enthusiastic crew.

Peter has both individually and then through the coordination of his management team, been successful in the acquisition of grants for a search trailer with a capability for bikes and lighting.

Peter is a technical expert where systems, operational procedures and IT related subjects are concerned, and has been asked by both State and Central Region to provide input when required.

Both Craig and Peter have given that little extra in their commitment to the SES.

The Minister also presented an Emergency Service Medal to Trevor Arnold, who originally commenced with the SES in a voluntary capacity in 1984.

Currently he is Commander, Special Operations Training & Safety, where he has been instrumental in the provision of rescue services; defining and maintaining standards and extensive training development.

Congratulations to all recipients. ❖

# PORT ADELAIDE - ENFIELD TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

ARNO ATTEMA | ENFIELD SES UNIT

ON SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER, THE PORT ADELAIDE ENFIELD-COUNCIL HELD ITS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT THROUGH PORT ADELAIDE COMMENCING AT 6.00P.M. AND TOOK OVER AN HOUR AS IT PROCEEDED ALONG ITS ROUTE AT PORT ADELAIDE. ❖

WINDSOR GARDENS  
VOCATIONAL COLLEGE



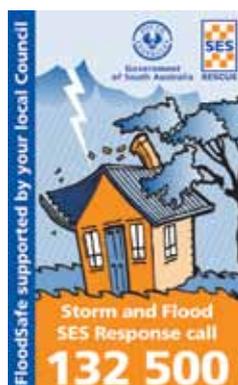
big  
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**T**his year for the first time, Enfield SES Unit entered a promotional float in the pageant, based on one similar to the Mount Gambier float, which the unit had noted.

Under the guidance of Shane Leedham, back in July planning commenced and sponsor support was sought and via the Unit membership, two great sponsors were found, Windsor Gardens Vocational College who supplied the main building materials and then the students constructed the house frame to building standards as a class project.

The second sponsor was Quince Prints of Clearview who designed and printed the banner for the Unit.

The project working crew were mainly Ron Godfrey as the chief painter, with "Jogi" Van Der Veer and Paul Manser completing the finishing touches, while other members of the Unit assisted on training nights.



As Enfield SES Unit annually provides the traffic management for the pageant, and hence

most members were committed along the route, the Enfield vehicle was driven by a FloodSafe member, while two other FloodSafe personnel walked along the route handing out fridge magnets to the large crowd in attendance. ❖



# SES ANNUAL PARADE AND FORMALITIES

THE ANNUAL SES PARADE MOVED ALONG THE STREETS OF ADELAIDE ON SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER DEPARTING FROM THE MFS AND PROCEEDING TO TORRENS PARADE GROUND FOR THE FORMALITIES AND OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF SES WEEK BY THE HON MICHAEL WRIGHT MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES. VOLUNTEERS HAD TRAVELED FROM HAWKER, KAPUNDA AND PORT LINCOLN TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATIONS. ❖





The salute, for the parade, was taken by His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scarce, together with the Minister, the Hon. Michael Wright, Mark Goldsworthy MP, the Shadow Minister for Emergency Services, Councillor David Plumridge representing the Lord Mayor, Service Chiefs and other invited guests.

Once the parade passed the review area, the invited dignitaries moved to Torrens Parade Ground to join with volunteers for the formalities prior to the day finishing with a sausage sizzle provided by the Salvation Army.

Stuart Macleod, hosted the proceedings and invited the Minister to address the volunteers and guests.

The Minister said: “During the past year I have been impressed by the dedication of SES volunteers

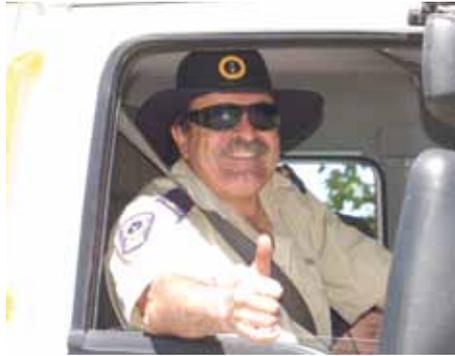
and their continued willingness to protect and serve our state with passion and commitment. South Australia is extremely fortunate to have such selfless individuals at the ready, who give freely of their valuable time, day and night and work so hard to help keep our state safe.

Today’s important event is held annually throughout Australia to promote and acknowledge the valuable service provided to the community by dedicated SES volunteers.

In South Australia, we have around 1,500 SES volunteers spread across the state, who serve their community 24 hours a day, seven days a week throughout the year. In fact SES volunteers and staff have already this year responded to nearly 5,000 incidents, and the year is not yet over.

It has been another busy year for the SES, our dedicated members have continued to offer immediate assistance during emergencies and disasters. They have provided community response in ‘day-to-day’ incidents such as vehicle accidents, flood and storm damage, cliff rescues, searches and other emergencies.





Government, I would like to thank all SES volunteers and staff for the very worthwhile service that you generously provide to South Australia.

