

# FRONTLINE

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

- North Region Cadet Camp
- SES Week

- Annual Report
- Have you heard of SPAM?



JANUARY  
2013



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# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

WARREN HICKS ESM

I trust that as many of you as possible had a Merry Christmas and a Safe New Year, but more importantly got to spend these festive times with family and friends, rather than responding to incidents. I know I had a quiet time and it was a pleasant change from responding to incidents.

The end of 2012 left the Association with some unfinished business to keep the executive busy. As you should know the Association held its AGM in early November and my annual report is included for all to read. The AGM is usually followed by a committee meeting. However due to a number of positions not being filled at the AGM calls were sent out for nominations to fill these positions on a casual basis for one year. This process is now complete and the meeting is being planned for February. This will give our volunteer representatives time to discuss issues and provide feedback on a range of topics important to SES volunteers.

Another piece of unfinished business is the signing of the Volunteer Charter. Yes it is now out of date and for a while there it was on track to be resigned by the end of the year, but a shift in focus has seen it relegated further down the list of priorities. Hopefully it can be finalised and signed off on before it is forgotten about altogether, thus allowing the Association to focus on this year's priorities.

Another area the Association will be focussing on is the Community Safety Directorate which was announced back in August and to date, apart from attending an initial meeting with the other agencies affected by this new Directorate, where we were told not to worry as we would be part of the consultative process. But we heard nothing, were not consulted, and hence have not been able to report to volunteers on how this Directorate would affect them. My initial feeling is that it is an administrative measure which will have little or no impact on what SES volunteers do on a day to day basis. The picture should become clearer when we see the details and until those details are released I remain cautious about how the SES and volunteers will be affected. I believe the report went to the Minister in December.

Then on the 22 December an advertisement appeared in the pages of the Advertiser announcing the formation of a Select Committee (Legislative Council) on Community and Emergency Services in South Australia. This Select Committee will look at a number of topics including the status of funding resources and policy initiatives of the various

agencies involved in emergency services including the SES. The Association will be expected to make a representation to this Committee and will be working with State Headquarters to ensure that we provide a united position in the value the State of South Australia gets from having a volunteer State Emergency Service. We provide value for money, but we need better resourcing to manage the increased complexities of doing our job safely.

The Select Committee will also undertake a review of the process leading up to the creation of the new Community Safety Directorate and how the Directorate will work. Maybe this could explain why the Association has not heard anything as the Directorate has been busy working on its structure rather than consulting with those parties which have an interest in possible changes to the sector and getting the report to the Minister prior to the public announcement of this committee. Undoubtedly there will be changes otherwise the Government would not have started this process. We can only hope that these changes benefit the SES and its volunteers.

So a number of action items for the Association to include on the agenda for its first meeting, add to it the review of the Fire and Emergency Services Act which is not far away and you can see it will be a busy year for the Association and the staff at Headquarters as we continue to remind politicians, the press and the wider South Australian community that the SES plays a vital unique role in public safety in this state.

This is what the Association was created to do, so make use of the Association, let us know how you feel, give us your ideas on how to make your life as a SES volunteer easier and improve the Service at the same time. After all the process of consultation requires discussion between the parties involved along with the sharing of ideas in order to formulate a new vision.

I look forward to hearing your views.

Until next time,  
Stay safe

Warren Hicks E.S.M



# CHIEF OFFICER'S REPORT

CHRIS BEATTIE



**There is no doubt that 2012 was a challenging and eventful year for SASES with high operational demands, interstate deployments and significant organisational reform.** In what was a period of significant change, I am tremendously proud of the dedication and service provided by our volunteers who together with local government and other partner agencies, continued to protect and support South Australian communities during times of emergency and crisis.

Throughout this year SASES volunteers responded to thousands of requests for assistance for road crashes, land searches, vertical rescues, swiftwater rescues, animal rescues, floods, storms and marine emergencies. This included response to a number of significant events which resulted in deployment of substantial resources including:

- Far North Flooding – Protracted rainfall events throughout February 2012 resulted in SASES coordinating emergency relief air drops into a number of outback communities
- West Australia Deployment – Extreme storms in WA led to a deployment of five SASES teams to Perth over 14-18 June 2012
- Metro winter storm of 23-24 August – which resulted in many hundreds of calls for assistance throughout metropolitan Adelaide and communities in the Riverland and South East.

Organisational 2012 was a period of intense change with a new district structure being implemented in June. Revised staffing and business processes have successfully been implemented with ten district officers appointed and new roles filled in State Headquarters. A six weekly business rhythm has been implemented and this is enabling increased levels of unit support and provision of additional training opportunities.

SASES training frameworks and arrangements also underwent significant reform – with new SafeWork Practices being trialled and adopted, new SES induction modules introduced, the Training White Paper finalised and launched, and new

requirements for SES trainers introduced. Additionally SASES revised its course nomination management process and new courses were developed and introduced. The service also participated in a number of important exercises including Exercise Team Spirit 2012, Exercise Rhino Crash 2012 and Exercise Northern Strike 2012. All activities allowed the service to practice escalated multi-agency response arrangements in a controlled environment.

Major capability enhancements over 2012 included the introduction and bedding down of the new computer aided dispatch system SACAD; the roll out of swiftwater awareness training to 60% of the organisation; introduction of incident management training; development of a new inland/inshore rescue boat operations package; adoption of twin rope vertical rescue system and initiation of the vertical rescue capability revitalisation program; establishment of three new memoranda of understanding with the State Recovery Office, ETSA utilities and SAAS; completion and opening of the new Tumby Bay SES unit depot and Campbelltown SES unit depot; establishment of the new Community Engagement Unit; roll out of the light fleet replacement program and acquisition of 28 new 4WD vehicles; establishment and implementation of the rolling road crash rescue equipment replacement program; adoption of the South Australian Common Incident Command and Control System; roll out of new computer equipment and broadband services to all SES units under the E-connect program; establishment and running of the inaugural SA Volunteer Marine Rescue conference; introduction of a new quarterly resilience newsletter called "EM"; purchase of a new depot for the Mount Barker SES unit; acquisition of a new vessel for Port Lincoln SES unit; and establishment of the new duty roster system.

Business reforms in 2012 included the introduction of the new model constitutions for SES units; the establishment of a one-stop-shop for all business, finance and administrative support, implementation of a staff performance management and development system, updates to over 30 policies and procedures, establishment of the new volunteer based OHS facilities inspection team, regulatory reforms to deem SASES volunteers as "prescribed volunteers" under the Workers Compensation and Rehabilitation Act, development and implementation of new performance indicators and reporting regimes for staff, and the launch of a new business plan and planning framework. In a broader context 2012 saw the establishment of the new Community Safety Directorate, led by Tony Harrison, which has been charged with coordinating whole of government community safety policy and associated initiatives.

As Control Agency and Hazard Leader for extreme weather,  
Continued page 07



## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

SUSAN CARACOUESSIS

**B**oth the Chair in his report has updated on issues currently before the Association and the Chief Officer has provided a full overview of the work undertaken and what has been implemented in the last year. Certainly a lot has occurred and this year is already shaping up to be extremely busy, especially on the review side. Coupled with this are the extremely tight constraints under which the SES still manages to operate and of course this is due to the ongoing commitment of volunteers, without who both this country could not survive in times of natural disasters, which has already been evidenced over the last two months, firstly on Eyre Peninsula and the north, together with our eastern seaboard. Whilst it is the bushfire season, one must never forget or play down the integral part the SES also plays.

Plus of course another area many forget is the role our volunteers play in searching for missing persons and evidence for the police and it was an SES volunteer who found the body of murder victim Navarone Hutchins 5 kilometres from Keith.

Now to many thank yous, twelve units are benefiting from the Dulux/ Bunnings promotion that has been in place since Boxing Day and concludes the end of January. The Association worked closely with both Dulux and Bunnings and really appreciates this ongoing support in South Australia.



Also SA Power Networks has been promoting SES volunteers on its big screen at No. 1 Anzac Highway and

if you haven't seen the message it's below. Additionally as a part of SES Week another message appeared promoting "Wear Orange to Work Day".

Besides all our key roles, many SES volunteers get involved in community activities such as assisting at the Christmas Pageant and Lee Lennon generously donated copies of "The Legendary Magic Cave and Christmas Pageant" to our volunteers. The book is a wonderful history of an iconic event and certainly brings back memories. Copies have been provided for all volunteers who assisted in the Christmas Pageant and will also be presented to volunteers in regional areas in conjunction with awards presentations. Lee's generosity has provided a keepsake for many.



At the front of this edition of Frontline, you will notice the names of all your regional representatives under our restructure, so please contact us with any query you may have. Additionally a big thank you must be extended to Gordon Hartley and Jim Darling for all their work as volunteer representatives from the former West Region.

A gentle reminder, Frontline is your magazine and photographs and text are always welcome, sometimes we receive a photo with no information, so please jot down some points, we don't expect you to always write the article, but we are keen to acknowledge what is occurring in units around the state.

Finally congratulations to our 2013 Australia Day ESM recipient/s. Report will appear in the April edition of Frontline.

Susan Caracouessis





# CAMPBELLTOWN SES UNIT

**Campbelltown SES Unit's new facility was officially opened on Montacute Road on Sunday 4 November by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Jennifer Rankine who unveiled a commemorative plaque.**

The new \$815,000 complex has three vehicle bays and a separate administration building, which includes

two offices, a communications room, meeting/training room, crew room and a kitchen.

Chief Officer Chris Beattie said that "Members have really embraced the new facility ... it's a big improvement on the former accommodation. This Unit is made up of 22 members and attends up to 380 call outs each year. Campbelltown SES volunteers are

renowned for their skills – particularly rescues. The expertise and skill of some volunteers, particularly in vertical rescues, has proven lifesaving for cyclists, recreational walkers and rock climbers".

Work on the Campbelltown facility began in May 2012 and the Unit moved into the new facility in mid-September.





# Annual Report

21 October 2012

The year 2012, from the Association's point of view could be best described as one of consolidation as the Executive continued to build strong collaborative relationships with newly formed management of the State Emergency Service under Chris Beattie and the Hon. Jennifer Rankine, M.P., the Minister for Emergency Services. Building these relationships and trust is important if the Association is to meet its aim of representing the views of State Emergency Service volunteers to all levels of Government. Changes within the organisational structure of the State Emergency Service had a flow on effect to not only volunteers but the organisational structure of the Association as well.

