



# COMPETITION 2006



# AGE DOES NOT WEARY THEM!

While the emphasis is usually on recruiting young people, Gordon Hartley tells us about the very special team he's assembled

**T**he West Coast Eyre Head Quarters Unit was formed in 2004 by myself, Gordon Hartley ESM. I am the current manager.

It comprises of all ages, mainly retirement age. These members are senior past members of the SES Port Lincoln Unit plus new recruits.

It has been proven that there is a need for this type of Unit in all SES regions. The Unit operates out of two locations in a shed next to the Port Lincoln Unit and the other is the Port Lincoln Police station.

The role of The Eyre Head Quarters Unit is to support all Emergency Services including SES, Police, Fire and other services.

Their role covers communications, logistics, Public Relations, recruiting, computer networking and weather reporting as well as manning the regional SES command centre during fire and storm incidents.

**“It has been proven that there is a need for this type of Unit in all SES regions.”**

The Unit is capable of setting up a forward control centre with their command bus. The Unit is made up of members who in years range from 35 years to over 85 years.

We have not yet been able to recruit a 100 year old member but we are working on it. Jack Martin has another 14 years to go and it's possible he'll get there. Having senior members in this type of Unit gives the members a purpose to live and there's always a job for them to do.



*Eyre headquarters special radio members l-r: Jack Martin, new member John Plevin, Trevor Howard and Michael Carey.*

## Unit Members

The Unit membership consists of 23. We like to have four teams of eight members as some incidents could last a few days.

We meet once a month on the first Monday at 1.30 pm. We train in first aid, computer skills, how to operate radios and procedures, set up a command post. We are not into the rescue game. We leave it to the more active younger members.

In alphabetical order, not in age, there is:

**Squeaky Andrews** is over 70. His role is Monitor 24 hour Marine Radio Communications, with a seven day week roster which he operates. The VMR Radio Station is monitored from his home. Squeaky has been an SES Member for 10 years. On the weekend of the 24th and 25th of March, with assistance of other VMR stations, he

covered the Adelaide to Port Lincoln Yacht Race.

**Nita Berkhuizen** is 60+ years and is our Deputy Manager of Unit. Her past qualifications include Communications Officer, Welfare Officer and 24 hour Radio Base (Boston) for 10 years. She has given 26 years of Service to the SES.

**Bill Berkhuizen** is over 60 years. In his working life he's a Marine Officer and Communications Officer. Bill is now Co-Bus Driver for the Unit. Bill owns and runs a Marine Electronic Repair Sales Shop. Bill has volunteered 20 years of Service for SES.

We also have a father and son team, **Tony and Michael Carey**. Tony is 60 years old. He is a Radio Operator while son Michael, aged 35, is a Radio Operator and is qualified in tracking EPIRBS. Both father and son have come from the

Amateur Radio Club and have been with the SES for several years.

**Bronte and Ann Charlton.** Bronte is 70 years old and Ann is 60+. Bronte is our Staff Unit Gopher and Ann is a Scribe and a Computer Operator. They have been with the SES Staff Unit for three years.

**Trevor Fuss** is 40 years old. His qualifications are Communications Officer and Training Officer. Trevor is also Mr Fix-It man. He always has a bag of computer gadgets available for all jobs. Trevor has volunteered 17 years for the SES.

**Elaine Hancock** is 50+ years. Elaine is a First Aid Training Officer with St John. Elaine has offered her services to the SES First Aid training.

**Trevor Howard** is 70+ years old and is an ex Telstra Tech retired and a WICEN member.

He is Field Communications Officer with our Unit.

**Jack Martin** is 86 and still active. Our Super Veteran is into communications, is a member of WICEN and he heads our special branch of radio communications through the Amateur Radio System. Jack is President of RSL Port Lincoln, a member of Lions International and has been servicing the community with Volunteer Service for 50 years. He was head Technician for Radio Station 5CC for 14 years. He is also an ex-Telstra, ex-WW2 and ex-ABC radio technician. Jack now has the nickname of the Xman in our Unit.

And there's me, **Gordon Hartley ESM**, 72 years old. I've been with the SES for 27 years. I instigated the foundation of the State Emergency Service in Port Lincoln. I am also the Current Founder of the Staff Unit of the Emergency Services. I have been with the SES for 27 years as a volunteer and in paid service for SES.