It gives me great pleasure to launch SES Week for 2009."

The Chief Officer then invited His Excellency to address those in attendance.

His Excellency mentioned the many crises that had occurred since last year's parade, such as the severe drought which resulted in an epidemic of major tree failures, coordination of operations during one of the most significant heat-waves in South Australian history. This of course was then followed in April, June and August when storms involving heavy rain and flooding were experienced.

His Excellency said: "My thanks go to all of you for your dedication during the many jobs you undertake to help the South Australian community in times of need. And again, let's not overlook the families and employers who give their understanding and support during your involvement with the SES."

It is imperative that we continue to recognise the efforts of our SES volunteers. You really are a unique group of people who are committed to putting others first and doing all you can to protect life and property."

He concluded by saying: "I ask you to take pride in the good that you do, and know that your efforts are always very much valued. I wish you well for the coming year and hope you are able to continue your service to the public. Thank you for allowing me to share this special day with you."

His Excellency then presented the Keith Lane Award and afterwards all in attendance gathered for a group photograph.

Thanks must be expressed to Peter Nygaard and Pieter Scott for organising the parade and to Arno Attema, David Baker and Sindy Mc Court for their photographic record of the day.

Earlier this year staff and volunteers were deployed to Victoria to assist with operations in the Black Saturday Bushfires that devastated a large area of the state, tragically resulting in many lives being lost. The high level support in incident and base camp management provided by our SES people was greatly appreciated by the Victorian SES and Country Fire Authority and, rightly so, I understand our people felt much pride in being able to help.

I was pleased to have attended several events over the past year including the new Tea Tree Gully Unit building opening, a visit to Whyalla and Roxby Downs Units, vessel launches and medal presentations.

I have seen first-hand how volunteers are community builders while they learn new skills and gain experience and valuable qualifications. You earn respect within your communities, while also having fun, keeping fit and become

active team players during your time with the SES.

Today marks an important day in the calendar for all members of the SES and we simply could not do without you volunteers. You're always ready to help out in a storm, fire, road accident, flood and other major incidents right around our state.

In closing, on behalf of the State







# SES WEEK IN TUMBY BAY

JIM DARLING | TUMBY BAY SES

ON SATURDAY 14TH NOV TUMBY BAY UNIT , AS A PART OF SES WEEK, HAD A STATIC DISPLAY IN SPENCER STREET, TUMBY BAY'S MAIN STREET AND SHOPPING CENTRE. ❖

The display provided interested members of the community with the opportunity to learn more about the SES and to look at rescue equipment, which included the Unit's heavy rescue truck, a display of road crash rescue and general equipment and the Unit's blue water rescue boat.

There was a steady stream of interested shoppers and passers by throughout the morning, who asked questions, and appreciated the barbecue and free giveaways for the children. ❖



# WEST UMAG

PETER CODRINGTON, CHAIR WEST UMAG AND ALSO UNIT MANAGER CEDUNA, WAS PRESENTED WITH HIS PUA20400 CERTIFICATE 11 IN PUBLIC SAFETY (SES RESCUE) BY THE DCO MATT MAYWALD AT THE WEST UMAG MEETING HELD IN PORT LINCOLN ON THE 28TH NOVEMBER. ❖

Attendees at the meeting were also taken to view the new facilities currently under construction for West Regional Headquarters, West Operations Coordination Unit and Port Lincoln Unit. Work is progressing well and all look forward to the move which is anticipated to take place in March 2010.

Next they were taken to view the new Emergency Services Observation Tower facility, located at Winter Hill, which has been built

by the City of Port Lincoln with funding from EMA, the State Government and the District Council of Lower Eyre Peninsula.

The location provides coverage of the whole region and is certainly preferable to previously when WCOU used to park their communications bus there during emergencies.

The only issue was the extreme weather on the 28th and it was even hard for attendees to make their way from vehicles to the tower, but then the wind was recorded at 88kph. ❖



## ANNUAL SENIORS VOLUNTEER AWARDS

THE ANNUAL SENIORS VOLUNTEER AWARDS FUNCTION, A PRESENTATION LUNCHEON, WAS HELD ON SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER AT THE PORT LINCOLN R.S.L. CLUB WITH GUEST SPEAKER NOELENE BROWN, WHO IS AMBASSADOR FOR THE AGING. ❖

Noelene also presented Gwen Hartley with her award. Gwen had been nominated by her peers at the SES West Operation Coordination Unit.

Gwen's positions over the years have included Port Lincoln Administration officer and Radio lecturer. She transferred to state

reserve and served her time in the Western DEOC as admin supervisor and also attended a course at Mount Macedon College on command and control.

When the Eyre Headquarters Unit was formed Gwen and "other oldies" transferred from Port Lincoln Unit to Eyre Head Quarters



Unit. Gwen has worked as firer spotter, in administration, as a radio operator officer, in West Command centre and the Port Lincoln ZEOC.

For her service to the SES Gwen has received the National medal and bar, plus the SES 20 year medal.