The Executive of the Association continues to have its monthly meetings at State Headquarters with the Chief Officer and his Deputy, and other senior staff. At these meetings many of the changes that have been implemented this year have been discussed in great detail. Along with the usual day to day type issues that have been raised by members such as concerns around the future of the SES, budgets, grievances, training, staffing and uniforms. These meetings continue to be held in a manner that allows for open and frank discussions around the issues with all participants having the goal of getting the best outcome for the SES.

The Association's Executive Officer, Susan Caracoussis and I have continued to met with **Minister for Emergency Services**, the Hon Jennifer Rankine, MP, to discuss topics important to volunteers, such has extra funding for the Service, better recognition for volunteers not only from the public but from other Government agencies who at times have taken the service of volunteers for granted. With the Charter up for review there has also been talk on any possible changes either party would like to make and the establishment of a possible timeline to see the Charter resigned. A major part of the Charter is around consultation and the Association sees it as a major part of the Charter that is not changed.

This year has seen the SES undertake a workforce restructure one of the many changes to come out of the Cultural Review. Any restructure involves change and this usually takes time as many people resist or feel uncomfortable when changes that affect their normal activities are introduced. There have been staff changes as some staff used this opportunity to progress their careers either in higher positions within the Service or in other agencies. While some volunteers did express quite rightly that these changes would unfairly impact on them and their communities, for most part day to day operations have not been disrupted and as the restructure continues to develop hopefully many of the fears these volunteers have can been put to rest.

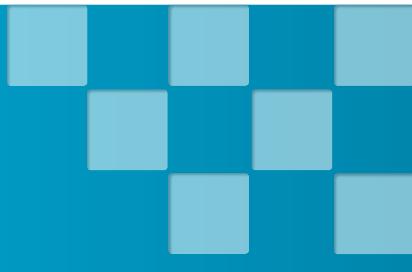
It should be remembered that the Association is one of many opposing forces that the Chief Officer has to deal with. There are budget constraints, pressure to do more with less, other people have had to be tasked with responsibilities that were once looked after by SAFECOM , changes to legislation, and the changing focus of Emergency Management due to reviews of major incidents interstate that have to be managed. As a result sometimes the Association does not have a lot of influence in the final decisions, but at least now we are asked what our view is. This is a big change from just being told about changes after the decision has been made, which had been the case under previous management structures.

The Association continues to have members on many of the separate working groups such as the EAG, Training, Awards and Honours selection committee and from time to time selection panels for positions. The volume and quality of the work put out by the EAG and the training group is regularly updated on the website or through various publications. There have been some significant changes in policies and the way in which training is to be managed, however it is again a work in progress and while the outcomes look promising there will be a period of change. The work of some of the other groups silently goes on in the background but is just as important to the role in which the Association has in ensuring volunteers are consulted and allowed input into the decision making process.

As a result of the workforce restructure and the changes to the regional structure of the SES, the Association also had to make some changes to the way in which it gathered the views from these regions. Having an individual representative from each of all the new districts would have made for a large and unsustainable committee. The cost of bringing all the representatives to just one face to face meeting would have severely affected the working budget of the Association to the point that it would have quickly run out of funds to continue in its day to day functions. A special meeting was held to vote on a proposal that would see the Association ask for volunteers from the two new administrative regions thus keeping the number of representatives at a similar level. This proposal was accepted and the Association's constitution was changed to reflect these changes.

The recent announcement of the establishment of a Directorate of Public Safety will undoubtedly take up a key slice of the Associations' time and effort in the next few months. What part the Association and the SES play in the Directorate is not clearly defined as everything is still in the initial discussion stage and we are just one of many groups that will become part of this super administrative agency and we will know more as the year progresses.

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#### Continued from page 06

In closing I feel that the SASES Volunteers' Association has been, as always, very productive, it is in an even stronger position and its future and that of the Service is secure for now. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all the committee members, especially those that have chosen not to stand again. Being a representative does at times require a lot of effort and commitment

to other volunteers. I would like to highlight the efforts of Gordon Hartley, who over his time on the committee has held various positions, represented the Association at various functions and has continually shown his dedication in ensuring that the needs of SES volunteers and communities on the West Coast are not overlooked. A job well done and I wish him well and the other representatives well for the

future. I am sure there will be future opportunities to work together to ensure the SES and the volunteers who serve in it continues to grow and be supported in the work they do in the best possible way.

Warren Hicks. ESM

#### Continued from page 03

As Control Agency and Hazard Leader for extreme weather, the service has worked throughout 2012 with SAFECOM staff, Zone Emergency Management Committees and other relevant stakeholders to progress comprehensive risk assessments at zone-level for flooding, severe wind and extreme heat events. Also in January 2012 SASES convened an 'Extreme Heat Reference Group' to review proposed national extreme heat arrangements. As a result, the group amended the state's extreme heat guide and severe weather plan to encompass a number of the key findings.

Over 2012 the service has also been heavily involved in supporting the Flood Inquiry Taskforce which was formed in early 2011 by the State Emergency Management Committee to evaluate the Victorian Floods Review and the Queensland Floods Commission of Inquiry reports and their implications for South Australia. The taskforce conducted an in depth analysis regarding the interstate recommendations and their individual relevance within South Australia. In the coming year SASES will continue to work with partner agencies through a newly formed Flood Reform Taskforce to fully scope and prioritise flood management capability initiatives.

In community education areas, SASES continued to promote its flagship FloodSafe program through volunteer attendance at regional shows, community forums and local government forums. These activities have made a significant contribution towards increased community preparedness for flooding. The program was expanded during the year into a number of additional regional council areas and is now being delivered into primary schools. Of particular significance for FloodSafe was the development of enhanced community engagement arrangements through the formal establishment of the SASES Community Engagement Unit. The unit builds on the capabilities developed by the SASES FloodSafe team with a focus on the national FloodSafe and StormSafe programs. The unit also has responsibility for developing a media and public relations capability and volunteer recruiting capability for the service.

Indeed 2012 was a busy but fruitful year and I would like to thank all our volunteers, staff and the staff and volunteers of our partner agencies who have worked so hard to build a reliable and trusted service capable of supporting safe and resilient communities. I look forward to working with you all again over the next 12 months as we continue to serve the South Australian community. Until next time – train hard, stay safe, and keep recruiting.

Chris Beattie

#### HARMONISED WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY LEGISLATION NOW IN EFFECT

New Work Health and Safety (WHS) Laws commenced in South Australia on the 1 January 2013, replacing the Occupational Health Safety and Welfare Act of 1986.

The Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) and the Work Health and Safety Regulations 2012 (SA), can be accessed on the SafeWork SA website. There are also 23 Codes of Practice which have now come into effect here in South Australia.

With these new WHS regulations, there will be transitional periods to provide time for businesses and workers to prepare.

As a part of the OHSW obligations, the SES will take action to ensure legislative compliance is addressed as a part of the OHSW system and that systems, are reviewed and revised in line with current legislation, the workplace and work practices.

The SES State Health and Safety Committee, which comprises volunteer representatives from each region, staff and the Association will be meeting bi-monthly, so please liaise with your representative.



# NORTH REGION CADET CAMP

**O**n the evening of 21 September, 2012, 15 cadets from Hallett and Andamooka met for a camp briefing and a get-to-know-you at the Andamooka SES Unit, where we then camped for the night.

Next morning we packed the trailer and vehicles and left for Marla. We lunched at Coober Pedy on route, and arrived in Marla around 4 pm. After setting up camp the cadets did a reconnaissance of the town.

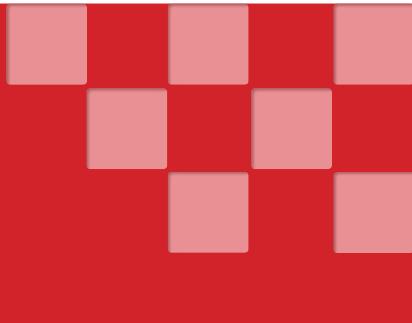
Early the following day we left for Uluru

arriving early afternoon. We decided to camp in the bush about 3km from Yulara. The cadets quickly learned teamwork as they went about setting up tents and the communal area. A roster was compiled for cooking, washing up and cleaning the vehicles. A training session was held after the evening meal. First off the cadets learned how to navigate with a GPS and when it was dark they put their learning into practice. An interesting session occurred as the cadets followed the GPS tracks. They also used radios to communicate their positions back to our base. We

suggested that after this exercise, a sleep-in was in order. Needless to say, by 7am the next morning, the cadets were up and ready to go. We then walked around Uluru, all 12 km of it! That night we held a land search style exercise, hoping to tire the cadets out, but it didn't work!

Next day we travelled to the Olgas. Whilst walking in the gorge one of the cadets staged a rescue. She supposedly was startled by a "hoop snake" and slipped down a slope, hitting her head, rendering her unconscious. The rest





of the cadets proceeded to assess the situation and extricate the casualty in a stretcher. They practiced passing the stretcher up the slope.

We then travelled to Alice Springs, staying at the caravan park. The highlight was a visit to the NT Emergency Services building. An enjoyable time was had learning about another service.

At last it was time to return home. A good time was had by all! The cadets wrote about their experiences. The

following is a snapshot of their comments:

"Everyone had fun and learned a lot of new things like improved knot tying, stretcher use, GPS navigation and meeting new friends".

"A few things I have learnt is exploring outdoor boundaries is quite fun, participating in groups, improved safety awareness and all challenges presented to us".

This was a most successful camp combining life experiences, team work and SES skills outside the cadets normal environments. Thanks to Stefan Bilka and Bronwyn West from Andamooka Unit for co-ordinating the camp and for allowing me to participate.

**Neil Gibson**  
Chair  
SES Cadet Committee



# SES Week

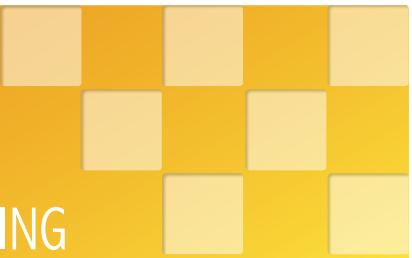
**S**ES Week 2012, saw units organise displays, sausage sizzles and the like to help promote the SES and what we do. Paddy was also out and about during the weekend at the Port Adelaide Enfield Council and Stirling Christmas parades.

