



Frontline



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**9th SES VOLUNTEERS PARADE
RIVERLAND FIELD DAYS 2005 • KEITH LANE AWARD
MINE RESCUE FOR MUD RESCUE**



SASES Volunteers' Association Inc.
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CONTENT FOR FRONTLINE

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Chairman's report



“The Association worked hard to ensure that the needs of volunteers in Emergency Services would be taken into account...”

By now you are probably aware that changes to the Emergency Services legislation have been passed and came into effect on the 1st October. The Association worked hard to ensure that the needs of volunteers in Emergency Services would be taken into account when the changes were first discussed and are happy to see that the legislation now gives the State Emergency Service its own identity and areas of responsibility. Just as importantly, the Association is recognised as the voice of the SES volunteer. This recognition is the result of years of work not just from the current committee, but all those people who had the vision and drive firstly to form the Association and then to build productive relationships with not only State Headquarters staff but Ministers and Ministerial staff as well. As the face of the Association, Derren has done an excellent job ensuring that the views of the volunteers were put forward in a professional manner and I know Derren put in a considerable amount of time and effort to ensure that these views were given proper consideration by all parties involved. It may have taken time but the outcomes have been worth it and will continue to pay dividends in the future.

September over the last few years has become a busy time for the Association with the Royal Adelaide Show and various Field Days. This year's Show display site was a big improvement over previous years' sites and put the SES in a position that gave a lot of exposure. My personal thanks to Louise Reynolds for coordinating the event with State Headquarters staff, the Dog Squad and to the volunteers who either stood on the stall or had an Emergency Response role over the nine days. I visited the display on the first Saturday and despite the very damp conditions found the crews on duty very happy about the display area and how they

were being looked after. The Paskerville Field Days is the next event on the calendar and the Association PR van along with SES crews from around the region will be present to promote the good work SES does. If you are planning on holding a PR event and would like to use the Association van, try and book ahead. It makes life easier for all those involved.

With the new legislation, the constitutions of the Association and individual Units will need to be updated to ensure they comply with the new requirements. What this will entail is still very much in its infancy, but there will be room for people to have their say on any proposed changes. The ability to reach a compromise can best be seen with the new badge. The latest version of which ties the history of the Service with its future directions and has had a favourable response from volunteers I have spoken to.

The annual Unit Manager's meeting follows SES Week and hopefully will give Unit Managers and Headquarter staff an opportunity to discuss not only any issues but future directions as well. Two things that I will be hoping to hear about will be volunteer recruitment and increasing volunteer recognition. If you know of anyone in your Unit or neighbouring Unit for that matter that you think deserves recognition for their efforts, let the Association know. The Keith Lane Memorial award accepts nominations from all SES Volunteers, not just Unit Managers and is open to SES volunteers no matter if they are part of a rescue crew, communications or welfare. So give some thought and nominate some one you know.

Thanks again for your support and keep up the great work.

Warren Hicks
Chairman, SASESVA

Annual General Meeting 2005

The last twelve months for the Association has been filled with challenges and changes. The SAFECOM Bill, the implementation of the case for change within State Emergency Service (SES) and the first year of being financially in a position to employ an Executive Officer, Derren Halleday, to work on issues and ensure the concerns of SES volunteers are taken into consideration within any decision making process that affects them.

A lot of time and energy has been directed towards ensuring the SAFECOM legislation, which came out of recommendations from the Dawkins Report into Emergency Services in South Australia, benefited the SES and its volunteers. While the legislation was passed this year, its passage through parliament was not as smooth as we had been led to believe it would be. Last minute negotiations and lobbying with members of parliament and the Volunteer Fire Brigade Association took place to ensure that the legislation, while not being perfect, was at least something that all parties involved could live with.

Two positives of note from the legislation are the SES now has a defined role and identity, while the SASES Volunteers' Association is identified as representing the views and concerns of SES volunteers throughout the state. Something the Association has fought long and hard for. I doubt that the people who had the drive and energy to start the Association could have imagined that the Association would be in the position it now finds itself in.

The full implications of what the legislation means to SES and the Association are yet to be revealed. Already a number of committee members have been asked to take up positions on advisory boards that will oversee many of the changes brought about by the legislation.