More recently to keep her hand in, she has been attending TAFE for the last two years and has received her Certificate I and 2 in IT. She is now studying at home for a business certificate. ❖

# FLOODSAFE ONE OF NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECTS RECOGNISED

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL THE HON ROBERT McCLELLAND RECOGNISED 14 COMMUNITY-BASED PROJECTS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WHEN HE PRESENTED THE AUSTRALIAN SAFER COMMUNITIES AWARDS IN CANBERRA ON THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER. ❖

The Awards recognised projects aimed to increase community safety within the emergency management context, with award categories covering state government emergency agencies, local government, volunteer organisations, NGOs, education institutions and the private sector.

assessment of the Brownhill and Keswick creeks floodplains. The Brown Hill and Keswick creeks systems provide a relatively poor level of flood protection to a large area of south metropolitan Adelaide. With 5,000 properties at risk, only 6 regions in Australia have more residential properties susceptible to flooding up to the 1% AEP level.

A flood mitigation study in 2006 assessed a potential damage bill of \$200 million and recommended both structural mitigation priorities and “more importantly” a program to increase community awareness and preparedness.

*A particular challenge for this project was that the study concluded*

*that “flood threat is generally under-rated in the community mind, with a perception that flooding is not particularly severe in its consequence by comparison to bushfire”. The study noted that in fact the “real reality is somewhat different” and that flooding accounts for 39% of the average annual cost of natural disasters in South Australia compared to 26% attributed to bushfires.*

*The assessment also identified that community education of flood risk could potentially reduce damage to individual properties by 60%.*

The program has developed a partnership between the Bureau of Meteorology, the SES and 6 councils and for the first time has seen local council staff and elected members speaking with flood risk residents face to face. The Bureau of Meteorology also went beyond its usual role to deliver face to face information to the community.

The program was praised for its exceptional penetration into the community. This in part was due to the response from SES volunteers to be involved with FloodSafe, and additionally, the program has provided older volunteers who no longer want to participate in rescue operations with an alternate yet major role, and these people are excellent ambassadors in imparting their skills and knowledge to at risk residents. The program has also recruited volunteers who would not have otherwise joined the SES.

Judges summarised “FloodSafe program is to remain an ongoing SES program in partnership with Councils and BOM, it is considered an exceptional example of enhancing recruitment and retention of emergency services volunteers.”

The program has resulted in stronger links between FloodSafe volunteers and their local SES units, has seen flood prevention initiatives such as cleaning up local creeks through greater risk awareness and promotion of prevention.

The program is shortly to be extended into other high risk areas in the northern suburbs and other regional councils have also sought information about the program.

It is hoped that FloodSafe will be a statewide program by 2012 utilising the concept of specifically trained SES volunteers.

Judith Bleechmore was commended for her passion and commitment in leading the program. Whilst the 2006 flood risk study outlined the importance of establishing a community education program, the overwhelming success of the program is largely due to Judith’s exceptional skills in engaging volunteers and her infectious passion for making this initiative so successful and thus a sustainable program in South Australia.

David Place, the Chief Executive, SAFECOM, attended the presentation and praised the team at FloodSafe for their dedication and commitment. He also congratulated the SES and its partners for winning the prestigious national award which recognises best practices and innovation in helping to safeguard the community from major emergencies.

He also said: “The FloodSafe program clearly demonstrates the benefits of establishing far reaching partnerships across all areas of the community.” ❖



❖ Pictured from left to right: Judith Bleechmore, FloodSafe, the Attorney General, Hon Robert McClelland MP and FloodSafe volunteer Lyn Little receiving the award in Canberra.

The Attorney General said “These Awards acknowledge local projects that improve community preparedness and resilience. The winning projects are impressive for their enterprise and imagination. I congratulate those who have contributed to making their communities both safer and better places to live.”

A total of 75 projects were entered from across all states and territories for this year’s Awards.

FloodSafe having been announced winner of the SA category for Local Government – Collective was named the national winner, being a collective of Mitcham, Unley, Marion, Holdfast Bay, West Torrens and Adelaide City Councils with the SES for its **Community FloodSafe Program**.

In the judging process comment was made that the judges were highly impressed by the project that had stemmed from a risk

# WAROOKA LONG SERVICE MEDAL PRESENTATION EVENING

THE DEPUTY CHIEF OFFICER, MATT MAYWALD, PRESENTED LONG SERVICE MEDALS TOGETHER WITH ADVANCED TOOLS AND RESCUE EQUIPMENT CERTIFICATES AT A FUNCTION HELD IN WAROOKA ON THE 26 SEPTEMBER 2009. ❖

SES Long Service Medals were presented to:

- ❖ Ian Rowe
- ❖ Roger Murdoch
- ❖ Don Murdock
- ❖ Jamie Koennecke
- ❖ Bruce Cant

And certificates to:

- ❖ Bruce Cant

- ❖ John Halford
- ❖ Jamie Koennecke
- ❖ Don Murdock
- ❖ Michelle Murdock
- ❖ Ian Rowe

Plus two National Service medals were presented.