Wear Orange to Work Day proved popular (refer separate story) and a number of our volunteers also took the opportunity to donate blood during SES Week to the Australian Red Cross Blood Service. Chief Officer Chris Beattie

encourages everyone who can donate to consider becoming a donor and join the SES in Club Red. During SES Week Chris and volunteers from Campbelltown Unit donated blood at the Red Cross Blood Service in Grenfell Street.

There is more information on Club Red and donating blood on [www.donateblood.com.au](http://www.donateblood.com.au), plus of course you can monitor the SASES donations to our counterparts interstate.





## WEAR ORANGE TO WORK DAY AT GPA ENGINEERING

**S**taff at GPA Engineering wore orange and gathered for morning tea to show their support for the SES and Edinburgh member John Lawrence on Wear Orange to Work Day, Wednesday 14 November 2012. Some of the female staff were so keen to get a slice of the caramel mud cake that they came up with ingenious interpretations of the wear orange theme. This included wearing an actual orange or an orange highlighter as a necklace. "It was pleasing to see colleagues showing their support", John said. "GPA has provided on-going and valuable support. They have provided significant donations for the purchase of equipment and allowed me time off with pay to go on interstate deployments." The cake was enjoyed by all in attendance.

**Support SES  
wear orange  
to work  
Wed 14 Nov**



Ladies with oranges:  
Peter Lazic, with  
Therese Colmer and  
Akalia McDonald



Avia Separovich



Seated (from left to right) Hamza Kaliq, James Chervatin, Rasool Mayahi, Peter Blyton, Avia Separovich. Standing (left to right) Wayne Ward, Therese Colmer, Peter Lazic, Akalia McDonald, Alide Caruso, Katie Marriott, Natalie Schutt and John Lawrence (Edinburgh Unit).



## EDINBURGH SES UNIT CELEBRATES 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Edinburgh SES Unit held its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary function on Friday 2 November 2012 with the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jennifer Rankine, Leesha Vlahos, Member for Taylor, Deputy Mayor Duncan MacMillian, City of Playford, the Chief Officer Chris Beattie, other dignitaries, Unit members and SES volunteers (past and present) in attendance. At the conclusion of formalities, guests enjoyed a barbecue tea, followed by a slice of the birthday cake.

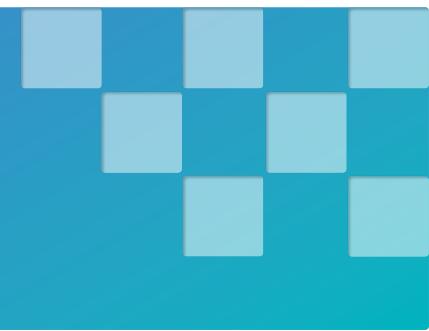
The Minister addressed those present, congratulating the Unit on achieving its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and acknowledged the active role the Unit played in its area and the number of callouts and activities undertaken. The Minister then made a presentation to Unit Manager John Lawrence.



The plaque

Chief Officer Chris Beattie, the Minister, Leesa Vlahos, the Member for Taylor and John Lawrence.





John Lawrence in thanking the Minister for her support, then provided background to the old Civil Defence days and referred guests to a display that had been mounted for the occasion. John referred in particular to his overalls, first aid kit and helmet he had been supplied with, when joining, whilst a student in the late sixties/early seventies.

John then outlined the history of the Unit which began in 1962 as the Northern Districts Unit, in an old State Education Department building at 1 Ann Street, Salisbury with 10 members. In 1971 the Unit relocated to the old Police Station at 3 Ann Street, where it remained until 1992, and then temporarily relocated to Hogarth Road, Elizabeth South while the present purpose built building was under

construction at 20 Hewittson Road, Elizabeth West. The Unit was officially opened by the Hon. Martin Evans MP on 28 March 1993.

In 2008 the Unit's name was changed to Edinburgh Unit and the Unit has certainly been active with over 300 taskings recorded most years.

John concluded formalities by inviting the Minister to unveil a commemorative plaque and cut the cake made especially for the anniversary. He then invited guests to enjoy the barbecue tea and thanked his Unit members for their work in organising the event.



Minister Rankine



Minister Rankine cuts the cake



Edinburgh history



Minister Rankine unveils the commemorative plaque



Edinburgh Unit's gift



John Lawrence with the City of Playford Deputy Mayor Duncan MacMillan



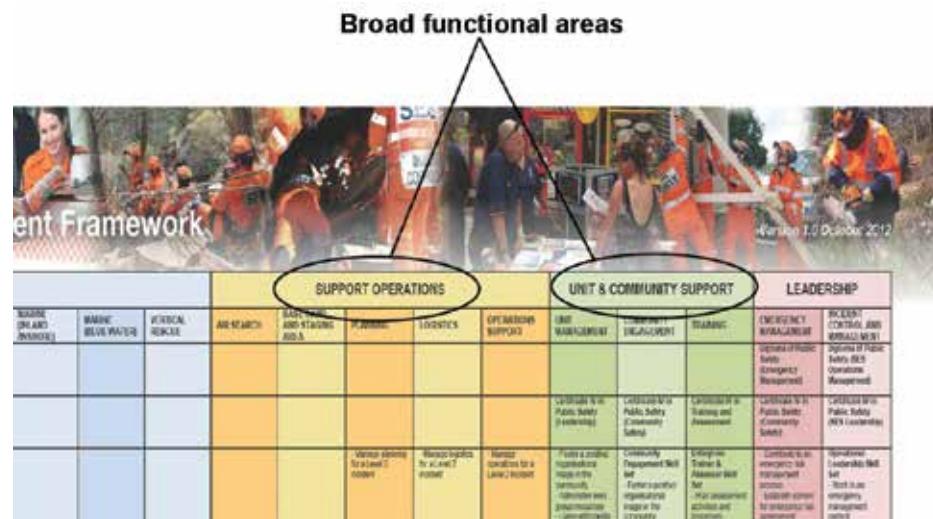
# LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK LAUNCHED

*The South Australian State Emergency Service Learning and Development Framework 2012-2015: the new SES training environment* was launched at the Unit Managers' Forum on 22 October 2012. This strategic document outlines the high level policy direction or statement of intent for training over the next few years.

**Section 1** provides some background, explaining why the SES has decided to make changes in the way training is provided and in the range of courses offered.

**Section 2** describes several training reforms that will make training more accessible by increasing the pool of trainers and introducing more flexible training methods. Other changes include the way the Training Calendar is developed, which will ensure training is more relevant to each district; and the introduction of a new Skills Maintenance program which should greatly reduce the burden of re-accreditation in some areas.

**Section 3** provides an overview of changes in the range of training that



will be offered in the future. Most exciting is the addition of training for operations support functions, as well as training in areas such as community engagement and unit management. These new courses will enable interested members to develop the skills necessary to undertake functions outside the usual operations area. Another change is the introduction of training at higher levels (up to Diploma level) for people who would like to undertake leadership roles.

**Section 4** details the work that will be required to implement the changes over the next 12 months.

Communicating the changes so that everyone understands where we are

going is extremely important. We will be working hard to make sure this happens by producing Training Bulletins, meeting with Training Coordinators in every district and through articles like this one in *Frontline*.

In this issue of Frontline I have also tried to answer some of the questions we have received about the framework and the new poster.

## **INTERPRETING THE POSTER**

By now, the new Learning and Development Framework poster should be displayed in all units.

Features of the poster include:

- Four broad functional areas – Operations, Support Operations, Unit & Community Support, and Leadership
  - Skill streams - such as Storm and Water Damage, Land Search, or Road Crash Rescue - depicting the most commonly required training in each area
  - Training levels which show how you can progressively develop skills throughout your SES career
  - Units of competency – building blocks towards nationally recognised qualifications





### **What has happened to the courses that used to be delivered?**

It would be impossible to capture information about all training that is currently offered in SES, as well as that planned for the future, in one poster. However we've tried to include the skill areas that members are most likely to access. We are currently working on a Course Directory that will provide a more comprehensive list of training opportunities.

No training has disappeared. Some courses may have just had a name change. For example, when the Storm and Flood course was reviewed to make sure it meets the national standard we found that, with only minor changes, it actually covered two different units of competency – *Undertake storm and water damage operations* and *Undertake storm and water damage operations performed at heights*. Similarly, when a member undertakes the Land Search course, they will gain two units of competency – *Undertake land search rescue* and *Protect and preserve an incident scene*.

In some cases, to gain a unit of competency a member would need to complete two or more of the existing/old training courses. For example to gain *Participate in a rescue operation* would require Basic Rescue and Tools and Equipment, plus a bit more. In these situations we will be working on the old course material or developing new materials so that courses will eventually map to the national standards. When we transition to a new course, people who have undertaken the previous training will either RPL directly or may occasionally need to undertake some 'gap training'. This is likely to be quite minor and will most probably be undertaken at the unit level.

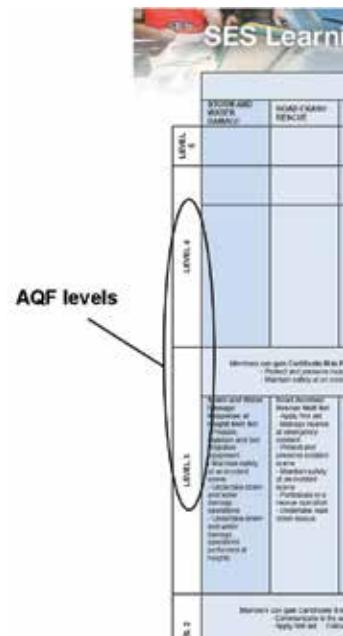
Several training courses, such as Swiftwater Awareness or All Terrain Vehicle Operations, will continue to be delivered where they meet an organisational need even though they don't map to accredited units of competency.

### **What do the levels mean?**

Nationally recognised training is classified by levels according to the Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF). These levels reflect the depth of skills and knowledge required as well as the likely extent of responsibility a person would have at that level. For example a member who performs tasks under the direction of a Team Leader needs to know how to perform those tasks, but the Team Leader would be making decisions about what needs to be done. Training for this level would be at AQF level 2. However a Team Leader would need skills at AQF level 3, which reflects the fact that they have more responsibility.

The work needed to formally map AQF levels against existing/old levels familiar to SES members has still to be done. It is possible that this could result in members needing to undertake further training for some roles. For example, it might mean that Team Leaders will need to hold the level 3 skill set in a particular skill stream (such as the Road Accident Rescue Skill Set) plus the Team Leader Skill Set, from the leadership stream.