This year has also seen the Association

hold a number of committee meetings in country locations as a way to promote what the Association is about and to attract possible new members to the committee. Both meetings were successful in promoting the work the Association does, as well as highlighting several issues that the Association could address. It is important that the committee continues to be pro active in promoting what the Association is about and not just be something people go to when they have a dispute with State Headquarters. There will be those volunteers who only see it as that and while that is part of our role it is not all we are there for. Derren's involvement in the Computer Aided Dispatch project and the impact of moving to such a system is evidence of how the Association can be involved in decisions before they become a problem for volunteers.

Financially, the Association has managed to lobby for increased funding and been able to negotiate a more favourable contract with Countrywide Media over the publishing of the Frontline Magazine. Some of this money will go towards employing an editor for the magazine and some towards the Keith Lane Memorial Award. The Association has also been able to employ a company to establish and oversee the Association's website and purchase new equipment for the promotional vehicle.

In closing, I feel that the SASES Volunteers' Association has been very productive, it is in the strongest position it has ever been in and its future is secure. I would like to thank all those who have contributed time and effort into ensuring the Association reached this position and invite them to continue to assist the Association in the future.

Warren Hicks
Chairman, SASESVA

“I doubt that the people who had the drive and energy to start the Association could have imagined that the Association would be in the position it now finds itself in.”

Executive Officer's report



“The organisation is moving ahead at a great rate of knots and we have a lot to look forward to in the future with our direction being clearer than in the past and with the strategies for us to get there.”

With this edition, we see the passing of the SA Fire and Emergency Bill to its proclamation as an Act. I would like to thank all volunteers and Staff alike for their input in the consultation phase and with their help in the political process of getting it through. It is now in a form that is Volunteer friendly and puts SASES on equal footing with all other SAFECOM agencies. With individuals and groups contacting politicians and soliciting their support to get the numbers, we were able to work with Government and the Opposition to get it passed.

The floods at Virginia have been the first opportunity SASES has had to exercise its new roles and responsibility. I was fortunate enough to be involved in the field command arena where SES were working in partnership with the CFS, MFS, SAPOL, two councils, Road Transport, CYFS and several engineers. Although chaotic at many times, the result was positive for the town of Virginia. Unfortunately, some politicians and the media were involved in a small bout of Emergency Service bashing, but as we continue to educate the media and remind the politicians those Emergency Service workers, their families and friends vote, we will find positive change into the future.

As change continues to sweep ever so slowly, like a Gawler River floor, over the SES and indeed the Emergency Service Sector generally, I find the Volunteer Association, and myself as Executive Officer, being questioned on many issues. Many of the questions ask why the SASESVA are not being highly vocal or militant on some of the issues that affect our volunteers. We have been accused of being in bed with SHQ and puppets to the C.O. Let me stray from my normal policy of diplomacy. What a load of crap!

Over many years your Volunteer Association has taken on the big issues of Legislation, legal protection, liability and WorkCover, and on these issues huge gains have been made. We, and in particular I, have developed a close working relationship with the staff at SES and SAFECOM. By developing these core relationships we are able to ensure that policy and procedural changes that are necessary to move the organisation forward, are made in the most volunteer friendly way available. I have the belief that to effect positive change in

this environment, the only way is to do it from the inside out. If we become militant, as some individuals would prefer, we would immediately destroy positive relationships with the Minister, SAFECOM and SES that would see us move back to the Dad's Army days of yesteryear, and would affect the parity that is being created with our peers.

To work from the inside out, I believe, is the best way to “keep the bastards honest” to coin a phrase with no disrespect intended. I will continue to try to address issues from close quarters before they become too large to unscramble and where necessary take important issues further to ensure resolution occurs. Take for example current negotiations concerning PPE. All Units are screaming out for new gear and the excuses keep flowing. We have discussed with David Place the extreme importance of this issue and have been directly involved in the scripting of the specification so as there are no excuses left available to prevent the uniforms being ordered. This will continue to be monitored closely and we have the assurance of the CO that the matter will progress.

Enough of me on my soapbox! The organisation is moving ahead at a great rate of knots and we have a lot to look forward to in the future with our direction being clearer than in the past and with the strategies for us to get there. As an Association, we need your input into what is important to you. You are the person who volunteers your time and effort to move the organisation forward and without these issues we cannot move on. As I visit the State and catch up with most units I hear common issues of PPE, Training and Admin support and we are taking these issues on. I ask is there anything that concerns you or projects that could help you do your job effectively. Give your local rep a call or e-mail and let us know.