Congratulations to all recipients. ❖



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- With Matt Maywald:
1. Don Murdoch
  2. Michelle Murdock
  3. Jamie Koennecke
  4. John Halford
  5. Roger Murdock
  6. Ian Rowe
  7. Bruce Cant



5



6



7



# YORKE PENINSULA FIELD DAYS

MEMBERS FROM NORTH REGION AND FLOODSAFE REPRESENTATIVES FROM ADELAIDE TRAVELED TO PASKEVILLE FOR THE BIENNIAL YORKE PENINSULA FIELD DAYS, THE BIGGEST FIELD DAYS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA AND ONE OF THE BEST PLACES FOR PROMOTING ONES MESSAGE. ❖

**S**tatic displays promoted FloodSafe, while twice daily demonstrations for Road Crash Rescue took place. Participants included the Laura crew of Robbie and Deidra Klemm, Scott Watson, Alan Woolford and John Birrell, plus Brian McCourt from Hawker Unit.

Apologies to those not mentioned as we are aware of the commitment from North units to the field days.

The FloodSafe theme created a lot of interest and the SES site handed out oranges as a part of the Yellow Brick Road. ❖



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# NOARLUNGA CELEBRATES 30 YEARS

PETER HIGGINS | NOARLUNGA SES

NOARLUNGA SES UNIT HAS TURNED 30, SO NO ORDINARY SAUSAGE SIZZLE WITH BALLOONS OR STREAMERS FOR US. ❖

Instead our vehicle shed was transformed on Saturday 7th November into what became a high class function room, the floor was carpeted, the walls were draped with black curtains and thousands of fairy lights blocked out the shed ceiling. Large paper ball lights provided mood lighting over the tables. Over 50 people attended, reminiscing with stories

of past events before dancing the night away. Some slightly obscure medals were also presented to all members, and were accepted in good faith by all.

It took us 9 hours to transform the shed and then 6 hours to clean up. Many thanks go to the committee who organised the event. The looks on the faces of those who knew nothing

of the shed transformation were well worth it.

A time capsule has been put together and will be buried in the compound. Items that have been chosen to date include: old phones, a black hat, badges, a newspaper and other assorted items. Hopefully the capsule will still be intact in 20 years time and even some of our current members will still be around to party again as we mark Noarlunga's 50th.

Then on Wednesday 11th November, despite the heat, the unit held an open night

to show how we had started to where we are at now. This was a sausage sizzle event, a cake was cut, people were thanked, and again, many more stories were told of past events. Past members and other emergency service members joined with us, and were most impressed with the equipment that we now have at our disposal.

Some service medals were presented and an official change over of Unit Manager took place. Ian Bonython has taken the reins from Graeme Wynwood. Graeme who had managed our unit well over the past 15 years, thought it was time to pass on responsibility.

A history of the unit follows. ❖





# 1979 2009

## “NOARLUNGA AREA TO GET EMERGENCY UNIT”

This is a headline for a story that is to mark the birth of the Noarlunga State Emergency Service unit. A meeting was held at the Noarlunga-Christies Beach RSL Hall, The Esplanade, Port Noarlunga on Wednesday October 10th 1979 at 8.00pm.

Funding of \$5,000 from council and \$2,500 from the State Government was gained for the first year of operation.

25 prospective members had already been identified and a training program was held from October 17th to December 12th 1979, during which 15 members learnt skills in first aid, map reading and communications.



Early meetings were held at the Mitsubishi Motors engine plant canteen, in Lonsdale.

From these beginnings when we were known as the Civil Defence and wore white overalls, our clothing progressed to blue overalls, and finally to the now recognisable SES orange colour.

Records indicate that John Enders appears to have been the first Unit Controller from 1979 to 1983, followed by John Whitburn from 1983 to 1989 and then Dave Brinsley from 1989 to 1994, with Bruce Reid acting as Unit Controller for a short period in 1993.

Graeme Wynwood became Unit Controller in 1994, and his position was renamed to that of Unit Manager in 2005. Now as a part of our 30th anniversary he has handed over to Ian Bonython.

No attempt was made to recruit from the community in its first year, but a recruitment drive was planned for early 1980 when the unit would have its own permanent headquarters and training facilities, which were to be located at the corner of Lindsay and Brian Roads Lonsdale. These facilities were provided by the Noarlunga Council and the SA Housing Trust.

The first building on the site was the now

Operations Building, being a transportable building provided by SA Housing Trust. This building underwent some minor changes internally during 2002, with a new ceiling and flooring being the most notable, plus the roof and gutters have been replaced, but largely it is still the same as it was in 1979. All meetings were held in this building, albeit a little crowded at times, smoking was allowed inside the building and an exhaust fan was installed. And this fan had to be on when ever anyone smoked. The radio communications room was located in what is now the Unit Manager's office.