My wife **Gwen Hartley** is 57 years old. She was Administration and Communications Officer for Port Lincoln Unit and is now clerk with the Staff Unit. Gwen has volunteered 20 years for SES.



Unit member Dean Andrew (71) doing the daily marine weather for the fishing boats.

### Down Memory Lane

- The SES Units budgets were \$2,500 in 1980.
- I remember we had a Light Rescue Course to be held at the Unit. There was no money for welfare so we sent the Unit on a Bunny Hunt to find enough rabbits to make a rabbit stew for dinner.
- Visiting Units had to sleep on the Training Room Floor and those who snored were placed in the Radio Room (no motel rooms).
- The Budget went from \$2,500 to \$5,000, to \$10,000. Look at it now: \$ 45,000 +.
- We purchased a Rescue Boat from the selling of Beer Ticket Machines and took out a loan from National Bank. The Council wanted guarantee for the Unit and we purchased a boat for \$25,000 - big money in those days.
- Fundraising was a big thing. If you stopped long enough in those days, the girls would have raffled you off as well to make more money for their Unit. Everybody helped to raise funds and the boat was paid off in 3 years.
- Where was Occupational Health and Safety in the good old days of the 80s? Now, in 2006, it runs the activity of the Unit and tells them what they can do or not do. We had to stop an 80 year old from doing vertical rescue and we were not popular with her!

**By Gordon Hartley ESM**

## “We have not yet been able to recruit a 100 year old member but we are working on it.”

**Helen Selmes** is 65+ years. Helen is an Ex-Superintendent of St John Coffin bay. She is now a Scribe for our Unit.

**Robert Turner** alias Seaweed is 60+. Seaweed was Unit Manager for Streaky Bay SES. He was also Unit Manager, Rescue Officer and Welfare Officer for the Port Lincoln Unit. Rob is now Co-Bus Driver, Welfare Officer and Dogs Body for our Unit.

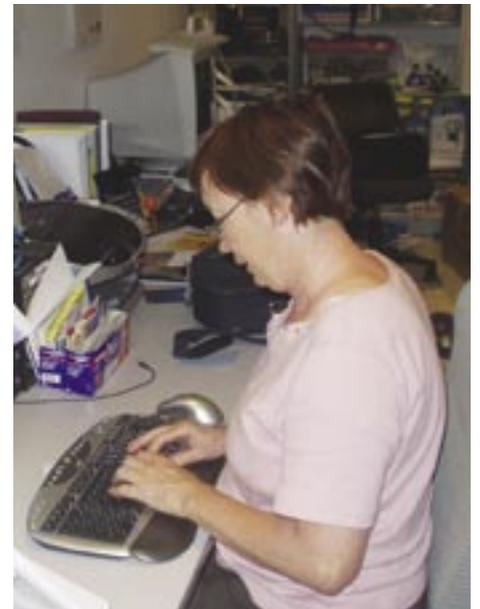
**Helen Turner** is 60 years. Helen supports our Unit as a Clerk and both Turners have volunteered for SES.

The babies of the Staff Unit are **Sheryl King** 42 years and **Jenny Kraghea**, a young 40 years old.

Sheryl has been with the Port Lincoln SES since it started as a Cadet Communications Officer and now a Clerk with the Unit. She has been a volunteer on and off for the last 27 years since her father started the SES.

Jenny does a great job as Unit Administration Officer with 2 years experience in SES Port Lincoln.

L-r: Dean Andrew using his radio, Super Veteran and head of our team of special radio operators, Jack Martin (86) and our Unit computer operator working at the Unit's computer, Gwen Hartley (57)



# THE VOICE OF THE NORTH

**One of our oldest and still active members, George Averis ESM, died at the age of 85 on March 11 this year - just a few days short of his birthday. SES colleagues from around the state attended the funeral. Some formed a line of honour at the service. The following is the eulogy written and presented by his daughter, Julie White, who also provided the pictures for Frontline.**

**T**oday we celebrate George's life. He was born in Port Pirie to his Aussie father Alfred and his English mother Edith. They moved back to England after the birth of his sister Betty and he spent his school years as a typical Aussie/English kid getting into the usual scraps. When he left school, he decided to become an electrician and was working for Schammells Lorries when he met his beautiful future bride Marjorie (whom he promptly nick named Midge). During their courtship, he would take Midge walking in the Canterbury Forest collecting Blue Bells and it has remained their favourite flower to this day.