Regards

Derren Halleday
Executive Officer
SASESVA

from the CEO's desk

On October 1st, the Fire and Emergency Services Act came into existence. This Act now establishes the SES as a legal entity in its own right. We have legislative responsibility to act as a body corporate. What does this mean? Basically we are accountable to Government (and therefore the public of SA) in the conduct of how we do our business, both corporately and operationally.

This is a significant milestone in the evolution of SES and we need ensure our business and operational dealings reflect the faith the Government and community has in us.

The SAFECOM Board has met for the first time since the Act's inception and the SA SES VA now has representation at the highest level in the sector. It is now time for the sector to move forward to deliver the most effective and efficient service to meet the community risk we are responsible for. I look forward to working with your representative (Derren Halleday) as we look to create an even better future for the sector and SES.

I, along with our SHQ management team, are well into our Statewide program to meet all of our people. After visiting the Far North, Riverland and South East Regions we are currently about 5% of the way through meeting all the Units in the Central Region.

We are now seeking to lock in visits to the Mid North/Yorke Peninsula in Feb/March, with the West Coast planned for April/May. The reasons for the visits are for our headquarters staff to have face to face contact with you

regarding any issues or concerns, but also for them to appreciate your unique local community risks and hurdles that are different from Unit to Unit.

I am already aware, thanks to the feedback from the meetings already held, that there are concerns about issues such as training support, issuing of PPE, new vehicle equipment configurations and set up, lack of appropriate feedback when you raise issues, communication and others.

This feedback is great. We can't fix problems unless we know about them so I appreciate the openness and honesty of many of you who feel they might be sticking their neck out to let us know what needs to be looked at. Let's hope this frank and honest approach becomes a key value in how we do our business.

When I reflect upon the issues raised it is obvious that while very significant, they are not the "major" risks we were dealing with a year ago such as OHS&W, public profile, financial etc. My interpretation is that as we address the major issues the next tier of problems become more evident as they had been previously overshadowed. We need to be conscious of this and keep moving forward and work to resolving these as well.

David Place

Chief Executive Officer
State Emergency Service South Australia



“It is now time for the sector to move forward to deliver the most effective and efficient service to meet the community risk we are responsible for.”

from the
Editor



“If you know something is coming up that might be interesting, let us know straight away so we can put it in the diary.”

Hi. Just a quick note to let you know about some changes. I've taken over as Editor of Frontline. I relinquished the job previously because of my work commitments at the ABC. But now, I'm engaged by the Volunteers' Association to produce the magazine in conjunction with the publishers.

The changes will also see Dionie McNair of Tea Tree Gully concentrate on Public Relations on behalf of the Volunteers' Association.

We're keen to hear about any story you want to share with other volunteers.

You can write the story yourself or make a suggestion to us. If you need assistance in finishing the article I'm more than happy to help. Story writing isn't hard and you'll be credited with a by-line!

Remember we need pictures as well. They can be with an article or just a picture and caption be it serious or funny.

So tell us about what your unit is up to or something about yourself or your colleagues so we can tell others.

If you know something is coming up that might be interesting, let us know straight away so we can put it in the diary.

The quickest way to submit is to email me at allancalleja@netspace.net.au or if it's hard copy send it to PO Box 88 Holden Hill SA 5088.

You can reach me by phone on 0415 446 031.

All the contact details for myself and Dionie McNair will be published in each edition.

Good luck to all. You're doing a fine job and deserve the admiration you're getting in the community.

Allan Calleja
Editor

Peter Nygaard



Hello again from OHSW corner. Well, what a series of events have shaped the months since last issue. Once again I have witnessed the extreme commitment that some of our volunteers and staff have demonstrated at storm and flooding incidents culminating in the protracted response to the flooding of Virginia and surrounding district.

Members of the SASES, SACFS and SAMFS were put to the test yet still demonstrated a safe and professional approach, working in partnership together to solve a problem. As with most of the tasks the SES tackle, hazards were ever present and the potential for serious injury was close at hand. Some minor injuries were sustained by our members and I ask all Commanders, Unit Managers and Team Leaders to continue to keep safety issues a high priority when involved in SES duties.

All members, from the newest recruit right up through the ranks, are required to maintain their commitment to safety and carry out their responsibility to the safety of themselves, their fellow SES members and those around them.

To support this safety network it is important that issues raised by our members are addressed as soon as possible. Hence the need for OHSW Committees. All units have received information packs regarding the election of Unit OHS Liaison Persons and Regional Health and Safety Representatives. These people are a valuable resource at your units. They will assist the speedy dissemination of information, assist with OHS issues from all members of the unit and help with lifting the safety profile of the SES as a whole organisation.