The second building constructed in 1980 was a galvanised iron shed with sliding doors at the western end. This is now known as the stores shed, but initially was used to house our first vehicle and trailer, together with our store of emergency equipment. This shed, named "shed one" and the next two to be constructed were all constructed with the aid of volunteers. The apron of concrete in front of shed 1 has a cutlery set imbedded in it, thanks to an

incident that involved someone getting up from a makeshift seat and the items flying through the air. The back of a spoon can still be seen.

All sheds on our site are painted green, and this was at the request of the local council of the day. All of the sheds except the vehicle shed were second hand, and were donated.

Noarlunga's first emergency response vehicle was a Toyota 4WD wagon with a call sign of Noarlunga Mobile 1 (later to become Noarlunga 381). The first 4 fleets were all second hand, either donated or provided by SES state headquarters.

The second vehicle was a Toyota 4WD, again, and was donated second hand from the Mobil Oil Refinery. The vehicle had only 2 doors and no tray on the back, and became Noarlunga 382. This vehicle had been used by Mobil at its Lonsdale refinery as a water pump for fire fighting and was extremely run down and rusty. Onkaparinga Council had a practically new cabin for the same model vehicle in their workshop and they fitted it onto the

chassis for us. A box was fitted to the rear; at a cost of \$2,800 and this housed the rescue equipment. The box on the back was cut down from its original size due to concerns of stability and wind resistance. Eventually the back was remodelled with storage boxes on both sides of the tray and with open storage in the middle.

In the 1980/81 financial year, the unit attended 44 calls for assistance, 40 of which were to secure premises against high winds and heavy rains. A 24 hour telephone answering system was installed; the response time was usually within 40 minutes.

During 1981 a new shed was built, with sliding doors on the western end, this was named "shed 2", and housed the welfare facilities and 2 rescue vehicles. Fitting both vehicles in this shed was done with some trepidation and a lot of skill.

Noarlunga had a welfare capability in the early years, so the welfare section of the unit was a force in its own right. They held their own camps to hone their skills, the welfare

was mostly for the benefit of members for meals during call outs. The unit on many occasions would be operational for 24hr periods in the early days, with members not seeing their own homes or families during these times.

Shed 2 has undergone some major changes and now is used as a training room, although the kitchen is still operational, even though some renovations are now required. Originally the



kitchen area had no lining on the walls and no insulation. The lecture room was fitted with a false ceiling in 1995 with insulation, the work being undertaken by one of the members of the unit. Carpet was also laid and this has made a big difference to the training facilities, along with the air conditioner.

A third but much smaller shed was constructed in 1982, this is known as "shed 3". This now houses a trailer with a water pump and the Bike Search and Rescue pushbikes.

A third vehicle, an ex MFS fire extinguisher service vehicle (Noarlunga 383) was donated in 1982. This was a Dodge V8 light truck which came fitted with a storage locker on the rear, and was a two door vehicle with a bench seat. With three in the vehicle, the middle passenger was at times required to change gears, due to having a floor shift lever that moved a very long way. Hundreds of hours of volunteer work went into restoring this vehicle, parts of the floor had to be replaced and the whole vehicle was repainted. Again, one of our members

who had his own crash repair shop donated his time and equipment.

During the period 1983-1989 Christmas parties were held, and some of the members would put on skits, to show off their talent or lack thereof. Santa would come for the kids, at one party, and then also for the grown ups at another.

A fourth vehicle (Noarlunga 384) was purchased from an organisation on Kangaroo Island in 1988. This was a Toyota 4WD Troop carrier and was used for many many years transporting members all around the local area to attend to incidents and training. Operationally this was a very flexible and useful vehicle, as a stretcher with casualty could be put in the back, and being a 4WD it could retrieve casualties from almost all types of terrain.

SES originally used orange rotating beacons to warn road users, and wasn't allowed to disobey road rules. These orange lights were changed to red in 1989 plus sirens were fitted, thus allowing drivers of SES vehicles to contravene the road rules within limits. SES and all emergency service vehicles were allowed to operate red and blue flashing lights from 1991.

Initially standard baseball caps were issued from State, these were an orange colour, and Noarlunga unit took it upon them to purchase black caps and wore these for some 15 years before reverting to the State issued blue caps. The black Noarlunga caps

became nearly legendary and to this day, are a much sought after item.

Members were called to taskings by means of phoning individuals and later group phone calls could be made. Tone only pagers were purchased by the unit in 1991 and one then would respond to the tone. Then in 1999 alpha numeric pagers, that are still in use today, took over with the introduction of the Government Radio Network.

Some members of our unit have been carrying a pager for over 23 years, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

With the introduction of the mobile phone, the unit obtained its first, which was known as the brick phone or bag phone, being a bag with a phone in it. The phone weighed about 3 kilograms and the handpiece was connected to the main unit by a cord, the battery life was about 2 hours, before needing to be recharged. The range of use was limited, but it allowed the Duty Officer to be mobile, the calls for assistance still came via a landline which were then diverted to this mobile phone.