He was an avid bike rider and won medals for long distance cycling in England and France. When war was declared, it put an end to this but he didn't hesitate to enlist, and in 1939 became a Trooper in the Lothian Boarder Yeomanry (a Scottish regiment where they teased him about being a Scottish/Aussie).

Midge and George were married while he was on leave on the 12th October 1940, and were blessed with the birth of Brenda and Cliff (now deceased). After discharge from the service due to injury, he worked once more for Schammells and then became a 2nd Lieutenant in the 5th Battalion of the Herts Army Cadet Force, where he remained till they moved to Australia in 1946.



*A guard of honour was formed.*

His trade as an electrician had him working in some outlying areas and the family found themselves living in various country towns such as Parratoo, Terowie and then Peterborough, where, to their delight, baby Julie was born.

They then moved to Quorn where George not only looked after the small local power station but also became a member of the EFS. The family eventually moved to Port Augusta in 1956 where George joined ETSA and worked in the Instrument Section as an Electrical Fitter at the Thomas Playford Power Station. He was very smart, not only with his mind, but also with his hands and soon became an invaluable worker and was responsible for the invention of various gadgets that made the job quicker, easier and more efficient for himself and co-workers, but he was very humble and never bragged about his achievements.

George was always ready to help family and friends and this was evident when he became one of the inaugural founders of the Port Augusta Go Kart Club and not only spent many hours fund raising but helped build the track and other members Go Karts - the whole family became involved and travelled many miles to race meetings all over the state where they won their fair share of trophies and made some very good friends.

George was also a keen recreational fisherman (even though he wouldn't step foot onto a boat) and passed that love on to the rest

of the family. A trip to Port Lincoln for Go Karts had to go hand in hand with early morning fishing. There was nothing like fresh fish for breakfast along with a good story of the one that got away. In later years, Midge and George also discovered how beautiful it is at Wallaroo and spent many happy holidays there with the always-present fishing gear. As years passed by, Brenda, Cliff and Julie all married and produced 8 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren and even 2 great, great grandchildren whom, at some time or other, have been amazed at just what their granddad could do. A good example was when he climbed a ladder like a 25 year old to prune a tree, might we add that this was at the ripe old age of 80 plus, while telling them it was too dangerous for them to do, or, repairing something like a toaster or a jug that should probably have been thrown away but could always be repaired to be as good as new.

During the 25 years he worked for ETSA, George received recognition for his 10 and 20 year service, but, not satisfied that he was already a busy person, in 1979 George decided to make his life just a little more hectic by joining the State Emergency Service as their Communications Officer. After retiring from ETSA due to ill health, he became even more involved, spending long hours at the base during emergencies. Midge hated being left at home by herself so decided

if she was ever going to see anything of him she better join the SES and soon became just as involved as him.

In 1986, because of the long hours spent at the base in Woodcock Street, he was given special permission for a 24 hour Home Base Radio Station. George became known as 'The Voice of the North'. Come hell or high water he would be heard by the rest of the state when they reported in for the weekly Thursday night radio check, this also included the



*Midge & George with their awards.*

first Sunday morning of each month. Heaven help anyone of the family who phoned or interrupted while he was 'On-Air'. George even participated on the Sunday prior to him going into hospital - that's what you call dedication.

George and Midge worked side by side in manning this station and during the 27 years of service, he never complained about the long sleepless hours spent on the radio during an emergency.

George hated a fuss and couldn't understand when people wanted to say thank-you, or tell him what a good job he was doing. In 1999, during the 'Year of the Older Person', he received an award for outstanding duty to the SES. On Australia Day in the year 2000, Midge and George both received the 'Australia Day Citizen Award' from Port Augusta's colourful Mayor, Joy Baluch, and later that year he was astounded to be named on the Queen's Honour List and on the 25th June, George and the family were invited to Government House where he was awarded the Emergency Service Medal by the Governor Sir Eric Neal.

George lived his life to the full and would have been a young 86 next week - he was never one to complain, didn't want a fuss made about anything and taught his family to be strong and strive for what they wanted in life. His wisdom and strengths will live with them forever. God bless you George - you really did it your way.

# AUSTRALASIAN ROAD CRASH RESCUE CHALLENGE

The South Australian Emergency Services are extremely proud to have been elected to host the prestigious Australasian Road Crash Rescue Challenge for 2006.