Recently the Volunteer Marine Rescue OHS Committee met for the first time and I take this opportunity to thank all the Squadrons of the VMR for their rapid response to my request for their assistance in getting their OHS state network up and running. This is also another handy link which will benefit both the SES and the VMR when we strengthen the bond between both rescue organisations.

Some more safety issues have been addressed (or are in the process of) as part of our commitment to continuous improvement strategies. Vertical Engineering assessments have been conducted on many of the unit building structures. This has enabled accurate maximum load ratings to be measured in regard to vertical training at the units. Some units have external structures and these will still require assessment in the near future. More to follow on this shortly. Asbestos inspections have been conducted on approximately 85 % of our buildings and asbestos registers, with guidelines, are being dispatched to the units/regions.

At the start of the article I mentioned one of the "high profile" incidents our members have attended. I would also like to draw attention to one of the other tasks you, as volunteers, are sometimes called upon to respond to. Not detracting from any other members but spare a thought for the Road Crash Rescue Units. As we have all seen this year in various mediums, the message is not getting across to some of the public about the dangers of speed and/or drugs/alcohol. Our people attend some of the most traumatic scenes imaginable and it is not just the cuts and bruises that sometimes go unreported or unnoticed within our ranks, psychological trauma can sometimes be present and may need consideration. I ask that all members keep an eye on their colleagues and support each other through the steps to recovery. Further to this, confidential professional assistance is always available if required. (Through our Stress Prevention and Management Team, SPAM.)

Once again, any feed back is welcome. Some issues to be discussed next time include: Fatigue Management, Safe Driving and Disease Control. Stay safe.

Peter Nygaard
OHSW Officer
State Emergency Service
South Australia

“All members, from the newest recruit right up through the ranks, are required to maintain their commitment to safety and carry out their responsibility to the safety of themselves, their fellow SES members and those around them.”

9th SES VOLUNTEERS PARADE

The 9th SES Volunteers Parade went ahead this year despite the weather crises that surrounded the deluge around Adelaide earlier in the week.

Many units were unable to attend on the day of the parade because of their commitments north of Adelaide.

This year, the parade through the streets of Adelaide was held on November 11th. Fittingly, it began with a Remembrance Day Service and a minute's silence jointly with firefighters at the Wakefield Street MFS headquarters.

At midday, the trucks rolled out down through King William Street to the Torrens Parade ground to be greeted by the official party which included the Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, the Premier Mike Rann, the Lord Mayor Michael Harbison, the Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo, MFS CEO Grant Lupton, CFS chief Euan Ferguson and the CEO of the SES David Place.

Her Excellency, the Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson spoke so highly and warmly of SES volunteers but she also made special mention of those others behind the scene.

"...it says a lot about the goodwill of families and those who support and encourage (volunteers). We South Australians are all very proud of their outstanding services to the community."

The Premier Mike Rann also paid tribute to volunteers whom he

described as "in every sense complete professionals".

The ceremony also included the presentation of this year's winner of the Keith Lane Award to an outstanding volunteer. It was won by Graeme Olsen of the Kangaroo Island SES Unit. Since its inception, the Keith Lane Award has been sponsored by Countrywide Media, publishers of Frontline, with a generous donation of a \$1000 cash prize.

The Award was presented to Graeme Olsen by Keith Lane's daughter Tina.

This year, Keith's widow, Sheila, was able to attend as a member of the official party.

At the end of the official ceremony, the Salvation Army once again provided a bbq and drinks and we thank them not only for this day but for every occasion they've provided support to volunteers during a major operation. Please remember them during their annual doorknock appeal. Support the organisation that generously and without fail supports you.

It was another successful day to celebrate the work of SES volunteers in South Australia.

Coverage by Allan Calleja





SPOT THE ODD ONE OUT!

Well, it was well intentioned.

We wanted an ordinary, natural shot of the officials getting in amongst the orange clan enjoying a snag and bread.

David Place, Lord Mayor Michael Harbison, Her Excellency the Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, the Premier Mike Rann, the Minister for Emergency Services Carmel Zollo all were happy to oblige.

One thing was missing.

Oh, it was someone actually in orange. That's what we needed.

Nigel Woods of Tea Tree Gully Unit obliged.

But we can't use the caption, "All enjoy snag with the troops". Because Nigel is the only one in the happy snap not posing. He's just being himself.



The following pages feature some great photos from the 9th SES Volunteers Parade