We will be consulting with senior officers and with members through a Training Reference Group before any changes are made to role requirements; and we will be communicating any changes well in advance and make sure there is plenty of time to manage any transition.



### **Will there be any changes to pre-requisites?**

It is likely there could be changes to pre-requisites for some training courses. This will only happen progressively as each course is reviewed to bring it into line with national standards. Until then, things will remain the same. And again, we will consult with the experts and communicate any changes through Training Bulletins and other channels.

In future issues of Frontline I will talk more about our new training direction and try to answer any questions you have. You can contact training section or your District Officer if there's anything you'd like to know.

Until then train hard, keep learning and stay safe.

**Greg Mennie**  
Manager Training and Organisational Development



# INCIDENT MANAGEMENT EXPLORED

**T**his article is the second in a series of articles to be published in Frontline regarding the functions of Incident Management and the opportunities for SES and emergency services in embracing common incident management. In April 2011, the Chief Officers of the SES, CFS, MFS and Commissioner of Police signed the South Australasian Common Incident Command and Control System (ICCS) Agency Agreement. The common framework is designed to enhance incident management systems currently in use by agencies, including the Australasian Interagency Incident Management System (AIIMS) and SAPOL's Incident Command and Control System (ICCS) which is based on the National Counter Terrorism Committee ICCS model.

The agreed common incident management framework comprises of the following principles:

1. Functional management is to be applied to incident management at all management levels - strategic (state and regional) and in the field at operational and tactical levels;
2. Functional management is to align with the 10 responsibilities of a control agency as outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan;
3. In diagrammatically describing functional management, agencies are to adopt where possible the 'Ten function model' diagram ;
4. While the resolution of an emergency requires all responsibilities to be addressed by the control agency, the management structure built to resolve the incident only requires to staff those functional areas deemed necessary;
5. A staffed functional area may incorporate other functions as required under the model;
6. If during the resolution of an emergency public information release is required, the control agency is to create and staff the public information function;
7. Whilst some terminology may differ, the person leading the control agency

in the field (incident command point or centre) will be known as the Incident Controller;

8. Agencies will introduce tabards that differentiate between incident controller when the control agency and agency commander when a support agency; and,
9. Coordination incorporates SAPOL's legislative arrangements as defined by the Emergency Management Act 2004 and the State Emergency Management Plan.

The agreement allows all agencies to build on the five functions described in AIIMS and incorporates the additional functions identified in the South Australian Emergency Management Act.

## Control

The management of all activities necessary for the resolution of an incident.

## Operations

The tasking and application of resources used to resolve an incident.

## Public Information

Provision of warnings and information to communities, stakeholders and the general public.

## Planning

The collection, analysis and dissemination of information and the development of plans for the resolution of an incident.

## Logistics

The acquisition and provision of human and physical resources, facilities, services and materials to support achievement of incident objectives.

## Safety

Ensure a safe working environment and safe systems of work.

## Communications

Ensure effective liaison, communication and cooperation with all involved.

## Intelligence

Continually assess the situation, identify risks and share information with all involved.

## Investigation

Facilitate the investigation of the emergency and review of response activities.

## Recovery

Ensure transition from response to recovery including the coordinated handover to those responsible for the recovery.

SES Incident Management facilitation team



SA State Emergency Service

31 OCT 2012

Received

ADELAIDE SHOWGROUND  
PO BOX 108, GOODMAN  
SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5034  
ABN 00 631 710 496  
TELEPHONE 08 8210 5211  
FACSIMILE 08 8212 1982  
FACSIMILE 08 8212 1984  
INFO@adelaide.com.au  
adelaide.com.au

Mr Chris Beattie  
Chief Officer  
SA State Emergency Services  
GPO Box 2706  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Chris,

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and involvement making the 2012 Royal Show such a successful event.

Despite cool and overcast weather at the start of the Show, we were fortunate to only receive light showers of rain on one day. When the sun came out, so did the public with particularly strong attendances Sunday to Tuesday and the last Saturday. We were delighted with the overall attendance of 483,150 particularly when considering consistent media reports of challenging times for retail sales in South Australia.

The 2012 Show proved to be very special with the highest number of competitive entries in 172 years – 30,495. Moreover, business exhibitor interest in 2012 was extremely strong with a waiting list for available sites and requests by current exhibitors for more space.

There were many learning opportunities at the 2012 Royal Adelaide Show. The development of new skills by young and old was evident with the introduction of the Technology Centre, the Demonstration Kitchen and the ABC Goyder Stage incorporating demonstrations of art, craft and flower arranging. The boat building in the Old Ram Shed proved extremely popular for its second year.

The Royal Adelaide Show relies on the support and contribution of many to be successful.

Kind regards,

John W Rothwell  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



SA State Emergency Service

10 DEC 2012

Received

7<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

The SES Chief Officer  
Mr Chris Beattie  
GPO Box 2706  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Beattie

I bring to your attention the recent weekend havoc caused by storms in Whyalla.

The efforts of local police, SES, MFS and ambulance crews on Friday afternoon and continuing over the weekend are to be commended. Their response was above and beyond the call of duty in this particular instance as the storm hit with such ferocity.

Some 5000 homes were without power and it is likely to take up to a week to restore the service to particular areas. 50-60 homes incurred major structural damage and that will involve months of repair work. Hundreds of trees, some 80 years old and 20-30 metres in height, were ripped from the ground or snapped in half.

Driving around the community at the weekend and this week I realised the extent of the storm and the damage and trauma it has caused. It is a real comfort to know that in times of crisis our community can rely on such professionalism.

I have personally thanked and all MFS and SES members individually and the local police officers through Inspector Scott Denny, who attended over the weekend. Correspondence has also been sent to the Minister, the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Officer SAMFS to inform them of my personal gratitude and that of the community.

Yours sincerely

Hon Lyn Breuer MP  
Speaker of the House of Assembly  
Member for Giles

*Great effort by local SES !!*

## To whom it may concern at Whyalla SES.

I wish to formally acknowledge the effort by Whyalla State Emergency Service members during the Whyalla storm incident on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

At about 6pm on Friday evening 30<sup>th</sup> November 2012 a severe and sudden storm hit Whyalla.

I reside with my family in Travers Street, Whyalla Norrie and was at home during this incident. I immediately recognised the seriousness of this incident and arranged for my wife to advise SA Power Networks per phone of the fact a number of power lines were down and across the roadway nearby. I also logged this incident with SAPOL Comcen with a request to have a SES unit attend the vicinity to assist with damaged houses, including residences of a number of elderly and vulnerable residents.

A short time after these calls were made a crew from Whyalla SES attended my vicinity and provided me with assistance with traffic control assets and this crew then attended a distraught elderly resident at 10 Parker Court, Whyalla Norrie and provided immediate assistance with securing her badly damaged roof and provided her with reassurance. This crew then assessed another damaged property in Travers Street, provided advice and departed this scene to attend to other tasks.

I wish to formally congratulate this SES crew on the performance of their duty during this storm incident.

Their efforts showed a great deal of experience and professionalism and are a credit to Your organisation.

I ask this be recorded within the SASES system.

**Sergeant Dave ADAMSON**  
Whyalla Operations, Eyre & Western LSA  
South Australia Police



# ROBERT BOWLEY WINS KEITH LANE AWARD

**2012** was the tenth year that the Volunteers' Association has presented the Keith Lane Award to a volunteer who by his character, reflected the passion and commitment to his Unit that Keith Lane demonstrated for so many years.

Robert Bowley was nominated by several members from Edinburgh Unit, with each providing insight to the man and their exceptionally high regard for him.

Affectionately known as "Little Bob", or LB, by Edinburgh Unit members, Bob is a quiet and unassuming person, but invaluable to the Unit. He spent time in the Air Force and has qualifications in accountancy and motor mechanics. An unusual mixture, but extremely beneficial for the Unit.

Bob joined the SES in July 2007 and has obtained skills from numerous SES courses.

In the 2011-2012 year Bob attended 53% of all callouts, more than any other member, and then attended the Unit over 300 times throughout the year willingly contributing in excess of an additional 800 hours, being an indication of Bob's dedication to both the Edinburgh Unit and the SES in general.

In addition to being Team Leader, Bob looks after the stores and carries out a significant amount of equipment maintenance. Unit Manager John Lawrence said Edinburgh Unit is literally Bob's "shed". When new equipment needs to be purchased, Bob willingly investigates the most appropriate model and obtains the quotes. As the Unit has only one rescue truck, Bob has spent a considerable amount of time using his motor mechanic skills to modify and equip the Unit's thirteen year old Land Cruiser so that it can be used as a rescue vehicle rather than just being a people transporter. The Unit is now able to use it, whilst to a limited extent, for most types of incidents. It was only through Bob's initiative and drive that this has been able to occur.

Bob enjoys passing on his knowledge and skills to other members of the Unit, particularly the newer and younger members. He is always willing to help in whatever capacity he can and rarely refuses a request for assistance. He is a model SES volunteer. Bob's dedication to helping extends outside the Unit, in that he also helps members.

Without LB the Edinburgh Unit would be less skilled, less operational and less efficient.

Fellow Unit member Lisette Reinke, probably best summarised Bob when she said : "He is the backbone of our Unit. The safety and welfare of the crew is his main concern. He treats members like they are his family; he is always there for us all day or night."

Lisette also said: "On a personal level, he will give his 'SES family' lifts to the airport, provide advice and assistance to fix



Bob Bowley with Adrian Ploksts, Police Credit Union left and Warren Hicks, Chair SASESVA

and repair cars, babysit dogs while you're away, drop kids to school when there's no transport available, take members to hospital when they are unwell and keep them company, help them move house, organise working bees and assist with house maintenance when they can't afford professionals. You name it, if he can, once you have joined the Edinburgh Unit, he will put you first. When crew need someone to talk to, they call Little Bob, day or night.

His unreserved dedication to the Unit and its members is priceless; it is his life. Over the years, on many occasions, he is the reason that we have been able to remain online as a functioning Unit when our responding crew numbers were down; he would always tirelessly respond. He demonstrates total and unwavering commitment to the Unit and is an incredible inspiration and example to all members. He freely gives his knowledge and encouragement to all. He is a mentor to all.