This event brings together the cream of emergency service road crash rescue teams from throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific region, who will gather to represent their State or Country and vie for an opportunity to compete in the World Rescue Challenge in Barcelona next year.

This year's event will be conducted in Adelaide from July 20-23, in the Wayville and Ridley Pavilions at the Adelaide Showgrounds. The Challenge will comprise three days of competition from Fri. 21st to Sun. 23rd in Wayville Pavilion, and will be preceded by a Learning Symposium conducted in Ridley Pavilion on Thursday 20th. The Symposium theme of "Looking After Ourselves" will feature such keynote speakers as Professor Sandy McFarlane and other eminent professionals in the psychology and psychological trauma fields. In addition, there will also be a practical 'walk through' exercise as a follow-on to a replicated bus crash disaster, which is being staged by emergency services later this month.

Included in the Wayville Pavilion will be Trade Expo by sponsors and supporting companies.

The Challenge will feature an Opening and Welcome ceremony at the Grosvenor Hotel on the evening of Thursday 20th July, a Swap Meet at the Grosvenor on Friday evening, and a Closing Ceremony / Awards Presentation Gala Dinner at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on the evening of Sunday 23rd.

Entry to the Challenge is \$5 per adult or \$10 per family, children under 16 free. An entry ticket provides access for up to 3 days. Host agency (SES, MFS & CFS) members may attend by way of a gold coin donation, on production of Service ID.



#### Function tickets costs are:

Opening & Welcome Ceremony	\$35 (meal included)
Swap Meet	\$35 (meal included)
Symposium	\$100 (includes lunch, morning & afternoon teas)
Closing Ceremony	\$70 (dinner included)

Tickets for social functions may be booked on the Challenge website [www.rescuechallenge.org](http://www.rescuechallenge.org), which provides information on all aspects of the event.

A range of souvenir Challenge merchandise such as baseball caps, polo shirts, rugby tops etc. is also available through the website.

For any further information, please contact the Event Coordinator, Ms. Augie Gray at [gray.augie@safecom.sa.gov.au](mailto:gray.augie@safecom.sa.gov.au) or 8463 4042.

To enquire about a Trade Expo booth, please contact [sue@infront.com.au](mailto:sue@infront.com.au).

# INJURED? YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOLUNTEER

**SES volunteers have recently sought clarification on what happens should you, as a Volunteer, sustain a work related injury. It is a matter of concern to know what your cover is and what you are required to do in that event.**

**T**he Government and the SES, is committed to ensuring you will be looked after. Back in the 1980s, SES was transferred from private insurance cover to a Government service provider to manage injuries. There was an agreement struck and that agreement still stands today. When ESAU was formed in 1999, consideration was given to the workers compensation claims area managing the SES Volunteer claims. This transfer was finally agreed to in 2004 but the Government has continued to manage the existing claims prior to the transfer.

SAFECOM (ex ESAU), is managing all new claims on behalf of the SES. What this means is that the HSW Branch manages the claims and rehabilitation for the CFS, MFS, SES as well as any welfare and employee assistance for all agencies apart from the MFS.

Attached to this article are the details of the cover provided for bona fide work related claims. The SES has traditionally had anywhere between 8 and 22 claims per year and some have been very significant and life threatening, while others very minor.

**“Being injured can be a profound experience but everything will be done, so far as reasonable, to assist your recovery.”**

Being injured can be a profound experience but everything will be done, so far as reasonable, to assist your recovery.

This is a two way communication. What we need from you, as a volunteer, is prompt notification of injury. This means within 24 hours or as soon as you can, not perhaps a year after the incident as has recently happened. Our expectation is that the Unit Manager will notify their Regional Commander of injuries, and where workers compensation is required, the necessary paperwork will be completed as soon as possible, hopefully within days. The paperwork is an accident/near miss form, the WorkCover Workers Report Form and a Prescribed Medical Certificate (not a sickness certificate). Remember, the sooner we get the information, the sooner we can help.



**Government  
of South Australia**



If injuries occur out of business hours, each Region has an on call duty officer and the SAFECOM HSW Branch, has an on call OHS officer to assist. Peter Nygaard is your OHS Officer, but he may not be the on call officer (we all take it in turns!)