A significant change was made to training nights in the mid 1990's, when 'Admin' as it is called, was moved from before to after training was completed, and this meant training now commenced at 1900hrs and was no longer held up by discussions that sometimes took place during the 'Admin' time. Training, on Wednesday nights, was lengthened from its original starting time of 1930hrs to 2200hrs and now ends at 2230hrs which has given us 3½ hours of time for exercises.

In 1992, a brand new heavy rescue truck was purchased, this was a Toyota Dyna 300. The purchase being made possible through raffles, donations and hard work by a dedicated team of fundraisers. This was, at long last a 4 door vehicle able to carry 6 members in reasonable comfort. Due to the weight that this vehicle carried, it was very underpowered and slow, so driving under lights and sirens was slightly embarrassing, as cars would pass us even on the slightest of slopes, and getting up Willunga Hill was nearly an overnight drive.

The largest building on the site was constructed in 1992, and is now known as the vehicle shed, due to it housing all of Noarlunga's emergency response vehicles and 3 of our trailers. In 2006, this shed had an extension added to the north eastern corner to allow for three trailers to be reversed in. Remote operated roller doors were fitted during 2007 to replace the cumbersome sliding doors.

In 1993 the unit received its first brand new fleet vehicle from State, and this was a Nissan Patrol 4WD known as 380, and we have had a succession of replacements, all of which have been Nissans. The second one, a Nissan Patrol 4WD wagon was commissioned in 1996, and

## “ SOME MEMBERS OF OUR UNIT HAVE BEEN CARRYING A PAGER FOR OVER 23 YEARS, 24 HOURS A DAY, 365 DAYS A YEAR.





It also provides a shaded area for down time for members.

4½ shipping containers make up a collapsed building scenario along with hundreds of tonnes of concrete slabs, pipes and concrete culverts, which have been arranged so rescuers can tunnel through simulated voids. This area is fluid and can be changed to suit a variety of rescue methods and requirements. Inside some of the shipping containers mock rooms have been set up.

A deep rectangular open pit has been dug in the south eastern corner of the compound, to allow

the latest this year, was a Nissan Navara Utility with a canopy on the rear.

In 1996 after many hours of hard work from members of the unit, 4 pushbikes were donated to the unit to start a Pushbike Search and Rescue team. The team meets regularly for training and has been called upon for many urban searches, and has also been utilised for searches in country towns. The 4 original bikes are still at the unit, although only for training purposes. 4 new bikes were purchased by Central region this year, together with new uniforms, which replaced the original black and white clothing.

The unit has a training tower, which was constructed in 1999, standing at 25 metres tall, and is used for Rescue from Heights training and also Basic rescue training due to it having a platform at about 4 metres from the ground. Again it was constructed by the same people who now utilise it for training workers on rescues from towers.

In 2003 the old 382 Toyota Dyna 300 was replaced by a new Isuzu 550 Heavy rescue truck. Due to the

size of the vehicle, Medium Rigid drivers licences are now required.

In 2003 a purpose built Breathing Apparatus trailer was manufactured to suit SES requirements. This is a fully self contained trailer with breathing apparatus units, air monitoring equipment and control boards.

A purpose built Urban Search and Rescue trailer was built in 2004, which has equipment used to gain access to collapsed structures. Items include concrete cutting equipment, search cameras, compound mitre saw, air monitoring equipment, battery operated equipment and many hand tools.

A Storm Damage training structure was built during 2004 and has been utilised for Storm Damage training, on many courses.

for Trench Rescue training.

The newest building on the site is the toilet block, which after many years of requests for better toilet facilities was a welcome addition to the unit in 2005.

In 2006 the Toyota Dyna 200 383 was replaced with a new Isuzu 550 Heavy Rescue truck the same model as 382, the difference being that the new 383 truck has now become a first response USAR vehicle, due to it having a compound mitre saw and related equipment. It also has a supply of timber and wedges for shoring. The ladder is now stored inside the body of the vehicle and a pole saw is stored in the back.

In 2007 the Toyota Troop carrier 384 was replaced with a Ford F250 V8 powered Utility,



which has an aluminium box in the rear for storage. This vehicle was purchased as a heavy towing vehicle, to tow the tandem trailers, namely the USAR, BA and tandem trailer with sandbags and / or sand. This vehicle seats 6 people in comfort, and is well equipped to tow heavy loads.

Between the period, 2003 to 2009, the complete fleet of Noarlunga unit has been replaced with new fleets. We now have a full complement of diesel powered engines, with all fleets having air-conditioning, and 4 doors, which has given the unit the capacity to move at least 30 members at one time.

The SASES fleet identifying numbers have been changed to reflect the type of vehicle, so from 2008, the heavy rescue trucks are now 31, 32 and so on. 4WD's are now 41, 42, 43. All other types of fleets within SASES are now displaying numbers that reflect their type of vehicle and capability.