Demonstrating quiet, tireless, dedication to the SES, our Unit and its members, and the community, Bob doesn't ask for, or expect any praise for all that he does, and that is exactly why he is the person that deserves this honour in recognition for the daily life sacrifices that he freely volunteers".

Bob was presented with a trophy and the Keith Lane perpetual shield by Warren Hicks and Adrian Ploksts, from the Police Credit Union presented Bob with \$1,000 to be applied to a project of his choice.

The Police Credit Union has also agreed to again support the award in 2013 and the Association is extremely grateful.



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## COAST RADIO ADELAIDE WINS 2012 RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARD

**W**ith some 55,000 recreational and 2,200 commercial vessels registered in the State, merchant shipping routes, domestic and international flight paths, an ever increasing number of routine passenger ferry services between regional ports, there is an ever present risk of marine emergencies arising within the waters of South Australia.

In 2008, in a partnership with Volunteer Marine Rescue (VMR), the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) commenced an upgrade of major components of the VHF radio repeater network infrastructure. This much needed initiative substantially improved coastal VHF communications, which is crucial to operators like our own Garry Smith of Tumby Bay VMR, as they provide safety information and passage monitoring to mariners in their areas. However, this did not encompass internationally recognised emergency VHF frequencies.

In 2010, following endorsement by the SA Marine Communications Management Committee, DPTI presented a solution now known as "Coast Radio Adelaide" that has

established fourteen remote receiving sites strategically located along the SA coastline that receive and automatically relay any communications traffic emanating over VHF emergency frequencies to a permanently attended central location, via Radio over Internet Protocol (RoIP). This meant that communications made on distress frequencies from remote areas and those where volunteers are not on active duty, are still received and relayed to the central monitoring facility.

The service became operational on 12 September 2011 and provides dedicated VHF emergency frequency coverage extending in excess of 30 nautical miles (55km) seaward, from almost the head of the Great Australian Bight (Fowlers Bay) to the Victorian border, including St Vincent Gulf, Spencer Gulf and the waters surrounding Kangaroo Island. The Coast Radio Adelaide service is provided by a unique mix of both volunteer and occupational radio operators from the South Australian Sea Rescue Squadron headquarters at West Beach, and Flinders Ports at Outer Harbour, maintaining a constant 24/7 coverage of South Australian waters. Further



Schematic showing computer generated area coverage of the Coast Radio Adelaide service.

infrastructure installed at SAPOL's Water Operations Unit at Semaphore allows for the prompt and efficient coordination of emergencies at sea.

Coast Radio Adelaide makes a positive contribution towards disaster resilience by enabling both occupational and volunteer authorities to mount a timely and coordinated response, which may in turn prevent an incident escalating to a more serious level, such as loss of life at sea, loss of property and significant environment damage through oil or fuel spills.

The initiative was recently recognised at a ceremony as one of the State Winners in the 2012 Resilient Australia Awards.



Darryl Wright  
Manager  
Volunteer Marine Rescue

Photo of the Project Team representing DPTI, SA Sea Rescue Squadron, Flinders Ports and VMR accepting their award from Mr Tony Piccolo MP, Member for Light, representing the Minister for Emergency Services.



## Australian Institute of Emergency Services Young Volunteer Award

**PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY**



Australian Government

Australian Maritime Safety Authority

### THE AWARD

The AIES Young Volunteer's Award, proudly supported by the Emergency Response Division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, aims to reward one young person for their outstanding and ongoing contributions and commitment to their chosen emergency service.



The award winner will receive a fully sponsored voyage in the sail training ship Young Endeavour where he or she can develop their skills in teamwork, leadership and communication.

Runners up will receive a certificate of commendation from the AIES.

### NOMINATIONS

A member of the public, the young volunteer's supervisor, manager or another emergency service member, can make nominations. At least two referees who have known the nominee for a minimum of 12 months and who can attest to the nominee's volunteer service must second all nominations.

### NOMINATION CRITERIA

The nominee will be assessed on his or her:

- commitment to the emergency services including continuity and length of service
- demonstrated willingness to learn and progress within the emergency service
- current or future leadership potential

The nominee must:

- a. be a volunteer member of a emergency service organisation for a period of at least 2 years
- b. be aged between 18 and 23 years of age
- c. be available to undertake the voyage on the date nominated in the award

In addition, nominees must meet all of Young Endeavour's mandatory selection criteria including:

- be an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- be able to swim 50 metres and be in good health
- weigh less than 120kg
- complete a medical examination to the required standard
- not having completed a voyage in Young Endeavour previously

### SELECTION

The award committee will select the winner by assessing each nomination against the selection criteria. The authenticity of all claims in the winning submission will be verified.

The award committee's decision of the winner of the AIES Young Volunteer's Award is final and no correspondence will be entered into.

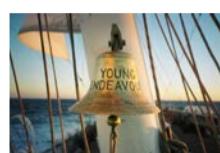


### PRESENTATION

Within 3 months of completion of the voyage, the awardee will be required to provide a written report on their voyage and make a presentation at an AIES Division meeting. The written report will be published in the Institute's journal National Emergency Response and by the award sponsor the Australian Maritime Safety Authority.

### NOMINATIONS

Nominations should be marked CONFIDENTIAL and sent to the Registrar of the Division of the AIES in which the nominee resides.



Details can be found on our website at [www.aies.net.au](http://www.aies.net.au)

**Nominations must be received by  
4pm 1<sup>st</sup> February each year.**

### TERMS AND CONDITIONS

This award is subject of the terms and conditions as detailed on the AIES website.

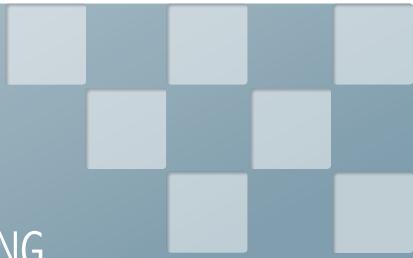
### MORE INFORMATION

More information on the award can be found on our website.

[www.aies.net.au](http://www.aies.net.au)



Acknowledgement : Photos Young Endeavour  
[www.youngendeavour.gov.au](http://www.youngendeavour.gov.au)



## FOUR SEASONS IN FOUR DAYS – THIS WAS SPRING

Certainly an accurate description of our extreme weather variation in October, which of course kept our volunteers busy:

Thursday 11 October 14 degrees and snow  
Friday 12 October 17 degrees and showers  
Saturday 21 degrees and cloudy  
Sunday 14 October 27 degrees and sunny

Hallett SES volunteer Norma Mayne captured Thursday's weather at Hallett and her photographs below featured on both Channel 10 and Channel 7's evening news services.





## HAVE YOU HEARD OF SPAM?

I mean the SPAM team, not the SPAM you delete from your computer, nor is it the processed meat you eat out of a tin. The Stress Prevention and Management (SPAM) team consists of trained volunteers who are qualified to provide peer support to other volunteers, and who are available to be the first responders to provide a listening ear after the emergency services members have experienced a difficult incident.

The emergency services peer support team has been providing support services to volunteers in SES/VMR and CFS for over 15 years and during this time we have had people come and go, as circumstances change in their lives. Currently there are four trained peers for SES/VMR members and another four from around the State, who are in the process of being trained. These peers are Shannon Hood, Cheryl and Keith Dalling, Peggy Darling, Sophie Lewis, Norman Johnston, Sherryl Gaston and Trevor Bond.

The peers also provide assistance and support to the mental health professionals who conduct the critical incident stress interventions for your Unit members, following a traumatic incident, and they also provide stress management education whilst conducting a Pre-Incident Training (PIT) session for your Unit. The peers share personal and SES/VMR related information about how you and your family can benefit from the services offered by the SPAM team. If you would like to organise a PIT session, please call the SAFECOM Welfare Coordinator, Jane Abdilla, on 0400 903 120 to make the arrangements.

Did you know we now have a SPAM phone line (08) 8211 9612 which is diverted to the SPAM on-call duty officer? This number is available for you to call if you are experiencing difficulty from an SES/VMR incident, or from a personal or family situation. If required, a referral can be made for you to see a mental health professional, who is

contracted by SAFECOM to provide professional and confidential counseling services to SES/VMR and CFS members and their immediate families. Please don't hesitate to call.

It's OK not to be OK so call the SPAM team.

Jane Abdilla  
SAFECOM Welfare Coordinator  
0400 903 120

### ALEX ZAHRA

Introducing new South Region Association representative Alex Zahra, who said: "I am honoured to have been chosen as the SASESVA Southern Representative and look forward to representing the Southern Region in 2013".

By way of background, Alex has been an active member of the South Australian State Emergency Service (SASES) Noarlunga Unit for over nine (9) years. During this period, he has been fortunate enough to have worked with very passionate and professional members from all regions within SASES, who have provided him with the necessary skills, knowledge and professionalism required to become a valued and respected member of SASES.

Alex works for the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure - Rail Commissioner where his Train Driver role focuses heavily on safety. He also currently represents his work group on the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Committee. He previously held a similar role within the SASES Noarlunga Unit as the OHS Representative prior to the regional restructure.



# Vale Greg Reedman

9/04/1946 - 16/12/2012

*"The eternal optimist who always bites off more than he can chew and then has to chew and chew and chew and generally suffer severe heart burn."*

Greg Reedman 2011

Greg Reedman joined SES as a career officer in 1999 as the Divisional Officer for the Riverland area. During the ensuing years Greg reformed the interaction between staff and volunteers within the Riverland, harnessing greater interaction, encouraging units to collectively assist in the direction the Riverland Region and SES would head. Greg's empowerments lead to the creation of the framework for today's Unit Managers' Advisory Groups.

In 2003, Greg commenced writing the *SES Case for Change*, which changed the direction for SES, SES regions and SES Units. In October 2004, the Case for Change was implemented seeing a restructure of the SES, realigning SES Regions, redistribution of resources, personnel and functions to assist in streamlining the daily operations of the SES.

Greg was promoted to the role of Assistant Chief Officer in 2006, a role that complemented Greg's academic and analytical ability. Greg represented the SES on a range of state and national forums, with a continued focus of improving the outputs for volunteers. In 2006/7 Greg authored the initial SES cultural survey "Speaking of SES ... What our people think" as an enabler towards a new strategic direction for the SES.



Greg was awarded the State Emergency Services Medal also in 2006.

Greg retired from the SES in 2009, moving to Tasmania to be closer to his family. Sadly Greg succumbed after a prolonged battle with cancer in December with his family by his side.