The HSW Branch staff you can contact are:

Alison Chesser	(Workers Comp)	8463 4143
Trudy Whelan	(SPAM & Rehab)	8463 4141
Judy Arthur	(Manager HSW & the final dispute person for claims)	8463 4140 0408 808 306
Peter Nygaard	(OHS Officer)	8463 4306 0428 100 939

If you have any other enquiries, please call Peter Nygaard or the relevant staff member.

**By Judy Arthur**  
Manager  
Health Safety Welfare  
SAFECOM

# SES VOLUNTEER PERSONAL INJURY ENTITLEMENTS

- A documented arrangement has been in existence since 1988 between the SA Government and the SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue volunteers. This arrangement allows for benefits to be paid that are equivalent to those provided by the Workers Rehabilitation & Compensation Act.
- SES and Volunteer Marine Rescue volunteers are not a prescribed class of volunteers pursuant to the WRC Act (unlike the CFS volunteers).
- This arrangement includes payment of salary for time lost from paid work, and/or incurred reasonable medical expenses. It also provides for compensation to self-employed or unemployed members who are in receipt of unemployment benefits.

## Salary

- Income maintenance will be paid for salary lost in the case of employed persons under similar provisions as WorkCover.
- Average weekly earnings (income maintenance) need to be determined for all lost time injuries and cannot exceed the amount set as twice the state average (\$1,963 for 2006). The average weekly earnings figure may include regular and established overtime and other allowances payable under the Act. The claims administrator will assess this.
- During the period of incapacity for an injury, the primary employer is requested to maintain salary payments and SAFECOM reimburse the employer to ensure all usual deductions are maintained. If this is not possible, SAFECOM will request salary details from the employer/volunteer and pay the volunteer under the SAFECOM payroll.
- In the case of self-employed registered volunteers, the claims administrator may ask for copies of group certificates, or where necessary refer to similar employment and determine the income, in consultation with the volunteer, or against an appropriate award.
- In some circumstances, assistance may be provided to a self-employed volunteer to assist the continuation of their business e.g. injured dairy or other farmer requiring assistance with business. Such as a milker or farmhand.

## Medical Expenses

- Members may be refunded, in respect of any injury, any fees paid for medical and hospital attention, to a duly qualified and registered medical practitioner, physician, physiotherapist, surgeon or nurse or to any hospital. Travel expenses associated with receiving these services may also be payable.
- Provision is also made for the reimbursement to a member for the reasonable cost of ambulance services and of repairing or replacing personal property damaged in the same injury.

## Journey Accidents

- Volunteers with the State Emergency Service are treated for Workers Compensation purposes as if they were 'workers'.
- Workers are no longer covered for normal journey to or from work e.g. Volunteers will not be covered for journey accidents to and from home and the Unit Headquarters for training activities.
- Workers are covered for any injury whilst travelling from/to their respective homes in response to operational callouts.
- Claims should be submitted in every case, and each will be considered on merit.

## Lump Sum Payments

- Volunteers are entitled to claim for Section 43 payments, which are non-economic losses sustained as a result of their injury. These payments are calculated according to the WRC Act requirements. Each body part receives a set percentage of the prescribed sum (\$131,000 for 2006).
- From time to time, claims are redeemed under Section 42 of the WRC Act.

## Death Claims

- Funeral benefit is paid, equal to either the actual funeral cost or the prescribed amount (\$6,750 for 2006) which ever is the lesser.
- A spouse is entitled to a lump sum 1.675 times the prescribed lump sum amount (\$219,425) less any Section 43 payment based on current year, 2006.
- Where the spouse is totally dependent, 50% of the weekly payments or where partial dependency exists, payments will be made according to the level of dependency;
- An orphan child where there is only one child would receive 50% of an amount after subtracting any Section 43 from the prescribed sum times 1.675;
- One or two orphan children, the amount determined by dividing 50% of the above amount equally between the orphan children and weekly payments – total dependency; 25% and in partial dependency the percentage depends on the extent of the dependency, of the deceased's notional weekly earnings;
- Dependent children (not orphans) are entitled to 12.5% for total dependency or the appropriate percentage where there is partial dependency of the notional weekly earnings of the deceased worker;
- Dependent relatives (not spouse or child) are entitled to such compensation by lump sum or weekly payments if the relative is dependent of the deceased worker and depending on the earning capacity or means of the relative and the extent of other benefits provided in relation to the worker's death.