The site at Noarlunga also houses a State Training Centre and Confined Space tunnel system. The tunnel system is covered with tonnes of concrete slabs and pavers, and is used for Confined Space training. The rubble pile on top is used for Search and Rescue training. Another rubble pile was originally on the site, but was removed due to contaminated waste being found.

A further section of property at the north eastern corner was gained from the Onkaparinga Council this year and will be utilised for storage of containers and other operational items.

Many thanks must go to Solar Optical Lonsdale, Mitsubishi Motors Lonsdale plant, Mobil Oil Refinery O'Sullivan's Beach, and many other smaller but not forgotten businesses within the Onkaparinga council area.



There have been many past and present members who have moved on to careers in other emergency organisations both within this state and interstate. This has shown that the professionalism of the unit and high standard of training has assisted them and possibly will assist many more to achieve their goals outside of the volunteer system. To those who have gone before us and to those that are yet to come, thank you.

Operational tasks that the unit is capable of carrying out are:

- ❖ General Rescue
- ❖ Storm Damage Operations
- ❖ Land Search Operations
- ❖ Air Observers
- ❖ Dropmasters

- ❖ Confined Space Rescue
- ❖ Vertical Rescue
- ❖ Bike Search and Rescue
- ❖ Urban Search and Rescue

In excess of 270 members of the community have been involved with Noarlunga SES over the past 30 years, with 29 still active and then 6 new members were welcomed in October. These members respond to over 400 calls for assistance each year.

The unit's running costs are now \$65,000 per annum and our vehicle fleet boasts five vehicles and 6 trailers,

- ❖ 31 Isuzu 550 Heavy Rescue truck
- ❖ 32 Isuzu 550 Heavy Rescue truck
- ❖ 41 Nissan Navara 4WD Utility with a canopy
- ❖ 42 Toyota Landcruiser 4WD Wagon
- ❖ 43 Ford F250 4WD Utility
- ❖ Tandem trailer, empty
- ❖ Tandem trailer, equipped with lighting
- ❖ Tandem trailer, equipped with Breathing Apparatus
- ❖ Tandem trailer, equipped with Urban Search and Rescue equipment
- ❖ Single axle trailer, equipped with Storm Damage equipment
- ❖ Single axle trailer, equipped with large water pump
- ❖ Single axle trailer, empty
- ❖ 4- Land Search pushbikes.

In excess of \$1.5million of equipment and stores are held at Noarlunga at any one time.

It is only with the sheer tenacity, dedication and professionalism of the volunteers and their families that the Noarlunga unit exists today. ❖

**TO THOSE WHO HAVE  
GONE BEFORE US  
AND TO THOSE THAT ARE  
YET TO COME, THANK YOU.**



# CHAINSAW OPERATOR'S MANUAL

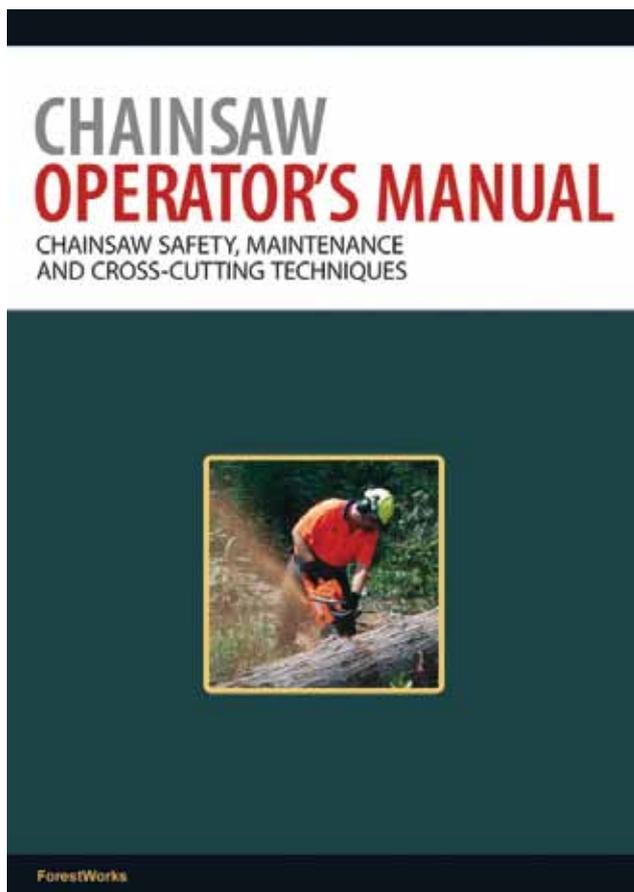
CHAINSAW SAFETY, MAINTENANCE AND CROSS-CUTTING TECHNIQUES | AUTHOR: FORESTWORKS  
REVIEW BY WARREN HICKS

This book is an updated version of a manual I remember buying approximately ten years ago. At the time I found it to be a very useful source of information, one that went that little bit further than what was being provided in the manufacturer's owner's manuals.