Greg Reedman is fondly remembered across the SES as a gentleman who always had time to listen thoughtfully to others, always saw positive opportunities and believed in the virtues, attributes and abilities of the men and women who freely gave of their time to help others. He was also quite a character with a wonderful sense of humour and talent for music and entertaining others. He will be sorely missed by those who knew him well.



## Cinemod thanked

Tony Fiebiger, a volunteer with Enfield Unit, approached the Association to ask whether outside of a VERSP event, his employer Cinemod could be recognised for the support they provide to him.

Tony said that his employer was very supportive of him and willingly released him from work to attend callouts and even for a deployment to Western Australia in May 2012. They have also donated product for use at Enfield Unit in the form of globes and auto electrical parts for use on the Unit's vehicles.

Domenic and Monica Rocca from Cinemod were presented with a Certificate of Appreciation at Enfield Unit's Christmas Barbecue by David Carman, General Manager, State Emergency Service. Thanks to Volunteer Support Branch for arranging the certificate for presentation.



## DISCOVER KANGAROO ISLAND'S NATIVE PLANTS

OVERTON REVIEW

t's that time of year again, when Kangaroo Island roadsides, creek and riversides, and coastlines come alive with a spectacular show of colour. The alluring spring colours and the striking contrasts of delicate flowers against tough, spiky shrubs have many questioning, 'what flower is that?'

Just in time, Beverley and Dean Overton have released their much-anticipated updated edition of their wildflower and native plant reference book, this year titled "Discover Kangaroo Island's Native Plants". And 'discover' is exactly what this beautifully-presented book invites the reader to do.

This year, the book includes more thorough imagery of Kangaroo Island's wildflowers and native plants. Photographer Dean's dedication to learn and embrace a digital format and associated computer programs brings the island's flora to the reader in much-appreciated higher resolution. These detailed photos make identifying plant species faster, is user-friendly in its new larger and spiral bound format, which makes for easy carrying and reference in the field.

The Overton's have added many wildflowers and native plants in this edition, relieving many wildflower hunters by naming an elusive flower or two! They have also added a sense of whimsy by including images of creatures that can be encountered on the hunt for rare wildflowers, some tiny and sweet and some not quite so lovable. Accomplished local entomologist, Andy Young makes a delightful appearance, further inspiring the sense of discovery.

Evolving since the last edition, Bev and Dean have delivered a more personal, thoughtful, and well-rounded book, by including: a more-detailed geomorphic region reference map of Kangaroo Island; the addition of photographs of both male and female flowers and plants in varying growth stages; and photos of the authors themselves in the field.

Whether the reader is an experienced wildflower hunter, or a curious passer-by, the Overton's provide a guide that doesn't intimidate with pretension or superfluous scientific jargon. For the dedicated discoverer, willing to tread some of the island's less-traversed tracks, this book provides a trusty guide sure to deliver, and for those who aren't quite so enthusiastic, the book satisfies a desire to broaden knowledge.

Without a doubt, the new edition showcases the Overton's extensive plant knowledge and unwavering dedication to the discovery and preservation of Kangaroo Island's tiny gems. Discover them for yourself!

Copies of the book are available from Environmental Realist, PO Box 469, Kingscote SA 5223 or from selected outlets on Kangaroo Island.

### Discover Kangaroo Island's Native Plants



Beverley and Dean Overton

### Discover Kangaroo Island's Native Plants

Beverley and Dean Overton are founding volunteer members of Kangaroo Island SES, who between them have nearly 100 years of service in emergency services. Prior to moving to Kangaroo Island in 1971 for his employment, Dean was in the EFS (forerunner of current CFS) and both were foundation members of the Midlands Civil Defence Unit.

Beverley and Dean are life members of the Kingscote CFS Brigade. Beverley was Base radio operator for 27 years (as she had received Communications training at Mt Macedon while with the Midlands Unit), until her increasing deafness made it too hard to understand the radio traffic.

When the Kangaroo Island SES Unit was established, Dean stepped back from the CFS to undertake the training for the new unit as he had qualified as a Rescue Instructor at Mt Macedon while with Midlands Unit. Both have undertaken many roles with both services over the years.

Beverley and Dean also have another "life". They have survived 50 years of marriage (December 2012), 54 years of friendship, raised two girls and now have 4 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren. Beverley is a well respected botanist (self-taught) and Dean is a keen photographer. Last year they decided it was time to update their original book (firstly published in 1992) to showcase the wildflowers on Kangaroo Island. This was a 12 month project from decision to completion. Beverley wrote the text (brief descriptions of the plants) and Dean has spent many years taking photographs. The result a publication called "Discover Kangaroo Island's Native Plants".

For further information about the book:  
Email [deanandbev@bigpond.com](mailto:deanandbev@bigpond.com)



## PREPARE, ACT, SURVIVE

**S**ES volunteers participated in the launch of the bushfire season and many often forget the role our SES volunteers play, as evidenced on Lower Eyre Peninsula in November, when the ferocity of bushfires was demonstrated and now we have seen the major damage along the eastern seaboard and it's only January.

Again SES volunteers played an active role.

We've all been warned that this summer is going to have above average temperatures following on from a wet winter and hence there's plenty of undergrowth.

So as we reflect on the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ash Wednesday next month, remember to be prepared and also reflect on the significant role our volunteers play in their communities.



## THE WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

The World's Greatest Shave is happening March 14th to 17th and Norma Mayne has joined the joint Emergency Services Team consisting of SAPOL, CFS, SAAS and SES. This will be an encore event that is aimed at raising money for a great cause, whilst promoting emergency services in a family friendly community event. This year it is being held in Port Pirie Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>. The money raised supports the Leukaemia Foundation with its research and support to people with blood cancer.

### OUT of the BLUE

I'm sitting here wasting my life  
With my daughter and my lovely wife,  
Lazing about with nothing to do  
I want to do something just out of the blue.

So we pack the car with all the gear  
Travelling and camping away from here,  
Where we're going nobody knows  
All we are following is our nose.

We follow the bitumen Oh so far  
After six hours sitting in the car,  
Now it's time for us to rest  
To find a campsite that's the best.

Erecting the tents for the night  
Cooking tea under the moonlight,  
Looking at the sky and all the stars  
Trying to work out the planet Mars.

Waking up at the crack of dawn  
Scratching our bums and having a yawn,  
Sitting at the table planning our day  
Looking at the map, plotting our way.

We move on for another site  
To erect our gear for the night,  
Nothing to be seen in any direction  
There's no spot for the tent erection

Found a spot in a dry billabong  
For us to camp all night long,  
Unpacked the car with all the gear  
Nothing around, nothing to fear.

Another night is about to begin  
Time to get some firewood in,  
Lounging about, feeling the heat  
If this life it's hard to beat.

Up at daybreak to pack our gear  
Leaving our campsite with a cheer,  
The road gets rough the wind gets strong  
You wonder why you drive so long.

The outback trail is where we're going  
We soon get bogged and need some towing,  
Another 4x4 vehicle soon comes past  
Towing us out what a blast.

Travelling through the saltbush oh so dry  
Why people live out here you wonder why,  
A kangaroo appears out of the dust  
You have to avoid him that's a must.

Camping in the out back is so great  
It's time to leave before to late,  
You listen carefully at the hush  
The rains are coming with a rush.

The tracks are muddy and so wet  
The creeks are racing like a jet,  
The wipers cleaning the windscreens  
The weather has spoilt a wonderful dream.

You're heading home to your home town  
From the outback you head down,  
After six hours at the wheel  
A sigh of relief you do feel.

Arriving home all tired and worn  
We'll unpack the car in the morn,  
So if you're having a boring life  
Do some travelling with your wife.

Pye.



## SES VOLUNTEERS ATTEND DIAMOND JUBILEE RECEPTION

**O**n Wednesday 7 November 2012 His Excellency and Mrs Scarce welcomed His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales and Her Royal Highness The Duchess of Cornwall to South Australia.

As a part of Their Royal Highnesses visit the Governor and Mrs Scarce hosted a Diamond Jubilee Reception in the grounds of Government House, which was attended by several SES volunteers.



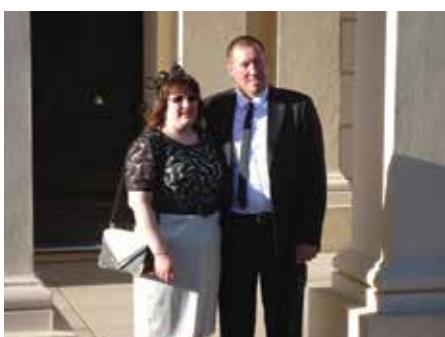
His Royal Highness



His Royal Highness



Tony Fahlbusch, Lyn Berghofer, Linda and Warren Hicks



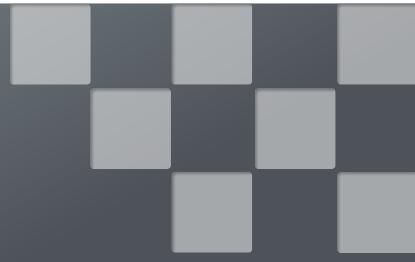
Shirley and Paul Ortmann



Don Rose, Warren Hicks and Paul Ortmann



## SES ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER



**D**onald Skinner (Ceduna Unit) and Peter Rawnsley (Whyalla Unit) who have given 35 years of service to the SES were presented with their **Life Membership Awards** at the SES Awards Dinner on Saturday 20 October, by the Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon Jennifer Rankine.

SES Chief Officer Chris Beattie paid tribute to the two newest life members. "Both Donald and Peter have given an extraordinary amount of their time to the State Emergency Service. We greatly appreciate their ongoing commitment to helping their local communities stay safe during storms, floods, road crashes and other major incidents," Mr Beattie said.

SES Life Membership Awards were introduced in 2010 and are presented annually.

Another award was the inaugural **SES Cadet of the Year Award** which was presented to **Matthew Hinton** from the Mount Barker Unit. Matthew commenced with Mount Barker Unit aged 13 on 25 January 2011 and is looking forward to being able to go operational in 2013. He is active in his unit, attends Heathfield High School and works on a casual basis at Kmart. He has already completed: Induction, Basic, First Aid, Communications, Swift Water Theory, Map Reading and Advanced Tools and Equipment. Certainly a fair amount for a young man who only moved to Australia with his family in September 2009 and even career wise,

hopes to become an electrician when he completes his schooling.