## Additional Information

- **Retired Members**  
If a member is retired and not in receipt of any salary, wages or unemployment benefits, only the medical expenses are paid. Retirement age is 65.
- **Accidental Death of Single Members**  
If this were to occur during a SES response to a callout, and the member has dependants, then the usual claim would arise. If, however, there were no dependants the funeral expenses would be paid.  
When the member is not working, no weekly payments would be paid but medical and funeral expenses would be.
- **Accidental Death of a Member in a De Facto Relationship**  
In the circumstance of a 'de facto' relationship then a court ruling would be sought e.g. 5 years co-habitation may allow a dependent status. Children of the de facto relationship would immediately be dependants.
- **Cadet Members**  
A cadet member (a member between thirteen (13) and eighteen (18) years of age) is not entitled to workers compensation payments unless he/she is receiving wages, salary or unemployment benefits. All medical and associated expenses will be met.

## Other Issues

- Injuries to be reported within 24 hours. Claim forms are to be completed ASAP after this and are available from Regions and Peter Nygaard. Completed forms are to be sent to Peter.
- If medical treatment is sought, advise the treating doctor that injury occurred due to SES activities and you need to request a "Prescribed Medical Certificate". This must be sent with the claim form.
- If the injury has resulted in time lost from your employment, a certificate must be provided. Please also provide a payslip and details of your employer on the claim form and a contact number if known.
- No cover is provided for a member of the public assisting the SES.



# NO MORE WEIGHBRIDGE !

This is the site of the former weighbridge on the outskirts of Port Augusta.

**I**t was demolished when a semi trailer hit it in a heavy fog at around 0600 Saturday May 6. The driver wasn't seriously injured, which is more than you can say about the weighbridge. The truckies were on the UHF saying they will start a fund to help him get back on the road since he has done them a favour by removing the weighbridge!

**“As you can see from the pics the building exploded.”**

The weighbridge had computer links monitoring the heavy vehicle cameras and recording devices in SA and NSW.

As you can see from the pics the building exploded.

**By Pieter Scott**  
Senior Regional Officer  
Training  
Port Pirie, 5540



# letters

22 February, 2006

Re: Search of the Loxton Refuse Depot

Dear David,

I wish to express my appreciation to you and your staff for the valuable contribution during the search of the Loxton Refuse Depot on Friday 3 February and Saturday 4 February, 2006. The search of the refuse area was necessary due to the tragic murder of a resident of Loxton.

The task of searching the Loxton Refuse Depot was made possible within an efficient time frame due to the ability of many agencies to work together towards a common goal. A number of items were located during the search and they are currently being examined by Forensic officers.

I would like to thank you and your staff for your support of South Australia Police Major Crime Investigation Staff during the search of the Loxton Refuse Depot.

Regards

**Peter Woite**

Detective Superintendent  
Major Crime Investigation Branch

## SES CAMP

The SES cadet camp was a lot of fun. Mick got picked on heaps...he loved it. Mr Shep has big feet and Mick slept under a table.

I swallowed a chicken bone. A black board dropped on my back and it hurt. I hit my head on a window.

Mick bought us a Gwen Stefani tape. He said she's HOT!

We slept outside and it was really cold. We all got a new pair of overalls thanks to Mother Duck.

We did a night search.

**By Jess**

## ANDAMOOKA CAMP

Our SES camp was a blast,  
We had so much fun, it was over so fast.

The drive there took 6 hours,  
On the way we saw lots of wild flowers.

The first night we slept in a cop station,  
When we got there we were faced with a situation.

The room we had to sleep in was so small,  
Gabi was sad, there was no spa or pool.

But we made do with what we had,  
We didn't complain too much which made Mick glad.

He didn't have to put up with us whining,  
The next day we put on hard hats and went mining.

They threw us over the edge and we plunged down a 60 foot drop,  
But we had safety harnesses which made us stop.

For tea we had a barbie,  
It was yum, then we had a party.

We were going to sleep in a dugout but instead,  
The SES shed is where we set up our bed.

The instructors said the dugout was too dusty,  
But the Andamooka shed had tables that were rusty.

But we didn't mind we still had a ball,  
Rachael used Mick's phone to give her Mum a call.

On the 3rd day we went to a motel for showers,  
The girls did their hair, it took them hours!

On the last day we jumped in the bus,  
We were going home...that was it for us.

**Emily Shepley**

Burra SES

To Sindy

We love you *Mother Duck*.

Ses

Exciting

Silly

Cadets

And

Mother Duck

Packed On A Bus

**Gabi**