This latest version uses many of the same diagrams to explain how to service chainsaws, sharpen chains and undertake the cutting of trees in a safe manner. However, what it does contain is updated information on the numerous brands of chainsaws together with additional material on chainsaw safety equipment and safe operating techniques. And these are linked to the various Australian and New Zealand technical standards concerning safety and chainsaw operations.

The book's main focus is primarily aimed at all timber workers who use chainsaws in the course of their work and as such shows examples of establishing safe worksites that make sense in a forest, but may not always be practical in an emergency service type setting. For example, the carrying of fire control equipment, breaking bars and logger's tape, useful items in an industrial setting.

Knowing your chainsaw and how to properly operate it safely takes up the first half of the book, while the second half is devoted to explaining manual tree felling operations. This section has some very good diagrams and pictures to demonstrate the various forces at work but only provides what I would call a brief introduction of the techniques used, with a keen focus on working safely.



The format of the book is easy to read supported with diagrams and pictures. The pages are not overloaded with information and are well set out so as not to overload the reader. The sequence of the chapters allows for a logical

development of knowledge.

The book is designed to be used in partnership with the various training packages from the Forest and Forest Products Industry. But reading this book does not make you an expert tree feller or mean that you are competent in any of the units mentioned. One still needs to undertake a chainsaw operator course.

So where would this book be useful in an SES setting, some sections could be used to explain how to work safely to all crew when undertaking tree clearing operations so that they gain an understanding of how and why things are done in a particular sequence. Sections could also be set as either pre reading material for anyone who is about to do a course or post reading/ revision for those who have already completed a course. After all it is worth revisiting what has

been learnt to ensure that we are still operating within the guidelines. ❖

# SASESVA CLOTHING AND GENERAL MERCHANDISE

ALL PRICES GST INCLUSIVE

TAX INVOICE ABN 57 187 794 493

ITEM NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	QTY ORDERED	UNIT COST \$	TOTAL COST \$
VAPS1	Polo shirt Men's	Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$46.00	
VAPS1L	Polo Shirt Ladies cut	Navy blue Micromesh cool dry polo shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. No pocket. Sizes: 8 10 12 14 16 Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing		\$46.00	
VAPS2	Polo shirt Men's	Navy blue Micromesh Cool Dry Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left chest. With pocket. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$47.00	
VASPS3	Polo shirt Men's	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$44.00	
VASPS3L	Polo shirt Ladies cut	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. No pocket. Sizes: 8 10 12 14 16 Then refer to Men's polo shirt sizing		\$44.00	
VAPS4	Polo shirt Men's	Blue/White Cross Dye Polo Shirt with knitted collar "State Emergency Service" and knitted cuffs "Rescue". SES logo on left hand chest. With pocket. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge Custom made to order		\$45.00	

ITEM NO.	TYPE	DESCRIPTION	QTY ORDERED	UNIT COST \$	TOTAL COST \$
VAV1	Vest	Shower-proof reversible vest with polar fleece inner and full zip with SES logo on the outside left hand chest. Johnny Bobbin brand. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge		\$45.00	
VAPF1	Polar Fleece 1/2 Zip	Navy blue 1/2 polar fleece jumper with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit. Sizes: XXSmall XSmall Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge 5XLarge		\$39.00	
VAPF2	Polar Fleece Jacket	Navy blue full zip bonded polar fleece jacket with SES logo on left hand chest. Winning Spirit. Sizes: Small Medium Large XLarge 2XLarge 3XLarge 4XLarge 5XLarge		\$46.00	
VAWBH	Wide Brim Hat	Akubra style. Synthetic, putty colour with SES logo embroidered on front. Bushie plus brand. Sizes: Small 55cm to 57cm Large 59cm to 61cm		\$43.00	
SEST	Tie	SES		\$27.50	
UME	Epaulettes	Unit Manager set		\$13.50	
OE	Epaulettes	Officer set		\$11.00	
SAE	Epaulettes	Stripes set		\$11.00	
SB	Badges	Shoulder set		\$3.30	
SESP	Plaque	Quality timber - SES logo		\$54.45	
SESWB	Water bottle Black			\$4.40	
SESTM	Thermal Mug	Blue		\$7.70	
	Thermal Mug	Black		\$7.70	
CCM	Coffee mug	China with SES Logo		\$5.00	
MYOV	Badge	Mini Year of the Volunteer		\$2.20	
MPP	Mobile phone pouch	Orange with SES logo		\$5.50	

<b>DELIVERY COSTS SA</b>		<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>			
Up to 5 garments	\$12.00				
Up to 10 garments	\$15.00	<b>PLUS DELIVERY</b>			
Up to 15 garments	\$20.00				
Miscellaneous items	\$15.00	<b>TOTAL</b>			

Please send your completed order to SASESVA with a cheque for the total amount to **GPO Box 2706, Adelaide SA 5001**  
 Orders can be emailed to either [susan@sasesva.org.au](mailto:susan@sasesva.org.au) or faxed to **8410 3115**

**DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Contact number \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_