Also as a part of the formalities, a **National Medal** was presented to **Stefan Bilka**, the Andamooka SES Unit Manager, and a 1st Clasp to the National Medal was presented to **Danny Wood**, District Officer for the Riverland.

While **Deidra Klemm** (Laura Unit) received her **10-Year Service Medal** and **Phil Tann**, the Training Coordinator for the Tea Tree Gully Unit, received a **Chief Officer's Commendation** for his exceptional efforts in organising a training exercise at the Banksia Park Primary School earlier this year. (Story appeared in the October edition of Frontline).

The opportunity was also taken to have the Minister present, to those in attendance at the dinner, the Queensland Government's "**Queensland Flood and Cyclone Citation**" which recognised the support provided to the Queensland community

by emergency service volunteers and staff nation-wide in responding to the Queensland Floods and Cyclone Yasi.



Phil Tann with Minister Rankine



Life membership recipient Peter Rawnsley with the Minister



Stefan Bilka with Minister Rankine



Danny Wood with Minister Rankine



Deidra Klemm with Minister Rankine



Matthew Hinton with Minister Rankine



Life membership recipient Donald Skinner with the Minister



## EMERGENCY SERVICES MEDAL AND MINISTERIAL COMMENDATIONS PRESENTATION

The Minister for Emergency Services, the Hon. Jennifer Rankine MP presented the 2012 Emergency Services Medals and Commendations at a function held at the RiAus Building on Wednesday 12 December.

Prior to the presentations, the Minister addressed guests in attendance: "Across the State, we are fortunate to have some of the most skilled and dedicated emergency services personnel in the country – which includes more than 15,000 volunteers.

So dependable are these men and women that their extraordinary service is something South Australians have become accustomed to. Dare I say, sometimes, even taken for granted.

That is, until there is a major storm. A flood. Someone they love is involved in a car crash, goes missing or needs rescuing. Or, as we have seen most recently, fire breaks out.

Over the last few weeks alone, our State has dealt with literally hundreds of bushfires. The worst was near Tulkal on the Eyre Peninsula where, as it burnt, I visited emergency services workers and those affected.

In a matter of 48 hours, fire tore through almost 2000 hectares, destroying sheds, cabins, cars and a home.

My heart goes out to all those who lost livestock and property.

But even in talking to those who suffered the most as a result of these blazes, agreed – it could have been far worse.

Thanks, largely to the efforts of our emergency services.

As Emergency Services Minister, I feel both proud and privileged to meet so many of you – to learn about your contribution.

One of the most satisfying things of



Pictured from left to right: Ray Owen, Brenton Whitcher, Bob Stevenson, Axel Larsen, Minister Rankine, Bev Bedson and John Edge.

all is seeing the people and agencies dedicated to protecting South Australians.

As a Government, we want to ensure that those of you who make sacrifices to support others are, supported as much as possible to carry out your role.

Across the board, we are also working harder than ever to engage and educate the whole community – including migrants and new arrivals – to prevent disaster.

Some really valuable inroads are being made through Surf Life Saving's initiative; the MFS' award winning program, the CFS Community Education Unit and the new SES Community Engagement Unit.

These programs build on the everyday efforts of emergency services officers and volunteers to equip people with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions about their safety. To all our emergency services personnel here today: While I'm sure none of

you set out in search of accolades, it is important that, as a community, we recognise your outstanding commitment.

To all the sacrifices you make to protect our property; restore order; to comfort us and keep us safe – on our roads, our streets, in our homes, at the beach and in the water – 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

These awards never have – and never will be – about resting on our laurels. More so, they serve as a reminder to all of us of the high standards our community has become accustomed to.

The service, for which our State is known, admired and called on. The commitment for which we are all so grateful.

Thank you all for living up to the trust South Australians place in you. Congratulations and Merry Christmas".

SES Emergency Service Medal recipients were: John Edge, Axel Larsen, Brenton



Whitcher and Robert Stevenson, while Beverley Bedson and Raymond Owen received Ministerial Commendations.

#### **Emergency Service Medal**

John Edge is the Unit Administration Coordinator at Yankalilla SES. John is a past recipient of a Ministerial Commendation for his efforts of excellence and commitment to the SES. He is held in high regard by his volunteer peers in both the SES and CFS. John contributes many hours a week towards the day to day running of the Yankalilla SES and Yankalilla CFS and more importantly mentoring and developing others to be the best they can be.

Axel Larsen is the Unit Manager at Saddleworth SES. Axel has an exceptional sense of community promoting the SES wherever possible. His efforts in this area have resulted in increased recognition of the SES in the district and employers regularly release emergency services volunteers when required to respond to emergencies. Axel's role in the SES response to the Stockport Floods was above and beyond the expectations of Unit Managers and reflected his passion for the community and the district in which he resides.

Robert (Bob) Stevenson is the Emergency Management Planning Officer at the SES Headquarters in Adelaide. Bob has made a substantial contribution to emergency management preparedness and resilience in this state. He is well regarded amongst both staff and volunteers of the SES as well as the broader South Australian emergency services sector.

Brenton Whitcher is the Unit Manager at the Kingston South East SES Unit. Brenton is also a volunteer with the CFS and was previously a Volunteer with St Johns Ambulance Service. Brenton has dedicated his volunteer career to his beloved Kingston community and the volunteers that have been a part of his life. He has been a guiding force in a number of initiatives within the SES and

the emergency services sector in general and is a testament to the organisation and the community.

#### **Ministerial Commendations**

Beverley Bedson is the Deputy Unit Manager at Ceduna SES. Bev has dedicated her volunteer career over the years to providing emergency response to the Ceduna and adjacent Far West Coast areas. All night vigils in the Nullarbor whilst at a crime scene or fatal crash scene and tackling jobs that her SES counterparts say displays an amazing demonstration of skill and determination. Bev is a very important member of Ceduna SES and her commitment to the unit is exemplary. Bev has always put aside other personal requirements and commitments to ensure that an effective response from the Ceduna SES always occurs.



Ray Owen with Kaylene Willson

Ray Owen is Unit Manager at both the Port Augusta and Port Pirie SES Units. Ray was previously with the MFS and whilst now retired from his paid work, utilises the operational and leadership skills he acquired to the benefit of the SES and the respective Spencer Gulf communities. Ray's energy and commitment to volunteers at both units is a testament to his dedication to the volunteers and the community.

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# AROUND THE UNITS

## Shane Leedham presented with 20 year service medal

District Officer, Wayne Palmer, presented Shane Leedham with his 20 year service medal at Enfield Unit Training on Wednesday 14 November. Shane had no idea the presentation was being made, but had dressed appropriately for the day being "Wear Orange to Work Day".



## Tumby Bay Hospital Centenary

Tumby Bay SES assisted the Tumby Bay Hospital celebrate their 100 years of service to the Tumby Bay community.

The unit also provided a static display on the day at the front of the hospital.

## Millicent Unit Manager's other role

Rod Harkness, Unit Manager at Millicent SES is well known in the community for another role as well, that of "Father Christmas" through his wooden toy making.

We have reproduced the article below from the South Eastern Times, Millicent, Thursday 20 December 2012.

The thank you from the hospital includes a postcard photo of the original hospital taken from the old shipping jetty in 1908, when Tumby had two jetties back then. The one featured in the photo has now been demolished.



Tumby Bay Circa 1908 - View of the Esplanade & Original Hospital

The old hospital is the building on the right side of the photo with the doctor's home and surgery further right. The big building at the base of the jetty is the Tumby Bay Hotel and is still a hotel today. The hotel was originally a single story building, with the second storey being added before 1908.

Tumby Bay was serviced by sailing ketches which delivered general cargo and then usually loaded bagged grain, wool etc for return trips to Adelaide.

Jim Darling

Dear SES Members,  
We wish to thank you sincerely for your contribution to the recent success of the Tumby Bay Hospital's 100th Anniversary Celebrations. Your donation of time and effort was greatly appreciated by all involved.  
The 100th Anniversary Committee

## Busy workshop ensures smiles

Millicent's own Father Christmas unveils wooden works of art

THROUGHOUT the year, Millicent's own Father Christmas Rodney Harkness has been busy in his workshop, creating wooden toys that are donated by the South East children on Christmas Day.

Armed with a team of wood, tools and litres of paint, Rodney makes about 400 wooden toys each year making close to 1000 over the last 10 years which he recently donated to the Millicent Combined Churches Christmas Appeal.

Among the gifts were rocking horses, push carts, trucks, boats, small planes, top-s, pencils, cosy vehicles, dolls' cradles, rocking chairs and hobby horses.

For the last 10 years, during the season, Rodney said he did not plan to stop constructing any more toys. He has already started next Christmas, with almost 15 toys completed.

"I enjoy making the toys and seeing the delight on some of the children's faces when they receive them."

"You see happiness all over the world, as it is nice to give cheer to some of our local families."

An average shopping centre toy store gives away around 1000 wooden toys every Christmas and reviving them in his own wooden toy hospital.

He sources inspiration from television, photographs and memory Lane uses his findings in his creations, along with his wife, who helps him.

Rodney began making and fixing wooden toys when he lived in New South Wales six years ago.

"I just wanted to make a hobby and I soon realised how much fun it was," he said.

What started as a hobby has since developed into something more, with Rodney making and

donating over 2000 toys to the Churches appeal after Christmas twelve years ago when he moved to Millicent.

However, Rodney's donations could not be made without his band of helpers, including Dulcie Australasian, Bevancy, Carol, Grahame, Barbara, Michael, Melinda, Mount Gambier, Millicent Lions Club and the general public.

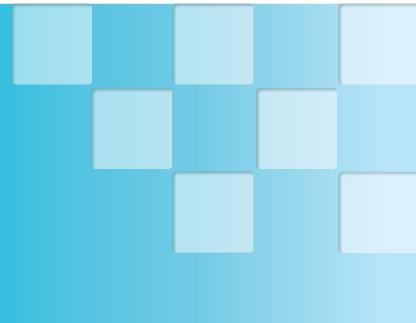
He has also called for donations of old toys, keeping the Christmas spirit alive.

Millicent Combined Churches Christmas Appeal initiator Glynis Hutchinson thanked Rodney, along with the Lions Club and the helpers who helped with the collection of the toys.

For more information or to donate used or wooden toys contact Rodney on 8231 2234 or 8804 057 300.



**SPIRIT OF GIVING:**  
Glynis Evans and  
Millicent Combined  
Churches Christmas  
Appeal initiator  
Glynis Hutchinson  
with some of the 150  
wooden toys made  
by Millicent's own  
Father Christmas,  
Rodney Harkness.  
Picture: MELISSA LITTLEWOOD



## New recruitment video launched at South Coast

A new State Emergency Service (SES) recruitment video was launched on Wednesday, 19 December at South Coast SES Unit at Port Elliot.

The 90-second video, which was filmed in June and features unit members taking part in a road crash scenario, will be used by the SES to help recruit more volunteer members.

Produced by SAFECOM's Volunteer Services Branch, the video was made by production company Flinders Creations, which employs recent graduates from courses run by the Department of Screen and Media at Flinders University.

The launch, was held at the South Coast SES Unit in Elliot Street, Port Elliot, and was attended by Deputy Chief Officer Dermot Barry, Regional Commander, South Region, Derren Halleday and District Officer, Hills/Fleurieu, Terri Purvis.

South Coast Unit Manager Fred Brehin said unit members had enjoyed helping produce the video. "The Flinders graduates were very professional in the way they went about producing the video and the final result is really outstanding," he said.

"For many of our members it was the first time they had worked with a film crew so it was a great learning experience for us too. We were able provide plenty of input at various stages so the final result is a very accurate portrayal of what we do in a real road crash," he added.

The video was a result of a successful grant application by SAFECOM's Volunteer Services Branch to the Emergency Management Volunteer Support Scheme (EMVSS).



## Two Wells Christmas Pageant

The Community Education Unit took advantage of the Two Wells Christmas Pageant on Friday 14 December 2012, as the venue to launch their new Paddy mobile, with Paddy in attendance of course. And the result, the Paddy mobile received the trophy for the Best Business Float for 2012.

Approximately twenty groups participated in the pageant and then local groups and businesses set up stalls along the main street for the party afterwards.

Pictured are the crew who participated in the pageant and the trophy.



# AROUND THE UNITS

## Donation to help keep up with demand

(reproduced courtesy the South Eastern Times)

A heavy workload for the Millicent State Emergency Service has prompted a welcome donation to keep up with demand with more than 40 beach rescues and 4WD recoveries in the Canunda National Park and Beachport Conservation Park areas annually in recent years.

The unit found that their MAXTRAX vehicle recovery devices had worn away and that they were in need of two new sets as a result of heavy use.

The MAXTRAX company agreed to donate \$600 worth of sets to the unit, with the supplier claiming they had only ever seen one set which had been more worn than the Millicent devices.

"The wheels have to grip onto the lugs of the device to pull themselves onto the main track, so if they are worn away it makes it a bit harder." Millicent SES Deputy Manager Andrew Sergeant said.

"They save us a lot of wear and tear on our vehicles – we aim to get the biggest vehicle to drive itself out with the aid of the MAXTRAX as opposed to us towing or winching them out."



For the SES, the donation comes in time for the busiest period of the year over summer, when the majority of rescues are for tourists who are not familiar with the beaches.

"Once we attended to a six-tonne Mitsubishi Canter motorhome that was bogged," Mr Sergeant said.

"We had to get the ranger to come out with his John Deere tractor to recover it."

As well as bogged vehicle rescues, the unit often attends to recovering vehicles involved in four-wheel-driving roll overs.

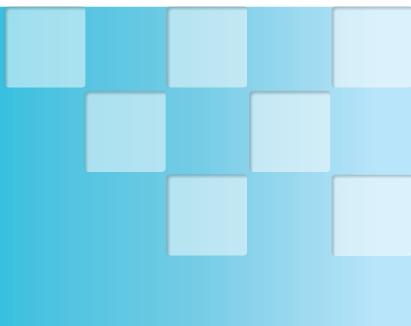
Brooke Littlewood

## Edinburgh Unit responds to "Animal sounds or not"

At 2040 on 11 October, Edinburgh Unit received a callout for animal sounds coming from a wall cavity at a house in Elizabeth South. Five members (Acting DUM Kain Neale, DTL Matt Brooks, DTL Nathan Rogers, Stuart Smith and Cain Harrington-Young) responded and spent about an hour trying to locate the animal. They were unable do so.

Two months later, at drinks for three local politicians, a gentleman approached the Unit Manager, John Lawrence, and said that he had called the SES to his house to look for an animal caught in a wall cavity. I told him that it was the Edinburgh Unit and I that I remembered the job. He then explained that he had realised later that the noise had come from an automatic wall-mounted insect sprayer unit that he had installed shortly before which sprayed insecticide on a set time interval. He had been too embarrassed to call and explain.

One to remember for the future.



## Prospect Rotary Honours Prospect SES

The Rotary Club of Prospect presented the Prospect Unit of the State Emergency Service with a Community Volunteers Excellence Award at its meeting held on the 14 November. By pure coincidence it was during SES Week and Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> was Wear Orange to Work Day.

Prospect Unit Manager, Don Rose, Rescue Officer/Training Coordinator, Ross Johnston, and members Jeff and Mary Andersen attended the Rotary Meeting. Jeff and Mary at a previous Rotary meeting had outlined the role of the SES in the broader community.

The Club's Vocational Director Rob Rooke outlined the requirements of an individual or an organisation to receive the award.

Don Rose accepted the award on behalf of the Unit and then Ross Johnston responded on its behalf. In his response Ross stated how touched the Unit was to receive the award, as it was the first time the Unit had ever received an award outside of the SES community. He thanked President Doug and all members for their gesture of recognition of the Unit's contribution to the community's well being.

An invitation was also extended to the Prospect Rotary Club to visit the Prospect Unit in the future, and the Club's President thanked the Unit representatives for the invitation and stated they looked forward to the visit.

The plaque will be fixed in the Prospect Training Room so that all members will realise the significance of the award to the Unit.



# ***Anonymous Supporter***

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# Movember

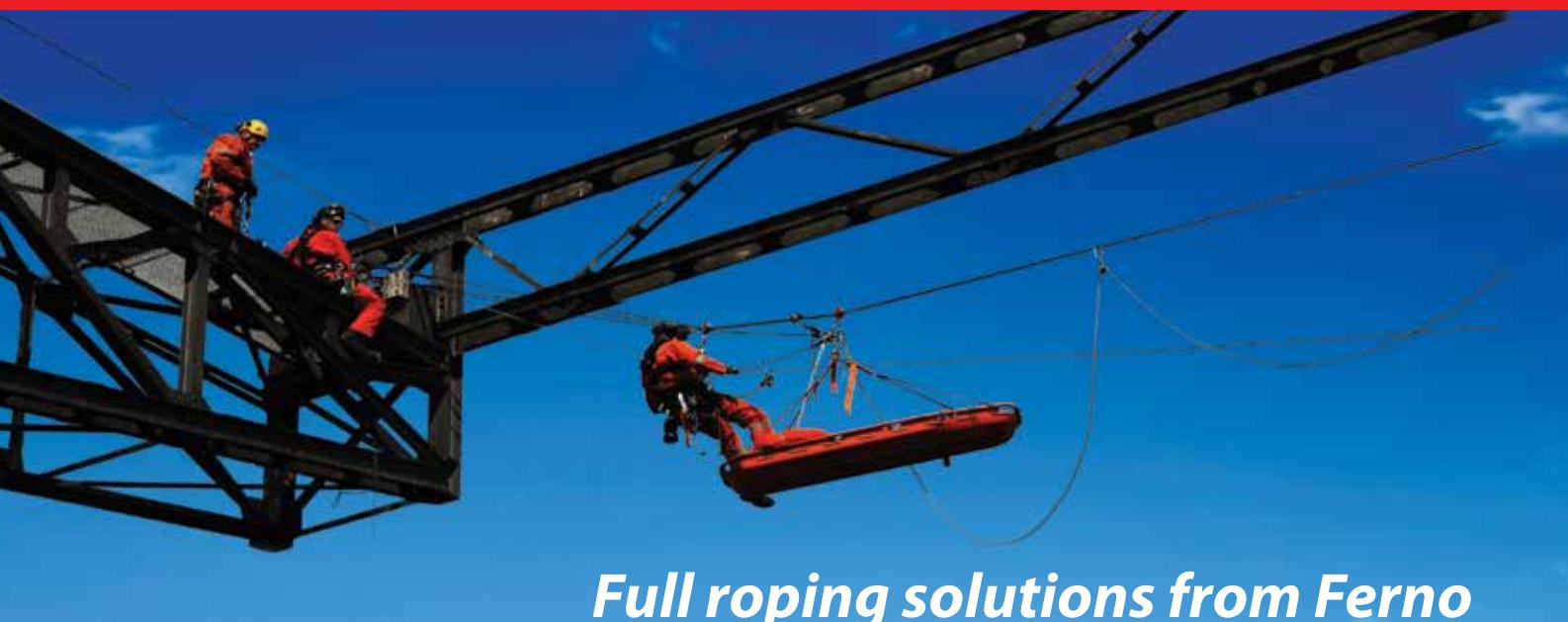
During the month of November, a small dedicated group of brave moustache growing men of the Enfield SES Unit decided to support Movember. The aim of which was to raise vital funds and awareness for men's health, specifically prostate cancer and male mental health.

In total, there were 14 team members including three honorary 'Enfield' members who decided they just could not miss out on all the fundraising fortitudes. In total, \$830 was raised for Movember and a big thank you must be given to all the Mo Bros: Ben Birbeck, Felix Hoelscher, Scott Jamieson, Peter Cumberworth, Jacob Brodie, Tony Fiebiger, Michael Bishop, Michael Davis and Danny Wood who took part.

The Mo Bros were also supported and encouraged by a group of Mo Sistas from the Enfield SES Unit: Toni Caputo, Lisa Hoelscher, Sheree Ward, Naomi Davis, and Teela Cumberworth.

We would like to thank all those who donated, supported and helped us raise awareness for such a worthy cause. The moustache growing month was a huge success and brought many smiles at our weekly training sessions. At the conclusion of November, the Unit hosted a Movember Mo Bbq Bash to celebrate all that was achieved during this mo growing month and the Man of Movember was awarded to Peter Cumberworth for his outstanding mo growing efforts. Miss Movember was awarded to Bev for her generosity in supplying raffle prizes and her support. Lastly, a big shout out to our highest Mo Bro fundraiser, Mr Ben Birbeck.





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